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FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME II

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA
APRIL 13, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Anthony Christianson, Chairman
- Charles Brower, Public Member
- Rhonda Pitka, Public Member
- Sara Boario, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Sarah Creachbaum, National Park Service
- Tom Heinlein, Bureau of Land Management
- Gene Peltola, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- David Schmid, U.S. Forest Service

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 4/13/2022)

(On record - 9:00 a.m.)

OPERATOR: This is the operator. It is now the top of the hour. We have 29 participants in the main conference with a few more speakers coming in. Are we ready to begin or do we want to wait?

MS. DETWILER: Operator, this is Sue Detwiler. I'll be helping the Chair of the Board. I would say maybe wait another minute or so. It looks like we still have several of the Board members who aren't online. I would say a minute, but probably not much more than that.

OPERATOR: Okay. I'll go ahead and give the voice over to the main conference. We'll begin shortly.

MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

OPERATOR: This is the operator. Right now we do have 43 speakers in the speakers conference.

MS. DETWILER: Operator, this is Sue Detwiler. I think we can go ahead and open a line to everyone.

OPERATOR: All right. We're ready to begin. Please stand by. Good afternoon and thank you for standing by. I'd like to inform all participants that your lines have been placed on a listen only mode for the question and answer session of today's call. Today's call is also being recorded. If anyone has any objections, you may disconnect at this time.

I would now like to turn the call over to Ms. Sue Detwiler. Thank you, you may begin.

MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Operator. Thank you everybody for joining us today. My name is Sue Detwiler. I'm the Assistant Regional Director for the Office of Subsistence Management within Fish and Wildlife Service. I wanted to confirm -- Court Reporter Tina, have you started recording this meeting.

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1 REPORTER: I am recording, Sue. Thank
2 you.

3
4 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you.
5 Having confirmed that I will start going through our
6 roll call to see who we have on. Starting with the
7 Board members do we have National Park Service?

8
9 MS. CREACHBAUM: Good morning, Sue.
10 This is Sarah. Good morning, everyone.

11
12 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Sarah
13 Creachbaum. BLM, Thomas Heinlein.

14
15 MR. HEINLEIN: Good morning.

16
17 MS. DETWILER: Good morning. Fish and
18 Wildlife Service, Sara Boario.

19
20 MS. BOARIO: Good morning. Sara Boario
21 is here.

22
23 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Sara.
24 Forest Service, Dave Schmid.

25
26 MR. SCHMID: Good morning, Sue. Dave
27 is on.

28
29 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Dave.
30 BIA, Gene Peltola.

31
32 MR. PELTOLA: Gene is always on. Thank
33 you, Sue.

34
35 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Public
36 Member Rhonda Pitka.

37
38 (No response)

39
40 MS. DETWILER: Public Member Charlie
41 Brower.

42
43 MR. BROWER: (In Inupiaq).

44
45 MS. DETWILER: Morning, Charlie.
46 Chairman Anthony Christianson.

47
48 (No response)

49
50

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1 MS. DETWILER: The Chair may still be
2 trying to get on. Moving forward to legal counsel from
3 Department of Interior, Regional Solicitor's Office.
4 Do we have Ken Lord?

5
6 MR. LORD: Yes, ma'am. I'm here. Good
7 morning.

8
9 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Ken. USDA
10 Office of General Counsel, Jim Ustasiewski.

11
12 (No response)

13
14 MS. DETWILER: Liaisons to the Board,
15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Ben Mulligan and/or
16 Mark Burch.

17
18 MR. MULLIGAN: Good morning, Sue. This
19 is Ben.

20
21 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Ben.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm on as well,
24 Sue. Sorry to interrupt. This is Anthony
25 Christianson.

26
27 MS. DETWILER: Oh, okay. Thank you,
28 Tony. Just going through the liaisons to the Board.
29 Regional Advisory Council Chairs. I'll start with
30 Region 1, Southeast, Don Hernandez.

31
32 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'm here.

33
34 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Region 2,
35 Southcentral. I understand Greg Encelewski is not
36 available, but Gloria Stickwan, the Vice Chair, are you
37 on?

38
39 MS. STICKWAN: I am. Good morning.

40
41 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Gloria.
42 Kodiak Aleutians, Della Trumble.

43
44 (No response)

45
46 MS. DETWILER: Bristol Bay, Nanci
47 Morris Lyon.

48
49 MS. MORRIS LYON: Good morning.

50

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1 Present and accounted for.

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Great. Thank you. Y-K
4 Delta, Ray Oney.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Sue. This
7 is Eva. There's still no connectivity in Alakanuk
8 right now. We'll keep you posted when we're able to
9 connect with our Y-K Delta RAC Chair.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Eva. Western
14 Interior, Jack Reakoff.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff here. Good
17 morning.

18

19 MS. DETWILER: Good morning. Seward
20 Peninsula, Louis Green.

21

22 (No response)

23

24 MS. DETWILER: He wasn't able to join
25 yesterday. Nissa Pilcher may be able to speak on his
26 behalf when she comes on. Northwest Arctic, Thomas
27 Baker.

28

29 (No response)

30

31 MS. DETWILER: Eastern Interior, Sue
32 Entsminger.

33

34 MS. ENTSMINGER: Good morning. Yes,
35 I'm here.

36

37 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Sue.
38 North Slope, Gordon Brower.

39

40 (No response)

41

42 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair, the only
43 member that has not signed on yet is Rhonda Pitka.
44 Rhonda, are you on?

45

46 MS. PITKA: Yes, I'm here.

47

48 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Mr. Chair,
49 it looks like we have all eight Board members on the

50

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1 line. So I'll turn it over to you.

2

3

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
4 Thank you, Sue. Thank you everybody this morning and
5 welcome to day two of the meeting, the Federal
6 Subsistence Board meeting. I'd just welcome everybody
7 again and I look forward to another productive day of
8 going through the agenda here.

9

10 As every morning, we'll provide an
11 opportunity this morning to the public to go ahead and
12 speak on non-agenda items. Again, this is an
13 opportunity to speak on non-agenda items, something
14 that might be of importance for the Board to hear.
15 Operator, with that, I'll open it up this morning for
16 the public. After we go through that, I'll go ahead
17 and see if any other Board has anything to share and
18 then we'll move on with the order of business. Thank
19 you.

20

21 So, public. Any public wants to, you
22 have the floor.

23

24 OPERATOR: Thank you. To ask a
25 question, please press star, one. Please ensure that
26 your phone is unmuted and record your name clearly when
27 prompted.

28

29 Heather, your line is open.

30

31 MS. BAUSCHER: Good morning, everyone.
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Members of the Board.
33 My name is Heather Bauscher. I'm here in Sitka,
34 Alaska. I'm representing the Sitka Conservation
35 Society and the University of Alaska Southeast.

36

37 I wanted to let everybody know about
38 that we've continued doing the dual enrollment class
39 around the Federal Subsistence Board process and I have
40 four students from various schools in Sitka here
41 participating. Two are from Mt. Edgecombe, one is a
42 Sitka High student and one is a homeschooled student.

43

44 In other years when we were able to
45 attend in person we usually would introduce ourselves
46 at the beginning of the meeting and I just wanted to
47 know if this is an appropriate time to let the kids say
48 hello.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome back,
2 Heather. This is Anthony Christianson, Board Chair.
3 We welcome anybody working in the field of recruitment
4 and educating on our Board process. So, yes, this
5 would be an appropriate time. Welcome and thank you
6 for your good work. You have the floor.

7
8 MS. BAUSCHER: Thank you, Mr.
9 Christianson. I also want to say thanks to the Forest
10 Service and Mr. Schmid for the help supporting this
11 class. Thanks to Terry Suminski over the years for his
12 support. And a big thank you to Rob Cross for helping
13 doing the agency presentations with the students this
14 year. We've also had presentations from Don Hernandez,
15 Cathy Needham and a local Advisory Committee to the
16 State, Member Tad Fujioka.

17
18 Now I'm going to turn this over to each
19 student and let them introduce themselves. Do you want
20 to go first, Clare? Okay.

21
22 MS. JUNGERS: Uvlaalluataq. Good
23 morning. (In Inupiaq). My name is Clare Jungers. I
24 am a senior at Mt. Edgecombe High School and I'm from
25 Shishmaref, Alaska. I decided to take this class
26 because I thought this was a great opportunity to learn
27 more about the process of going through a proposal. I
28 personally hunt myself and maybe one day I'll write a
29 proposal.

30
31 Quyana. Thank you, Mr. Chair and the
32 Board.

33
34 MS. ZULICK: Hi. My name is
35 (indiscernible) Zulick (ph). I'm a senior at Sitka
36 High. I took this class to learn more about the
37 subsistence process and I'm very excited. Thank you
38 for this opportunity to speak.

39
40 MR. WILKINSON: Hello. My name is Arta
41 (ph) Wilkinson. I'm a sophomore homeschooled student
42 residing in Sitka, Alaska. I would like to take this
43 class because I want to learn more about the process of
44 policy-making and I am very glad for this opportunity.
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. CLEVELAND: Good morning. My name
48 is Nathan Cleveland. I'm a senior at Mt. Edgecombe and
49 I'm from Quinhagak, Alaska.

50

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1 MS. BAUSCHER: Okay. That's all. Just
2 four students that we have participating. They
3 prepared subsistence reflections and introducing
4 themselves. If there's any questions for them, let us
5 know.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
8 Heather. I appreciate you guys and your continued
9 education and outreach. I look forward to some
10 proposal then. I hear a policy writer there too.
11 Always looking for people to fill jobs at OSM. Good
12 luck to you young emerging leaders and keep it up,
13 Heather. Thank you very much.

14
15 Any questions from the Board for the
16 students?

17
18 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair, Forest Service.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
21 the floor, Dave.

22
23 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Tony. Thank
24 you so much, Heather and the students. I sure wish we
25 could meet together here in person and hopefully at our
26 next meeting we'll be able to do that, but I just want
27 to extend my gratitude as well for this program. It's
28 a powerful program. We learn as much from the students
29 I think as they learn from the Board.

30
31 Thank you so much for continuing. I
32 know our agency will continue to support you as well.
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
36 Thank you. Any other Board.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
41 students. Thank you, Heather. Operator, is there
42 anybody else online who would like to speak to a
43 non-agenda item?

44
45 OPERATOR: Yes. Next question comes
46 from Bill. Your line is open.

47
48 BILL: Oh, is that me? Hello?

49
50

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1 OPERATOR: Your line is open.

2

3 BILL: I'm not sure if I'm speaking
4 (indiscernible). I guess I at least have a question.
5 I'm not, you know, familiar with the Federal
6 Subsistence Board. So I'm -- anyway, I've been told
7 about some proposals, but it's like grizzly bear
8 harvest in Gates of the Arctic National Park and I
9 guess I just want to confirm the Proposals are 22-26
10 and 22-56.

11

12 I guess my understanding is that I
13 shouldn't comment on those, but my question is -- and I
14 believe this is so, but if it can be confirmed that
15 those two proposals were moved to the non-consensual
16 agenda. If that can be confirmed. And then also are
17 you taking any public comments on those at the meeting
18 or not?

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. This is
21 the Board Chair. Thank you for those questions. As
22 far as the two proposals I'd have to ask staff. If
23 they're on the non-consensus agenda item, we will
24 provide public testimony.

25

26 Lisa, do you want to answer that.

27

28 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 This is Lisa Grediagin and, yes, both WP22-46 and 56
30 were removed by the Park Service Board Member
31 yesterday. So now both of those proposals are on the
32 non-consensus agenda. The time for public testimony on
33 those proposals will be when the Board takes them up.
34 It is hard to say exactly when that will be, but they
35 are towards the end of the proposals.

36

37 So if you're able to call back in and
38 provide testimony when the Board individually considers
39 those proposals, that would be great. We do have
40 updates on our website and Facebook page on where the
41 Board is at in the meeting that you're able to just
42 quickly check those to see what proposal they're on if
43 you're not able to stay on the phone the whole time.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
48 Lisa.

49

50

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1 BILL: I appreciate the answers. Am I
2 correct in that the meeting goes through the 15th?

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we're
5 scheduled up through the 15th. Probably these
6 proposals more towards the end we'll be looking at
7 probably tomorrow afternoon-ish.

8
9 BILL: Okay, great. Thank you. I
10 don't know that I'll be able to closely monitor what's
11 happening, but I appreciate the work that you're doing
12 and I appreciate the answers to my questions.

13
14 I also appreciate from a personal
15 perspective that those two proposals were moved to the
16 non-consent agenda. I think they do merit discussion.
17 Thank you very much for your time. I appreciate it.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have a nice
20 day. Thank you for calling in.

21
22 BILL: Okay. Thanks. Bye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, is
25 there another public that would like to speak on
26 non-consensus this morning?

27
28 OPERATOR: Yes. Our next question
29 comes from Mark. Your line is open.

30
31 MR. RICHARDS: Yeah, thank you. Can
32 you hear me, Mr. Chairman?

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, Mark, you
35 have the floor.

36
37 MR. RICHARDS: Thank you. For the
38 record my name is Mark Richards. I'm the executive
39 director of Resident Hunters of Alaska. I'm
40 representing over 3,000 members from across the state
41 today.

42
43 I wanted to comment on some Federal
44 Subsistence Board issues in general and the recent
45 passage of Wildlife Special Action Request 21-01A, the
46 closure of caribou hunting in Unit 23 and 26A. We're
47 looking forward to, you know, you guys getting back to
48 in-person meetings, but with the Special Action Request
49 it looks like you're not required to hold public
50

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1 meetings. It's very frustrating that the Board
2 insulates itself from the public and you don't really
3 get to hear the public. You just see the summaries
4 from the Office of Subsistence Management.

5
6 Typically these special action requests
7 are controversial and as this latest one, WSA21-01,
8 proved, you know, there's hundreds of people that want
9 to comment. We'd really like to see some changes in
10 the future where you could actually allow the public to
11 comment in front of the Board so you actually hear the
12 public.

13
14 Another issue we had -- and I believe
15 after the updated population estimate of the Western
16 Arctic Caribou Herd was released -- we were the only
17 organization to change our opposition to the proposal.
18 We have always supported the Western Arctic Caribou
19 Herd Working Group management plan. With the caribou
20 under 200,000 animals, it puts them into preservative
21 management under that plan, which does call for
22 restrictions.

23
24 But what we have said in our letter,
25 which also we were not allowed to send to you, was that
26 there should be a shared sacrifice among all users when
27 the population is in decline and in preservative
28 management. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Management
29 Plan did call for the restriction on the taking of cows
30 and calves. Yet the Northwest Arctic RAC that
31 supported the closure voted to continue the taking of
32 cows. Nothing happened at your recent meeting when you
33 voted to accept the closure about that.

34
35 So we're frustrated. I mean we do
36 support subsistence and we do believe, you know, with
37 the herd as it is now, that there does need to be some
38 restrictions. But especially there needs to be
39 restrictions on local Federally-qualified users on the
40 taking of cows.

41
42 So I know you're not going to revisit
43 this right now and we're not going to turn in another
44 Special Action Request about that, but it just does
45 seem wrong that you restrict other users and at the
46 same time with the herd in such decline there was
47 nothing about restrictions on the taking of cows and
48 calves by locals.

49
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1 In closing, Mr. Christianson and
2 members of the Board and all the RAC Chairs, I just
3 wanted to say thank you for your service. I know it's
4 very time consuming and we really appreciate your
5 service and respect what you do. Again, we do respect
6 subsistence and we do represent all Alaskans.

7
8 So with that I just wanted to say thank
9 you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
12 Mark, for calling in and you bring up some good points
13 there. Some of the harder things we struggle with is
14 trying to find a balance between the public, you know,
15 process and the rural users, priority preference that
16 the Board has to take up as we look at conservation
17 measures as they come on us with these resources and
18 they get in a certain status.

19
20 So I just appreciate all the support
21 you guys have given the Western Arctic Herd there too.
22 We lean a lot towards the information they provide to
23 the Board and just look forward to trying to make the
24 process here as user friendly as we can. We know
25 sometimes it doesn't always work out the way that we
26 want it. You know, with the various conditions in this
27 working world we just do the best we can.

28
29 So I appreciate you, Mark, in your work
30 that you continue to do out there and we'll try to
31 continue to work towards a best system for all users.
32 So thank you for calling in today, Mark.

33
34 MR. RICHARDS: Thanks, Tony.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Next, Operator.
37 Was there another one on the board?

38
39 OPERATOR: As a reminder, to ask a
40 question please press star, one, but at this time there
41 are no further questions over the phone.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
44 Appreciate that. That concludes the non-consensus
45 public process in the morning. At this time I'll just
46 go ahead and open up the floor before we move on to the
47 agenda. If there's any Board members that would like
48 to share any information for the day, this is your
49 time. Staff as well.

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It sounds like
4 nobody drank coffee this morning, so we'll go ahead and
5 move on. I believe we are starting on -- I will ask
6 Sue to take over the agenda for a moment because I'm
7 not -- I know we left off on consensus, so I think
8 we're starting with the non-consensus agenda items.

9

10 MS. DETWILER: Yes, correct. We're at
11 agenda item 7 in the main agenda and as Lisa mentioned
12 earlier the consensus and non-consensus agendas have
13 been updated to reflect the Board's actions yesterday
14 and those revised agendas are on our website and also
15 on our Facebook page. Yesterday we just started the
16 non-consensus agenda. We finished with Wildlife
17 Proposal WP22-01. So this morning the first one we'll
18 start out with is WP22-02 and that will be led by Pippa
19 Kenner.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
22 Pippa, you have the floor.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is Pippa
27 available?

28

29 MS. DETWILER: I think she may be muted
30 unless she dropped off.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
33 give Pippa a minute here to get ready and then we'll
34 get started. We'll just wait on Pippa.

35

36 MS. DETWILER: Pippa should be online
37 here shortly. She ran into a technical difficulty.

38

39 (Pause)

40

41 OPERATOR: This is the Operator. It
42 looks like Pippa has joined back in. She's coming into
43 the call now. Pippa, your line is open.

44

45 MS. KENNER: Hello. Can people hear
46 me?

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I got you loud
49 and clear, Pippa. You have the floor.

50

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1 MS. KENNER: Well, that was
2 unfortunate. I apologize. I'm not quite sure what
3 happened, but I'm here now. Good morning, Mr. Chair
4 and members of the Federal Subsistence Board and
5 Regional Advisory Council Chairs. The analysis for
6 Wildlife Proposal WP22-02 begins on Page 519 of Volume
7 2A of the Board meeting materials.

8
9 My name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an
10 anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management
11 in Anchorage. Proposal WP22-02 was submitted by the
12 Office of Subsistence Management in a request to remove
13 language from designated hunting regulations that
14 prohibit the use of a designated hunter by a member of
15 the community operating under a community harvest
16 system.

17
18 So yesterday afternoon we were talking
19 about community harvest systems and now we're going to
20 talk about the designated hunter system.

21
22 Current designated hunter regulations
23 begin on Page 521 of your meeting materials. It begins
24 by saying if you are a Federally-qualified subsistence
25 user, you may designate another Federally-qualified
26 subsistence user to take deer, moose, and caribou on
27 your behalf unless you are a member of a community
28 operating under a community harvest system.

29
30 What we propose is to remove from the
31 language that says you may designate -- ah, okay.
32 Sorry about that. What we are proposing is to remove
33 from the language that says you may designate another
34 Federally-qualified subsistence user unless you are a
35 member of a community operating under a community
36 harvest system.

37
38 This is because if a person does not
39 register to participate in the community harvest
40 system, that person retains or still has an individual
41 harvest limit, one moose for example, and should be
42 able to designate that harvest limit to someone else to
43 harvest for them under designated harvester
44 regulations.

45
46 Now I want to add that recommending
47 that the Board adopt the proposal as modified by the
48 Eastern Interior Alaska Council was considered and
49 rejected because the Council's recommended modification
50

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1 is already in regulation and, therefore, it's not
2 necessary to incorporate here.

3

4 The OSM conclusion is to support
5 Proposal WP22-02. Thank you for your time and this is
6 the end of my presentation. I'm available to try
7 answering your questions.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
10 Pippa. Any questions for Pippa from the Board.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
15 Hearing none. We'll go ahead and move on to the
16 summary of written comments.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Again, this is Pippa Kenner with OSM. No public
20 written comments were submitted during the public
21 comment period. Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: At this time,
24 Operator, we'll open up the floor for designated public
25 testimony for this proposal.

26

27 OPERATOR: As a reminder to ask a
28 question or comment, please press star, one.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
33 Hearing no public testimony on this one, we'll go ahead
34 and call on the Regional Advisory Council
35 recommendations and.....

36

37 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hey, Tony, this is
38 Lisa. There is someone in the cue for public
39 testimony. It's just taking them a moment to get their
40 information to the Operator.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
43 Lisa, for that.

44

45 OPERATOR: I do have a question over
46 the phone. It comes from Karen. Your line is open.

47

48 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. This is Karen
49 Linnell, Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission. Again

50

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1 we want to thank OSM for their work on this proposal to
2 rectify a situation that was discovered during the
3 creation of the Ahtna Community Harvest System. While
4 we attended several regions meetings to discuss this
5 and clarify information on it, this proposal will do
6 what we've told folks all along throughout the
7 development of our Community Harvest System and which
8 we talked with Staff about and the InterAgency Staff
9 Committee about over the last couple years.

10

11 So we do appreciate this. This will
12 straighten it out to where we have some hunters that
13 will participate in the Community Harvest System they
14 will still be able to be a designated hunter if they
15 register at the Federal agency for Federally-qualified
16 users that are not qualified for the Community Harvest
17 System and we appreciate that.

18

19 I just want to say again thank you to
20 the OSM Staff for this and thank you, Board, for your
21 time.

22

23 OPERATOR: No further questions on the
24 phone at this time.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
27 Karen. Thank you for calling in. Appreciate it. No
28 other comments. We'll go ahead and move on to Regional
29 Advisory Council recommendations and I'll call on Sue.
30 You can call on them. Thank you.

31

32 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 This is a statewide proposal, so potentially all 10
34 Regional Councils may have comments, so I'll just start
35 with Region 1, Southeast, Don Hernandez.

36

37 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Southeast
38 took no action on this proposal. We don't have any
39 Community Harvest Systems in place.

40

41 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
42 Southcentral, Gloria Stickwan.

43

44 MS. STICKWAN: The Council supports
45 this proposal that will allow members of a community
46 with a Community Harvest System to designate another
47 person to harvest on their behalf to meet either
48 individual harvest limit or count towards the community
49 harvest limit.

50

0099

1 This provides more opportunity for
2 hunting and increases the chances that subsistence
3 users can get meat in their freezer. The ability to
4 meet subsistence needs benefits the subsistence users.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Gloria.
9 Region 3, Kodiak Aleutians, Della Trumble.

10
11 MS. TRUMBLE: Good morning. Thank you.
12 Our Council supports the regulatory changes as it
13 provides more equitable harvest options and
14 opportunities. This is one that we do make good use of
15 and appreciate that we have it.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Bristol Bay,
20 Nanci Morris Lyon.

21
22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, good morning.
23 Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council also
24 supported this with Eastern Interior's modification
25 with the understanding that the modification is already
26 in place. I'm sure we would have no hard feelings on
27 the Board's part. They just wanted the clarification
28 in there. They felt like the regulation would protect
29 the rights and opportunities of the individual who
30 cares to hunt separately and knowing that those are
31 protected.

32
33 We would be pleased with that. The
34 pending regulations would be simpler, provides clarity
35 and protect the hunting opportunity of individual
36 Federally-qualified subsistence users.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. YKDelta, Eva
41 Patton.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Yes, good afternoon. Eva
44 Patton, Council Coordinator for the Yukon Kuskokwim
45 Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory. The YKDelta RAC
46 voted to support WP22-02. The Council supports the
47 Ahtna people and their community harvest system. And
48 while there isn't a harvest system currently in place
49 in the YKDelta region this proposal would be of
50

0100

1 benefit if one were adopted there.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Western
6 Interior, Jack Reakoff.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: Western Interior Regional
9 Advisory Council supported the proposal basically in
10 support of our Ahtna neighbors but in the future this
11 would be a fair and equitable way to administer the
12 community hunts.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Seward
17 Peninsula, Nissa Pilcher, Louis Green, did anybody sign
18 on this morning.

19

20 MS. PILCHER: Yes, this is Nissa
21 Pilcher. Mr. Chairman. Members of the Board. For the
22 record my name is Nissa Pilcher, the Council
23 Coordinator for the Seward Peninsula Council. I don't
24 believe that Louis Green was able to call in yet today.
25 So for the Seward Peninsula Council, voted unanimously
26 to defer. The Council was presented with the proposal
27 and discussed it but deferred the decision to the home
28 region as there are no community harvest systems in the
29 Seward Peninsula region.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Northwest
34 Arctic, Brooke.

35

36 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. Brooke
37 McDavid, Northwest Arctic Council Coordinator standing
38 in for Chairman Baker. The Northwest Arctic Council
39 supported WP22-02. The proposal clarifies how these
40 systems work and concurs with the recommendations of
41 other Councils.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Eastern
46 Interior, Sue Entsminger, have you joined.

47

48 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, I have.

49

50

0101

1 MS. DETWILER: Okay.

2

3 MS. ENTSMINGER: I had to find my mute
4 button. Okay. The Eastern Interior supports WP22-02
5 with the modification to clarify participants in a
6 community harvest system cannot designate another
7 Federally-qualified subsistence user to take wildlife
8 on their behalf. The modification was recommended by a
9 representative of AITRC, Ahtna InterTribal Resource
10 Commission and also by the Wrangell-St. Elias Resource
11 Commission. This modification will allow people
12 outside of a community harvest system to have a
13 designated hunter to meet their subsistence needs.
14 This will be beneficial to those users.

15

16 And then the -- the language is
17 different, though, what Pippa said and what we were
18 talking about doing I feel is a little bit different so
19 I'm confused to what Pippa said. Because if you look
20 at the modified regulation it should read, in all of
21 the things -- in Pages 34 -- 534 and 535, if you are a
22 Federally-qualified subsistence user you may designate
23 another Federally-qualified subsistence user to take
24 species on your behalf unless you are a participant in
25 a community harvest system, so I'm a little bit
26 confused because I thought we were taking that out.

27

28 I don't -- I might need some help from
29 Staff.

30

31 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is
32 Lisa. I can address Sue's question unless Pippa would
33 like to address it.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
36 floor.

37

38 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay, yeah, Pippa said
39 she could fill in if I miss something here. But I
40 think what Pippa was trying to say is that WP22-02 is a
41 statewide regulation that would affect community
42 harvest systems across the entire state -- or I mean
43 designated harvest permit systems across the entire
44 state including, you know, the general regulations in
45 Section 25E of the Federal regulations. And, for
46 example, what happened with the AITRC administered
47 community harvest system is that there's a framework
48 associated with that harvest system, so within that
49 framework and the unit-specific regulations we kind of

50

0102

1 make that clarification that the Eastern Interior
2 Council has in their modification. So it just seemed a
3 little simpler to OSM, since it again affects the
4 designated harvest permits across the entire state to
5 just take out completely the language of, unless you
6 are a member of a community operating under a community
7 harvest system and then make that distinction that the
8 Eastern Interior made in their modification about
9 participants in a community harvest system versus non-
10 community harvest systems and more on a case by case
11 basis, through either the framework or unit-specific
12 regulations about that community harvest system.

13

14 So hopefully that makes sense and,
15 Pippa, please fill in if I missed something.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa
20 Kenner with OSM.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Pippa, you
23 have the floor.

24

25 MS. KENNER: Yes, I'd like to add, Lisa
26 -- I agree with Lisa, Lisa is correct.

27

28 The way the regulations read is that
29 members of a community -- members of -- participants in
30 a community harvest system can harvest only as part of
31 the community harvest system. It has to do with
32 accumulating harvest limits. One cannot accumulate an
33 individual harvest with a community harvest limit.
34 Also there are several reasons why a Federally-
35 qualified subsistence users may not be able to
36 designate a hunter. One is they may not have the
37 required permit, so there's a lot of reasons why a
38 person might not be able to designate someone. This is
39 only one of the reasons and, therefore, it could create
40 confusion and conflict in the regulations.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MS. ENTSMINGER: And I think it has
45 created confusion.

