

WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

McGrath Native Village Council  
Community Service Center  
McGrath, Alaska  
October 8, 2019  
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Reakoff, Chairman  
Raymond Collins  
Timothy Gervais  
Don Honea  
Jenny Pelkola  
Pollock Simon

Regional Council Coordinator, Karen Deatherage

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

(McGrath, Alaska - 10/8/2019)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I'm going to -- I'm holding on. I'm waiting for Ray or word about Ray Collins to see if he is going to be able to attend. He lives here in McGrath.

For those on the call, the main Council is here. We have six members that should be here. Ray is our sixth member. And Ray is on his way. Word is Ray is on his way. So we're going to hold on until Ray gets here, which should be imminently.

Do you want to make a couple of announcements, go ahead, Karen.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. This is Karen Deatherage. I just want to say a couple of things to the Council.

There is a form in your folder if you haven't already signed that to please sign and give to me. I think I've got most of them.

Also, just to remind you that tomorrow we will likely be ending the meeting early so that we can catch the charter out tomorrow evening to get back to Fairbanks.

And my phone number if any of you need to reach me is inside the yellow folder on the left side. It's written down and it's a cell phone that actually works in McGrath. And so if you need anything, please do give me a call.

And thank you very much for being here.

Also, one more thing. For those of you who are on the phone, we have very limited phone access which has actually been worsened by the rain here at the community center, so we really want to ask for your patience. We will do the best we can to make sure that you're heard, but again it's a system that is not working very well for us and our equipment, so please be patient with us as we go through this meeting.

1 Thank you.

2

3

(Pause)

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we're going to  
6 bring the meeting to order. Member Collins has  
7 arrived. And so we're going to have our first item on  
8 the -- is an invocation.

9

10

So would you like to say the  
11 invocation, Ray.

12

13

MR. COLLINS: Sure. I can do that.

14

15

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And maybe turn on  
16 your mic there.

17

18

MR. COLLINS: Heavenly Father, we thank  
19 you for this opportunity to gather and discuss the  
20 resources that you have provided for us. We thank you  
21 for all the moose and meat and berries that were  
22 harvested this fall. We ask now for your guidance and  
23 direction as we make decisions concerning the  
24 preservation of these resources and the use of them by  
25 the local people. Thank you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

26

27

IN UNISON: Amen.

28

29

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks so much,  
30 Ray.

31

32

So the meeting is called to order.  
33 It's 9:10 a.m.

34

35

And roll call.

36

37

And Tim, would you like to read the  
38 roster and see who is present. That would be on page  
39 four.

40

41

MR. GERVAIS: Shirley Clark.

42

43

(No comment)

44

45

MR. GERVAIS: Donald Honea.

46

47

MR. HONEA: Here.

48

49

MR. GERVAIS: Pollock Simon.

50

1 IN UNISON: He's here.  
2  
3 MR. GERVAIS: Ray Collins.  
4  
5 MR. COLLINS: Here.  
6  
7 MR. GERVAIS: Jack Reakoff.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.  
10  
11 MR. GERVAIS: Tommy Kriska.  
12  
13 (No comment)  
14  
15 MR. GERVAIS: Myself, Timothy Gervais.  
16  
17 Jenny Pelkola.  
18  
19 MS. PELKOLA: Here.  
20  
21 MR. GERVAIS: Goodwin Semaken.  
22  
23 (No comment)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a quorum.  
26  
27 Tommy is working. Goodwin is not going  
28 to attend the meeting. And so -- and then Shirley has  
29 not been attending meetings and her seat is up. This  
30 would be her last meeting anyways.  
31  
32 So we're introduction of guests. And  
33 so we have McGrath here to welcome us.  
34  
35 Go ahead. Turn your mic on right  
36 there. Push the little silver button there.  
37  
38 MS. DEMIENTIEFF MCKINDY: Good morning.  
39 My name is Gina Demientieff McKindy and I am the tribal  
40 administrator here. I just wanted to welcome everybody  
41 on behalf of the Village Council. I want to introduce  
42 my Staff members and if you should need any support or  
43 have any questions, we will be in our office throughout  
44 the whole day and tomorrow as well. So welcome to  
45 McGrath.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
48  
49 MARIE: My name is Marie. I'm the  
50

1 admin assistant. I work with Gina.