46

47 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa again and
48 maybe I'll just add one more clarification, that at the
49 time the Eastern Interior Council deliberated and was
50

0103

1 responding to a representative of AITRC, we did not at
2 -- you know, we did not object or say this is in
3 conflict but later on when we were considering it and
4 in conversation with the Solicitor's office, it was
5 determined it would be better to not add the language
6 because it already exists in regulation.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
11 And, Sue, I think we were still going around the table.

12

13 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay.

14

15 MS. DETWILER: Yes. Oh, yes, two
16 Sue's. Yes, we were just getting to North Slope,
17 Gordon Brower.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Yes, good afternoon, this
20 is Eva Patton, Council Coordinator for North Slope.
21 I'll be presenting for our Chair Gordon Brower. He
22 wasn't able to connect at the moment.

23

24 And the North Slope Subsistence
25 Regional Advisory Council supports WP22-02. The
26 community of Anaktuvuk Pass within the North Slope
27 region does have a community harvest system for sheep
28 and this proposal is beneficial to meeting subsistence
29 needs because that need, sometimes, is not met by
30 elders and those who are disabled and this would allow
31 for designated hunters to assist even if there is a
32 community harvest system in place.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
37 Sue, do you have who is next.

38

39 MS. DETWILER: Yes, excuse me, Mr.
40 Chair, that would be tribal and Alaska Native
41 Corporation comments. Orville.

42

43 MR. LIND: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
44 Federal Subsistence Board members. This is Orville
45 Lind, Native Liaison for Office of Subsistence
46 Management. And during consultation sessions there
47 were no comments or recommendations.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0104

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Orville. Then next we'll call on the Alaska Department
3 of Fish and Game comments, State Liaison.

4
5 MR. MULLIGAN: Good morning, Mr.
6 Chairman. For the record this is Ben Mulligan from
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

8
9 The Department supported the action
10 being taken in this proposal. We viewed it as a
11 clarification in the fairness issue as it pertained to
12 the designated hunter rule.

13
14 And then just given that it's up, I
15 will just one last time stress that when you guys look
16 at these community harvest systems, that the same
17 diligence and regularity of making sure that harvest
18 data is reported maintains that same level so when
19 necessary to make in-season management decisions that
20 information is there.

21
22 Thank you, sir.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
25 Mulligan. We'll move on to InterAgency Staff Committee
26 comments, ISC Chair.

27
28 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Good morning,
29 Mr. Chair. This is Robbin LaVine, Policy Coordinator
30 and ISC Chair. For Wildlife Proposal 22-02 the
31 InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
32 comments. That was the comment that I read to you last
33 evening.

34
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
38 That now will open up the floor for Board discussion
39 with Council Chairs and State Liaison. Any questions
40 from the Board.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
45 hearing no questions from the Board we'll open up the
46 floor for Board action.

47
48 MR. HEINLEIN: Mr. Chair, Tom Heinlein,
49 Bureau of Land Management.

50

0105

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Tom, you
2 have the floor.

3
4 MR. HEINLEIN: Mr. Chair, I move to
5 adopt Proposal WP22-02 and if I get a second I'll
6 explain why I intend to vote in support of my motion.

7
8 MR. BROWER: Second, Public Member
9 Brower.

10
11 MR. HEINLEIN: Thank you. Adoption of
12 this proposal will allow those living in communities
13 with a community harvest system to designate someone to
14 harvest on their behalf in order to meet their
15 individual harvest limit or to count toward the
16 community harvest limit, depending on whether or not
17 they choose to participate in the community harvest
18 system. It will also help to provide more harvest
19 options and opportunities for Federally-qualified
20 subsistence users. Adoption of this proposal is also
21 consistent with the recommendations of seven the 10
22 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
27 questions, comments, discussion.

28
29 OPERATOR: Just a reminder to ask a
30 question please press star, one.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
35 hearing none, we'll call for the question.

36
37 MR. BROWER: Question.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
40 called. I guess we'll go ahead, all in favor of this
41 one signify by saying aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
46 sign.

47
48 (No opposing votes)

49
50

0106

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
2 unanimously. And, thank you, for that. That was a
3 quick one to get us started for the day. We'll go
4 ahead and move on to the next proposal. Sue.

5

6 MS. DETWILER: Yes, that would be WP22-
7 03 and Tom Plank will be kicking that one off.

8

9 MR. PLANK: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
10 Members of the Board. My name is Tom Plank and I am a
11 wildlife biologist in the Office of Subsistence
12 Management and I will be presenting a summary of the
13 analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-03 submitted by
14 ADF&G which begins on Page 542 of your meeting books.

15

16 The proponent states current Federal
17 sealing regulations no longer align with new State
18 sealing regulations designed to gather more precise
19 information from harvested wolves for use in ADF&G's
20 annual population estimates. It was not understood in
21 2019 to what extent the change in the sealing
22 requirements from within 14 days of harvest to within
23 30 days after the season closed would have on data used
24 for population estimates. The purpose of this proposal
25 is to correct that error.

26

27 Of note, Unit 2 wolves are part of the
28 Alexander Archipelago sub-species which occupy
29 Southeastern Alaska and coastal British Columbia. In
30 1993, 2011 [sic], and 2020 the Alexander Archipelago
31 wolf was petitioned to be listed under the Endangered
32 Species Act. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found the
33 listing not to be warranted on both 1993 and the 2016
34 [sic] petitions as a range wide population appeared
35 stable. On July 27th, 2021, Fish and Wildlife Service
36 announced a 90 day finding that the petition to list
37 the Alexander Archipelago wolves presented substantial
38 information indicating that the petition action may be
39 warranted. Therefore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
40 Service will initiate a status review to determine
41 whether the petition action is warranted.

42

43 In 1997 the Board of Game and Federal
44 Subsistence Board adopted harvest guideline levels to
45 manage the Unit 2 wolf population, which established
46 annual harvest quotas based on wolf population
47 estimates. Seasons would close early if quotas were
48 expected to be met. Between 2013 and 2018 seasons
49 closed early with reported harvest well exceeding
50

1 quotas in some years. In 2018 ADF&G submitted Proposal
2 43 to the Board of Game to change the harvest
3 management strategy from using the harvest management
4 guidelines to meet population objectives. The Board of
5 Game adopted the proposal in January 2019, establishing
6 the Unit 2 population objective range as 150 to 200
7 wolves. The Board of Game also extended the season,
8 the State's trapping season aligning Federal and State
9 seasons. In 2020 the Board approved a proposal
10 extending the sealing permit from within 14 days of
11 harvest to within 30 days of the end of the season.
12 This proposal also removed the harvest quota and
13 increased harvest limits to no limit with wolf hunting
14 in Unit 2. In March 2021 the Board of Game adopted
15 Proposal 194, as amended, requiring all wolves taken in
16 Unit 2 to be sequentially marked, numbered by the
17 hunter or trapper and required hunters and trappers to
18 call to ADF&G within seven days of take to report the
19 date and location of take for each wolf and that all
20 hides must be sealed within 15 days of take.

21
22 Before 2013 Unit 2 wolf abundance was
23 uncertain but since 2013 a method using DNA from fur
24 samples has been used to generate population estimates.
25 Between 2013 and 2020 wolf population estimates have
26 ranged from a low of 89 wolves in 2014 to a high of 386
27 wolves in the fall of 2020. Human harvest accounts for
28 the vast majority of wolf mortality in Unit 2, however,
29 wolves are very resilient to high harvest levels due to
30 their high reproductive potential and ability to
31 disperse long distance. Past research indicates that
32 greater than 38 percent total annual mortality is
33 likely unsustainable. In Unit 2 wolf abundance is
34 closely linked with deer abundance, their primary prey,
35 deer are primarily limited to habitat which is being
36 negatively affected by logging of old growth forest in
37 Unit 2. Logging operations also construct roads
38 providing easy hunter and trapper access in previously
39 remote areas. The new harvest management strategy
40 consists of four zones as you could see on Figure 2 of
41 Page 557. Different zones correspond to different
42 population levels. Zone 3 is a desirable zone, where
43 the wolf populations within the objective range of 150
44 to 200 wolves and season of up to two months would be
45 announced. The fall 2020 wolf population estimated at
46 386 wolves placing it in Zone 4, however, for the 2021
47 season, citing recent uncertainty about early
48 population estimates and their influence on population
49 objectives, a conservation approach was taken and State
50

1 and Federal trapping seasons was open from November
2 15th to December 15th and the hunting season also
3 closed on December 15th.

4
5 Harvest primarily occurs on non-Federal
6 lands under a combination hunting trapping license and
7 typically little harvest occurs before mid-November,
8 when only the Federal hunting season is open. From
9 1997 to 2018 when the harvest guideline level was
10 initiated, annual reported harvest has ranged from
11 seven to 76 wolves averaging 50 wolves and the annual
12 harvest quota has been exceeded five times. High
13 unreported harvest rates of 38 to 47 percent have
14 likely resulted in the unsustainable harvest in some
15 years. Between 1997 and 2018 total trapper numbers in
16 Unit 2 averaged 14.5 trappers per year. With Unit 2
17 residents primarily from Klawock and Craig harvesting
18 89 percent of the wolves on average. Over this time
19 catch per trapper averages 3.4 wolves, however, usually
20 just two to three skilled trappers harvest more of the
21 wolves. In 2019, the first year under the new harvest
22 management strategy without quotas 165 wolves were
23 reported harvested, which was the highest number of
24 recorded in Unit 2. This is possibly a result from a
25 doubling of the normal trapping efforts. But in 2021
26 reported harvest was 64.

27
28 Adopting 22-03 would align Federal and
29 State regulations by requiring Federally-qualified
30 subsistence users to sequentially mark, number hides,
31 call within 7 days of take to report the date and
32 location of take for each wolf and seal all hides
33 within 15 days of take. Effective wolf management in
34 Unit 2 depends upon coordination between State and
35 Federal regulations, managers and users. The
36 requirement to sequentially marking and numbering hides
37 along with a 7 day call in requirement will aid in
38 minimizing lost or incorrect data. Having the hides
39 sequentially numbered or marked will allow data
40 acquired during the 7 day call in to be correctly
41 correlated and each individually harvested wolves hair
42 sampled taken during the sealing process. The sealing
43 requirement is shorter than the current regulation but
44 is one day longer than the sealing requirement prior to
45 the regulation change in 2020. Sequentially numbering
46 and marking hides and reporting in 7 days will also
47 help increase the accuracy of hunters and trapper
48 reports, records, when the hides are sealed especially
49 if there is a delay due to weather or access to a
50

0109

1 sealer. While these important sealing requirements
2 will be more burdensome to hunters and trappers is
3 essential to allow the management agencies to acquire
4 the most precise data possible to aid in estimating the
5 wolf populations with more precision and defensibility
6 in Unit 2. However, reporting harvest at 7 days and
7 again at 15 days after harvest could result in
8 regulatory fatigue for subsistence users and confusion
9 relating to the reporting requirements.

10

11 In response to the 2020 petition, U.S.
12 Fish and Wildlife Service announced a 90 day finding
13 that the petition to list the Alexander Archipelago
14 wolf presented substantial information indicating that
15 a petition action may be warranted. One reason a
16 species can be listed under the ESA is inadequate or of
17 existing regulatory mechanisms.

18

19 The OSM's conclusion is to support
20 WP22-03 with modification to remove the 7 day reporting
21 requirement.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
24 Board. I'd be happy to field any questions.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
27 questions for Staff.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
32 we'll move on to summary of written public comments.

33

34 MR. PLANK: Again, for the record this
35 is Tom Plank with OSM. And there were no written
36 public comments.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.
39 We'll go ahead, Operator, open up the floor to any
40 public online that may want to comment on this.

41

42 OPERATOR: And as a reminder, to ask a
43 question please press star, one.

44

45 (Pause)

46

47 OPERATOR: There's no questions over
48 the phone at this time.

49

50

0110

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
2 We'll go ahead and move on to Regional Advisory Council
3 recommendations. I'll have Sue call on them.

4
5 (Pause)

6
7 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, this is Don
8 Hernandez with the Southeast Council, are you ready for
9 my comment.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Don, you
12 have the floor.

13
14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, okay. The
15 Southeast Council did support this proposal with the
16 modification to remove the 7 day reporting requirement.
17 The Council was concerned that numerous changes in
18 regulations applied to hunters and trappers may result
19 in regulatory fatigue and confusion. Double reporting
20 of data is an unnecessary burden on the subsistence
21 users and may produce inaccurate information. The
22 Council recommends removing the 7 day phone reporting
23 requirement recognizing that hunters and trappers will
24 still be required to provide date and location of
25 wolves within 15 days to help address the need for
26 collecting this information. This reporting helps
27 successfully manage wolf populations within Unit 2 to
28 prevent the need to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf
29 as an endangered species.

30
31 So thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
34 Any questions for Don.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Moving on,
39 tribal Alaska Native Corp comments. Native Liaison.

40
41 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Orville Lind, OSM. There were no recommendations or no
43 comments during the consultation.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game comments. State Liaison.

49
50

0111

1 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 For the record ADF&G supports the proposal as submitted
3 to align Federal regulations with the changes the Board
4 of Game made to the State sealing requirements for
5 wolves harvested in GMU2. More precise information on
6 when and where each wolf is harvested should contribute
7 toward a more accurate and precise Unit 2 wolf
8 population estimate. More accurate population
9 estimates will enable State and Federal managers to be
10 better regulate the wolf population through harvest to
11 meet the fall population objective of 150 to 200
12 wolves. Maintaining the population within that range
13 is intended to balance the need for a sustainable wolf
14 population with the effect of wolf predation on deer.
15 This regulatory change would reduce regulatory
16 confusion, ease enforcement burden and promote sound
17 management practices within the Game Management Unit.

18
19 Thank you, sir.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Go
22 on to the InterAgency Staff Committee, ISC Chair.

23
24 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
25 this is Robbin LaVine. For Wildlife Proposal 22-03 the
26 InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
27 comment.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
32 We'll go on to Board discussion with Chairs, State
33 Liaison, any questions, comments.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, that
38 opens up the floor for Federal Board action on this
39 proposal.

40
41 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair, this is Forest
42 Service.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
45 floor, Dave.

46
47 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. I move to
48 adopt Wildlife Proposal 22-03 as submitted by the
49 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Following a second
50

0112

1 I will explain why I intend to support my motion with
2 the Southeast RAC's modification and OSM's conclusion
3 to remove the 7 day reporting period.

4

5 MR. BROWER: Second by Public Member
6 Brower.

7

8 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Charlie. The
9 Forest Service agrees that harvest reporting is
10 important for monitoring wolves in Unit 2. However,
11 reporting harvest at seven days and then again at 15
12 days after harvest is unnecessary and redundant, it
13 could also result in confusion and regulatory fatigue
14 by subsistence users. Reporting harvest within 15 days
15 of take, including the date and location of take is
16 sufficient to provide the data needed to allow
17 management agencies to estimate the wolf population
18 effectively in Unit 2 without the added burden for
19 subsistence users having to report their harvest twice.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
24 Dave. Any questions, comments or discussion.

25

26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
32 question.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
37 question from the Board.

38

39 MR. PELTOLA: BIA. Question.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Gene. All in favor of the motion say aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
47 sign.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

0113

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
2 unanimously to support the proposal. Thank you. We'll
3 go ahead and call on the Staff for the next proposal,
4 Sue, thank you.

5
6 (Pause)

7
8 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair, I think Sue may
9 have gotten dropped.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
12 you. Lisa, are you still on.

13
14 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, Mr. Chair, yep. I'm
15 here.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
18 Lisa, I'll just call on you to call the next wildlife
19 proposal and the Staff up, please. Thank you.

20
21 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. Yeah, the next
22 proposal is WP22-04 and that would be Rob Cross.

23
24 MR. CROSS: Hello, Mr. Chair and
25 members of the Board. Can you hear me okay.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear,
28 you have the floor, Rob. Thank you.

29
30 MR. CROSS: All right, thank you, Mr.
31 Chair. My name is Robert Cross and I'm the Subsistence
32 Coordinator for the Tongass National Forest.

33
34 Wildlife Proposal W22-04 submitted by
35 the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
36 Council can be found on Page 572 of your meeting book.
37 The proposal requests the establishment of a year-round
38 Federal elk hunt in Units 1, 2, 3 and 4, except on
39 Etolin, Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof Island
40 in Unit 3 with a harvest limit of one elk by Federal
41 registration permit. The proponent requests that a
42 Federal general season be established to aid in the
43 control of non-Native elk and to provide a meaningful
44 subsistence hunting opportunity. The proponent cites
45 the previous State general elk season that encompassed
46 the proposed area and was closed in November of 2018.

47
48 Elk were transplanted to Etolin Island
49 in 1987 and became established on both Etolin and
50

0114

1 Zarembo Islands. An Elk hunting season began in 1997
2 and remained open on Etolin Island through draw and
3 registration hunts. Elk hunting on Zarembo Island was
4 closed after the 2005 draw hunt remained closed due to
5 conservation concerns. In 2001 ADF&G attempted to
6 limit the dispersal of elk outside of the Zarembo and
7 Etolin Island's population by instituting a general elk
8 season for Units 1, 2 and the remainder of Unit 3. Six
9 elk were harvested in the general season from 2004 to
10 2005 and they were all cows taken from the neighboring
11 Bushy and Shrubby Islands. In 2012 Bushy and Shrubby
12 -- sorry, Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof Islands were
13 added to the restricted area due to concerns of false
14 reporting and illegal harvesting of Zarembo Island elk.
15 In 2018 the State issued an emergency order to
16 discontinue the general elk hunt due to concerns that
17 one or more of the elk harvested during the general
18 season had been harvested illegally from Zarembo or
19 Etolin Islands. The State was not able to verify
20 harvest locations of elk taken during the general
21 season and believe that hunters may have been killing
22 elk in the closed or managed areas and then submitting
23 false reports or not reporting.

24
25 The proposed regulation would allow
26 Federally-qualified subsistence users of Units 1
27 through 5 to harvest one elk by Federal registration
28 permit from Units 1, 2, 4 and the remainder of Unit 3.
29 The proposed harvest would provide additional
30 subsistence opportunity for residents of Units 1
31 through 5, however, 35 years after being planted
32 sightings of elk on islands other than Etolin and
33 Zarembo have been rare and anecdotal suggesting that
34 the harvest opportunity would be very limited. The
35 State management goal for elk in Unit 3 includes
36 limiting the dispersal of elk to islands other than
37 Etolin and Zarembo.

38
39 The OSM conclusion is to support WP22-
40 04. Again there are no conservation concerns for elk
41 outside of the Unit 3 elk management area. The Federal
42 general elk season may provide limited subsistence
43 opportunity to residents of the area while helping to
44 manage the spread of elk.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
47 Board. And I'm happy to address any questions.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom
50

0115

1 [sic]. Any questions for Tom [sic]

2

3

(No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Move on
6 to summary of written public comments.

7

8 MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
9 is Rob Cross again, for the record. And there were no
10 written public comments submitted during the comment
11 window.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. At
14 this time we'll open up the floor to any public online
15 who wants to be recognized.

16

17 OPERATOR: If you would like to make a
18 public comment over the phone please press, star, one.
19 Again, that is star, followed by one, make sure your
20 phone is unmuted and record your name properly. Thank
21 you.

22

23 (Pause)

24

25 OPERATOR: No comments coming in at
26 this time.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. No
29 comments, Operator, is that what you said?

30

31 OPERATOR: Yes, sir, there is no
32 comments at this time.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
35 Regional Advisory Council recommendation.

36

37 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Don Hernandez, for the record, from Southeast Advisory
39 Council. The Council supported this proposal.

40

41 The Council submitted this proposal to
42 create a subsistence harvest opportunity while avoiding
43 restrictions to non-Federally-qualified harvesters or
44 harvest closures. The Council recognized local
45 knowledge of elk existing outside of the elk management
46 area and believes that a Federal season would control
47 the spread of elk. The proposed Federal elk season is
48 in line with the established fish and wildlife
49 principles and would stop elk from spreading to
50

0116

1 neighboring islands and potentially out competing deer.
2 There are no conservation concerns and this opportunity
3 would be beneficial to subsistence users.

4

5 Thank you, very much.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
8 Tribal Alaska Native Corp comments. Native liaison.

9

10 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Again, Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM. During
12 the consultation session there were no comments or
13 recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Alaska
16 Department of Fish and Game comments. State Liaison.

17

18 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 For the record, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
20 opposes the proposal.

21

22 It's been over 30 years since elk were
23 introduced and there's still no verified accounts of
24 elk become established outside of Etolin and Zarembo
25 Islands. Consequently this hunt is unnecessary for
26 confining the elk to those islands and provides no real
27 opportunity for subsistence harvest but as -- you know,
28 we've had concerns in the past and will if this
29 proposal passes, would, again, invite unlawful harvest
30 from those two island populations.

31

32 As you heard earlier the State general
33 season hunt for elk was eliminated because of concern
34 that elk were being unlawfully harvested from Etolin
35 and Zarembo Islands and reported as harvested during
36 the general season hunt outside the GMU 3 elk drawing
37 hunt area. Unlawful take of elk from these islands
38 remains a concern for us. And we had an example, even
39 just last winter when a joint enforcement action -- or
40 patrol found the remains of a cow elk on Beach Road in
41 northern Zarembo Island and so that's -- I mean this
42 seems like this is a very real concern for us, but if
43 passed, this would -- we feel this would enable some
44 illegal take to resurface and it would be important for
45 the U.S. Forest Service to make sure that they're
46 enforcing those regulations and making sure that that
47 does not happen.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0117

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
2 questions from the Board.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. ISC
7 Staff Committee recommendations.

8
9 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
10 This is Robbin LaVine. For Wildlife Proposal 22-04 the
11 InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
12 comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
15 We'll move on with Board discussion with Council Chair,
16 State Liaison, any questions.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
21 we'll open up the floor for Federal Board action.

22
23 MS. PITKA: No, wait, this is Rhonda, I
24 do have a question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Rhonda,
27 you have the floor.

28
29 MS. PITKA: So in the book it's a
30 little bit confusing because it shows 22-04/22-05 but
31 this is specifically on 22-04, right?

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Lisa.

34
35 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa Grediagin
36 for the record. And, yeah, Rhonda, the analysis for
37 22-04 and -5 are combined because they both concern elk
38 in Unit 3, but 22-05 is on the consensus agenda,
39 whereas 22-04 is on the non-consensus agenda since the
40 State and the Regional Advisory Council's
41 recommendations were different. So, yes, this is only
42 on 22-04.

43
44 MS. PITKA: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
47 Lisa. Any other Board discussion or questions.

48
49 (No comments)

50

0118

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor is
2 open for Board action.

3
4 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair, Forest Service.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
7 floor, Dave.

8
9 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
10 move to adopt Proposal -- Wildlife Proposal 22-04
11 submitted by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional
12 Advisory Council. And following a second I will
13 explain why I intend to support my motion.

14
15 MR. PELTOLA: BIA with a second.

16
17 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Gene. I
18 support my motion with the reasons given by the
19 Southeast Regional Advisory Council. Specifically, the
20 Council has traditional ecological knowledge
21 establishing that elk occur outside the State elk
22 management area. These elk could provide additional
23 harvest opportunity when incidentally encountered by
24 Federally-qualified subsistence users. The proposed
25 season could also help reduce the spread of non-Native
26 elk outside the elk management area and, thereby,
27 reduce competition with Native deer and also commit --
28 in response to ADF&G's comments, that the Forest
29 Service will continue to commit to enforcing any
30 illegally harvest on those islands.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
35 Dave. Any questions or comments, discussion from the
36 Board.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
41 question.

42
43 MR. PELTOLA: Question.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
46 called. All in favor of this proposal signify by
47 saying aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

0119

1 (Pause)

2

3

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello -- motion
4 carries unanimously. Sorry, I had my phone on mute
5 there. How about we take a 10 minute break and come
6 back at 10:30. 10:30. I need to take a 10 minute break
7 so we'll reconvene -- please don't hang up -- reconvene
8 at 10:30.

9

10 (Off record)

11

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, Sue,
we'll go ahead and come back from the meeting and we'll
just make sure that Sue is back on and make sure we
have a quorum and we'll get back to business this
morning and we'll start off with the lead off for the
next proposal.

MS. DETWILER: Okay.

OPERATOR: Do you want me to open the
lines -- oh, sorry, go ahead.

MS. DETWILER: Yeah, is -- is --
Operator, is everybody online now to listen into this,
both the speakers and the listeners rooms open.

OPERATOR: I'm going to open it right
now for you.

MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

OPERATOR: On a count down from five.
Five, four, three, two, one.

MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Are -- is
everybody online now, Operator, everybody can hear?

OPERATOR: Yes, ma'am.

MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you. And,
Tina, is -- are you recording now.

REPORTER: Yes, I am, Sue.

MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you. I'll
just quickly go through and make sure we have a quorum

0120

1 back online.
2
3 Park Service, Sarah Creachbaum.
4
5 MS. CREACHBAUM: I'm here, thank you,
6 Sue.
7
8 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
9
10 Tom Heinlein, BLM.
11
12 MR. HEINLEIN: Good morning. Tom's
13 here.
14
15 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
16
17 Fish and Wildlife Service, Sara Boario.
18
19 MS. BOARIO: I'm back.
20
21 MS. DETWILER: Great. Forest Service,
22 Dave Schmid.
23
24 MR. SCHMID: Dave's back, thanks.
25
26 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
27
28 Gene Peltola, BIA.
29
30 MR. PELTOLA: Present.
31
32 MS. DETWILER: Public Member Rhonda
33 Pitka.
34
35 MS. PITKA: I am here.
36
37 MS. DETWILER: Public Member Charlie
38 Brower.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MS. DETWILER: And Chair Anthony
43 Christianson.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 MS. DETWILER: Tony, did we lose you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, I'm here,
50

0121

1 thank you, Sue. I was just literally chapping my lips.

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sorry about
6 that. I'm ready.

7

8 MS. DETWILER: So we have everybody on,
9 Charlie -- waiting for Charlie.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll just give
12 Charlie another minute and then we'll go ahead and move
13 on to the next proposal.

14

15 Thank you, Sue.

16

17 (Pause)

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm sure
20 Charlie will come on pretty quick there, Sue, we better
21 go ahead and just get started. We'll go ahead and call
22 on the next lead author for the next proposal in line.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. DETWILER: Okay, that would be Jake
27 Musslewhite for WP22-07.

28

29 MR. CROSS: Mr. Chair, this is Robert
30 Cross with the Forest Service. Jake Musslewhite is off
31 the call right now so I will be presenting WP22-07 if
32 that's okay.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
35 floor.

36

37 MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Members of the Board. Again, for the record my name is
39 Robert Cross and I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for
40 the Tongass National Forest.

41

42 Wildlife Proposal 22-07 request that
43 the Federal public lands of Admiralty Island draining
44 into Chatham Strait between Point Marsden and Point
45 Gardner in Unit 4 be closed to deer hunting September
46 15 to November 30 except to Federally-qualified
47 subsistence users. It was submitted by the Southeast
48 Regional Advisory Council. The Staff analysis of the
49 proposal begins on Page 595 of the meeting book.

50

1 The proponent states that it has become
2 more challenging for subsistence harvesters in Angoon
3 to harvest sufficient deer to meet their subsistence
4 needs due to increased hunting pressure from non-
5 Federally-qualified users. They state that regulatory
6 change is needed to protect the deer population from
7 further depletion and increase opportunity for
8 Federally-qualified subsistence users. The portion of
9 Unit 4 covered by the proposal consists of the majority
10 of the west coast of Admiralty Island. The area is
11 primarily Federal public lands within the Admiralty
12 Island National Monument and the Kootznoowoo
13 Wilderness, with the exception of land surrounding
14 Angoon and a strip along the shoreline of Mitchell Bay.

15
16 Rural residents of Units 1 through 5
17 have a customary and traditional use determination for
18 deer in Unit 4.

19
20 The current Federal season for deer in
21 Unit 4 is August 1 to January 31 with a limit of six
22 deer. Antlerless deer may be taken after September 15.
23 The State general season runs from August 1 to December
24 1 and also allows antlerless deer to be taken only
25 after September 15. In 2019 the State bag limit was
26 increased from four to six deer.