2

3 JUSTIN: My name is Justin. I'm the  
4 bookkeeper assistant and environmental assistant here.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

7

8 MS. DEMIENTIEFF MCKINDY: So we just  
9 wanted to say welcome. I'm sure one of our Council  
10 members will be in today, you know, with their work  
11 permitting, so that's all we wanted to share.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that.

14

15 IN UNISON: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Beautiful building.  
18 So we'll probably go around the room and introduce  
19 people here. We'll start over here on the right side  
20 with BLM. All right. No. I can't. We've got Glenn.  
21 Can you hear across the room.

22

23 REPORTER: Come on up.

24

25 MR. CHEN: Hello, Council members. My  
26 name is Glenn Chen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian  
27 Affairs.

28

29 MR. GUSSE: Good morning. Walker  
30 Gusse, with the Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage  
31 field office. I'm the law enforcement pilot for the  
32 area.

33

34 MR. SEPPI: Good morning, everyone.  
35 I'm Bruce Seppi, with Anchorage field office BLM.

36

37 MR. BUE: Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife  
38 Service, Yukon Area Management.

39

40 MR. CAMERON: Good morning. Matt  
41 Cameron, with National Park Service, Gates of the  
42 Arctic and Yukon-Charley.

43

44 MS. MAAS: Lisa Maas, wildlife  
45 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

46

47 MR. FADDEN: Mr. Chairman and Members  
48 of the Council, my name is Steve Fadden and I'm the  
49 Council Coordination Division supervisor for OSM. I'm

50

1 in an acting capacity and thank you for today's  
2 meeting.

3  
4 MR. HARRIS: Frank Harris, Fisheries  
5 biologist, OSM.

6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews, Refuge  
8 subsistence coordinator for Kanuti, Arctic, and Yukon  
9 Flats in Fairbanks.

10  
11 MS. STUBE: Good morning. Lisa Stube,  
12 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the current  
13 Yukon area management biologist.

14  
15 MR. WENTWORTH: Good morning. Kevin  
16 Wentworth, Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission.  
17 Fish biologist and a member of the McGrath Native  
18 Village. Welcome to McGrath.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

21  
22 MS. KENNER: Pippa Kenner. I'm with --  
23 I'm the anthropologist with OSM.

24  
25 MR. SAMUELSON: Good morning. I'm  
26 Jonathan Samuelson. I work with the Kuskokwim River  
27 InterTribal Fish Commission. Welcome to our river. We  
28 were snowing the other day. You brought the rain back.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Your last name  
33 again?

34  
35 MR. SAMUELSON: Samuelson.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Samuelson. Thank  
38 you. And that looks like everybody in the room. Who  
39 do we have on the phone now. Are the phones open?

40  
41 REPORTER: Yes.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The phones are open.  
44 Can you identify yourself on the phone.

45  
46 MS. JALLEN: Good morning. This is  
47 Deena Jallen, with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
48 Game, in Anchorage. I'm the summer season assistant  
49 manager on the Yukon River.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,  
2 Deena.

3  
4 MR. RINALDI: Hello. This is Todd  
5 Rinaldi. I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
6 Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation. I'm the  
7 regional management coordinator for Region 4, which is  
8 the Central Southwest Region.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say your name again.

11  
12 MR. RINALDI: It's Todd Rinaldi.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.  
15 Anybody else.

16  
17 MS. MORAN: This is Tina Moran, the  
18 Deputy Manager of Kanuti Refuge in Fairbanks.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say again. We had  
21 crossover.

22  
23 REPORTER: Tina Moran.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Tina.

26  
27 MS. MORAN: Yeah. That's right, Jack.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks.  
30 Okay. Go ahead. Another person.

31  
32 MR. JENKINS: Good morning. This is  
33 Wayne Jenkins, Yukon River Drainage District  
34 Association's director. Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wayne?

37  
38 REPORTER: Yes.

39  
40 MS. DAMBERG: Good morning. This is  
41 Carol Damberg, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
42 InterAgency Staff Committee member and regional  
43 subsistence coordinator.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Carol.

46  
47 MR. HARWOOD: Good morning. This is  
48 Chris Harwood, wildlife biologist at Kanuti National  
49 Wildlife Refuge.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Chris.