27
28 Based on the available data, deer
29 populations in Unit 4 appear to be healthy. To assess
30 the deer population ADF&G uses pellet count transects
31 and aerial surveys. While no pellet counts have been
32 done in the proposed area recently, pellet counts
33 conducted in 2019 in Pivats Bay on the eastern side of
34 Admiralty Island increased by 106 percent from the
35 previous survey in 1998. Data from aerial surveys also
36 indicate an increasing trend in deer populations with
37 Admiralty Island having the highest aerial survey
38 counts within Unit 4. The amount of deer hunting
39 effort within the proposal area was measured using both
40 the number of hunters and the number of hunter days.
41 Graphs of the hunting effort data are on Page 604 of
42 your meeting materials. The amount of effort has been
43 relatively stable from 2000 to 2019. The majority of
44 effort is by non-Federally-qualified users, most of
45 which reside in Juneau. Most of the Federally-
46 qualified hunters using the area reside in Angoon.
47 The success rate and harvest was measured using the
48 number of days hunted per deer harvested and the number
49 of deer harvested per hunter. Graphs for those
50

1 measures are on Page 605 of your materials. The days
2 per deer have been variable but stable with Federally-
3 qualified hunters consistently taking less time to
4 harvest a deer. The number of deer per Federally-
5 qualified hunter declined somewhat over the early 2000s
6 but has been stable for the last decade and is roughly
7 comparable to the non-Federally-qualified rate.
8 Overall, the number of deer harvested within the
9 proposal area has been fairly stable over recent years
10 as shown in Figure 10 on Page 606 of your materials.
11 There appears to be a decline in the total harvest by
12 Federally-qualified users since the early 2000s but
13 that's largely the result of Angoon users shifting
14 effort out of the proposal area into other areas as
15 shown in Figure 11.

16
17 This proposal would restrict non-
18 Federally-qualified users hunting deer on portions of
19 Admiralty Island during the months of peak effort and
20 harvest. Currently non-Federally-qualified users
21 represent roughly 50 to 70 percent of the hunting
22 effort and harvest in the proposal area, which is
23 comprised almost entirely of Federal public land. The
24 proposed September 15 to November 30 of non-Federally-
25 qualified users would likely eliminate over half of the
26 hunter effort and harvest of deer in the proposed area.
27 Non-Federally-qualified users would likely shift their
28 efforts to other areas of Unit 4 leading to increased
29 competition with hunters in these other areas. It
30 could also lead to increased effort in the proposal
31 area during the month of December after the closed
32 period has ended.

33
34 Deer populations within the proposal
35 area appear to be healthy and close to carrying
36 capacity, therefore, eliminating -- the elimination of
37 a substantial portion of the harvest is unlikely to
38 result in a significant increase in the deer population
39 and may even increase the risk of population -- of the
40 population exceeding its carrying capacity. Thus, the
41 proposal does not appear to significantly improve the
42 ability of Federally-qualified subsistence users to
43 meet their needs for deer. The proposal may also have
44 the unintended consequence of preventing non-Federally-
45 qualified subsistence users with local ties to the area
46 from participating in subsistence activities. Many
47 people from Angoon and other rural areas move to Juneau
48 to seek employment but return to these communities to
49 participate in subsistence harvesting with family and
50

0124

1 friends. Under the proposed regulations these users
2 would be prevented from hunting deer in the area during
3 the closed season.

4

5 The OSM conclusion for WP22-07 is to
6 oppose the proposal. Section .8 of ANILCA provides
7 that the Board may restrict non-subsistence uses on
8 Federal public lands if necessary for the conservation
9 of healthy fish and wildlife, or to continue
10 subsistence uses of such populations. Based on
11 available data, hunting effort and harvest success
12 rates of subsistence users have been stable and
13 favorable for the last 20 plus years, suggesting that
14 the closure is not necessary to continue the
15 subsistence uses of deer -- of the deer population.
16 Deer populations within the area are healthy and there
17 is no conservation concern for deer on the west coast
18 of Admiralty Island indicating a closure is not
19 necessary for conservation reasons. Thus, the proposed
20 regulation does not meet the criteria identified in
21 Section .815 of ANILCA for the closure or restriction
22 of non-subsistence uses.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can field any
25 questions at this time.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 MS. DETWILER: Tony, did we drop you or
30 are you on mute.

31

32 MR. LIND: I think he's dropped.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, I'm right
35 here. Sorry, it was taking me a second, my fingers are
36 sweaty, I couldn't get my phone to work. So, yeah,
37 thank you, we'll move on to the next, which is summary
38 of written public comment. Thank you.

39

40 MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
41 is Robert Cross again. There were 57 written public
42 comments opposing the proposal and one neutral comment.
43 The one neutral comment from the Sportsmens Alliance
44 asked the Board to only approve the proposal if it was
45 supported by scientific evidence.

46

47 And then among the concerns commonly
48 brought up in the 57 comments opposing the proposal
49 were;

50

0125

1 The proposal will force non-Federally-
2 qualified hunters into a smaller area leading to over
3 crowding and unsafe conditions;

4
5 The deer population is unhealthy making
6 a closure on -- the deer population is healthy making a
7 closure unwarranted;

8
9 The proposal is not based on sound
10 science or justified by data;

11
12 The proposal will further divide user
13 groups;

14
15 The assertion that Federally-qualified
16 subsistence users have had trouble meeting their needs
17 is not supported by evidence;

18
19 Environmental conditions such as harsh
20 winters are the primary drivers of deer abundance
21 rather than hunting so the proposal will not increase
22 the availability of deer;

23
24 The area covered under the proposal is
25 too large;

26
27 The proposal would exclude non -- non-
28 qualified family members from qualified -- of qualified
29 users from hunting together;

30
31 The existing January season for
32 Federally-qualified users provides them with sufficient
33 priority for deer.

34
35 And that's all, Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
38 questions from the Board.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll move on
43 to -- we'll open the floor to public testimony so,
44 Operator, anybody online who would like to speak to
45 this make the line available.

46
47 OPERATOR: If you would like to make a
48 public comment over the phone, again that's star,
49 followed by one. Please make sure your phone is
50

0126

1 unmuted and record your name when prompted. Please
2 allow a moment for me to get the names, thank you.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 OPERATOR: First public comment comes
7 from Mike, your line is open, sir.

8

9 MR. BETHERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
10 Mike Bethers from Auke Bay. Proposal 22-07 presently
11 involves a huge area of southwest Admiralty Island.
12 It's located at least 50 miles from Juneau. It's huge.
13 Many thousands of acres with a large robust deer
14 population and almost -- very few non-qualified hunters
15 using is. I know of only a couple of Juneau families
16 that hunt in Angoon and some of that is with local
17 residents. The non-qualified hunters hunting Federal
18 lands in this area are not impacting Angoon subsistence
19 deer hunting and I don't think they ever will because
20 the area is just too remote.

21

22 And, further, qualified-users need to
23 understand that, if passed, this proposal would
24 displace non-qualified hunters from hunting in the
25 Federal uplands. These hunters displaced from those
26 Federal uplands could then only hunt locally on State
27 managed beaches in the subject area where they would be
28 allowed a limit of six deer of any sex or size. This
29 proposal could actually cause more hunting pressure and
30 possible conflict on the local beaches than the
31 qualified hunters are having at the present time.
32 Wildlife Proposal 22-07 will not solve any perceived
33 problem and it may actually increase possible hunter
34 conflict on the beaches. I think the qualified-users,
35 understanding this impact, would not support it, and I,
36 too, would urge you not to support this proposal.

37

38 Thank you, very much, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
41 Appreciate you taking the time to call in today.
42 Operator, are there any other public online.

43

44 OPERATOR: Yes, sir. The next one
45 comes from Kevin, your line is open.

46

47 MR. MEYER: Thank you. For the record
48 my name is Kevin Meyer and I'm here representing the
49 ADF&G Juneau/Douglas Advisory Committee. I want to

50

0127

1 thank the Staff and members of the Board for the
2 opportunity to briefly comment on Proposal 22-07. And
3 I'd like to ask that these comments be considered when
4 you deliberate on Proposal WP22-08 and 22-10 as well as
5 all three impact deer hunting in Southeast Alaska.

6
7 We're hoping today that you help
8 maintain consistent and equitable access to deer
9 hunting opportunity for all residents of our sparsely
10 populated region by opposing these three proposals. A
11 full version of our written comments can be found in
12 the meeting materials on Pages 658 to 659.

13
14 For background, our 15 member citizen
15 volunteer represents diverse user groups and
16 perspectives. We have designated seats for commercial,
17 sport and charter fishing, hunting and hunting guiding,
18 trapping as well as non-consumptive users. We strive
19 to represent the interests of our diverse constituents
20 holding a half dozen meetings each year to both discuss
21 fish and game issues as well as to create a public
22 forum for consideration of proposed regulations that
23 impact our region. Most importantly like the Federal
24 Subsistence Board we believe we need to support rules
25 and regulations that create equitable and sustainable
26 fishing and hunting opportunity well into the future.

27
28 And in this instance, we seen that
29 there are legitimate concerns raised by those who
30 participated in the RAC Process that led to these
31 proposals and, indeed, the lack of ferry service and
32 broader impacts from the Pandemic have created real
33 impacts on food security in rural communities. We are
34 not convinced, however, that these proposals best
35 address the issues raised in the comments. Instead of
36 addressing these very real food security hardships we
37 worry the proposals could, instead, amplify tensions
38 between Federally-qualified and non-Federally-qualified
39 hunters and straining family ties between communities
40 in Southeast Alaska. In each of these proposals we
41 also concur with the position of the Department of Fish
42 and Game as well as the Forest Service that the
43 proposals with respect to non-Federally-qualified users
44 are not warranted for conservation concerns. As the
45 meeting materials note as well, the Unit 4 deer
46 populations appear to be doing quite well and are near
47 carrying capacity.

48
49 So we look forward to continuing to
50

0128

1 listen and to better understand -- understanding the
2 concerns raised by Federally-qualified hunters and we
3 stand ready to create a forum to discuss ways to
4 address these issues. We did meet with the RAC briefly
5 this fall but before adopting drastic measures like
6 these we would prefer to work with the RAC or the
7 Federal Board to propose and champion changes through
8 the Alaska Board of Game process that could alleviate
9 some of the problems.

10

11 So to conclude, we hope that you vote
12 to maintain consistent access to deer hunting
13 opportunity for all residents of the region by opposing
14 Proposals 22-07, 22-08 and 22-10.

15

16 I'm available to answer questions and I
17 look forward to your deliberations.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
20 Appreciate you taking the time to call in and present
21 your comments today. Any questions.

22

23 OPERATOR: Question over the phone from
24 Ryan. Your line is open.

25

26 MR. BEASON: Thank you for the
27 opportunity to speak. My name is Ryan Beason and I'm
28 representing the Territorial Sportsmen out of Juneau
29 Alaska. We are an outdoor conservation group that
30 represents over a thousand members in Juneau and
31 surrounding communities.

32

33 Like the similar individual who spoke
34 we oppose 22-07, 22-08 and 22-10 based on the merits
35 that were previously given. I'll try to keep this
36 brief as I know some of this may be repetitive.

37

38 But there is no proven conservation
39 issue based on the data from the Alaska Department of
40 Fish and Game, Office of Subsistence Management and the
41 numerous comments opposing this, I think these are
42 drastic measures that should not happen at this time.
43 I think there needs to be further work on this with,
44 you know, the user groups that are currently being
45 affected, come -- and if needed come to a compromise on
46 this. Again, if there's no deemed conservation issue,
47 there's -- you know, under Section .815 of ANILCA it is
48 not allowed to close these areas.

49

50

0129

1 Again, as Mike Bethers previously
2 mentioned, this could create the opposite and have more
3 conflicts on, you know, as users are still able to hunt
4 the beach and have larger conflicts with beach hunters,
5 as I know a lot of the aging populations in these small
6 communities rely on the beach hunting and if the non-
7 Federally-qualified users are limited to the beach it
8 can only increase that and potentially backfire on what
9 their ultimate goal is here.

10

11 I think all of us here listening in
12 would agree that if there is a conservation issue
13 proven through scientific data, we all agree that there
14 should be some sort of conservation measures but that
15 has not been proven here. I feel these proposals are
16 being fast-tracked with very little public input.
17 Again, like I know up north where there have been
18 numerous meetings on issues of closing lands, I think
19 if they're going to close these to non-Federally-
20 qualified users there needs to be a lot more user group
21 input, a lot of work on both sides to really value and
22 see if there is a deemed conservation issue.

23

24 With that, I'll just leave it that we
25 are continuing to oppose 22-07, 22-08 and 22-10 and if
26 there's any questions I'll be happy to answer those.
27 I'll thank everybody for your time.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
30 Appreciate you taking the time to call in today.
31 Operator, is there any other public testimony.

32

33 OPERATOR: No questions or comments
34 over the phone at this time. As a reminder, please
35 press star, one.

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
40 next, we'll call on the Regional Advisory Council
41 recommendation. Chair.

42

43 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Don Hernandez for the Southeast Regional Advisory
45 Council. Our Council spent a lot of time deliberating
46 on this proposal and the other two dealing with Unit 4.
47 I would say that we considered most of the factors that
48 the public testimony, those 57 letters brought out.
49 The Council ultimately supported the proposal with some
50

0130

1 modifications.

2

3

4 We removed some of the areas that were
5 less -- used less by local Angoon hunters from the
6 closed area. So this proposal restricts the deer
7 hunting season for non-Federally-qualified users. The
8 harvest data have shown a decline in deer harvest by
9 subsistence users and the local Council member
10 testified that Angoon residents are having a hard time
11 getting deer. Decrease in competition from other non-
12 Federally-qualified users will be beneficial to
13 subsistence users. The proposed closure is not
14 necessary for conservation purposes but it will be
15 necessary to ensure continued subsistence uses by
16 residents of Angoon whose harvest levels have fallen in
17 recent years.

18

19 The Council removed sections from the
20 original proposed closure area that have the highest
21 rates of use by non-Federally-qualified users. The
22 intent of the modification was to reduce the impact of
23 the closures on those users. The Council acknowledged
24 that wildlife analysis areas could not be used in
25 Federal regulation, the OSM Staff developed a modified
26 regulatory language to reflect the Council's intent.
27 And that language -- instead of using wildlife analysis
28 areas, the wording that the Staff was able to come up
29 with to reflect those areas was Federal public lands of
30 Admiralty Island draining into Chatham Strait between
31 Fishery Point and Point Gardner in Unit 4, except lands
32 draining into Fair Lake, Hasselborg Lake, and
33 Hasselborg Creek are closed to deer hunting from
34 September 15th to November 30th except by Federally-
35 qualified subsistence users hunting under these
36 regulations.

37

38 And we did end up having a split vote
39 on this but it did pass by a vote of 8 in favor and 2
40 opposed.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
45 questions for the Board Chair.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, hearing
50 none, thank you, Don. We'll move on to tribal, Alaska

0131

1 Native Corporation comments. Native Liaison.

2

3 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

4

5 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
6 Members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison. We did not
7 have any recommendations or comments. Thank you, Mr.
8 Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
11 Orville. We'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish
12 and Game comments. State Liaison.

13

14 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 For the record, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
16 opposes this proposal as originally submitted as well
17 as with the changes suggested by the Southeast RAC
18 during their October 2021 meeting.

19

20 There is no evidence that hunting by
21 non-Federally-qualified users has negatively impacted
22 Federally-qualified users overall ability to harvest
23 deer. Adopting this proposal would deprive non-
24 Federally-qualified users of sustainable [sic] deer
25 hunting opportunity contrary to the terms laid out in
26 Title VIII of ANILCA. This proposal would also
27 unnecessarily restrict Alaskans, who many are former
28 residents of the area. who have had to move away for a
29 variety of reasons. They would then be put into a
30 situation where they would be restricted in their
31 ability to come back to their home communities to
32 practice their traditional and cultural way of life
33 with family and friends. Approximately 90 percent of
34 land within GMU 4 is Federally-managed and current
35 Federal regulations provide greater opportunity to
36 Federally-qualified deer hunters compared to non-
37 Federally-qualified users. Federally-qualified users
38 are eligible to hunt an entire month longer than non-
39 Federally-qualified users with a season extending
40 through the month of January as well as the liberal
41 designated hunter program, giving people the ability to
42 have someone hunt for them.

43

44 As directed by Congress in Section .802
45 of ANILCA, subsistence uses of wildlife shall be the
46 priority consumptive use on Federal public lands when
47 it is necessary to restrict taking in order to assure
48 the continued viability of fish or wildlife population
49 or the continuation of subsistence uses of such

50

0132

1 population. Section .815 of ANILCA provides that a
2 restriction on taking wildlife for non-Federally-
3 hunters is only authorized if necessary for the
4 conservation of healthy populations of fish and
5 wildlife for the reasons in Section .816 to continue
6 subsistence uses of such populations, or pursuant to
7 other applicable law.

8

9 When being discussed at the Southeast
10 RAC we heard statements of folks wanting to hunt in
11 peace, or if going to their favorite spot, seeing
12 another boat there, it doesn't matter whether or not
13 they're successful hunters or not, it's just the fact
14 that they're there alter the way you hunt. Based on
15 the ADF&G's analysis of the available data none of
16 these conditions apply from ANILCA. There is no
17 conservation concern for the deer population and the
18 continued subsistence uses of deer are not being
19 impacted by non-Federally-qualified users.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
24 I did get a mention that there is one more public
25 comment, so thank you for that State, and we will go
26 ahead and back up there, and there was also a Board
27 member who would like to be recognized. So first we'll
28 call upon the Board member and then we'll recognize the
29 public.

30

31 Gene, you have the floor.

32

33 MR. CHEN: Hello, Tony, this is Glenn
34 Chen from the BIA. Gene wanted me to speak on his
35 behalf briefly -- oh, he's right here actually -- so
36 Mr. Chair, Mr. Peltola was wanting to ask Mr.
37 Hernandez, the Chair of the Southeast Council to
38 provide some additional information as to why the folks
39 from Angoon were not being able to get the deer that
40 they need.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, Glenn.
43 So, Don, if you're available it sounds like BIA would
44 like to know, you know, the specified reasons that
45 Angoon was struggling with their deer and to meet their
46 needs. If Don could elaborate on that question. Thank
47 you, Don.

48

49 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you, Mr.

50

0133

1 Chair. Yeah, I can elaborate on that a little more. I
2 think the main issue here with the folks in Angoon is
3 this factor of competition. And, you know, they like
4 to point out that they, for the most part, hunt fairly
5 close to home, they don't have a lot of means to go
6 further away from home, they don't feel that they
7 should need to go further away from home to do their
8 harvesting. And their factors that they consider is,
9 you know, what the State mentioned, essentially,
10 competition, and they see it as a significant factor
11 if, you know, they go to a spot where they have gone,
12 you know, for generations and they expect a successful
13 hunt and if there is competition it does affect their
14 ability to harvest. They may not want to hunt there at
15 all, there's lots of reasons for that. There may be
16 some issues of some potential, you know, local
17 depletions if a particular area gets impacted too much,
18 even though the overall unit has no conservation
19 concerns, there is some potential for specific areas
20 that are popular for hunting to be somewhat depleted by
21 intensive use, you know, areas that have good
22 anchorages in particular get harder.

23

24 So the main issue here with the folks
25 in Angoon is competition. And, you know, as has been
26 pointed out, there are two provisions, you know, for a
27 closure. One is a conservation concern and the other
28 is the continuation of subsistence users -- uses. And
29 how you want to interpret that provision, of course,
30 leaves a lot of leeway as to what is required to
31 continue a subsistence use. Does that mean the ability
32 to go out and harvest in the most efficient way close
33 to home, is that important for continuing subsistence
34 uses. The folks in Angoon would say it is. And the
35 Council, after a lot of discussion, agreed with them on
36 that.

37

38 So I think that's the best explanation
39 I can give.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
42 Gene, I hope that helped answer your question.

43

44 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, it did, Mr. Chair.
45 And thank you much, appreciate the effort.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
48 And, again, Operator, we had somebody online from the
49 public who would like to be recognized.

50

0134

1 OPERATOR: Yes. We have a question or
2 comment from Todd. Your line is open.

3
4 MR. SHARP: Thank you. I'm asking the
5 Board to reject this proposal and I didn't submit any
6 letter previously. My name is Todd Sharp. I'm
7 currently residing in Juneau. I, myself, have hunted
8 deer and met my needs in this specific area for over 40
9 years. Angoon, in the western shore of Admiralty
10 Island is where my family, my father, my grandfather
11 and ancestors have hunted deer. I've hunted this area
12 mostly during the months of August and November,
13 sometimes in September, and I've hunted this area also
14 several times in October and December over the years.

15
16 First, I'd like to address the section
17 of the proposal stating why this regulation should be
18 changed. The statement is over the past years it has
19 become more challenging for subsistence hunters in
20 Angoon to harvest sufficient deer. Over the past
21 several years, the winters have generally been milder
22 which has resulted in an increased deer population, but
23 due to these mild winters the majority of deer have not
24 been forced to the beach and estuaries. This is most
25 likely the major factor that has reduced harvest by
26 local subsistence hunters. There are many times in
27 late November and early December when I harvest deer at
28 or well above 1,200 feet. I find a very good number of
29 deer residing high on the terrain as possible and I've
30 noted this by citing deer, taking deer and observing a
31 great deal of fresh pellets at these higher elevations.

32
33 There's also the statement that
34 statement says, as hunting pressure from non-
35 subsistence hunters has increased, concern has risen
36 for the future prospects of local subsistence hunters.
37 One this one I'm wondering and questioning what data
38 was used to determine the increased use by non-
39 subsistence hunters. But my statement, personal kind
40 of observations, during the periods of time in the area
41 where I've been hunting which is generally from south
42 of Cube Cove to Whitewater Bay in the last four years,
43 I have rarely and almost never seen any other hunters
44 other than local hunters. Two years ago, in November,
45 there was a big game guide vessel anchored in the south
46 arm of Hood Bay, which appeared to have been deploying
47 a couple of hunters there in the south arm.

48
49 As a side arm, I think, and agree
50

0135

1 moving forward with this proposal could have some
2 unintended consequences, specifically for tribal
3 members and others who presently are not qualified as
4 subsistence hunters due to the location of their
5 residences based on economic and other reasons that
6 require them to live outside of the area that they
7 traditionally hunt and gather.

8
9 Also, if this proposal does move
10 forward I question why the month of December has been
11 excluded. The proposal states, the regulation change
12 includes the dates closing deer hunting to non-
13 subsistence hunters between September 15 and November
14 30th, excluding the month of December seems counter-
15 productive to the objective of this proposal by not
16 allowing non-qualified hunters to hunt deer in
17 December. The month of December should be one of the
18 most concern for external hunting pressure by non-
19 qualified Federal subsistence hunters due to urban
20 hunters having holidays, time off work, et cetera, and
21 the greater potential of heavier snowfall that forces
22 deer on to the beach where they're more easily
23 harvested. If non-qualified Federal subsistence
24 hunters are responsible for reduced harvest by
25 qualified Federal subsistence hunters, it seems more
26 appropriate to close during the month of December than
27 any other time.

28
29 Thank you for the opportunity to
30 comment.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
33 Todd, for taking the time to call in today.

34
35 MR. SHARP: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, is
38 there anybody else in the public who would like to be
39 recognized.

40
41 OPERATOR: No further questions on the
42 phone at this time. And as a reminder to ask a
43 question or comment, please press star, one.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
48 we'll get back to the order of the agenda, which was
49 the InterAgency Staff Committee comments. ISC Chair.

50

0136

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3

4 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Members of the Board. This is Robbin LaVine. For
6 Wildlife Proposal 22-07, the InterAgency Staff
7 Committee acknowledges the extensive discussion by the
8 Council members about the closure policy application to
9 this situation. This was one of four proposals for
10 Unit 4, which overall has a healthy population deer,
11 but is experiencing sub-areas where subsistence users
12 are not able to harvest enough deer for their needs.

13

14 The Council submitted this proposal
15 because of concerns brought to them by the affected
16 Federally-qualified subsistence users in Angoon about
17 not meeting subsistence needs for deer.

18

19 The proposal review process allowed
20 them to review the available data and hear testimony
21 from all affected users of the resources. During the
22 meeting they acknowledged that the data and the State
23 reporting system used to measure effort does not
24 reflect success in subsistence hunting because
25 subsistence hunting of deer is opportunistic and users
26 generally only report when they are successful. They
27 crafted a modification in area and season that limits
28 the impacts to the non-Federally-qualified users and
29 addresses the needs of subsistence users.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, ISC.
34 At this time I'm going to recognize, Operator, I hear
35 there is one more public commenter online so we want to
36 make sure we give everyone the opportunity so I'll
37 entertain it again at this time.

38

39 OPERATOR: Yes, sir, just a moment.

40

41 (Pause)

42

43 OPERATOR: The question or comment over
44 the phone comes from Steve, your line is open.

45

46 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, this is Steve
47 Hoffman. I live in Ketchikan, Alaska. And I want to
48 address the Chairman and the Board members concerning
49 Proposals 22-07, 08 and 10. I've hunted in those areas

50

0137

1 for the last 40 years and stuff and I've never seen a
2 shortage of deer for both rural and urban residents
3 except following the heavy winter kill that we all
4 experienced in '07/08, therefore I'm encouraging the
5 Board to vote these proposals down because I think it's
6 unwarranted and ADF&G's data indicates that the deer
7 populations in all these areas are doing quite well and
8 I think it would be unfair to pass these proposals.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
13 thank you for taking the time to call in today. That
14 opens up the floor for Board discussion with Council
15 Chair and State Liaison. Any questions from the Board,
16 any further discussions, questions, comments.

17

18 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene, you
21 have the floor.

22

23 MR. PELTOLA: How am I coming through,
24 I was told we were really weak on the volume earlier.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, you were
27 a little bit, now you sound a lot better. Thank you.

28

29 MR. PELTOLA: Okay. I think we found
30 -- located the speaker in the ceiling in our office
31 building, apologize for that. I'd like to put forth
32 something for the Board's consideration on this
33 proposal as well as a couple others.

34

35 I, as a Board member and the Bureau of
36 Indian of Affairs has been supportive of closures in
37 the past although like when we've discussed other
38 closures we wanted to be as specific as we can be. In
39 light of the testimony we've received and the analysis
40 which is given and discussion with some of m,y
41 colleagues I would like to put forth to the Board for
42 their consideration to defer Wildlife Proposals 07, 08
43 and 10, excluding 09 which is on the consensus agenda
44 and that would be taken up for consideration in the
45 winter meeting, in addition to, I do not want to speak
46 on behalf of the Forest Service, but I think they would
47 be willing to facilitate with OSM a group of users
48 together to try to fine-tune something for our
49 consideration in the immediate future.

50

0138

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
5 Gene. Any other Board wish to discuss. Dave, any
6 comments.

7

8 MR. SCHMID: Yes, this is Forest
9 Service. Dave. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I concur here,
10 I believe, with BIA and Gene Peltola. Based on our OSM
11 analysis, based on some of the testimony we've heard, I
12 would -- I'm going to -- or ask BIA to maybe put a
13 motion forth here to move to defer those deer
14 proposals, I believe it is 07, 08 and 10 until we can
15 see if there's opportunity to work between some of the
16 user groups and some of the members there on the RAC to
17 see if we can't come up with a little bit better
18 solution that's supported more by some of the evidence
19 here. And so that's what I'm looking forward to moving
20 forward with.

21

22 I do certainly appreciate the testimony
23 that was given to the Southeast RAC from members but at
24 this time I'd like to put some more work in and I do
25 commit to working with OSM and working with the RAC and
26 the other user groups here in Southeast Alaska to see
27 if we can't craft a proposal that might work a bit
28 better.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
35 Dave. Yes, Gene, you have the floor.

36

37 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 BIA moves to defer as stipulated.

39

40 MR. SCHMID: Forest Service seconds.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There's been a
43 motion made and seconded to defer this wildlife
44 proposal -- I have a question, as the Chair, now we
45 have four of these proposals before us, are we looking
46 at a suite of these or are we looking at specific --
47 this proposal?

48

49 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA, if I may.

50

51

0139

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene, you
2 have the floor.

3

4 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
5 motion was to defer '07, 08 and 10, with 09 being on
6 the consensus agenda so therefore impacting and
7 potentially deferring the three proposals in question
8 -- 07, 08 and 10.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. I
11 was just trying to make sure everyone was clear on the
12 record. Thank you for that, Gene. Any other Board
13 comments, questions or discussion about the motion to
14 defer as specified.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no
19 comments we'll call for the question.

20

21 MR. SCHMID: Question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All in favor of
24 the motion to defer signify by saying aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
29 sign.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
34 unanimously to defer these proposals to a future
35 meeting so we get more time to work out some specifics
36 that might incorporate a little more of the user groups
37 of the area and give us a better handle on all the --
38 all that it entails, and so I appreciate the leadership
39 on the Board here in wanting to fine-tune something
40 that doesn't create additional user problems but may
41 clearly find a priority use for the rural residents of
42 Angoon and so just thanks everybody. Also keep in mind
43 that we want to still keep this on top of the plate and
44 make sure that we can pull this together sooner than
45 later.

46

47 So thank you guys.

48

49 (Teleconference interference -

50

0140

1 participants not muted)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll go ahead
4 and move on to the next proposal. Sue, could you call
5 up that one, thank you.

6

7 MS. DETWILER: Yes, it's Wildlife
8 Closure Review 22-01 and the lead for that is Greg
9 Dunn.

10

11 MR. DUNN: Hello, Mr. Chair, can you
12 hear me this is Greg Dunn.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
15 the floor.

16

17 MR. DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Chair.
18 Members of the Board. My name is Greg Dunn and I'm a
19 Wildlife Biologist with the Tongass National Forest.

20

21 Wildlife Closure WCR22-01 is a review
22 of the closure to non-Federally-qualified subsistence
23 users for deer from August 1st to August 15th in Unit 2
24 and can be found on Page 912 of your meeting books.

25

26 Federal public lands in Unit 2 are
27 closed to deer hunting in early August to non-
28 Federally-qualified users.....

29

30 (Teleconference interference -
31 participants not muted)

32

33 MR. DUNN:for the continuation of
34 subsistence uses. A number of reasons were discussed
35 for the justification for the closure. The long-term
36 trend of declining deer habitat, which we only have 6
37 percent of clear-cuts remaining huntable; size of deer
38 population in Unit 2; apparent increase in hunter
39 participation and the competition between user groups
40 that resulted in a decline in subsistence opportunity,
41 especially in the most road accessible portion of
42 Prince of Wales Island and to coincide with the earlier
43 July 24th start date for Federally-qualified users.

44

45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted)

47

48 MR. DUNN: In 2003 the Federal
49 Subsistence Board adopted WP03-05 which initially

50

0141

1 closed Federal public lands for deer hunting August 1st
2 through August 21st. August was chosen to coincide
3 with the earlier start date of July 24th with Proposal
4 WP03-04 to provide a total of 28 days to hunt for
5 Federally-qualified subsistence users. In 2004 the
6 Board adopted Proposal WP04-15 with modification to
7 change the Federal public lands closure date from
8 August 1st to August 21st -- from August 1st to the
9 21st to August 1st to the 15th and to keep the closure
10 in perpetuity.

11

12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14

15 MR. DUNN: So Prince of Wales has the
16 highest amount of old growth Forest in Southeast
17 Alaska. Since 1954 Prince of Wales has received the
18 most logging activity (indiscernible - interference)
19 which resulted in a 94 percent reduction of contiguous
20 (indiscernible - interference) production. Logging
21 activity has reduced deer habitat in north central
22 Prince of Wales by 46 percent and in south Prince of
23 Wales by 18 percent.

24

25 Pellet group data in Unit 2 suggests an
26 increasing population trend since the lows in 1990s
27 when it was developed, you can see that in Figure 2.
28 Recent indices and harvest statistics suggest the deer
29 population is currently stable. Both pellet count data
30 of 1.4 and deer harvest data have exceeded minimum
31 objectives since 2008.

32

33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35

36 MR. DUNN: Alaska Board of Game in fall
37 2000 established a harvest objective of 2,700 deer for
38 Unit 2 and a population goal of 75,000 deer and
39 considered the population as important for satisfying
40 high levels for human consumption. The estimated
41 average total annual harvest of 3,467 deer in Unit 2
42 from 2005 to 2018 and you can see those in Figure 5.
43 Harvests were at or above the Unit 2 harvest objective
44 in 2005 to 2016 but fell below harvest objectives
45 during the.....

46

47 (Teleconference interference -
48 participants not muted)

49

50

0142

1 MR. DUNN:2017 through '19
2 season. Deer harvest reached historically high levels
3 in 2015 and then began to decline. There's a similar
4 pattern seen with hunter participation in the Unit 2
5 deer hunt, also you can see that in Figure 5.

6
7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted)

9
10 MR. DUNN: Much of the harvest in Unit
11 2 takes place during three time periods. Late July or
12 August, October and November. This is when competition
13 is greatest between user groups. July/August is the
14 opening of the hunt in Unit 2 and people are in alpine
15 areas looking for mature bucks. November is the most
16 popular month to hunt because it coincides with the
17 rut. Federally-qualified subsistence users in Unit 2
18 had a higher success rate than other hunters from '97
19 to 2017 with an average success rate of 74 percent
20 compared to 60 percent success rate for non-Federally-
21 qualified and you can see that in Table 3.

22
23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25
26 MR. DUNN: Rescinding the closure would
27 increase opportunities on Federal public lands for non-
28 Federally-qualified users during August. This could
29 increase both the number of non-Federally-qualified
30 users and encounters between Federally-qualified
31 subsistence users and non-Federally-qualified
32 subsistence users. This could potentially decrease
33 harvest opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence
34 users (indiscernible - interference)

35
36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38
39 MR. DUNN: Long-term trend of declining
40 deer habitat, decreasing deer population size of Unit
41 2, increase in hunter participation, competition
42 between user groups on the most road accessible
43 portions of Prince of Wales Island have affected
44 perception of increased competition between Federally-
45 qualified users and non-Federally-qualified users. The
46 harvest objective has not been met since
47 (indiscernible) 2017 and the deer per user has dropped
48 as well. Finding deer in traditional areas has
49 decreased because of weather, competition, stem
50

0143

1 exclusion, predation and road access. This shows there
2 may be less deer on the landscape and could be a reason
3 to maintain the closure.

4

5 And the OSM preliminary conclusion was
6 to maintain the status quo. That is all I have.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
9 Board. I'd be happy to address to any questions.

10

11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted)

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
15 questions from the Board for Staff.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
20 thank you. We'll move on to summary of written public
21 comment.

22

23 MR. DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Chair this is
24 Greg Dunn again. We had one written comment and it
25 opposed so it -- we should rescind the closure order is
26 what they came -- is -- because people want to hunt in
27 June and July and July and August again.....

28

29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted)

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
33 there is somebody with a line open, if you can please
34 mute it.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll go
39 ahead at this time and open up the floor for public
40 testimony on this proposal.

41

42 OPERATOR: As a reminder to ask a
43 question or comment, please press star, one. As of now
44 there are no questions or comments over the phone.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
47 We'll go ahead and move to the Regional Advisory
48 Council recommendation.

49

50

0144

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. This
2 is Don Hernandez for the Southeast RAC. The Council
3 voted to maintain the status quo on this closure. This
4 season closure has been in place for a good number of
5 years. It was originally recommended by a stakeholders
6 group that sought solutions to Federally-qualified
7 subsistence users needs for deer not being met in Unit
8 2.

9
10 So I just want to point out on that
11 statement that much like was suggested on the previous
12 deferrals on Unit 4 deer proposals, for a stakeholders
13 group, we did convene a stakeholders group, I think it
14 was 18 years ago now. Chairman Christianson and myself
15 both took part in that stakeholders group and this --
16 this closure policy was initiated from that effort and
17 it was an effort that had participation from all users.
18 So that's the history behind that.

19
20 So this closure is one of the solutions
21 crafted by that group, which is a compromise of both
22 Federally-qualified subsistence users and non-
23 Federally-qualified hunters. This closure is in align
24 with recognized principles of fish and wildlife
25 management. It doesn't exclude non-subsistence
26 hunters, they still have opportunity but it does
27 provide a meaningful priority for subsistence users.

28
29 In addition to the seasonal closure
30 there is also a harvest limit restriction for non-
31 Federally-qualified users. That was implemented by the
32 Board just several years ago. A harvest limit
33 restriction has resulted in less hunter effort from
34 non-Federally-qualified subsistence users, most of whom
35 live in Ketchikan. Ketchikan is in Unit 1, which has a
36 greater harvest limit as well as a good success rate
37 for deer hunters so the harvest limit restriction in
38 Unit 2 may have shifted some effort to Unit 1. All of
39 this has worked towards solving a problem in Unit 2
40 where there was a lot of competition which resulted in
41 subsistence users having a hard time meeting their
42 needs. The seasonal closure and harvest restriction,
43 collectively, have been a good, successful strategy
44 ensuring that subsistence needs are being met.

45
46 That concludes our comments.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
49 Thank you for the shout out there too. That was always
50

0145

1 a fond memory of mine getting involved in the Unit 2
2 subcommittee work and trying to find a user group
3 conflict resolution so I am a believer in that being
4 part of the process. So thank you for your position
5 there. Any questions for Don.

6

7

(No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
10 we'll move on to tribal, Alaska Native Corporation
11 comments. Native Liaison, we'll be calling on Ms.
12 LaVine at this time.

13

14 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Members of the Board. This is Robbin LaVine standing
16 in for Tribal Liaison Orville Lind. There were no
17 comments or recommendations during the consultation.

18

19

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
22 We'll call on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
23 comments. State Liaison.

24

25 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 For the record, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
27 supports eliminating the restricted bag limit for non-
28 Federally-qualified deer hunters in GMU 2. Those
29 restrictions have never been and cannot be justified as
30 necessary to assure the continued viability of a fish
31 or wildlife population or the continuation of
32 subsistence uses of such population. Maintaining this
33 closure will continue to deprive non-Federally-
34 qualified users of deer harvest opportunity in GMU 2.

35

36 Over 70 percent of land in the unit is
37 Federally-managed and the pre-2018 Federal regulations
38 already provided a greater opportunity to Federally-
39 qualified deer hunters compared to non-Federally-ones.
40 Those advantages included a season with 54 days when
41 only Federally-qualified users were eligible to hunt, a
42 higher Federal bag limit, including one doe, harvested
43 after October 15th and a Federal season that extended
44 through January when deer are at low elevations. In
45 contrast, non-Federally-qualified users hunt under
46 State regulations with an open season from August 1 to
47 December 31 and a bag limit of four bucks -- four male
48 deer, however, currently only two bucks may be taken on
49 Federal land and most Federal public lands are closed
50

0146

1 to hunting by non-Federally-qualified users in the
2 month of August.

3

4

5 As directed by Congress in Section .802
6 of ANILCA, subsistence uses of wildlife shall be the
7 priority consumptive use on Federal public lands when
8 it is necessary to restrict taking in order to assure
9 the continued viability of a fish or wildlife
10 population as a continuation of subsistence uses of
11 such population. Section .815 of ANILCA provides that
12 a restriction on taking wildlife for non-Federally-
13 qualified users is only authorized if necessary for the
14 conservation of healthy populations of fish and
15 wildlife for the reasons in .816 to continue
16 subsistence uses of such populations, or pursuant to
17 other applicable law. ADF&G can find where none of
18 these reasons applied. There is no conservation
19 concern for GMU 2 deer populations and no restrictions
20 are needed to continue subsistence use of deer in GMU 2
21 as ANS has consistently been met. The deer population
22 continues to be viable and productive.

22

23

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25

26

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
questions for the State.

27

28

(No comments)

29

30

31

32

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
we'll move on to InterAgency Staff Committee comments.
ISC Chair.

33

34

35

36

MS. LAVINE: Good morning, again, Mr.
Chair. This is Robbin LaVine, Policy Coordinator and
the InterAgency Staff Committee Chair.

37

38

39

40

For Wildlife Closure Review 22-01 the
InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
comment.

41

42

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44

45

46

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
We'll move on to Board discussion and Council Chair and
State Liaison.

47

48

(No comments)

49

50

0147

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
2 we'll go ahead and open up the floor for Board action.

3
4 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair, Forest Service.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
7 floor Dave.

8
9 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I move to
10 maintain status quo for the WCR22-01. Following a
11 second I will explain why I intend to support my
12 motion.

13
14 MR. PELTOLA: Second.

15
16 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. So my
17 justification is based on the analysis by OSM and the
18 comments given by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence
19 Regional Advisory Council. Overall, the long-term
20 trend in the deer population on Prince of Wales can be
21 summarized by declining deer habitat, decreasing deer
22 population size, increase in hunter participation,
23 decreased harvest success, inability to meet the
24 harvest objective since 2017 and increased competition
25 between user groups in the most road accessible
26 portions of Prince of Wales Island in Unit 2. Based on
27 the testimony from Federally-qualified subsistence
28 users the current seasonal closure and harvest
29 restriction appears to be a successful strategy that is
30 helping meet subsistence needs.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
35 Dave. Any comments, questions, discussion.

36
37 OPERATOR: No questions over the phone.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
40 we'll call for the question.

41
42 MR. SCHMID: Question.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
45 Dave. All in favor of the motion to keep status quo
46 signify by saying aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50

0148

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed same
2 sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
7 unanimously. Thank you, guys. We'll move on to the
8 next proposal on the agenda. Sue.

9
10 MS. DETWILER: Yes, that action closes
11 out the non-consensus agenda items for the Southeast
12 region and so we'll now be moving into the
13 Southcentral proposals starting out with Wildlife
14 Proposal 22-12. And I believe Milo Burcham is going to
15 be presenting that one.

16
17 MR. BURCHAM: Can you hear me.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Milo, you
20 have the floor.

21
22 MR. BURCHAM: Hello. This is Milo
23 Burcham of the Chugach National Forest and I'm here to
24 present a summary of the analysis of WP22-12. The full
25 analysis begins on Page 941 in your book.

26
27 Proposal WP22-12 submitted by the
28 Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
29 Council request that the deer season in Unit 6 be
30 extended from the current closing date of December 31st
31 to January 31st. The proponents believe that
32 lengthening the deer season in Unit 6 from December
33 31st to January 31st should be authorized because many
34 subsistence users are not able to harvest enough deer
35 to feed their families due to mild winters which
36 decreases hunter success. Winter snows that push deer
37 to the beaches where they are more easily accessed by
38 hunters have occurred later in recent winters. Hunters
39 that cannot participate in early season hunts must wait
40 until later in the season when reduced foliage allows
41 deer to be more easily seen and heavy snow-pak forces
42 deer down near the coast where they are more
43 accessible.

44
45 In 1990 the Board adopted subsistence
46 regulations for deer hunting from State regulations.
47 The initial Federal deer season was August 1st to
48 December 31st with a limit of five deer but antlerless
49 deer could only be taken September 15th to December
50

1 31st. The current season dates, including the October
2 through December 31 antlerless deer season was adopted
3 in 1991.

4
5 Sitka black-tailed deer were introduced
6 to Unit 6 between 1916 and 1923. The deer population
7 in Prince William Sound is limited by snow depth and
8 duration. Heavy snow events have caused major winter
9 mortality in the area. Deep snow concentrates deer
10 along beaches and if deer are forced to remain there
11 for an extended period of time can -- it can result in
12 starvation. Deer are also more vulnerable to harvest
13 while concentrated on beaches and harvesting under
14 these circumstances could -- harvest under these
15 circumstances could become additive mortality rather
16 than compensatory mortality and result in higher total
17 winter mortality. Approximately 45 percent of the
18 reported harvest -- reported resident harvest is by
19 local Federally-qualified subsistence users and that
20 would be residents of Cordova, Chenega Bay, Tatitlek
21 and Whittier and 50 percent is by non-Federally-
22 qualified Alaska residents and five percent by non-
23 local Federally-qualified subsistence users.
24 Approximately 98 percent of the reported harvest by
25 local Federally-qualified subsistence users are from
26 Cordova residents.

27
28 From 2006 to 2012, the sex ratio of the
29 harvest was approximately 63 percent male and 38
30 percent female. Harvest reports between 2005 and 2006
31 and 2009 and '10 show that most of the annual deer
32 harvest occurred during October and that was 19 to 35
33 percent; November 25 to 35 percent and December 18 to
34 24 percent. Few deer have been harvested during the
35 extended January season since the season was lengthened
36 in 2016. A large proportion of the yearly take of deer
37 by residents of Cordova, the largest of the three
38 communities occurs on Hawkins Island which is in
39 relative close proximity to town.

40
41 If this proposal is adopted it would
42 lengthen the deer season by one month through January
43 31st in Unit 6. A longer season would provide
44 increased opportunity for Federally-qualified
45 subsistence users to harvest deer during the winter
46 when they are more accessible because snow often pushes
47 deer to lower elevations and on to beaches in Prince
48 William Sound. By allowing the harvest of either sex
49 deer during the extended season, hunters would not have
50

0150

1 to discriminate between does and bucks that have
2 already shed their antlers. Although the deer
3 population in Unit 6 has largely recovered from the
4 decline after the severe winter of 2011/12, deer are
5 more vulnerable to harvest when pushed to beaches where
6 they are easily accessed by hunters on boats. It is
7 thought that when winter conditions are severe hunter
8 harvest can become additive source of mortality to
9 winter kill, additionally heavy harvest of does can
10 slow the recovery of deer after severe winter events.
11 Federally-qualified subsistence users, especially
12 residents of Cordova, harvest a significant portion of
13 the deer taken in Prince William Sound and are
14 responsible for most of the harvest from Hawkins and
15 Hinchbrook Islands. While few bucks have been
16 harvested from 6D during the -- the January season
17 since 2016, increasing the harvest limit and allowing
18 the harvest of does late in the season would likely
19 increase participation in the late season hunt.

20

21 The OSM preliminary conclusion of this
22 -- from this analysis was to support WP22-12 with
23 modification, to restrict the harvest limit during the
24 January season to two deer rather than the five
25 proposed. And the justification is that while
26 lengthening the deer season by one month through
27 January 31st and allowing the harvest of does would
28 provide additional opportunity to harvest red meat. It
29 also increases harvest pressure at a time when deer
30 could be pushed to beaches by deep snow where they are
31 most vulnerable. Qualified rural residents already
32 have a long and liberal season for deer in Unit 6
33 extending five months from the 1st of August through
34 the 31st of December for up to five deer, and an
35 additional month through January 31st for up to one
36 buck. The proposed modification would reduce the
37 impact to deer populations by limiting the harvest
38 during the time when they are most vulnerable but still
39 provide additional opportunity for qualified rural
40 residents. This would also reduce additive mortality
41 during more severe winters and speed recovery of the
42 deer population following these events.

43

44 That concludes my presentation of the
45 analysis.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
48 questions for the Staff.

49

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0151

1 (No comments)

2

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll move on to summary of written public comments.

MR. BURCHAM: There were two -- the Federal Subsistence Board received public comments in the form of two letters on WP22-12 both in opposition. While both letters focused on issues surrounding Southeast Alaska deer proposals, they included concerns that non-Federally-qualified hunter opportunity was being unfairly reduced and that extending the season in Unit 6 would harm deer populations there.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. We'll move on to open the floor to public testimony. Anybody online Operator that would like to speak.

OPERATOR: Thank you. As a reminder, to ask a question or comment or testimony please press, star, one.

(No comments)

OPERATOR: No questions or comments over the phone at this time.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. We'll move on to Regional Advisory Council recommendation.

MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator. I believe Vice Chair Gloria Stickwan is online to provide that.

MS. STICKWAN: Yes. Yes, I am, I'm just waiting to be -- I thought -- okay, the Council supported this proposal with modification to restrict the harvest limit during the January season to one deer in all of Unit 6. Lengthening the season better serves the Federally-qualified user in adapting to climate change situations and increase harvest opportunities. It also recognizes the mobility issues of some hunters and allows more choice for timing the hunt, youth tend to climb mountains and hunt easier and elders tend to hunt during the second phase of the season when deer are in the lower lands. Removing the buck only requirement will lessen the likelihood of unintentional illegal harvest and decreasing the number of deer to be

0152

1 harvested in January, from OSM's suggested -- suggested
2 two deer -- Council's suggestion -- one deer should
3 address any conservation concerns with the deer
4 population in Unit 6. This action is supported by
5 local knowledge and biological information presented in
6 the analysis including consideration of weather
7 conditions during the hunting season and it benefits
8 subsistence users.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
13 Gloria. Moving on tribal, Alaska Native Corp comments.
14 Native Liaison. Robbin.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 This is Robbin LaVine standing in for Native Liaison
18 Orville Lind. There were no comments or
19 recommendations during the consultation.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
24 We'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish and Game
25 comments. State Liaison.

26

27 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 For the record, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
29 opposes this proposal. Excessive harvest of female
30 deer resulting in this proposal is likely to affect
31 sustainability of the current level of deer in GMU 6
32 and cause conservation concerns for the population
33 which runs contrary to ANILCA. Deer were introduced to
34 Prince William Sound and occur at the northern most
35 extent of their range. As a result the population is
36 very susceptible to mortality during extreme weather
37 events. Snow accumulation that could lead to major
38 concentrating events at sea level is far more common
39 after January than in the last two months of the
40 existing season. Harvest of females is higher in years
41 with significant late winter harvest which can slow
42 population rebounds following large snow events. With
43 the high number of Federally-qualified users in close
44 proximity to Federal public land harvest in January
45 could be very high and potentially detrimental to the
46 population. The existing season on bucks only in GMU
47 6D provides reasonable opportunity while slowing
48 harvest and protecting females. Analysis given
49 indicate recent harvest is normal although available

50

0153

1 household survey data -- survey data and harvest data
2 were not included in the analysis. There's also little
3 information to suggest that users are not able to meet
4 their needs with the existing season.

5

6 And one last important point to make is
7 that, you know, acknowledged by the proponent of the
8 proposal as well as OSM, that you just heard, often
9 times deer during this time of year during the proposed
10 extension are located on the beaches below the ordinary
11 high water mark and, therefore, cannot be legally
12 harvested as that would be the jurisdiction of State
13 regulations.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
18 InterAgency Staff Committee comments. ISC Chair.

19

20 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 This is Robbin LaVine, Policy Coordinator and ISC
22 Chair. For Wildlife Proposal 22-12 the ISC provided
23 the standard comments.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
28 Robbin. We'll move to Board discussion with Council
29 Chair and State Liaison.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We will open up
34 the floor for Board action.

35

36 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair, Forest Service.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
39 floor, Dave.

40

41 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. I move to
42 adopt Wildlife Proposal 22-12 as modified by the
43 Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
44 Council to extend the deer season through the end of
45 January while restricting the January season harvest
46 limit to one deer in all of Unit 6. Following a second
47 I will explain why I support my motion.

48

49 MR. PELTOLA: BIA seconds.

50

0154

1 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. My
2 justification is based on the analysis by OSM and as
3 modified by the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence
4 Regional Advisory Council. Lengthening the deer season
5 by one month through January 31st but limiting the
6 harvest to either one buck or one doe would provide
7 additional opportunity to harvest red meat by
8 Federally-qualified subsistence users while minimizing
9 pressure at a time when deer are most vulnerable.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
14 Dave. Any Board discussion, comments.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
19 question.

20

21 MR. SCHMID: Question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
24 Dave. All in favor of the proposal as presented
25 signify by saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
30 sign.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
35 unanimously. I think we're moving right along, thank
36 you guys for this diligence this morning. We'll go
37 ahead and come back at 1:20 so if we could have
38 everybody coming back after lunch at 1:20 that'll give
39 us a few minutes to get everybody online, check our
40 quorum and get back with the order of business in the
41 Southwest there. So we'll take a quick lunch break and
42 be back at 1:20. Thank you all.

43

44 MR. SCHMID: Thanks, Tony.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50

0155

1 MS. DETWILER: Tina, are you on, have
2 you started recording.

3
4 REPORTER: Sue, I am on and ready to
5 go.

6
7 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you. I'll
8 start going through the roll call but first, Tony
9 Christianson, Chair, have you called in yet.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MS. DETWILER: Okay, while we're
14 waiting for Tony we'll see what other Board members we
15 have online starting with the Park Service, Sarah
16 Creachbaum.

17
18 MS. CREACHBAUM: Good afternoon, Sue,
19 and everyone. I'm present.

20
21 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Sarah.

22
23 Thomas Heinlein, BLM. I think I heard
24 you earlier. Are you still on.

25
26 MR. HEINLEIN: BLM is still on.

27
28 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.

29
30 Fish and Wildlife Service, Sara Boario.

31
32 MS. BOARIO: Hi, Sue.

33
34 MS. DETWILER: Hi, Sara.

35
36 Forest Service, Dave Schmid.

37
38 MR. SCHMID: I'm on, Sue, thanks.

39
40 MS. DETWILER: Thanks, Dave.

41
42 BIA, Gene Peltola.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MS. DETWILER: Public Member Rhonda
47 Pitka, I heard you earlier, are you still on.

48
49 MS. PITKA: I am on.

50

0156

1 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Public
2 Member Charlie Brower. I heard you also, are you still
3 on.

4
5 MR. BROWER: I'm here.

6
7 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Charlie.

8
9 Chair Anthony Christianson.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MS. DETWILER: Okay, and so we're
14 waiting for Chair Christianson and Gene Peltola.

15
16 OPERATOR: This is the Operator, so
17 there are about three speakers coming in right now,
18 they're being prompted.

19
20 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

21
22 (Pause)

23
24 MS. DETWILER: We're just waiting on
25 Tony Christianson and Gene Peltola.

26
27 MR. CHEN: Good afternoon, Sue. This
28 is Glenn Chen with the BIA.

29
30 MS. DETWILER: Uh-huh.

31
32 MR. CHEN: And I'm calling in on behalf
33 of Gene Peltola until he's available to join the
34 meeting. Thank you.

35
36 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So we're just
37 waiting on Tony Christianson for now. And if Tony
38 Christianson is having troubles logging on, the default
39 would be to go next to Rhonda Pitka as the Chair.

40
41 MS. PITKA: Absolutely. So I believe
42 that we are on Wildlife Proposal WP22-20; is that
43 correct?

44
45 MS. DETWILER: Yes, that is correct.
46 Would you like us to get started with that, Madame
47 Chair.

48
49 MS. PITKA: Yes, is Member Charlie

50

0157

1 Brower on?

2

3

MS. DETWILER: I believe Charlie is on.

4

5

6

MS. PITKA: Okay, cool. Okay, yeah,
let's get started then. Thank you.

7

8

9

MS. DETWILER: And that would be -- I
believe that's Hannah Voorhees presenting that
proposal.

10

11

12

MS. VOORHEES: Good afternoon.....

13

14

MS. PITKA: Go ahead, Hannah.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

MS. VOORHEES:Mr. Chair -- Madame
Chair. Good afternoon, Madame Chair. Members of the
Board. This is Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist with
OSM and I'll be presenting Wildlife Proposal WP22-20.
This proposal was submitted by Michael Adams and the
analysis begins on Page 158 of the Board book.

22

23

24

25

This proposal requests that the Board
recognize the customary and traditional use of moose in
Unit 15C by residents of Cooper Landing.

26

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The proponent states that residents of
Cooper Landing have a history of customary and
traditional use of resources including moose throughout
Unit 15. He indicates that Cooper Landing residents
participate in all subsistence opportunities in the
region. The proponent argues that exclusion from these
customary and traditional use determinations has denied
Cooper Landing residents subsistence opportunity.

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Currently the customary and traditional
use determination for moose in Unit 15C includes
residents of Ninilchik, Nanwalek, Port Graham and
Seldovia. Cooper Landing's use of -- customary and
traditional use of moose has been recognized by the
Board for much of the Kenai Peninsula. In 2008 the
Board recognized the customary and traditional use of
moose in Unit 7, 15A and 15B by residents of Cooper
Landing. In 2014 the Board rejected a proposal
requesting the recognition of Cooper Landing's
customary and traditional use of moose in 15C. At that
time the Southcentral Council did not support the
proposal due to lack of information and testimony from
residents of Cooper Landing. In 2020 the Board

0158

1 recognized customary and traditional use of caribou in
2 Unit 15D and 15C and use of goat in all of Unit 15 by
3 residents of Cooper Landing.

4
5 Therefore, customary and traditional
6 use determinations have previously been made for
7 residents of Cooper Landing for other wildlife species
8 in Unit 15C specifically for goat and caribou.

9
10 When conducting a customary and
11 traditional use determination analysis eight factors
12 are holistically considered. These are listed started
13 on Page 163 of the Board book but please note that this
14 is not a checklist.

15
16 C&T determinations are made for
17 recognizing the pool of users who generally exhibit the
18 eight factors and not for resource management or
19 restricting harvest. Of note, at the fall 2013 meeting
20 the Southcentral Council made a recommendation to,
21 "change the way determinations are made by making area-
22 wide customary and traditional use determinations for
23 all species."

24
25 In June 2016 the Board clarified that
26 the eight factor analysis applied when considering
27 customary and traditional use determinations is
28 intended to protect subsistence use, rather than limit
29 it.

30
31 In terms of Cooper Landing's use of
32 moose, ADF&G, Division of Subsistence conducted a
33 subsistence survey in Cooper Landing in 1991. 28
34 percent of surveyed households hunted moose and moose
35 were shared among residents. As part of the same study
36 ADF&G matched 50 Cooper Landing household's use area
37 for moose during their lifetime living in the
38 community. Mapped community use areas should not be
39 considered exhaustive but do provide some useful
40 information. Cooper Landing residents harvest
41 resources most intensively in areas closest to the
42 community typical of a subsistence practice
43 characterized by efficiency of effort and cost,
44 however, they also harvest resources throughout the
45 Kenai Peninsula. Areas used for moose hunting by
46 residents of Cooper Landing included the far northern
47 portion of Unit 15C. You can see the map on Page 166
48 of the Board book. From 1987 through 2019.....

49
50

0159

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3
4 MS. VOORHEES: State harvest
5 records show there were 14 hunts for moose in Unit 15C
6 by residents of Cooper Landing.

7
8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10
11 MS. VOORHEES: The OSM conclusion is to
12 support WP22-20 with the following justification. The
13 Board has previously recognized Cooper Landing's
14 customary and traditional use of other wildlife in Unit
15 15C. Based on these previous determinations Cooper
16 Landing has already established a recognized pattern of
17 harvest and use of wild resources in these areas
18 consistent with the eight factors. Cooper Landing
19 residents pattern of moose hunting and harvest
20 generally exhibits the characteristics of customary and
21 traditional use as shown through subsistence surveys
22 and data from residents hunting under State
23 regulations.

24
25 Thank you, that concludes my
26 presentation.

27
28 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Hannah.

29
30 MS. DETWILER: I believe -- is Charlie
31 back on, I got a text he was on, I'm not sure if he's
32 in the speaker's room -- I mean not Charlie, I'm sorry,
33 Tony.

34
35 MS. PITKA: Oh, okay, I'm not sure, I
36 haven't heard anybody come on. The next, I believe,
37 we're on the summary of written public comments.

38
39 MS. DETWILER: Yes.

40
41 MS. VOORHEES: Madame Chair, for the
42 record this is Hannah Voorhees again. Two written
43 public comments were received on this proposal. Both
44 in opposition.

45
46 The Alaska Kenai Chapter of the Safari
47 Club International stated that they do not support a
48 subsistence priority for rural residents on road
49 connected portions of the Kenai Peninsula.

50

0160

1 The Alaska Outdoor Council specifically
2 states that providing a priority to certain users on
3 the Kenai Peninsula exacerbates conflict between
4 Federally-qualified hunters and Alaskans living in
5 non--Federally-qualified areas of the state.

6
7 MS. PITKA: Thank you. Was that it for
8 written public comments.

9
10 MS. VOORHEES: Yes, that completes the
11 comments.

12
13 MS. PITKA: Thank you very much. At
14 this time I'd like to open the floor to public
15 testimony on Wildlife Proposal 22-20.

16
17 OPERATOR: Thank you. As a reminder to
18 ask a question or give a testimony please press, star,
19 one.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 OPERATOR: We do have a comment.....

24
25 MS. PITKA: Operator.....

26
27 OPERATOR:Mr.....

28
29 MS. PITKA:any testimony.

30
31 OPERATOR: Yes, ma'am, just a moment.

32
33 MS. PITKA: Thank you.

34
35 OPERATOR: First question or comment
36 comes from Darrel, your line is open.

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. I hope
39 everyone can hear me. My name is Darrel Williams. I'm
40 here today representing Ninilchik Traditional Council.
41 And I'd like to be able to speak to Wildlife Proposal
42 WP22-20 regarding Cooper Landing's C&T for moose in
43 Unit 15C. And I want to be able to -- since this was a
44 discussion item that was brought up from the comments
45 from yesterday morning, I wanted to communicate our
46 position and contribute to this discussion.

47
48 I guess the place to start is that this
49 proposal had been reviewed by the Southcentral Regional
50

0161

1 Advisory Council and was voted down. We've had several
2 of these kind of proposals over the years we've had to
3 deal with. For example, Ninilchik, when we presented
4 our information, gosh, it was like 2006, 2007, our C&T,
5 or the -- the data supported C&T much, much further
6 than what anybody even asked for. However, when we
7 start looking at this particular proposal, we start
8 looking at this idea of historical use, I remember some
9 of the conversations we had at the Regional Advisory
10 Council was that most of the use seemed to be indicated
11 that it was on State land versus Federal lands and, of
12 course, we know that Federal lands is where subsistence
13 takes place. We also saw that there was some really
14 clear delineation in use when we look at the material
15 that was presented at the Federal Subsistence Board we
16 can see that delineation in the maps on Page 166 and
17 167. Page 166 shows the Game Management Units and how
18 they're laid out and on Page 167 is the results from
19 the survey information. And it's pretty clear that it
20 doesn't look like any harvest goes down beyond Game
21 Management Unit -- beyond 15B. So that was -- I
22 remember that was a big part of that discussion that we
23 had.

24
25 There was also some questions in the
26 analysis that was discussed at the Regional Advisory
27 Council here they did not feel that the eight factors
28 were supported well enough to provide the C&T
29 determination and there's also the issue of the data
30 that was used. And we've made this argument for many,
31 many years, where data that's prepared by the State of
32 Alaska, tends, you know, to be referred to as a
33 stratified random sample and, really, it's a way to
34 stratify random sample, it's different. There's some
35 interesting quirks on how data is managed. And it's
36 actually -- it shows up in the stuff that's submitted
37 to the Board, if you look at the table on Page 168, you
38 know, it's really interesting because you have 13 years
39 of reported harvest activity, right, with zero harvest,
40 however, it also details that there was one moose
41 taken. Well, you know, I mean there's a big question
42 there how do you have zero harvest and then all of a
43 sudden say, oh, yeah, we took a moose. I mean you got
44 to be real careful with that. This is where these
45 weights and types of evaluations start to show up.

46
47 It changes how subsistence is looked at
48 and how it's evaluated. Especially from the Federal
49 Subsistence Board, you know, it's not really clear on
50

0162

1 how that's actually put together.

2

3

4 So we want to look at that carefully,
5 you know, when we're viewing this kind of stuff. But
6 at the same time, this is one of the reasons why we
7 really oppose this kind of proposal, there is an awful
8 lot of area that is open in Game Management Units that
9 is supported by the data. It seems like we're just
10 starting to reach further and further and further into
11 things. You know the example that we had, that we
12 experienced many, many years ago was, you know, some of
13 our data supported subsistence use in Kodiak, strong
14 support for it, significant, and there was an awful lot
15 of trouble because that didn't work well with how the
16 Regional Advisories are set up and how these decisions
17 were made and it wasn't something that we wanted, it
18 was supported by the information and that was really
19 good support. But the difference here is is that this
20 information demonstrates zero with an implied value of
21 one which really doesn't -- I don't think it meets that
22 criteria very well.

22

23

24 You know, the other thing I think is
25 worth talking about that is part of this discussion is
26 that the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council also
27 went through another rigorous set of proposals for
28 Moose Pass and they were Proposals 22-16 through 26 and
29 this is the kind of discussion, same kind of
30 evaluation, where we had to do due diligence in looking
31 at what the proposals are and where these areas are and
32 how this is going to work.

32

33

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So, in short, the Ninilchik Traditional
Council, the tribe, we oppose the C&T determination.

But I also want to comment about, you
know, this can be to get to be a really slippery slope
when we start doing things like this because somebody
may go to the Regional Advisory Council and not get the
answer that they like and then they call the Federal
Subsistence Board and it gets brought back up and put
into the process and, you know, there is a due
diligence to the RACs for a reason, it's actually
there, but when we start using weighted averages, and
applied numbers and things like that, it's a slippery
slope, because when you have no harvest that
statistically becomes harvest it's a different problem
and we're going to end up reinventing how subsistence
works and how it's measured by making these kind of

0163

1 determinations and I think that's a larger issue when
2 we're looking at proposals like this. I think the
3 weight and the review process needs to really be looked
4 at before we pick up different proposals because it
5 seems to be something that somebody would like.

6
7 Mr. Chair. Members of the Board.
8 Thank you very much. If you have questions or
9 comments.

10
11 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Mr. Williams.
12 Just to clarify Ninilchik opposes, the tribe opposes.

13
14 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, that is correct.

15
16 MS. PITKA: Thank you. Is there any
17 other additional public testimony or questions for
18 this.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MS. PITKA: Operator, do we have any
23 additional public comments.

24
25 OPERATOR: Yes, we have a question or
26 comment from Michael, your line is open.

27
28 MS. PITKA: Thank you. Go ahead,
29 Michael.

30
31 MR. ADAMS: Good afternoon, Madame
32 Chair and the Board. Thank you for the chance to speak
33 in favor of Proposal 20. I spoke about this yesterday
34 but I know that since then the Board has heard
35 testimony on lots of proposals so I hope you'll forgive
36 me if I repeat some of the points that I mentioned
37 before. Can everyone hear me okay.

38
39 MS. PITKA: Yes, please go ahead.

40
41 MR. ADAMS: Okay, thank you. I'd like
42 to start by pointing out that the OSM findings do
43 support this proposal and that this proposal was also
44 initially supported as written by the Southcentral RAC
45 with the majority of votes in favor to one against.

46
47 After being modified by the RAC, the
48 RAC -- or excuse me, after being modified the RAC seems
49 to have voted on three proposals all at once, not
50

1 taking up Proposal 20 individually. They voted five
2 votes in favor to four against with two abstentions and
3 the modification effectively killed Proposal 20, which
4 the RAC had already voted strongly in favor of. So
5 although this resulted in a RAC recommendation against
6 the proposal, I think that this shows that the RAC was
7 not strongly or unanimously opposed to it. In fact, it
8 appears that they didn't vote on this proposal on its
9 own and their votes were for support of three proposals
10 together. It just came out that this ended up being
11 opposed so I just don't see that as a very clear
12 position against the proposal by the RAC.

13

14

15 I can tell you that from my own
16 personal experience, Cooper Landing community members
17 do have a history of traveling to Unit 15C to harvest
18 game, including moose, shellfish, ocean fish and gather
19 products from the Forest, and this is supported by the
20 OSM conclusion.

20

21

22 You know we'd all like to provide food
23 from the land close as possible to home. The nature of
24 subsistence has always required people to travel to
25 areas of greater abundance and Cooper Landing residents
26 have and do travel to Unit 15C to hunt and gather just
27 as Ninilchik residents travel to Cooper Landing to
28 harvest salmon, and we also travel to Kasilof and
29 Ninilchik and Deep Creek and Anchor River and Homer and
30 other areas of the Peninsula to hunt and to gather.
31 And I can tell you that myself and many of my neighbors
32 in Cooper Landing do travel to those areas to put up
33 food under existing regulations. Wildlife populations
34 fluctuate over time and regional subsistence users
35 should be allowed to exercise their time honored
36 practice of traveling within the region to feed
37 themselves and the community members by utilizing the
38 areas of populations of greater abundance in accordance
39 with their customary and traditional practices. And
40 there does seem to be consensus on this point
41 demonstrated by the OSM findings and their statement
42 justifying support.

42

43

44 I also agree with the OSM that the data
45 does show proof of use. I also don't think the data
46 tells the whole story. I think there's probably more
47 moose hunting -- well, I'm sure there's probably more
48 moose hunting in Unit 15C by Cooper Landing residents
49 than is reflected in the data. I also think that many
50 hunters hunting on a State harvest ticket might hunt

50

0165

1 several different areas and it's possible that not all
2 areas hunted are reported when those hunts are not
3 successful. I also feel that the lack of a subsistence
4 priority for Cooper Landing residents has contributed
5 to lower participation in sections of Unit 15C and that
6 additional community members would like to participate,
7 especially during the late season hunt, if given the
8 opportunity. And I've personally known several people
9 who travel to Tustumena Lake to hunt for moose and
10 under current regulations we have the opportunity for
11 subsistence moose harvest on one side of the lake and
12 not the other.

13

14 As I mentioned yesterday, I wrote this
15 proposal as a result of multiple conversations with
16 Cooper Landing community members and I can attest that
17 many subsistence users on Cooper Landing do support the
18 proposal. I'd also like to point out that Cooper
19 Landing is a small community and many community members
20 are older and do not hunt for themselves anymore so
21 even one moose harvest is significant and can provide
22 meat for several community members.

23

24 Furthermore, a decision to not support
25 a C&T determination in this case seems out of balance.
26 In the past the Board has approved proposals to allow
27 subsistence harvest of fish and wildlife resources in
28 Unit 7 by residents of Unit 15C sometimes despite very
29 strong opposition from Cooper Landing community
30 members. The case in point is the subsistence dipnet
31 fishery at the Russian River Falls. Unit 7 is in a
32 period of historical low moose abundance and non-
33 subsistence hunters from other areas besides the Kenai
34 Peninsula seem to be hunting here more often. This
35 proposal will create opportunity for subsistence
36 harvest for community members that might not otherwise
37 have that opportunity, particularly in the late season
38 hunt when fewer hunters are on the landscape
39 encouraging greater subsistence community
40 participation. I believe this proposal will restore
41 some balance of the sharing of resources between
42 communities on the Kenai Peninsula and that Board
43 support for this proposal would show fairness to both
44 communities in Unit 7, and 15C.

45

46 And, once, again, thank you to the
47 Board for your time and for the chance to speak today.

48

49 MS. PITKA: Thank you, very much for

50

0166

1 your comment. Do we have any additional public
2 comments, Operator.

3

4 OPERATOR: No further comments over the
5 phone at this time. As a reminder press, star, one to
6 ask your question or comment.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. PITKA: Okay. Then.....

11

12 OPERATOR: No questions or comments
13 over the phone at this time.

14

15 MS. PITKA: Oh, sorry, go ahead.

16

17 OPERATOR: No questions or comments
18 over the phone.

19

20 MS. PITKA: Oh, there are none, okay.
21 At this time I'd like to ask the Regional Advisory
22 Council recommendation.....

23

24 MS. STICKWAN: The Council on
25 reconsideration.....

26

27 MS. PITKA:Southcentral.....

28

29 MS. STICKWAN:supported WP22-20,
30 25(a), 27 with modification to include only those lands
31 within Unit 7, 15A and 15B. Initially the Council
32 supported all proposals but then realized that
33 reconsideration was necessary to address an
34 inconsistency between the Council C&T recommendation
35 for Moose Pass and those for moose -- for Cooper
36 Landing. As with the decision on Moose Pass C&T and
37 WP22-16 plus it provides resources needed by Cooper
38 Landing subsistence users. The Council supported
39 granting C&T for Cooper Landing in Units 7, 15A and 15B
40 but felt that the data showing proof of use did not
41 support granting C&T in Unit 15C. The Council found
42 that the combination of these proposals were a little
43 confusing but did eventually support WP22-20, 25(a)/27
44 to include only those lands in Unit 7, 15A and 15B.
45 The vote passed 5/4 with two abstentions.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MS. PITKA: Thank you. And I believe

50

0167

1 Chairman Christianson's back on the line so please take
2 it away.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 MS. PITKA: Okay, maybe he's not online
7 again. Okay, so just to clarify, Gloria, the
8 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council supported.....

9

10 OPERATOR: Mr. Christianson is on the
11 line.

12

13 MS. PITKA:WP22-20; is that
14 correct?

15

16 MS. STICKWAN: I would like you to have
17 DeAnna Perry answer that question, she's online.

18

19 MS. PITKA: Oh, okay. Because in our
20 Board book it says opposed so I just want to make sure
21 that we're clear on that.

22

23 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair, this is
24 DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator for the
25 Southcentral.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: They were
28 having problems with my line being muted so.....

29

30 MS. PERRY:Council.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:I
33 appreciate everybody -- Rhonda, picking up on this
34 proposal. So DeAnna, you have the floor.

35

36 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
37 could clarify that, Rhonda. When these proposals came
38 before the Southcentral Council, they came combined,
39 20, 25(a) and 27. When the Council gave its
40 recommendation, it supported that group of proposals
41 with modification to include only those lands in 7, 15A
42 and 15B. So in a sense it actually opposed 20 because
43 20 only addresses Unit 15C. Does that help?

44

45 MS. PITKA: Yes, thank you, I
46 appreciate that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
49 other questions from the Board.

50

0168

1 (No comments)

2

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(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, thank you, hearing none, where does that put us on the agenda, Sue.

MS. DETWILER: Next would be tribal corporation comments, ANCSA Corporation comments.

MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the Board. This is Robbin LaVine standing in for Tribal Liaison Orville Lind. There were no comments or recommendations during the consultation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Robbin. Next will be State Liaison.

MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record ADF&G is neutral when it comes to the eligibility to participate in Federal subsistence hunting opportunities. I will say, though, that we do encourage that additional subsistence harvest and use research for Kenai Peninsula residents be conducted to provide adequate data when assessing subsistence harvest needs before any C&T use determinations are made.

Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any questions for the State.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none, we'll go on to the InterAgency Staff Committee recommendation.

MS. LAVINE: Yes, hello again Mr. Chair, this is Robbin LaVine. For Wildlife Proposal 22-20 the InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Open up the floor for discussion or a Board motion.

(No comments)

0169

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No discussion,
2 the floor is open for a motion.

3

4 MS. BOARIO: Mr. Chair (indiscernible -
5 breaking up)

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Somebody's
8 breaking up there, the floor is open for a motion.

9

10 MS. BOARIO: Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
13 the floor.

14

15 MS. BOARIO: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Whoever's
18 trying to be recognized keeps breaking up.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sue, can you
23 hear me on this one?

24

25 MS. DETWILER: Yes, I can hear you and
26 I can also hear whoever is trying to speak is breaking
27 up.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, so I
30 believe this is the time for Board action and somebody
31 is trying to be recognized at this time but -- I'll
32 call again for a Board motion on this.

33

34 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair, I believe it
35 might be Sara Boario trying to call in.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So, yes, I
40 understand Sara Boario is trying to ask a question but
41 she can't get through. So we need to figure out a way
42 to get her question asked and so -- so that she can
43 hear the answer so if someone.....

44

45 OPERATOR: If she.....

46

47 MS. DETWILER:could forward that
48 question we'll.....

49

50

0170

1 OPERATOR:would.....

2

3 MS. DETWILER:get it out on the
4 floor.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair, may I read
9 the question I'm seeing it on my screen here?

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, please,
12 Sue, do.

13

14 MS. DETWILER: Okay. The question is
15 from Board Member Sara Boario, Fish and Wildlife
16 Service. The question is Mr. William with Ninilchik
17 Traditional Council related the data that was included
18 in the analysis for the decisionmaking of the eight
19 factors that show use patterns, can OSM respond to Mr.
20 Williams with respect to the data used in the analysis,
21 and that is question one.

22

23 I can read that question again while
24 folks are pulling their thoughts together on this one.

25

26 MS. VOORHEES: Sue, this.....

27

28 Mr. Williams with NTC -- I'm sorry, was
29 somebody trying to interject there.

30

31 MS. VOORHEES: Sue, this is Hannah and
32 I am looking forward to responding but I'm not sure I
33 understand the question completely and was hoping that
34 maybe Member Boario could clarify what she's looking
35 for.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 (Pause)

40

41 MS. DETWILER: I also see a message
42 that Member Boario is also trying to join in on a
43 different phone now so maybe that connection will be
44 better. So maybe there was -- maybe there was another
45 Board question or comments in the interim if somebody
46 wanted to jump in.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, the floor
49 is open for Board deliberation or discussion as we're

50

0171

1 waiting for Sara.

2

3 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair, this
4 is Hannah again.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
7 floor, Hannah.

8

9 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you. So I will try
10 to just give an overview of the data that we use when
11 making -- when doing analysis for C&T determinations.

12

13 The primary data source that we'll go
14 to are subsistence surveys that are conducted by ADF&G.
15 Those are surveys conducted approximately every 10
16 years for communities, in which we -- is separate from
17 harvest reporting. House -- very high percentage of
18 households in a community are surveyed and from that
19 data we are able to see -- we're able to develop a good
20 sense of what the overall harvest patterns are for a
21 community, what percentage of households might attempt
22 to harvest and actually harvest a particular species
23 and what percent is using and sharing species. Those
24 surveys often also include key informant interviews
25 that might give us a picture of long-term use for
26 resources in that community. Traditional means of
27 harvest and preserving, patterns of seasonal harvest et
28 cetera. And I can list the eight factors but I don't
29 want to necessarily belabor the point. But another
30 feature of those surveys is that we often get search
31 and use areas for a particular species, so there's maps
32 data that shows, you know, within a certain time span
33 where people have looked for species and have harvested
34 a species, and that's not considered exhaustive but it
35 is -- it is very useful for this kind of an analysis.

36

37 I'm happy to answer further if that
38 hasn't hit the nail on the head.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
43 that discussion. I believe Sara's on now as well.

44

45 MS. BOARIO: Yes, Mr. Chair, and,
46 Hannah my apologies for the technical difficulties on
47 my end. I think I heard some of your answer. I
48 apologize Hannah, Mr. Chair, I have another question
49 maybe that will be a little clearer, if I may.

50

0172

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
2 floor, Sara.

3
4 MS. BOARIO: I understand in 2014 the
5 Board voted down something similar due to lack of
6 information and testimony and I was wondering if there
7 is new information from that time, and maybe Hannah you
8 already answered that but I didn't catch all of it if
9 you did.

10
11 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair.
12 Thank you, Member Boario. And so the primary
13 subsistence survey that was used in this analysis dates
14 to 1991. It -- well, that was when the study year was
15 and there hasn't been any significant new data since
16 2014. There's, I believe one more year of data on
17 harvest reported from the State in 15C but other than
18 that, no, no new significant data.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MS. BOARIO: Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other Board
25 questions or discussion.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll open up
30 the floor for Board action.

31
32 MS. BOARIO: Mr. Chair, Fish and
33 Wildlife Service.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
36 the floor.

37
38 MS. BOARIO: I move to adopt Proposal
39 22-20. Following a second I will explain why I oppose
40 the motion -- my motion.

41
42 MR. BROWER: Second. Public Member
43 Brower.

44
45 MS. BOARIO: Thank you. I recog -- am
46 I still there, I apologize.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you're
49 still on.

50

0173

1 MS. BOARIO: Yes. I recognize that the
2 Board has a history of inclusiveness on C&T proposals
3 and the OSM analysis does show a history of use for
4 residents in 15C for Cooper Landing and deference
5 provided from the RAC, the Southcentral RAC citing
6 insufficient evidence, and while new significant data
7 would be useful, we would want to provide -- or, excuse
8 me -- and the lack of insufficient evidence -- or new
9 information since the last vote.

10

11 And I oppose.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor is
14 open for discussion, comments, questions from the
15 Board.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
20 question.

21

22 MR. BROWER: Question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
25 called. Sue, do you want to do a roll call on this
26 one, please.

27

28 MS. DETWILER: Yes. The motion is to
29 adopt WP22-20. I will start out with the maker of the
30 motion. Sara Boario, Fish and Wildlife Service.

31

32 MS. BOARIO: No.

33

34 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

35

36 Sarah Creachbaum, National Park
37 Service.

38

39 MS. CREACHBAUM: Yes.

40

41 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

42

43 Gene Peltola, BIA.

44

45 MR. CHEN: Hello, Sue, this is Glenn
46 Chen. And Mr. Peltola has asked me to sit in for him
47 for this vote.

48

49 MS. DETWILER: Okay.

50

0174

1 MR. CHEN: The BIA votes to oppose this
2 motion for the reasons articulated by Board Member --
3 from the Fish and Wildlife Service. Thank you.

4
5 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Glenn.

6
7 Thomas Heinlein, BLM.

8
9 MR. HEINLEIN: Yes, adopt.

10
11 MS. DETWILER: Okay.

12
13 Dave Schmid, Forest Service.

14
15 MR. SCHMID: The Forest Service will
16 oppose the motion as with the justification provided by
17 the Fish and Wildlife Service.

18
19 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you.

20
21 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

22
23 MS. PITKA: I oppose based on the
24 justification by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Thank
25 you.

26
27 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Rhonda.

28
29 Public Member Charlie Brower.

30
31 MR. BROWER: I oppose for the same
32 reason. Thank you.

33
34 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.

35
36 And, finally, Chair Christianson.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I oppose as
39 stated.

40
41 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. So the
42 motion fails six to -- or fails, two yea's, and six
43 no's.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
46 We'll go ahead and -- I'll just call on you to call on
47 the Staff for the next proposal. Thank you.

48
49 MS. DETWILER: And that would be

50

0175

1 Wildlife Proposal 22-25(b) and I'm not sure who's --
2 that would be Brian Ubelaker would be presenting that
3 one.

4

5 MR. UBELAKER: Correct. Hello. Good
6 afternoon, Mr. Chair and members of the Board. For the
7 record my name is Brian Ubelaker, I'm a Wildlife
8 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. I
9 will be presenting the summary of the analysis for
10 Wildlife Proposal 22-25(b), which was submitted by
11 Michael Adams of Cooper Landing and WP22-26(b) which
12 was submitted by Lisa Slepetski of Moose Pass. The
13 analysis begins on Page 5 -- I mean 958 of your meeting
14 books.

15

16 Both of these proposals requested a
17 Federal subsistence sheep season be established in Unit
18 7. Proposal WP22-26(b) asks for just that, and while
19 Proposal WP22-25(b) specifically requests establishing
20 a season of August 10th through September 20th with a
21 harvest limit of one dall sheep and that the Kenai
22 National Wildlife Refuge Manager be delegated authority
23 to open and close the season in consultation with ADF&G
24 and the Chair of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence
25 Regional Advisory Council.

26

27 The proponent state these changes are
28 needed to provide Federal subsistence opportunity to
29 harvest sheep in Unit 7 and that there is a history of
30 sheep harvest by rural residents of Unit 7. The
31 proponents further state that the requested change
32 would provide opportunity for rural residents of Unit 7
33 to engage in subsistence sheep hunting and provide a
34 meaningful subsistence priority.

35

36 Historically, sheep hunting has
37 occurred on the Kenai Peninsula for as long as it has
38 been inhabited, however, sheep hunting was closed in
39 1942 due to a conservation concern. Since then, sheep
40 hunting has changed little to the recognized
41 regulations of today. In 1959 a three-quarter curl
42 harvest limit was established. Then in 1964 the season
43 was extended and a 7/8ths curl harvest limit was
44 established. In 1989 the harvest limit was changed to
45 a full-curl. Sheep populations had recovered enough by
46 2016 for the Board of Game to establish a non-resident
47 and a youth only hunt. No Federal sheep hunts existed
48 on the Kenai Peninsula prior to 2020 when WP20-24
49 established a Federal sheep hunt in Unit 15 for
50

1 residents of Ninilchik.

2

3

4 The Kenai Peninsula sheep population
5 experienced a sharp decline in the early 20th century.
6 The population then increased through 1968 to 2,190
7 individuals before declining to 1,600 sheep in 1992.
8 There has been an estimated population decline of 80
9 percent since the 1960s. The 2011 to 2020 population
10 estimate on the Kenai Peninsula ranged from 379 to 644
11 individuals. As of 2015 the sub-population estimates
12 for the Kenai Peninsula -- excuse me -- as of 2015 the
13 sub-population estimates were 163 for the Kenai
14 National Wildlife Refuge, 165 for the Resurrection
15 Trail sub-population, 77 to the Grant Lake sub-
16 population and 50 for the Cooper Mountain and Crescent
17 Lake sub-populations. It is not believed that harvest
18 is limiting the population but rather results of
19 climate change and habitat loss.

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As stated before, historically, there has never been a Federal sheep hunt in Unit 7. Federally-qualified subsistence users have had to compete with sport hunters for a limited number of State sheep permits which currently total nine. A full-curl management plan has been in place since 1989. Average harvest from 2010 to 2019 is 3.9 sheep, while from 2000 to 2009 the average was 6.9 sheep. Since 2000 the number of sheep hunters on the Kenai Peninsula has decreased by roughly half. Reported harvest over the last 10 years is broken down to 10.2 percent non-resident harvest, 15.7 percent rural resident, and 74.1 percent non-rural resident.

Other alternatives considered included setting a harvest limit of three-quarter curl horn or greater by Federal drawing permit and another was to delegate authority to an in-season manager who would set harvest limits, sex restrictions and quotas.

If this proposal is adopted the established Federal sheep hunt would provide additional opportunity to Federally-qualified subsistence users. However, declining sheep populations are susceptible to overharvest if not managed carefully, therefore, Federal drawing permits should be established within the harvest framework used by the State. In-season management should be delegated to the Seward District Ranger to set harvest quotas, number of permits, and any needed permit conditions.

0177

1 The OSM conclusion is to support WP22-
2 25(b) with modification to establish a Federal drawing
3 permit hunt for sheep in Unit 7 with a harvest limit of
4 one ram with full-curl horn or larger and to delegate
5 authority to the Seward District Ranger of the Chugach
6 National Forest and to take no action on WP22-26(b).

7
8 That concludes my summary. I would be
9 happy to answer any questions anyone might have.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
12 questions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: If not we'll
17 move on to summary of public comments.

18
19 MR. UBELAKER: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair,
20 was that somebody trying to ask a question or just
21 background noise?

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That was me
24 saying the floor was open for questions and if there
25 was none we could move on to summary of public
26 comments.

27
28 MR. UBELAKER: Okay. Brian Ubelaker,
29 OSM. The only submitted written comment was one letter
30 in opposition and that letter came from the Kenai
31 Chapter of the Safari Club International. They were
32 opposed because they do not support any rural
33 determinations or subsistence priorities for the road-
34 connected Kenai Peninsula.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
37 Appreciate that. We'll move on to open up the lines
38 for any public who wants to comment on this proposal.
39 Thank you, Operator.

40
41 OPERATOR: Yes, sir. If you would like
42 to make a public comment please press, star followed by
43 one. Please make sure that your phone is unmuted and
44 record your name when prompted. Thank you.

45
46 (Pause)

47
48 OPERATOR: The first comment comes from
49 Michael, your line is open.

50

0178

1 MR. ADAMS: Thank you. I'd like to
2 once again thank the Board for the opportunity to
3 provide testimony. I'm testifying in support of
4 Proposal 25(b). I strongly support a subsistence
5 priority on sheep in Unit 7 for the Cooper Landing
6 community. However, in consideration of the current
7 sheep population in Unit 7 I think it is appropriate to
8 modify the proposal. While I do not feel that the
9 modified language provides for a subsistence priority,
10 it does provide for a subsistence opportunity. I
11 believe a three-quarter curl regulation would provide a
12 subsistence priority and would support that
13 modification instead but I understand the current
14 conservation concerns for sheep and I trust the
15 discretion of the Board. I believe that any
16 subsistence hunt should take into account the
17 conservation of the sheep population and harvest
18 opportunity should err on the side of caution so that
19 opportunity will continue to exist in the future.

20
21 I would fully expect that delegating
22 authority to manage this hunt in such a manner as to
23 protect the resource for future generations while
24 providing opportunity when possible. And I hope the
25 Board will be very conscious of the language adopted so
26 that the manager will have the ability to manage the
27 hunt with a conservation priority including the ability
28 to cancel or close the hunt if necessary.

29
30 If the Board, at their discretion,
31 decides to wait until a future cycle to establish a
32 subsistence season in light of current population
33 concerns I would also support that decision. However,
34 I believe that if the population is considered healthy
35 enough for a State season to occur, a subsistence
36 opportunity should also exist.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

41
42 OPERATOR: There are no other.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions.

45
46 (Teleconference interference -
47 participants not muted)

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other

50

0179

1 public to comment on the line, Operator. Thank you for
2 calling in Mike.

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OPERATOR: No, sir, there is not. No other public comment at this time.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Operator. We'll go ahead and move on to the tribal consultation. Native Liaison.

MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Robbin LaVine standing in for Tribal Liaison Orville Lind. There were no comments or recommendations during the consultation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Robbin. Moving on to the ISC recommendation -- or RAC Chair -- sorry, sorry, RAC -- Regional Advisory Council.

MS. STICKWAN: The Council supported it with OSM modification of one ram with full-curl horn or larger by Federal drawing permit and to provide for delegated authority. The Council believes that a Federal drawing permit is warranted because of the significant interest of hunting sheep in Unit 7. There are a few permits given by the State and under ANILCA a priority needs to be extended to the Federal subsistence user. With the declines in sheep population in recent years, establishing a preference for rural residents to meet their subsistence needs and delegating authority to a manger to protect the sheep populations will provide a priority and additional opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users.

Thank you.

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

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none, we'll move on to the InterAgency Staff Committee recommendation.

MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin. Did we miss State Liaison response -- thank you, Mr.

0180

1 Chair.

2

3

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we did.
4 Sorry about that, Mr. Mulligan. State Liaison. I'm
5 operating off memory today so sorry -- my computer just
6 crashed on me -- sorry.

7

8 MR. MULLIGAN: No worries, Mr. Chair.
9 If you don't mind, did we miss -- oh, never mind, we
10 did get the RAC, my apologies, I'm going off of memory
11 myself. So for the record, the Alaska Department of
12 Fish and Game opposes this proposal.

13

14 Any additional harvest jeopardizes the
15 population of dall sheep in the area. If a Federal
16 season is established, current harvest restrictions
17 only one ram, full-curl horn ram with both horns broken
18 or a ram at least eight years old as determined by
19 counting annual horn rings should be maintained.
20 Harvest should only be allowed in areas where a
21 harvestable surplus is available as indicated by an
22 open State season. Allowing Federally-qualified users
23 to hunt within boundaries of closed areas could lead to
24 these hunts never again being opened under a State
25 permit system and would disrupt the current State
26 management system.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
31 questions for the State.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
36 hearing none, we'll move on. Thank you.

37

38 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
39 the record, again, this is Robbin LaVine, Policy
40 Coordinator and InterAgency Staff Committee Chair. For
41 Wildlife Proposal 22-25(b) and 26(b), the InterAgency
42 Staff Committee provided the standard comment.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
47 Robbin. Appreciate that. That opens up the floor for
48 Board discussion, deliberation.

49

50

0181

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor is
4 open for Board action.

5

6 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair, the Forest
7 Service.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Dave, you
10 have the floor.

11

12 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
13 move to adopt WP22-25(b)/26(b) as modified by OSM to
14 establish a Federal drawing permit hunt for sheep in
15 Unit 7 with a harvest limit of one ram with full-curl
16 horn or larger and delegate authority to the Seward
17 District Ranger of the Chugach National Forest to close
18 the season, set the harvest quota and number of permits
19 to be issued and any needed permit conditions via
20 delegation of authority letter. Following a second I
21 will explain why I support my motion.

22

23 MS. BOARIO: Second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
26 There's a motion that's been made and seconded, the
27 floor is open for discussion.

28

29 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
30 Chair. My justification is based on the analysis by
31 OSM as modified and the comments given by the
32 Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
33 Council. Currently there is no Federal subsistence
34 season for sheep in Unit 7 and Federally-qualified
35 subsistence users must rely on the limited number of
36 State drawing permits in Unit 7 or use a harvest ticket
37 in Unit 7 remainder in order to harvest sheep.
38 Establishing a Federal sheep season in Unit 7 would
39 provide additional opportunity for Federally-qualified
40 subsistence users consistent with Section .804 of the
41 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act which
42 calls for a priority consumptive use of fish and
43 wildlife populations by rural Alaska residents. In
44 addition, delegating authority to the Seward District
45 Ranger of the Chugach National Forest to open and close
46 the season, set harvest quota, determine the number of
47 permits to be issued and any needed permit conditions
48 would be the most efficient way to implement the
49 proposed Federal sheep season.

50

0182

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
4 Dave. The floor is open for discussion, questions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
9 question.

10

11 MR. SCHMID: Question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
14 question's been called. We'll go ahead and do roll
15 call on this one, Sue. Thank you.

16

17 MS. DETWILER: Okay, will do. The
18 motion is to adopt as -- as modified by OSM. Start
19 with Dave Schmid, Forest Service.

20

21 MR. SCHMID: Yes, thanks. I support the
22 motion that I -- with the justification I just
23 provided.

24

25 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

26

27 Thomas Heinlein, BLM.

28

29 MR. HEINLEIN: BLM supports.

30

31 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

32

33 BIA, Glenn or Gene.

34

35 MR. CHEN: Yes, Sue, this is Glenn Chen
36 from BIA. I'll be casting the vote for Regional
37 Director Gene Peltola. And the BIA votes to support
38 the Forest Service motion which also concurs with the
39 recommendation from the Southcentral Regional Advisory
40 Council. Thank you.

41

42 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

43

44 Sara Boario, Fish and Wildlife Service.

45

46 MS. BOARIO: The Fish and Wildlife
47 Service supports.

48

49 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

50

0183

1 Sarah Creachbaum, Park Service.

2

3 MS. CREACHBAUM: National Park Service
4 supports.

5

6 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

7

8 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

9

10 MS. PITKA: I support in deference to
11 the Regional Advisory Council. Thank you.

12

13 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

14

15 Public Member Charlie Brower.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MS. DETWILER: May be on mute or trying
20 to get back in.

21

22 Chair Anthony Christianson.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I support.

25

26 MS. DETWILER: Charlie Brower, did you
27 come back on.

28

29 MR. BROWER: Yeah, I'm back on, I had
30 to step out real quick.

31

32 MS. DETWILER: Okay. We are taking a
33 vote on WP22-25(b)/26(b) and the motion to adopt as
34 modified by OSM has been made and all seven members who
35 have voted so far have voted in favor of the proposal.
36 So yours is the last vote Mr. Brower.

37

38 MR. BROWER: I support.

39

40 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you. So the
41 motion passes unanimously. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
44 We'll go ahead and call on Staff to move on to the next
45 proposal.

46

47 MS. DETWILER: That would be WP22-28
48 and 29 and that would be Mr. Ubelaker, I believe,
49 presenting that.

50

1 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, good afternoon
2 again. Mr. Chair. Members of the Board. For the
3 record, my name is Brian Ubelaker and I am a Wildlife
4 Biologist with OSM. I will be presenting a summary for
5 the analysis of Wildlife Proposal WP22-28, which was
6 submitted by Michael Adams of Cooper Landing and WP22-
7 29, which was submitted by Seth Wilson of Glennallen.
8 And this analysis begins on Page 983 of your meeting
9 books.

10
11 Both of these proposals request to
12 extend the length of the length of the moose season in
13 Unit 7 remainder from September 20th to September 25th.
14 The proponent state the Federal subsistence season
15 should not be more restrictive than the State season,
16 which currently closes five days later than the Federal
17 season and that this proposal would allow more
18 opportunity for participation by Federally-qualified
19 subsistence users.

20
21 Relevant regulatory history includes a
22 Board of Game adoption in 2015 where the moose season
23 was shortened and shifted to later, from August 20th
24 through September 20th to September 1st through
25 September 25th. This caused the season closing dates
26 between Federal and State regulations to be misaligned.
27 Then in 2018 the Board of Game established a 50-inch
28 plus or three or more brow tine harvest limit.

29
30 A unit-wide survey and population
31 estimate has never been conducted in Unit 7 but the
32 population trend has decidedly declining and has been
33 since the '70s. The most recent trend count conducted
34 in Unit 7 has a bull to cow ratio of 25 to 100, which
35 is within ADF&G's management objective. Moose harvest
36 in Unit 7 has been declining since 2000 with the
37 average harvest from 2015 to 2019 being 20 moose per
38 year.

39
40 Another alternative to consider was
41 suggested by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. It
42 stated that since the current Federal season is longer
43 than the State season, the season opener should be
44 shifted from August 10th to August 20th but still
45 maintain the proposed close date of September 25th.
46 While this would shorten the overall Federal season by
47 five days, it would move it closer to when the rut
48 occurs which should allow for hunter success more like
49 current levels, plus Federally-qualified subsistence
50

0185

1 users would still be able to hunt without State
2 competition for 12 days at the beginning of the season.

3
4 Adopting the proposal and extending the
5 season would allow Federally-qualified subsistence
6 users greater access to the resource. It would also
7 allow for the alignment of Federal and State seasons.

8
9 Therefore, it is OSM's conclusion to
10 support Proposal WP22-28 and to take no action on WP22-
11 29.

12
13 That is the end of my summary. If
14 anybody has any questions I would be happy to answer
15 them.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
18 questions for Staff.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
23 We'll go ahead and move on to any public comment.
24 Thank you.

25
26 OPERATOR: If you.....

27
28 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, Mr. Chair, Brian
29 Ubelaker once again. There was one letter submitted in
30 opposition to this proposal and it also came from the
31 Kenai Chapter of Safari Club International who were
32 opposed because they do not support any rural
33 determinations or subsistence priorities for the road-
34 connected Kenai Peninsula.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
39 Operator, at this time if there's anybody who would
40 like to be recognized online this is time for public
41 comment online.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 OPERATOR: Thank you, sir. If you
46 would like to make a public comment, again, that's
47 star, one. Please unmute your phone and record your
48 name when prompted. Thank you.

49
50

0186

1 (Pause)

2

3 OPERATOR: First public comment comes
4 from Michael, your line is open.

5

6 MR. ADAMS: Thank you. I'm speaking in
7 support of Proposals 28 and 30. These proposals seek
8 to provide additional opportunity for subsistence moose
9 hunting in Unit 7 and 15.

10

11 We just heard, I guess, the existing
12 regulation compared to the proposed regulation. I,
13 personally, support both proposals as written and
14 believe that this will provide a meaningful subsistence
15 priority. The amended proposals will eliminate the
16 first 10 days of the existing subsistence season.
17 While I would prefer the proposals to pass as
18 originally written, I do think that the amended
19 proposals do increase the opportunity in comparison to
20 the existing regulation.

21

22 In addition to my personal position on
23 these proposals I've also been asked to read the
24 following statement on behalf of the Cooper Landing
25 Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Would it be all
26 right if I read the proposals for both -- or excuse me,
27 the comment for both proposals, Proposal 28 and 30 now
28 or would it be more appropriate for me to call back for
29 the comment period on Proposal 30?

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

32

33 MR. ADAMS: I was asking a question to
34 the Board if that's all right. I was wondering if it
35 would be more appropriate to read the Fish and Game
36 Advisory Committee for Proposal 30 separately or would
37 it be all right to read the statement for Proposal 28
38 and 30 right now.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, if you
41 plan on coming back -- they're all pertinent -- I mean
42 if you -- if you're going to come back and do it then,
43 or do it now, they're all related.

44

45 MR. ADAMS: Okay. So on behalf of the
46 Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee I've
47 been asked to read the following statement.

48

49 The Cooper Landing Fish and Game

50

0187

1 Advisory Committee unanimously supports Proposal --
2 WP20-28 [sic] as amended by the Southcentral Regional
3 Advisory Council to include the following language:
4 With modification of season dates as August 20 to
5 September 25th.

6
7 And the Cooper Landing Fish and Game
8 Advisory Committee unanimously supports Proposal WP20-
9 30 [sic] as amended by the Southcentral Regional
10 Advisory Council to include the following language:
11 With modification of season dates of August 20th to
12 September 25th.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
17 Thank you for calling in. Operator, are there any
18 other public online who would like to be recognized at
19 this time.

20
21 OPERATOR: Not at this time, sir.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
24 That concludes the public testimony part of this.
25 We'll next call on our tribal, ANCSA Corporation
26 consultation.

27
28 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair, actually I
29 think it would be RAC recommendations before the
30 tribal.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, sorry,
33 about that Sue. Yeah, I'm just -- the sun's shining
34 down here so it keeps making my head jump ahead.
35 Sorry.

36
37 MS. DETWILER: All right.

38
39 MS. STICKWAN: Council supported with
40 modification of season as August 20 to September 25th.
41 The Council believes this proposal as modified provides
42 a priority to Federally-qualified subsistence users by
43 having an extended hunting season. Although this would
44 result in 10 days eliminated from the beginning of the
45 season from August 10th to August 20th there would
46 still be ample opportunity for subsistence users
47 harvest before the State opens. Addition of extra days
48 towards the end of the season during prime hunting time
49 with cooler temperatures is better for subsistence
50

0188

1 users having harvesting -- users harvesting meat.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
6 questions for the Regional Advisory Council.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none
11 we'll move on to the tribal consultation.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Hello, Mr. Chair. Members
14 of the Board. This is Robbin LaVine and I have been
15 standing in for Tribal Liaison Orville Lind. I believe
16 Orville has rejoined us, Orville are you on the line.

17

18 MR. LIND: Yes, Robbin, I'm on now.
19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome back,
22 Orville, you have the floor.

23

24 MR. LIND: And this is for
25 Proposal.....

26

27 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 28/29.

28

29 MR. LIND: Okay. 28/29. We had no
30 comments or recommendation on that proposal. Thank
31 you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
34 Orville. And then we'll move to the next on, State
35 Liaison.

36

37 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 For the record, ADF&G opposes this proposal this
39 proposal as Federal subsistence regulations already
40 provide a significant advantage for Federally-qualified
41 users over non-Federally-qualified users. Federal
42 subsistence regulations in GMU 7 provide for an extra
43 17 days on the front end of the season already and so
44 we feel that that's enough of a priority already within
45 the existing regulations.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

50

0189

1 Moving on to InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Yes, hello, Mr. Chair.

4 This is Robbin LaVine. For Wildlife Proposal 22-28 and
5 29, the InterAgency Staff Committee provided the
6 standard comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

9 We'll open the floor now for Board discussion,
10 deliberation.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor is
15 open for Board action.

16

17 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair, Forest Service.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Dave, you
20 have the floor.

21

22 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
23 move to adopt WP22-28/29 as modified by the
24 Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
25 Council to shift the moose hunting season in Unit 7
26 remainder to August 20th through September 25th.
27 Following a second I will explain why I support my
28 motion.

29

30 MR. BROWER: Second, Public Member
31 Brower.

32

33 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Charlie. My
34 justification is based on the comments and modification
35 by the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional
36 Advisory Council. Recently moose harvest in Unit 7 has
37 decreased during the early part of the season because
38 of warming climatic conditions that make meat spoilage
39 more likely. Extending the shifting moose season in
40 Unit 7 remainder until later in the fall will continue
41 to provide for a subsistence priority and at the same
42 time enable harvest when the weather is more suitable
43 for preservation of the meat.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
48 Dave. The floor is open for discussion, comments.

49

50

0190

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the

4 question.

5

6 MS. CREACHBAUM: Question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

9 Question's been called. We'll go ahead and do roll
10 call, again, on this Sue. Thank you.

11

12 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you. The
13 motion is to adopt WP22-28 and 29 as modified by the
14 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. Start with the
15 maker of the motion, Dave Schmid, Forest Service.

16

17 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. The Forest
18 Service supports in deference to the RAC and with the
19 justification I provided.

20

21 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

22

23 Thomas Heinlein, BLM.

24

25 MR. HEINLEIN: BLM supports as modified
26 by and in deference to the RAC.

27

28 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. BIA, Glenn,
29 on behalf of Gene.

30

31 MR. CHEN: Yes, the BIA votes to
32 support as modified by the Regional Advisory Council
33 and as articulated by Mr. Schmid from the Forest
34 Service. Thank you.

35

36 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

37

38 Sara Boario.

39

40 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife Service
41 supports.

42

43 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

44

45 Sarah Creachbaum.

46

47 MS. CREACHBAUM: National Park Service
48 supports.

49

50

0191

1 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

2

3 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

4

5 MS. PITKA: I support in deference to
6 the Regional Advisory Council and as articulated by the
7 Forest Service. Thank you.

8

9 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

10

11 Public Member Charlie Brower.

12

13 MR. BROWER: Support as stated.

14

15 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

16

17 Chair Christianson.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support, as
20 stated.

21

22 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Motion
23 passes unanimously.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
26 And we'll go ahead and take a 10 minute break until
27 3:00 o'clock. A 10 minute break. I thank everybody --
28 so, yeah, we'll make it a brief one but 10 minute
29 break. Thank you.

30

31 (Off record)

32

33 (On record)

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome back.
36 Sue, we'll go ahead and just make sure we have a quorum
37 whenever you're ready. Thank you.

38

39 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you. I
40 understand we have everybody in listening mode and in
41 the speakers room on the line listening now so I just
42 want to confirm with the court reporter that we're now
43 on the record.

44

45 REPORTER: I am, go ahead.

46

47 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you. I'll
48 do a quick roll call.

49

50

0192

1 Sarah Creachbaum, Park Service.

2

3 MS. CREACHBAUM: Hi, Sue, I'm here.

4

5 MS. DETWILER: Great.

6

7 Tom Heinlein, BLM.

8

9 MR. HEINLEIN: Present.

10

11 MS. DETWILER: Sara Boario, Fish and
12 Wildlife Service.

13

14 MS. BOARIO: Present.

15

16 MS. DETWILER: Dave Schmid, Forest
17 Service.

18

19 MR. SCHMID: I'm here, Sue.

20

21 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

22

23 BIA, Glenn or Gene.

24

25 MR. CHEN: Yes, so this is Glenn Chen.
26 I'll continue to represent Gene this afternoon. Thank
27 you.

28

29 MS. DETWILER: Okay. All right, thank
30 you.

31

32 Public Member Pitka.

33

34 MS. PITKA: I am here.

35

36 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

37

38 Public Member Charlie Brower.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MS. DETWILER: And Chair Anthony
43 Christianson I heard you on, so it looks like you have
44 seven of eight members online right now.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
47 We'll go ahead and get started with the next proposal.
48 Thank you.

49

50

0193

1 MS. DETWILER: Okay. That will be
2 Wildlife Proposal WP22-30 and 31 and that will be Brian
3 Ubelaker.

4
5 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Sue. Good
6 afternoon, again, Mr. Chair and members of the Board.
7 For the record, Brian Ubelaker, Wildlife Biologist with
8 OSM. I'll be presenting you a summary of the analysis
9 for Wildlife Proposal WP22-30 which was submitted by
10 Michael Adams of Cooper Landing and WP22-31, which was
11 submitted by Chugach Regional Resources Commission.
12 This analysis begins on Page 994 in your meeting books.

13
14 These proposals request to extend the
15 length of the moose hunting season in Unit 15 from
16 September 20th to September 25th. The proponents state
17 the Federal subsistence season should not be more
18 restrictive than the State hunting season which is
19 currently open five days later than the Federal season
20 and would allow for more opportunity for participation
21 by Federally-qualified subsistence users.

22
23 In 2014, establishment by the Federal
24 Subsistence Board of a cow moose hunt in Unit 15C. In
25 2015 the Board of Game aligned all Federal moose
26 seasons in Unit 15 to September 1st through the 25th
27 with the harvest limit of 50-inch plus or four or more
28 brow tines. They also established a non-resident
29 general season in Unit 15C at this time. Then in 2019
30 the Board of Game changed harvest limits to 50-inch
31 plus or three or more brow tines. They also
32 established a general season hunt in 15B and a resident
33 any bull draw permit at the same time.

34
35 Federal management objectives for the
36 moose population in Unit 15 include in sub-Unit 15A to
37 maintain a post-hunting bull/cow ratio of 25 to 100.
38 In sub-Unit 15B west to maintain a bull/cow ratio of 20
39 to 25 to 100 for maximum hunting opportunity. In 15B
40 east to maintain a bull to cow ratio of 40 to 100 for
41 maximum harvest of large antlered bulls. And in 15C to
42 maintain a bull to cow ratio of 20 to 25 to 100 for a
43 healthy productive population.

44
45 Units 15A and C were under intensive
46 management from 2012 to 2017 when the population
47 objective in Unit 15A at that time was 3,000 to 3,500
48 with a sustainable harvest of 180 to 350 animals. Unit
49 15C's population objective was the same at 3,500 but
50

0194

1 with a harvest goal of 200 to 350. In Unit 15A bull to
2 cow ratios have been above State management objectives
3 since 2012 but for the same timeframe population
4 estimates have been below management objectives. In
5 Unit 15B there's been no population census since 2001
6 but all metrics indicate the population is increasing.
7 Unit 15C has a bull to cow ratio at or above the
8 management objective and has been since 2002.

9
10 Moose harvest in Unit 15 has been
11 increasing since harvest restrictions were lifted for
12 2013. Federal harvest has averaged 12 moose per year
13 over the last five years which equates to 4.4 percent
14 of the total harvest. Since the establishment of the
15 cow hunt in 2014 cows have averaged 27.2 percent of the
16 Federal harvest.

17
18 Another alternative considered was the
19 same as for the last proposal, WP22-28 and 29. It was
20 put forth by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and
21 they suggested to shift the start date from August 10th
22 to August 20th but to maintain the proposed end date of
23 September 25th which would shorten the season by five
24 days but would move the hunt closer to the rut and
25 Federally-qualified subsistence users would still have
26 12 days at the beginning of the season to hunt without
27 competition from sport hunters.

28
29 If this proposal were to be adopted,
30 the resulting extension of moose season would allow
31 more Federally-qualified subsistence users greater
32 access to the resource. It would also align Federal
33 and State closing dates.

34
35 Therefore, OSM's conclusion is to
36 support Proposal WP22-30 and take no action on WP22-31.

37
38 Thank you. And I would be happy to
39 answer any questions anyone may have.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
42 questions from the Board.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
47 that. Now we'll take any public comment that you may
48 have received. Thank you.

49
50

0195

1 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, Mr. Chair. There
2 was one letter submitted in opposition to this
3 proposal, the same as for the last. It was from the
4 Kenai Chapter of Safari Club International and they
5 were opposed because they do not support any rural
6 determinations or subsistence priorities for the road-
7 connected Kenai Peninsula.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, very
12 much. And with that we'll open it up to the public
13 online, Operator, if anybody online would like to be
14 recognized at this time it's their time to speak.

15
16 OPERATOR: Thank you. If you would
17 like to make a public comment please press, star, one.
18 One moment please.

19
20 (Pause)

21
22 OPERATOR: We do have a public comment
23 from Darrel, your line is open.

24
25 MR. WILLIAMS: Hi everyone. Mr.
26 Chairman. Members of the Board. My name is Darrel
27 Williams with Ninilchik Traditional Council. We oppose
28 this proposal for a lot of the same reasons that we
29 opposed Wildlife Proposal 22-20. And there's also a
30 little bit of a problem because if we didn't approve
31 the C&T for 15C for Cooper Landing, it would be really
32 difficult to be able to approve a bag limit in 15C with
33 Proposal 22-30. And our concerns are the same reasons
34 I stated before and just for the sake of saving some
35 time for everyone I'd just like to refer to the
36 comments made earlier.

37
38 I will say that the analysis in this
39 proposal looks like it's aggregated. Where we're
40 talking about Units 15A, B and C, other than just Unit
41 15C, which is the large part of the discussion that we
42 had on Wildlife Proposal WP22-20.

43
44 So with that said we oppose the
45 proposal. Thank you.

46
47 OPERATOR: Once again.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

50

0196

1 OPERATOR:to make a public.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Anyone else

4 Operator.

5

6 OPERATOR:please press star, one.

7 I'm showing no further public comment.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
10 thank you. We'll move on to the tribal consultation
11 process.

12

13 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair, I think.....

14

15 MS. DETWILER: Actually.....

16

17 MR. LIND:it's Regional Advisory
18 Council recommendations.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, yes it is,
21 thank you, Orville. Regional Advisory Council
22 recommendation.

23

24 MS. STICKWAN: Council supported with
25 modification of seasons as August 20 to September 25th.
26 The Council voted to align the same season in -- to
27 Unit 15 that it previously recommended for Unit 7 for
28 the same reasons, to provide a preference to the
29 subsistence user. Adding hunting opportunities during
30 a time when temperatures are better for meat
31 preservation. Climate change in recent years is a
32 factor in considering extensions of seasons to
33 accommodate users of the resource.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
36 questions for the RAC.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
41 we'll move on. Orville, Tribal Native Liaison.

42

43 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Federal Subsistence Board members. Orville Lind,
45 Native Liaison. During the consultation period we had
46 no comments or recommendation on that proposal. Thank
47 you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,

50

0197

1 Orville. We'll move on to the State Liaison.

2

3 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 For the record, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
5 opposes this proposal as Federal subsistence
6 regulations already provide a significant advantage for
7 Federally-qualified users over non-Federally-qualified
8 users. Federal subsistence regulations for Federally-
9 qualified users in GMU 15 are currently less
10 restrictive than State hunting regulations. The
11 hunting season for Federally-qualified users in GMU 15
12 begin 22 days before the general State season and 12
13 days before the bull only season for 15A and B.
14 Additionally, Federally-qualified users have a late
15 season that runs from October 20th to November 10th for
16 an additional 22 days, which means that Federally-
17 qualified users currently have over a month of
18 additional time to hunt moose not available to non-
19 Federally-qualified users under the State's hunting
20 season. Federally-qualified users also have a more
21 relaxed bag limit as they're able to harvest a fork
22 antlered bull or a cow during the first portion of the
23 season and a fork bull during the late season in
24 addition animals available for harvest under State
25 regulations.

26

27 Thank you, sir.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
30 questions for the State.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
35 InterAgency Staff Committee recommendation.

36

37 MS. LAVINE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 This is Robbin LaVine. For Wildlife Proposal 22-30/31
39 the InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
40 comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
43 Robbin. That opens up the floor for Board discussion
44 or deliberation.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
49 that opens the floor for Board action on this proposal.

50

0198

1 MS. BOARIO: Mr. Chair, Fish and
2 Wildlife Service.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you.....

5
6 MS. BOARIO: I move to adopt Wildlife
7 Proposal 22-30 as modified by the Southcentral Alaska
8 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to shift the
9 moose hunting season in Unit 15 to August 20th to
10 September 25th to align with the Unit 7 season and to
11 take no action on Wildlife Proposal 22-31. Following a
12 second I will explain why I support my motion.

13
14 MR. BROWER: Second.

15
16 MS. BOARIO: My justification is based
17 on the comments given by the Southcentral Alaska
18 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and the OSM
19 analysis. Recently moose harvest in Unit 15 has
20 decreased during the early part of the season because
21 of warming climate conditions that makes meat spoilage
22 more likely. Extending and shifting the moose hunting
23 season in Unit 15 until later in the fall will continue
24 to provide for a subsistence priority and at the same
25 time enable harvest when the weather is more suitable
26 for preservation of meat. In addition, aligning Unit
27 15 moose season with the Unit 7 season will create less
28 user confusion.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
33 further Board discussion, deliberation.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
38 we'll call for the question.

39
40 MR. SCHMID: Question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
43 called. Roll call, please, Sue.

44
45 MS. DETWILER: Yes. The motion is to
46 adopt WP22-30 and 31 as modified by the Southcentral
47 Council. And I'll start with the maker of the motion.

48
49 Sara Boario, Fish and Wildlife Service.

50

0199

1 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife Service
2 supports.

3
4 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

5
6 Gene -- sorry, BIA, Glenn Chen.

7
8 MR. CHEN: Yes, Sue, the BIA votes to
9 support with the modification provided by the
10 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council and for the
11 reasons articulated by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

16
17 BLM, Tom Heinlein.

18
19 MR. HEINLEIN: BLM supports.

20
21 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

22
23 Dave Schmid, Forest Service.

24
25 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, the Forest Service
26 supports the proposal as modified by the Southeast --
27 I'm sorry, Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional
28 Advisory Council and with the justification provided by
29 Fish and Wildlife Service.

30
31 Thanks.

32
33 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

34
35 Park Service, Sarah Creachbaum.

36
37 MS. CREACHBAUM: National Park Service
38 supports as modified.

39
40 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

41
42 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

43
44 MS. PITKA: Hi. I support as modified
45 and as articulated. Thank you.

46
47 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

48
49 Public Member Charlie Brower.

50

0200

1 MR. BROWER: I support.

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Charlie.

4

5 Chair Christianson.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support as
8 specified.

9

10 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. And the
11 motion passes unanimously, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
14 We'll go ahead and move on to the next wildlife
15 proposal and the Staff. Thank you.

16

17 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. That would
18 be WP22-35 and that would be Tom Plank presenting that
19 one.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 MS. KENNER: Hello, Sue, this is Pippa
24 Kenner with OSM. I think we are on WP22-36, am I
25 correct.

26

27 MS. DETWILER: I have 22-35.

28

29 MS. KENNER: Okay, great, thank you.
30 When there was nobody coming on I thought maybe it was
31 -- thank you very much.

32

33 MS. DETWILER: Yeah, I think the
34 presenter for this one is Tom Plank and he may be
35 having trouble getting on but maybe Lisa Grediagin
36 knows what the situation is.

37

38 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, through the.....

39

40 MS. DETWILER: So maybe -- go ahead,
41 Lisa.

42

43 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, through the
44 Chair, this is Lisa Grediagin. And Tom is trying to
45 unmute his phone. Yeah, I just got a message he's
46 going to call back in. Yeah, and others are saying
47 they're having -- and I think that happened to Pippa
48 earlier too, where she had to call back in to get off
49 of mute. So, Mr. Chair, if you're able to just give
50

0201

1 him a couple minutes to call back in.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You bet Lisa.
4 I got stuck in another room too, thank everyone for
5 their patience today. It's valuable that we get all
6 the insight. Thank you.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 OPERATOR: Mr. Plank, your line is
11 open.

12

13 MR. PLANK: Thank you. Hi, this is Tom
14 Plank, can you hear me now?

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Tom, we
17 can hear you loud and clear, you have the floor.

18

19 MR. PLANK: I do apologize for that.
20 So I'll go ahead and get started here. Hello, Mr.
21 Chair, and members of the Board. My name is Tom Plank
22 and I am a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of
23 Subsistence Management. I will be presenting a summary
24 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-35 submitted
25 by Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission requesting to
26 establish a may be announced season in Unit 11 with a
27 harvest limit of one bull by Federal permit in an .804
28 analysis. And this begins on Page 1012 in your books.

29

30 The proponent states their
31 understanding is that recent scientific research and
32 assessment has determined that the Mentasta Caribou
33 Herd population has stabilized at a lower level than
34 that envisioned by the now outdated Mentasta Caribou
35 Herd Management Plan as necessary in order to resume
36 subsistence caribou hunting opportunities in Unit 11.
37 The proponent further states that understanding --
38 their understanding is that Nelchina bull caribou
39 collared data demonstrates that the Nelchina bulls
40 frequent the Mentasta Herd such that a bulls only
41 caribou hunt during times that the Nelchina Herd is
42 present in Unit 11 would not affect the biological
43 status of the Mentasta Caribou Herd since a distinct
44 Mentasta cow caribou would not be open to hunting.

45

46 The proponent would like to resume the
47 continued subsistence use of caribou in Unit 11 within
48 the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory. Note that this
49 analysis only considers the establishment of a season

50

1 and a harvest limit. The .804 analysis may be
2 conducted at a later time if a caribou hunt is open in
3 Unit 11.

4
5 There has not been a Federal season for
6 caribou hunting in Unit 11 for most of the last three
7 decades and have been few proposals to establish one.
8 In 1993 a proposal was adopted by the Federal
9 Subsistence Board to close Federal public lands to
10 caribou hunting in Unit 11. The combination of low
11 caribou numbers and low recruitments were direct
12 indicators of a continuing conservation concern which
13 warranted protection of the small Mentasta Caribou Herd
14 population under ANILCA, Section .815, Section (3). In
15 1996 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted a proposal
16 with modification to reopen the caribou season with a
17 total quota of 15 bulls only to residents of the seven
18 communities identified consistent with the requirements
19 of ANILCA Section .804. Based on the objectives of the
20 Mentasta Caribou Herd Cooperative Management Plan being
21 met for calf production and recruitment of the Mentasta
22 Caribou Herd despite a declining population. In 1998
23 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted a proposal
24 requesting to close all caribou hunting within Unit 11
25 due to the calf recruitment being below the management
26 objective.

27
28 Caribou in Unit 11 have been part of
29 the Nelchina Caribou Herd or Mentasta Caribou Herd as
30 these ranges of these herds overlap as you can see on
31 Map 2 on Page 1018. These two herds are considered
32 distinct herds because females calve in separate areas
33 although the herds mix during some breeding seasons.
34 The Nelchina Caribou Herd calving grounds and summer
35 range lie within Unit 13, the Mentasta Caribou Herd and
36 the primary herd within Unit 11 calves and summers
37 within the Upper Copper River Basin and the northern
38 and western flanks of the Wrangell Mountains within the
39 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The
40 Mentasta Caribou Herd declined from an estimated around
41 3,200 caribou in 1987 to an estimated 495 caribou in
42 2021 as you can see on Table 2 on Page 1022. The fall
43 population estimate in 2020 was almost 1,200 caribou,
44 however, the increase from 2019 is not explained by
45 calf production the previous year but may be due, in
46 part, to the Nelchina Caribou returning late from the
47 winter grounds or may have failed to migrate back to
48 the traditional calving grounds. The number of caribou
49 observed during the 2021 Mentasta Caribou Herd survey
50

1 dropped back down to levels observed in 2019. The
2 Mentasta Caribou Herd population has remained stable at
3 relatively low levels since 2004 as evidenced by low
4 calf survival. The bull/cow ratio, total bulls
5 observed as fluctuated between 1987 and 2021 which is
6 also on Table 2 on Page 1022. While Nelchina bulls
7 have wintered within the range of the Mentasta Herd
8 there is limited ability to predict the extent or
9 frequency of mixing between the Nelchina and Mentasta
10 bulls and is impossible to discern whether the harvest
11 of a bull would be from either herd.

12
13 The Nelchina Herd is a popular herd to
14 hunt and experiences heavy harvest pressure due to its
15 road accessibility and proximity to Fairbanks and
16 Anchorage. Over 95 percent of the Nelchina Caribou
17 Herd harvest occurs in Unit 13, and between 2001 and
18 2019 harvest from the Nelchina Caribou Herd under State
19 regulations has averaged around ,2300 caribou a year.
20 Federal regulations for Units 12 and 13 combined
21 averages 421 caribou per year. Harvest for the
22 Mentasta Caribou Herd in the 1996 and '97 season was
23 one caribou with 15 permits issued and in the 1997 and
24 '98 season 12 permits were issued by not harvest was
25 reported for caribou.

26
27 There has been no reported harvest for
28 the Mentasta Caribou Herd since 1998 as there has been
29 no State or Federal season for caribou in Unit 11,
30 however, some incidental harvest of Mentasta caribou
31 may take place during winter hunts targeting the
32 Nelchina Caribou Herd and areas of herd overlap in the
33 adjacent units.

34
35 If this proposal is adopted the
36 additional harvest is unlikely to have a biological
37 affect on the Nelchina Caribou Herd, however, impacts
38 to the Mentasta Caribou Herd are a conservation concern
39 and deters from the principles in the Mentasta Caribou
40 Herd Management Plan. The Mentasta Caribou Herd has
41 fallen short of any metric that would support opening a
42 season for the past 25 years. Current low population
43 numbers are indicative of poor recruitment and low
44 survival rates among cohorts within the population and
45 an increased opportunity for incidental harvest could
46 further exacerbate a decline of population as currently
47 of conservation concern. If this proposal is adopted
48 it would allow a harvest of caribou when the Nelchina
49 Caribou Herd migrates through Unit 11 providing
50

0204

1 increased subsistence hunting opportunities. Based on
2 participation and harvest of Federally-qualified
3 subsistence users from 1996 to 1998 when a very limited
4 open Federal caribou season occurred in Unit 11,
5 harvest from a Unit 11 caribou hunt may be expected to
6 be very low, however, if the Nelchina caribou are
7 easily accessible along the Nabesna Road hunting
8 efforts and harvest could be higher than was
9 experienced in 1996 and 1998.

10

11 The OSM's conclusion is to support
12 Proposal WP22-35 with modification to delegate
13 authority to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
14 Preserve Superintendent to announce season dates,
15 harvest quotas, and number of permits to be issued, to
16 define harvest areas and to open and close a season via
17 delegation of authority letter only. Timing of this
18 migration differs from year to year and the number of
19 Nelchina bulls that mix with the Mentasta Caribou Herd
20 within Unit 11 also varies year to year. The Wrangell-
21 St.Elias National Park and Preserve superintendent
22 would have the needed data to make these announcements
23 year to year as timing and numbers vary.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
26 Board. I'd be happy to field any questions.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
29 questions from the Board.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
34 hearing none, moving on to any public comment received.

35

36 MR. PLANK: This is Tom Plank with OSM.
37 And there were no written public comments received.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.
40 We'll go ahead and move on, Operator, if anybody online
41 that wants to be recognized at this time, it's their
42 opportunity for the public comment period for this
43 agenda item.

44

45 OPERATOR: Thank you. If you would
46 like to make a public comment please press, star, one.
47 One moment please.

48

49 (Pause)

50

0205

1 OPERATOR: We do have a public comment.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 OPERATOR: Our comment comes from Karen
6 Linnell, your line is open.

7

8 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 For the record my name is Karen Linnell, Executive
10 Director for the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission,
11 which represents eight tribes and two ANCSA
12 Corporations located within the Ahtna Traditional Use
13 Territory.

14

15 AITRC submitted WP22-35 to restore at
16 least some of the Federal subsistence hunting
17 opportunity for caribou on Federal public lands in Game
18 Management Unit 11. We've been unable to hunt caribou
19 in Unit 11 since the '90s because of the Mentasta
20 Caribou Herd size was in decline. The Mentasta Herd
21 continues to be in a predator pit, such that the herd
22 has stabilized at a much smaller size than originally
23 desired within the management plan. AITRC requests
24 involvement in a new planning process to revise this
25 plan but in the meantime requests that limited Federal
26 subsistence caribou hunting be allowed for bull caribou
27 during times when the Nelchina Herd is present in Unit
28 11.

29

30 Allowing a limited Federal hunt for
31 those Federally-qualified users who are customarily and
32 traditionally most dependent on resources in GMU 11 and
33 the caribou there can sustainably be provided when
34 Nelchina caribou are present in Unit 11 with bulls only
35 limited hunt. We ask for a bulls only hunt as the
36 Mentasta Herd is only genetically distinct through the
37 mitochondri -- contrieal -- excuse me, let me say that
38 again, mitochondrial DNA, which is passed from mother
39 to offspring. Such take would be sustainable due to
40 the high bull/cow ratio with a 10 year average of 82 to
41 100 bulls observed in the Mentasta Herd.

42

43 AITRC has heard some concerns from the
44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game about allowing take
45 of Nelchina caribou in Unit 11 and given their stated
46 desires to take the allowable harvest prior to the herd
47 crossing the Richardson Highway and entering into GMU
48 11 is no wonder they are opposed to this proposal.
49 Alaska residents and Federally-qualified subsistence
50

0206

1 users should not be prevented from opportunity to hunt
2 Nelchina caribou in Unit 11 when they are present, in
3 fact, ADF&G should not be attempting to take all of the
4 harvestable surplus prior to the herd migrating into
5 GMU 11. Allocation determinations among Alaska
6 residents living within the range of the Nelchina Herd
7 may need to be taken to the Board of Game to ensure
8 reasonable opportunities for State subsistence uses are
9 being provided to all Alaskan residents, however, that
10 is a State of Alaska concern. The Federal Subsistence
11 Board, the concern before the Federal Subsistence Board
12 is whether Federal subsistence uses by Federally-
13 qualified users of caribou in Units 11 and 12 are being
14 provided for, if they're being provided a Federal
15 priority by existing caribou allocations to the Federal
16 Subsistence Management Program.

17

18 AITRC supports the amendment proposed
19 by OSM. And we look forward to the passage of this
20 proposal and working with the in-season manager,
21 Wrangell-St. Elias SRC, the RACs, OSM, and the Alaska
22 Department of Fish and Game in partnership to restore
23 some customary and traditional harvest, opportunities
24 and to develop a revised Mentasta Caribou Management
25 Plan to better restore the herd to abundance and ensure
26 continuation of priority State subsistence uses and
27 reasonable opportunities for State subsistence uses and
28 other uses of caribou in Unit 11.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I'll take
31 any questions if you have any.

32

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

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate you
39 taking the time to call in today, Karen.

40

41 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, is
44 there anybody else online who would like to be
45 recognized at this time.

46

47 OPERATOR: I'm showing no further
48 public comment.

49

50

0207

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Operator. We'll move on to Regional Advisory Council
3 recommendations.

4
5 MS. STICKWAN: Council supported with
6 OSM modification to delegate authority to Wrangell-
7 St.Elias Subsistence -- Wrangell-St. Elias
8 superintendent to announce season dates, harvest
9 quotas, number of permits, define harvest areas and
10 open or close seasons via a delegation of authority
11 letter only. The Council supported this proposal which
12 would allow a may be announced season. This would have
13 an opportunity for local people to get caribou and
14 spread the hunt into Unit 11 which could possibly
15 alleviate some of the hunting pressure in Unit 13.
16 Delegation of authority to open and close the hunt
17 helps conservation of Mentasta bulls because Mentasta
18 and Nelchina Herds will be monitored and the in-season
19 monitor open -- manager open or close the harvest based
20 on when the Nelchina Herd is in the area. The
21 opportunity benefits Federally-qualified subsistence
22 users.

23
24 (Pause)

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Is there
27 any other Regional Advisory Council members who would
28 like to make a comment at this time.

29
30 OPERATOR: This is the Operator, we did
31 have another comment come in.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. At this
34 time we'll entertain the public comment, we'll
35 recognize you, you have the floor.

36
37 OPERATOR: Barbara Cellarius your line
38 is open.

39
40 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you. Can you
41 hear me?

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Barbara,
44 you have the floor.

45
46 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 My name is Barbara Cellarius and I'm the Cultural
48 Anthropologist for Wrangell-St.Elias National Park and
49 Preserve but what I want to present to you is the
50

0208

1 comments from the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
2 Resource Commission. And so the Wrangell-St.Elias
3 National Park -- sorry, I'm sort of rushing here. The
4 Commission advised -- the National -- Wrangell-St.Elias
5 National Park on subsistence issues, it's a citizen's
6 advisory committee.

7

8 And so the Wrangell-St.Elias National
9 Park Subsistence Resource Commission supported WP22-36
10 with the OSM modification plus an additional
11 modification to establish a working group on the
12 Mentasta Caribou Herd Management Plan with tribal
13 involvement in the plan. The proposal would provide
14 for subsistence opportunity when Nelchina are present
15 in Unit 11. Considerable concern was expressed about
16 potential harvest of Mentasta caribou and the
17 delegation of authority to the superintendent would
18 provide important tools for managing a hunt. Updating
19 the management plan is similarly important for ensuring
20 agreement on the consistent cooperative approach for
21 management.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
26 questions from the Board for the public.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
31 taking the time to call in today, Barbara. Any other
32 Regional Advisory Councils wish to speak to this
33 proposal.

34

35 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is Lisa
36 Grediagin. The Eastern Interior Council also had a
37 recommendation on this proposal and I think Sue
38 Entsminger is on the call but is having trouble being
39 heard.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I'm not
42 hearing her come through there Lisa. And if.....

43

44 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, perhaps the
45 Council Coordinator could provide that recommendation
46 then for the Eastern Interior Council.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
49 that, yes, we'll hear from that Council Coordinator at

50

0209

1 this time. Thank you, Lisa.

2

3

(Pause)

4

5

MS. DETWILER: So this is Sue Detwiler.
6 So that would be either Sue Entsminger, and if she
7 can't join then Brooke McDavid, the Council Coordinator
8 would have those comments.

9

10

11

12

13

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I think
they're calling on Council Coordinator now, Sue, so
thank you.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

MS. MCDAVID: Mr. Chair, this is Brooke
McDavid, Council Coordinator for the Eastern Interior
RAC. I'm sorry, it appears that both myself and Sue
Entsminger, the Chair, are having issues with our
phone lines. I'll just give a shout out to Sue, Sue
Entsminger, are you on the line.

21

22

23

MS. ENTSMINGER: I am on the line, can
anyone hear me.

24

25

26

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sue, you have
the floor, go ahead.

27

28

29

30

31

32

MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank you.
Yeah, Sue Entsminger, Eastern Interior RAC Chair. Our
Council supports WP22-35 with the OSM modification,
with additional modification to reinstate and update
the Mentasta Caribou Management Plan.

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

The Council stated that passage of this
proposal, as modified by OSM would be beneficial to
subsistence users and additional modification
recognizes the importance of updated caribou herd
management plans for current and future subsistence
needs.

40

41

42

43

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
Any questions from the Board for Sue.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
thank you Regional Advisory Council Chairs for sharing
the position of your Board. We'll go ahead and move on
to tribal liaison. Orville.

0210

1 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Again, Native Liaison for OSM. The consultations,
3 there were no comments or recommendations made on WP22-
4 35.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
9 Orville. We'll go ahead and move on to the State
10 liaison, Mr. Mulligan.

11
12 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, sir. For the
13 record, ADF&G opposes to what could amount to the
14 harvest of animals from the Mentasta Herd at this time.
15 Any additional Federal harvest from the Nelchina Herd
16 should only be done by cooperative inter-agency
17 agreements to ensure the sustainable harvest of
18 Nelchina caribou is maintained. Unrestricted State
19 harvest for two existing Federal hunts account for five
20 to 34 percent of Nelchina harvest annually with a most
21 recent annual five year average of 10 percent of total
22 harvest. Federal harvest varies widely due to changes
23 in migratory patterns, weather conditions, and hunter
24 effort from year to year. Federal harvest for the
25 existing two hunts is impossible to predict which makes
26 Nelchina management and the goal of achieving, but not
27 exceeding, harvestable surplus annually incredibly
28 difficult. There are already existing hunts in place
29 that allow for the take of any harvestable surplus
30 associated with the Nelchina Herd and there's no
31 harvestable surplus available for the Mentasta Herd.
32 This hunt would unnecessarily complicate hunt
33 administration, adding in an additional highly variable
34 Federal harvest opportunity with no restrictions or
35 framework for inter-agency coordination, would only add
36 to the complexity and difficulty currently associated
37 with co-management of this important subsistence
38 resource.

39
40 Harvest when Nelchina caribou are
41 present in GMU 11 will require constant monitoring of
42 the two herds to ensure Mentasta Herd collars are not
43 present in the hunt area and may not be feasible in
44 years when GMU 13 State and Federal subsistence
45 opportunities have achieved available harvest before
46 the herd migrates into GMU 11.

47
48 Thank you, sir. Appreciate it.

49
50

0211

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
2 questions for the State.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
7 thank you. We'll move on to the InterAgency Staff
8 Committee recommendations.

9
10 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, this
11 is Robbin LaVine. For this proposal the InterAgency
12 Staff Committee provided the standard comment. Thank
13 you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
16 Robbin. We'll go ahead and move on to Board
17 deliberation and discussion.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
22 the floor is open for Board action.

23
24 MS. CREACHBAUM: National Park Service.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Park
27 Service you have the floor.

28
29 MS. CREACHBAUM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 I move to approve Wildlife Proposal 22-35 to establish
31 a may be announced caribou season in Unit 11 with the
32 OSM modification. And if I get a second, I'll explain
33 why I intend to vote in support of my motion.

34
35 MR. PELTOLA: BIA seconds.

36
37 MR. BROWER: Second.

38
39 MS. CREACHBAUM: Thank you. Approval
40 of Wildlife Proposal 22-35 would increase hunting
41 opportunities for Federally-qualified subsistence users
42 when the Nelchina Caribou Herd migrates through Unit
43 11. My support for the proposal as modified by OSM is
44 consistent with recommendations of the Southcentral and
45 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and the
46 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission.
47 Delegation of authority to the Wrangell-St. Elias
48 superintendent to announce season dates, harvest
49 quotas, and the number of permits to be issued, to
50

0212

1 define harvest areas and to open and close the season
2 would facilitate timely in-season management and ensure
3 the long-term conservation of the Mentasta and Nelchina
4 Caribou Herd.

5

6 Although updating the Mentasta Caribou
7 Herd Management Plan is outside the scope of the
8 proposal, Park Staff are aware of the need and the
9 Eastern Interior RAC's request for updating the plan.
10 Regional Office Staff will be available to support that
11 effort when ongoing analysis, long-term monitoring data
12 are complete and results can be used to inform the plan
13 development.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
18 Board discussion, questions, comments.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
23 question.

24

25 MR. PELTOLA: BIA. Question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
28 We'll do roll call again on this, Sue, thank you.

29

30 MS. DETWILER: Okay. The motion is to
31 adopt WP22-35 with the OSM modification. And I'll
32 start with Sarah Creachbaum, National Park Service for
33 her vote.

34

35 MS. CREACHBAUM: Thank you. The
36 National Park Service supports Wildlife Proposal 22-35
37 to establish a may be announced caribou season in Unit
38 11 with the OSM modification.

39

40 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

41

42 Sara Boario, Fish and Wildlife Service.

43

44 MS. BOARIO: Fish and Wildlife Service
45 supports.

46

47 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

48

49 Gene Peltola, BIA.

50

0213

1 MR. PELTOLA: BIA supports in deference
2 to the Regional Advisory Councils and in addition to
3 for the reasons articulated by National Park Service in
4 their motion.

5
6 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

7
8 BLM, Tom Heinlein.

9
10 MR. HEINLEIN: BLM supports.

11
12 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

13
14 Dave Schmid, Forest Service.

15
16 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, the Forest Service
17 supports in deference to the Southcentral and Eastern
18 Interior RACs and as justified by the Park Service.
19 Thank you.

20
21 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Dave.

22
23 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MS. DETWILER: Rhonda may be having
28 trouble getting into the speaking line.

29
30 I'll move to Charlie Brower, Public
31 Member.

32
33 (Telephone interference)

34
35 MR. BROWER: Support.

36
37 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Charlie.

38
39 Rhonda, was that you?

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MS. DETWILER: Chair Anthony.....

44
45 MS. PITKA: Hi, can you hear me.

46
47 MS. DETWILER: Yes. Yes, Rhonda.

48
49 MS. PITKA: Oh, great. Okay, I support
50

0214

1 in deference to the Regional Advisory Councils as
2 modified by OSM. Thank you.

3

4

MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you, Rhonda.

5

6

Finally, Chair Christianson.

7

8

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I support.

9

Thank you.

10

11

MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Motion
12 passes unanimously.

13

14

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, Sue.
15 Thank you everyone for that one. We'll go ahead and
16 move on to one more WP proposal today and I'll call on
17 Sue to call on the next order and Staff. Thank you.

18

19

MS. DETWILER: Okay. This will be the
20 last wildlife proposal for the Southcentral region,
21 that is WP22-36 and that will be presented by Pippa.

22

23

MS. KENNER: Thanks, Sue. Now can you
24 hear me?

25

26

MS. DETWILER: Yes.

27

28

MS. KENNER: Wonderful. Good
29 afternoon, Mr. Chair, and members of the Federal
30 Subsistence Board and Regional Advisory Council Chairs.
31 The analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP22-36 is part of
32 your supplemental meeting materials. I'll just stop a
33 beat here and make sure you have that in front of you.

34

35

(Pause)

36

37

MS. KENNER: So my name is Pippa Kenner
38 and I'm an Anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence
39 Management in Anchorage. The topic of community
40 harvest systems and alternative permitting systems in
41 Federal regulations are the focus of this proposal.
42 These systems are intended to provide some flexibility
43 in harvest regulations to make legal the activities of
44 super harvesters in rural communities. You're going to
45 hear more about this during this short presentation.

46

47

Proposal WP22-36 was submitted by the
48 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission also known as
49 AITRC and requests to codify temporary special actions

50

0215

1 that expire June 30th, 2022. These proposed changes
2 are necessary to fully implement the AITRC community
3 harvest system for caribou and moose in Units 11, 12,
4 and 13. The regulations in this proposal are the
5 result of extensive work by people at AITRC working
6 with a group of people at Federal agencies.
7 Specifically Proposal WP22-36 would codify existing
8 temporary regulations by:

9
10 1. Allowing community members to opt
11 out of this community harvest system thereby retaining
12 their individual harvest limits.

13
14 2. Allowing designated hunters as part
15 of the community harvest system.

16
17 3. Defining the geographic boundaries
18 of eligible communities as the most recent census
19 designated places established by the U.S. Census
20 Bureau.

21
22 4. Specifying that harvest reporting
23 will take the form of reports collected from hunters by
24 AITRC and submitted directly to the land managers and
25 the Office of Subsistence Management, which replaces
26 the need for Federal registration permits, joint
27 State/Federal registration permits or State harvest
28 tickets.

29
30 5. Setting the harvest quota for the
31 species in units authorized in the community harvest
32 system as the sum of individual harvest limits for
33 those opting to participate in the system and, finally:

34
35 6. Adding moose and caribou in Unit 12
36 to the community harvest system.

37
38 The OSM preliminary conclusion that was
39 presented to the Southcentral and Eastern Interior
40 Alaska Councils was to support Proposal WP22-36 with
41 modification to just clarify the regulatory language.
42 However, at its fall 2022 meeting the Southcentral
43 Alaska Council, at the request of AITRC, recommended a
44 further modification which was to restrict the
45 community harvest system in Unit 12 to that portion
46 that lies within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory
47 instead of all Federal public lands in Unit 12.

48
49 Additionally, at its fall 2021 meeting,
50

0216

1 the Eastern Interior Alaska Council tabled this
2 proposal until its winter meeting that occurred last
3 month in March 2022. The Eastern Interior Alaska
4 Council requested OSM and AITRC develop language to
5 further modify the proposal before the Council would
6 make a recommendation. Specifically, the Council
7 wanted a description of what lands in Unit 12 would be
8 included in the Ahtna community harvest system and a
9 description of any changes to the framework describing
10 how the hunt is administered. In response, OSM added
11 an addendum and presented it to the Eastern Interior
12 Alaska Council at its winter meeting last month in
13 March 2022. OSM writes an addendum when an OSM
14 conclusion changes from the OSM preliminary conclusion
15 that we presented to the Councils, and our conclusion
16 has changed and I'll describe it to you now.

17

18 The addendum begins on Page 16 of the
19 analysis.

20

21 So in response to recommendations made
22 by the Councils at their fall 2021 meetings, the
23 addendum recommends the Federal Subsistence Board
24 support this proposal, WP22-36 with two additional
25 substantial modifications.

26

27 1. Is to modify a provision in Units
28 11, 12 and 13 so that participants in the community
29 harvest system may not designate another individual to
30 harvest on their behalf any species for which they have
31 registered within the community harvest system but may
32 serve as designated hunters as the proponent, AITRC,
33 clarified was their intent at the Eastern Interior
34 Alaska Council's meeting in fall 2021.

35

36 And, 2. To specify that the community
37 harvest system in Unit 12 will be implemented only on
38 Ahtna Traditional Use Territory in Unit 12, instead of
39 all Federal public lands in Unit 12.

40

41 This modification was recommended by
42 the Southcentral Alaska Council in response to AITRC's
43 request at its fall 2021 meeting.

44

45 However, we have learned that area
46 descriptors in codified Federal regulations should be
47 geographic features identifiable on the landscape. And
48 thus, the language in this addendum is OSM's best
49 reflection of AITRC's intent. So this map is Figure 2
50

0217

1 on Page 20 of the analysis. The map shows the Ahtna
2 Traditional Use Territory in Unit 12 overlaid with the
3 regulatory area described in the addendum. The Ahtna
4 Traditional Use Territory is west of the thick blue
5 line, the OSM proposed area is in diagonal striping or
6 cross-hatching. So AITRC Staff reviewed this addendum
7 with OSM Staff after the fall 2021 Council meeting
8 cycle concluded and indicated that they concurred with
9 this modification but that the Ahtna Traditional Use
10 Territory could be better described.

11

12 Continuing with Council actions on this
13 proposal, at its
14 winter meeting last month, the Eastern Interior Alaska
15 Council recommended a further modification. The
16 Council recommended that the Tok River Bridge on the
17 Tok Cutoff Road better reflects the northern boundary
18 of the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory than what OSM
19 proposed. So this is Figure 3 on Page 24 is a map
20 showing this area in Unit 12 in green diagonal striping
21 or cross-hatching, and it was recommended by the
22 Eastern Interior Alaska Council. The Eastern Interior
23 Alaska Council Chair will be presenting its
24 recommendation to you after we hear public comments on
25 this proposal.

26

27 So thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the
28 end of my presentation and I will try to answer your
29 questions.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair, did you drop
34 off the line?

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, I'm on
37 here. I was calling for the next agenda -- maybe I'm
38 not getting picked up, or broken up here.

39

40 MS. DETWILER: Yeah, we're having
41 troubles with the phone today. Pippa just finished
42 giving the analysis and it was the time for any Board
43 questions and if not then she could also give the
44 summary of written public comments.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I was
47 calling for public comment, thank you Sue.

48

49 MS. DETWILER: Okay.

50

0218

1 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
2 the record this is Pippa Kenner. No public -- written
3 public comments were received for this proposal.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

8
9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
13 now we'll go ahead and open up the line, Operator. If
14 there's anyone, now is the time for public comment on
15 this agenda item.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 (Pause)

20
21 OPERATOR: If you would like to make a
22 public comment please press, star, one. One moment.

23
24 (Pause)

25
26 OPERATOR: Our first public comment
27 comes from Barbara Cellarius, your line is open.

28
29 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Again, it's Barbara Cellarius. I'm with Wrangell-
31 St.Elias National Park and Preserve but presenting
32 comments on behalf of the Wrangell-St.Elias National
33 Park Subsistence Resource Commission.

34
35 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
36 Subsistence Resource Commission supported WP22-36 with
37 the OSM modification plus an additional modification to
38 limit the land in Unit 12 to that portion of Unit 12
39 within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory. The
40 additional modification was represented by
41 representatives of the Ahtna InterTribal Resource
42 Commission.

43
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
47 Thank you for calling. Any other public online
48 Operator.

49
50

0219

1 OPERATOR: Yes, we do have another
2 public comment from Karen Linnell, your line is open.

3
4 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
5 members of the Board. In regards to the proposed
6 changes made by Eastern Interior RAC, I think there was
7 some misunderstanding. While we had agreed to the --
8 the ending point ending at the Little Tok River where
9 it meets the Tok Cutoff and the farthest north point in
10 -- and then going to Noise Mountain, from there the
11 rest of Unit 12 got left out and that includes all the
12 hunting off of the Nabesna Road, and so we have a
13 different descriptor that we would like to suggest, or
14 include. It includes the recommendation from the
15 Eastern Interior RAC for the lands along the Tok
16 Cutoff, Federal public lands in Unit 12 within the Tok
17 and Little Tok River drainages, south of the Tok River
18 Bridge and east of the Tok Cutoff Road, and then from
19 there where it intersects with the Wrangell-St.Elias
20 boundary within the Ahtna Traditional Territory east of
21 this boundary would extend based on existing Unit 12
22 moose harvest area in Federal regulations -- currently
23 in Federal regulations, specifically, following the
24 lands -- the following lands would be included:

25
26 That portion of Unit 12 within the
27 Nabesna River drainage west of the east banks of the
28 Nabesna River up stream from the southern boundary of
29 the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, i.e., the Unit 12
30 portion of the RM291 hunt area, and that portion of
31 Unit 12 that is east of the Nabesna River and south of
32 the Pickeral Lake Winter Trail running southeast from
33 Pickeral Lake to the Canadian Border.

34
35 I do want to stress and state that we
36 have conducted weekly harvest reports although for this
37 community harvest, however, since late October, early
38 November there has not been any caribou within GMU 13
39 or on Federal lands for any allowable harvest. This
40 year as in several of the past years the caribou have
41 not returned to Federal lands in Unit 13 for quite some
42 time, and actually the snow this year is so deep that
43 they haven't returned at all. They're still way back
44 in the mountains from what I saw this last weekend and
45 I was out on that Unit 12 section at the end of Nabesna
46 Road this weekend. So I just want to stress that we --
47 AITRC places great importance on Western science in
48 addition to indigenous knowledge, and this includes
49 accurate and timely harvest reporting.

50

0220

1 But I have the language here and I
2 worked with Barbara Cellarius with the Sub -- the
3 Subsistence Coordinator at Wrangell-St.Elias to come up
4 with this language to include those portions that were
5 mistakenly left out at the Eastern Interior RAC
6 meeting.

7
8 It's hard to see and make decisions on
9 the maps that are provided by OSM when there are no
10 landmarks on there, including the road or any of the
11 river systems so that we can see it. All we have is a
12 color swatch and it's very difficult to make decisions
13 on that type of data. Had the Chair, Sue Entsminger,
14 seen the Nabesna Road she would have known that people
15 hunt in that area and it's just difficult to do and I
16 would encourage OSM to provide better quality maps on
17 this. And I would have hoped that OSM would have
18 contacted AITRC with this modification that Eastern
19 Interior RAC proposed, it would have been really
20 helpful.

21
22 And, again, this is -- I'm listening to
23 you folks, and the inability to connect and the -- and
24 be on this meeting, you can see the frustration -- or
25 feel the frustration that we've been experiencing over
26 the last two years in not being able to meet in-person
27 and/or look at the same map at the same time. With
28 technology and things and Teams, and Zoom, and all of
29 this, it seems like there would be a better way to
30 share information with folks. I know some communities
31 don't have the bandwidth but it would be nice to be
32 able to look at the same maps because how I describe
33 something may not be the same way that the Federal
34 Agency Staff would describe those areas.

35
36 I can email this to you or Barbara
37 Cellarius can email it to you. She has it. We worked
38 on it together today. So thank you, Mr. Chair and
39 members of the Board.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Karen.

43
44 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair. This is
45 Lisa, I'd like to respond to Karen if that's okay.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
48 floor, Lisa.

49
50

0221

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thank you, Karen.
2 This is Lisa Grediagin for the record. I'd just like
3 to say on behalf of OSM, as far as that Unit 12
4 boundary goes for the community harvest system, we
5 support AITRC, whatever boundary they would like for
6 that area as long as, you know, you use the geographic
7 features. So if you're able to, yeah, send that to us
8 to make sure and I actually agree, I think there was a
9 little confusion and misunderstanding at the Eastern
10 Interior Council meeting, a lot of it due to
11 teleconference issues, and also that OSM is short on
12 map-making capacity right now, but that's something we
13 would agree could be improved on in the future.

14

15 So, again, yeah, I'd thank the Chair
16 and Ms. Linnell for the comments, on behalf of OSM.
17 Thank you.

18

19 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Ms. Grediagin.
20 I will get you that description in an email right now.

21

22 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
25 that.

26

27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participants not muted)

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is there
31 anybody else online that would like to be recognized at
32 this time, Operator. Thank you.

33

34 (Pause)

35

36 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
39 the floor Gene.

40

41 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
42 was wondering if we can request the National Park
43 Service to send each of the Board members a map so we
44 could briefly see what was explained by Karen from
45 AITRC. And, in addition to, if they could
46 differentiate between what was agreed upon yesterday in
47 that forthcoming map, hopefully, and what is
48 recommended by OSM, I would appreciate that, before we
49 take an action on this proposal.

50

0222

1 Thank you.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Gene,
5 thank you for that. Sue, is that something we can take
6 care of through the Park Service. Thank you.

6

7

8 MS. DETWILER: Yes, we can delay action
9 on this proposal while we try to get those maps and
10 get them out to the Board members.

10

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. With no
13 objection from the Board, can we just move this order
14 of business and this proposal to later in this, maybe
15 tomorrow, come back and revisit this, or to another
16 meeting time that we determine the situation.

16

17

18 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair, this is Sue
19 Entsminger, Eastern Interior RAC. Could I just add a
20 little bit here.

20

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, go ahead,
23 Sue, you have the floor.

23

24

25 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank you, very
26 much. I have to share and agree with Karen about
27 several points and the maps is one because the Nabesna
28 Road was left off the map, which is a very important
29 part of seeing what's in Unit 12 because it doesn't
30 really show in these maps, it's very, very tiny and
31 very hard to discern. And I will say that Karen
32 attended our Eastern Interior RAC meeting and agreed
33 with us when she testified about the Unit 12, that Tok
34 River Bridge -- she said Little Tok but it's not the
35 Little Tok, it's the Tok -- the -- Big Tok we call it,
36 the Big Tok River Bridge on the Tok Cutoff. So that's
37 a very discernible place to put on a map and actually
38 their -- their -- boundary of the AITRC -- or I mean
39 the Ahtna Traditional area is very similar there.

39

40

41 And I just wanted to say that -- just
42 wanted to reiterate the whole problem with
43 teleconferencing and all of this has been very
44 difficult to really do a good job but -- and I also
45 wanted to mention how frustrating and how confusing
46 things get. The Subsistence Resource Commission took
47 this up and both myself and Gloria are on that and it
48 got so confusing that there were four in favor, one no
49 and three abstentions during that meeting. So I think
50 that's important for the Board to know that. And

50

0223

1 tomorrow whenever you guys get all your maps, if I can
2 give our position that would be great.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
7 that Sue. Any further discussion, any other RACs or
8 comments from the Board.

9

10 MS. CREACHBAUM: Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
13 the floor.

14

15 MS. CREACHBAUM: Sarah Creachbaum,
16 National Park Service. We are prepared to produce a
17 map that we could get to all members by tomorrow and
18 also wanted the Board to know that we do have Karen's
19 specific language within our motion ready to go today
20 so we should be ready to act by tomorrow if everybody
21 has an opportunity to look at the map for their comfort
22 level.

23

24 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene, you
27 have the floor.

28

29 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
30 just wanted to clarify something. It's not necessarily
31 a comfort level but I think it's unreasonable to expect
32 the Federal Subsistence Board to act upon something if
33 we have not seen it or not had time to digest it yet at
34 all. So I would agree to act upon this at a later date
35 during this meeting, or tomorrow morning or such, but I
36 think we have to have ample time to be exposed to what
37 is being proposed.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right. So
42 at this time what I'll do is maybe we can table this to
43 a time to be determined tomorrow. How about time to be
44 determined tomorrow, after lunch.

45

46 MS. PITKA: So that would be a deferral
47 until tomorrow after lunch.

48

49 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair, this is Sue

50

0224

1 Entsminger again.

2

3

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

4

5

MS. ENTSMINGER: I have a question.

6

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Sue.

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MS. ENTSMINGER: I still have more information that I would like to provide from the Eastern Interior, can I do it when you guys take this up again.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, we'll pick up this conversation right here at public testimony and Regional Advisory Council conversation so we can continue to deliberate as we get new information. We'll pick this up with that understanding, if we get a second to the motion.

MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank you. I appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So I'm seeking a second for the deferral until tomorrow after lunch.

MR. SCHMID: The Forest Service would second if that was a motion but as I understood it BIA moved to defer until we've had an opportunity to digest the maps and have all the information in front of us and would take this up tomorrow afternoon. That would be my second.

MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Dave.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. So we'll go ahead and just -- without opposition to the motion.

(No opposition)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no opposition we'll just defer this until tomorrow after lunch until a time to be determined, 1:30-ish. And so we'll go ahead at this time, Rhonda -- it looks like Rhonda has to go. So Rhonda, appreciated you today and good luck on your flight -- have a safe flight.

Sue, so that moves us on to the next agenda item.

0225

1 MS. DETWILER: Yes. So that, for today
2 anyway, concludes the Southcentral Region 2 proposals.
3 The next one would be the Kodiak/Aleutian proposals but
4 all of their proposals are on the consensus agenda so
5 that would then bring us to the Bristol Bay proposals
6 and that -- the first one would be WP22-39, which would
7 be Tom Plank presenting.

8
9 MR. PLANK: Hello, Mr. Chair. Members
10 of the Board. My name is Tom Plank, and I'm a Wildlife
11 Biologist in the Office of Subsistence Management. I
12 will be presenting a summary of the analysis for
13 Wildlife Proposal WP22-39 submitted by ADF&G starting
14 on Page 1035 in your meeting books.

15
16 The proponent requests to create
17 specific harvest regulations for Alaska hare in Units 9
18 and 17 stating that the once abundant Alaska hare in
19 Units 9 and 17 are now at a very low density and has a
20 patchy distribution throughout Bristol Bay and the
21 Alaska Peninsula. The Alaska hare is sometimes called
22 jackrabbits, Tundra hare, or Arctic hare but the Alaska
23 hare is called the Tundra hare in Federal regulations,
24 but Alaska hare appears to be the dominant term in
25 contemporary usage including in State regulations. The
26 Alaska hare is a different species than the snowshoe
27 hare despite being lumped together in Federal
28 regulations and to help kind of alleviate some of that
29 confusion, please see the comparison table on Page 1040
30 for the two hares.

31
32 The Board of Game adopted a proposal in
33 2019 establishing a specific State harvest regulation
34 for Alaska hare in Unit 9 for November 1st through
35 January 31st and a limited harvest of one hare per day
36 with a maximum of four per season. ADF&G adopted
37 Proposal 24 when the Board of Game during their January
38 2022 meeting to include Unit 17 with identical Alaska
39 hare management structure as Unit 9. ADF&G has also
40 submitted Wildlife Proposal 22-45 to create specific
41 harvest regulations for Alaska hare in Units 18, 22 and
42 23.

43
44 Alaska hares are among the most poorly
45 understood game species in Alaska. Anecdotally,
46 abundance is well below historical levels throughout
47 the range of the species. The last known erupted
48 population on the Peninsula occurred in the winter of
49 1953 to '54 and the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof
50

0226

1 Wildlife National Wildlife Refuge ranks the Alaska hare
2 as the Refuge's No. 3 prioritized resource of concern
3 as an ecologically significant endemic species
4 vulnerable to the influence of climate change. In 2018
5 ADF&G initiated a multi-year study to evaluate movement
6 and mortality as well as long-term capture techniques.

7
8 Little is known about the harvest of
9 Alaska hare. Household harvest surveys indicate that
10 it is harvested throughout the communities of western
11 and southwestern Alaska.

12
13 If this proposal is adopted the Alaska
14 hare season will be reduced, although hunters will
15 still have the opportunity to harvest hares during
16 winter when they are out engaging in other subsistence
17 or recreational activities. The change in daily and
18 overall harvest limits may be effective in reducing
19 harvest, which could translate into an improvement in
20 the conservation status of these populations.

21
22 Any positive effects these changes have
23 on the Alaska hare populations will benefit subsistence
24 users in the long-term despite the immediate reduction
25 in subsistence opportunity.

26
27 The OSM conclusion is to support
28 Proposal WP22-39 with a modification to modify the
29 definition of hare in Federal regulations to include
30 Alaska hare.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
33 Board. I'd be happy to field any questions.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
36 Does that conclude the Staff analysis?

37
38 MR. PLANK: It does.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
41 questions from the Board.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
46 hearing none we'll go ahead and take any public
47 comments received.

48
49 MR. PLANK: And, again, this is Tom
50

0227

1 Plank with OSM and there were no written public
2 comments for this proposal.

3
4 (Pause)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any -- anybody
7 can hear me?

8
9 MS. DETWILER: Yes, Tony, you're on.

10
11 MR. PELTOLA: Yes.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, sorry, I
14 got cut off there I guess. Operator, anybody online
15 for public comment, this is their time.

16
17 OPERATOR: Yes, if you'd like to make a
18 public comment please press, star, one.

19
20 (Pause)

21
22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24
25 OPERATOR: I am showing no public
26 comments at this time.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
29 Operator, we'll go to the RAC. Thank you.

30
31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted)

33
34 REPORTER: I think somebody needs to
35 mute their phone, please. Not you Tony.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we were
38 calling for the RAC Chair.

39
40 MS. MORRIS LYON: This is Nanci Morris
41 Lyon with the Bristol Bay RAC.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
44 floor.

45
46 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Chairman
47 Christianson. Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional
48 Advisory Council supported WP22-39 with modification to
49 change the season closing date to March 31. The
50

0228

1 Council notes that the number of Alaska hares being
2 seen in recent years has decreased and they appreciate
3 the effort to be attentive to the population. The
4 Council stated that Alaska hare is a winter resource
5 and that as winters are starting later in the years, an
6 extension of the proposed season is reasonable. And
7 I'm not sure why it's in this justification but also we
8 have other closures that would align with March 31st
9 typically our caribou hunters are out and also hunt
10 hare if the opportunity arises, and that's the closure
11 for our caribou so that's why that date was chosen over
12 the one that had been previously offered. And I
13 believe that concludes the just -- the Bristol Bay
14 Subsistence Council's recommendation.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair, this is Sue
19 Detwiler. In addition to Bristol Bay region, the other
20 Regional Advisory Councils who may wish to weigh in may
21 be YKDelta region, Western Interior, and Seward
22 Peninsula if any of them are online.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So any other
29 Regional Advisory Councils, if they want to speak at
30 this time.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
35 Sue, at this time we'll just go ahead and move on to
36 Orville, Tribal Liaison.

37

38 MR. LIND: Thank.....

39

40 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.

41

42 MR. LIND:you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Robbin, go
45 ahead.

46

47 MS. LAVINE: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, we
48 are also looking to hear from Kodiak/Aleutian Chair,
49 Della, and then Western Interior Chair Jack Reakoff.

50

0229

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
4 you. I just wasn't hearing anything on my end, it
5 keeps sounding like I'm dropping the call there or
6 something when I talk. So thank you, Robbin, we'll
7 wait for the other Chairs at this time.

8

9

Thank you.

10

11

MS. LAVINE: Thank you.

12

13

14

MR. REAKOFF: So, Mr. Chair, this is
Jack Reakoff, Western Interior Regional Council.

15

16

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

17

18

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24

MR. REAKOFF: Western Interior Regional
Council supports the proposal. And so we -- we feel
that climate change is one of the drivers of this
decline, rain on snow events that's caused the decline
of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd is also causing
hardship for tundra dwelling animals, including Alaska
hare.

25

26

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
Jack. Next Chair.

30

31

(No comments)

32

33

34

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sue, can you
call on the next Chair, please.

35

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43

MS. DETWILER: Yes, sorry, Mr. Chair.
I was actually looking at the wrong proposal line when
I went through the list of potential Council Chairs
that would speak. So for this proposal, WP22-39, it --
I think -- let's see you've heard from Bristol Bay and
Western Interior and the only one left would be
Kodiak/Aleutians. And that would be Della Trumble, I'm
not sure if she is still on or not.

44

45

46

MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair. This is Leigh
Honig, Council Coordinator.

47

48

49

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
the floor.

50

0230

1 MS. HONIG: Della may have had to have
2 stepped away this afternoon so I am prepared to read
3 their recommendation if you would like.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So does that
6 conclude the Regional Advisory Councils?

7
8 MS. HONIG: Mr. Chair, can you hear me?

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
11 the floor.

12
13 MS. HONIG: Okay. For WP22-39 the
14 Kodiak/Aleutian recommended they were opposed to this
15 proposal due to a lack of biological data and
16 population estimates. No new information has been
17 presented since last Board cycle. Sporthunters should
18 be limited first before subsistence users. Hares are
19 an important subsistence resource in the region.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
24 other Regional Advisory Councils.

25
26 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin
27 LaVine. I -- we are having a hard time hearing you,
28 you're sounding a bit muffled, but I do -- I did hear
29 that you are asking if there are any other Chairs on
30 the line and I do believe that Western Interior Chair
31 Jack Reakoff may have something to add. Thank you,
32 Jack, you have the floor.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I can hear
35 you, so Jack you have the floor. Thank you, Robbin.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: I don't have my notes
38 before me on that one, Robbin, if you can clue me in on
39 that. I'm going through my recollection, I didn't get
40 our justification on that proposal.

41
42 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do
43 understand that the Western Interior deferred Wildlife
44 Proposal 22-39 to the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
45 Council. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
48 Robbin.

49
50

0231

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Jack, you
4 have the floor.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, we did deliberate
7 the proposal, we discussed the proposal, we almost took
8 action on it. It was my recollection that we were
9 going to take action but I see that we deferred. But I
10 do not have my notes before me on that proposal.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
15 you, Jack. Any questions from the Board for Regional
16 Advisory Councils -- any other questions, comments,
17 deliberation.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
22 thank you. Hearing none we'll go ahead and move on to
23 Orville. Tribal Native Liaison.

24

25 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM. During the
27 consultation session August 19th there were no comments
28 or recommendations on Wildlife Proposal 22-39.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
33 Orville. We'll go ahead and ask the State Liaison.

34

35 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is -- for
36 the record this is Mark Burch with the Department of
37 Fish and Game. Ben Mulligan, our Deputy Commissioner
38 had to step away for a moment and I'll provide the
39 position of the Department of Fish and Game.

40

41 The Department of Fish and Game
42 supports the proposal. As the population of Alaska
43 hares is being investigated it has been found that the
44 population is such that -- is at such a level that
45 these restrictions are warranted.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,

50

0232

1 Mark. Any questions for the State.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
6 we'll move on to the ISC recommendation.

7

8

9 MS. LAVINE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
Members of the Board. This is Robbin LaVine. The ISC
10 submitted the standard comment for Wildlife Proposal
11 22-39. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
Robbin. Any questions for ISC.

15

16

(No comments)

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none
I'll open the floor for Board deliberation or
20 questions, comments.

21

22

(No comments)

23

24

25

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
the floor is open for Board action on this proposal.

26

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MS. BOARIO: Mr. Chair, the U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service moves to adopt Wildlife Proposal
22-39 as modified by the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
Council to establish specific seasons and harvest
limits for Alaska hare in Units 9 and 17 with the
season end date of March 31. Following a second I will
explain why I intend to support my motion.

34

35

MR. PELTOLA: BIA seconds.

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MS. BOARIO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
intend to support my motion to establish specific
seasons and harvest limits for Alaska hare in Units 9
and 17. The analysis presents sufficient evidence for
the need to establish specific regulations for Alaska
hare in these units distinct from those for snowshoe
hare. Recent observations and local knowledge indicate
a reduction in the amount of Alaska hares seen over
recent years. Reducing the amount of harvest is a
biologically appropriate means of aiding population
recovery while we await the results of the study from
the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

0233

1 The longer season proposed by the
2 Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
3 accommodates winters starting later in their region but
4 still maintains the annual harvest limit of four hare
5 per year which will help achieve the desired management
6 and biological impact for the species which is to
7 reduce overall harvest while still providing
8 subsistence opportunity, and at the same time it should
9 not disturb them during their late spring mating
10 season.

11
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
15 Board discussion, comments, questions.

16
17 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is Lisa
18 Grediagin.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Lisa, go
21 ahead.

22
23 MS. GREDIAGIN: I would just like to
24 clarify for the record whether or not the Board is
25 including the OSM modification for the definition
26 change. My understanding is this is a somewhat
27 necessary housekeeping administrative change since
28 we're creating a season for a species that currently
29 isn't defined in Federal regulation so I'm -- I'm -- I
30 recognize this also could be addressed under WP22-45,
31 which also addresses Alaska hare for different units
32 but I wanted to just clarify that for the record.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
37 that, Lisa. Any clarification for Lisa by the maker of
38 the motion.

39
40 MS. BOARIO: Mr. Chair, Fish and
41 Wildlife Service. Yes, that was the intent to include
42 the OSM definition and season and bag limit
43 information.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
46 that clarification.

47
48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you.

49
50

0234

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other Board
2 comments, questions or clarification.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
7 question.

8
9 MR. PELTOLA: Question, BIA.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
12 called. All in favor of this motion say aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
17 sign.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
22 Motion carries unanimously. That's how the Chairman
23 goes when he starts getting tired and so I think what
24 I'm going to do, guys, I know it's only a quarter to
25 5:00 here but I think I'm going to call it for the day
26 so we could start fresh in the morning on non-agenda
27 items and then we could get on a fresh proposal. That
28 way we're not starting off the morning in the middle of
29 the business.

30
31 MR. BROWER: Sounds good.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So I'm going to
34 go ahead and adjourn this meeting until tomorrow at
35 9:00 a.m., and everybody have a good evening. We'll
36 come back and reconvene starting with where we just
37 left off.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 MR. PELTOLA: Good night.

44
45 MR. BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

48
49 (Off record)

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(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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

THAT the foregoing, contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically by our firm on the 13th day of April;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 13th day of May 2022.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22