2

3 MR. BORN: Good morning. This is Ray  
4 Born at Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, acting  
5 Refuge manager.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Ray.

8

9 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch,  
10 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Mark.

13

14 MS. CARROLL: Hello. This is Holly  
15 Carroll, in Anchorage. I'm the Yukon River summer  
16 season area management biologist.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Holly.

19

20 MR. MOSES: Hello. This is Aaron  
21 Moses. I'm the acting subsistence specialist for the  
22 Yukon Delta.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're real hard to  
25 read there, Aaron. Can you get closer to your mic if  
26 you speak?

27

28 MR. DECOSSAS: This is Gary Decossas, a  
29 fisheries biologist at Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
30 Refuge.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
33 Anyone else.

34

35 MR. MCKEE: This is Chris McKee,  
36 Wildlife Division supervisor at OSM.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Chris.

39

40 MS. GLEASON: Christy Gleason, Alaska  
41 Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks. I am the  
42 Yukon area fall season assistant manager.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Christy, thank you.  
45 Anyone else.

46

47 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is  
48 Marcy Okada, assistant coordinator for Gates of the  
49 Arctic National Park and Preserve.

50



1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Marcy. Anyone  
2 else on the phone.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Welcome to  
7 the meeting. So I think we've introduced everyone in  
8 the room and on the phone.

9  
10 Review and adopt the agenda. And so  
11 the agenda is in the book here. And so I was informed  
12 that these awards on number eight are time certain at  
13 10:30 this morning, so we will break at 10:30 for those  
14 for -- there will be people on the phone for that.

15  
16 And then under eleven there's all the  
17 proposals. After the last proposal I would like to  
18 insert a short discussion on the Mulchatna caribou herd  
19 decline. There's a special action request and I would  
20 like to discuss that because this caribou herd resides  
21 within a portion of our Region and it's also -- there's  
22 customary and traditional use for that herd, which has  
23 declined dramatically.

24  
25 And under the Bureau of Land  
26 Management, is the Central Yukon going to give us a  
27 status update on the Resource Management Plan.

28  
29 Karen.

30  
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Thank you.  
32 Yes, they are planning to give us a status update on  
33 that.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I just wanted  
36 to clarify that.

37  
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Via the agency  
39 reports.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see in the.....

42  
43 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. Are you  
44 going to have the members identify themselves.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. I'm just  
47 giving the ones that are.....

48  
49 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I just wanted to  
2 make that clear that the Resource Management Plan for  
3 the Central Yukon update.

4  
5 So now the members. You had some  
6 additions.

7  
8 Ray, go ahead.

9  
10 MR. COLLINS: Well, I just was on the  
11 -- representing the group on the Fisheries meeting on  
12 the Kuskokwim River this summer. And it was by audio  
13 conference most of them.

14  
15 I think the escapement dropped off a  
16 little bit on Salmon River. There was fishing allowed  
17 earlier this year again, but it was.....

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray, this is the  
20 agenda. So we're going to get into the members'  
21 reports and you can give that under your report.

22  
23 MR. COLLINS: Oh, okay.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But do you have any  
26 additions to the agenda.

27  
28 MR. COLLINS: No. No. No.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other --  
31 Karen, you got an addition?

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 This is Karen Deatherage, council coordinator. I have  
35 two requests for additions to the agenda this morning  
36 or this meeting. The first one is the Kuskokwim River  
37 InterTribal Fish Commission would like to give a  
38 report. And the second is the Bering Sea Western  
39 Interior Resource Management Plan update. They would  
40 like to give a report. Both of these would be under  
41 agency's reports.

42  
43 Thank you very much.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be under  
46 tribal government -- number 12. InterTribal Fish  
47 Commission. Where would we stick this. Your  
48 suggestion.

49  
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. For the  
2 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Report I recommend that it  
3 follow the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association  
4 report because prior to that we will have a report from  
5 Fish and Wildlife and ADF&G on fishery issues. And I  
6 think that the projects that these two organizations  
7 have done and their reports will help compliment that.  
8

9 Thank you.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's good.  
12 And the Bering Sea immediately after that.  
13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: The Bering Sea Western  
15 Interior Tribal Commission actually was scheduled for  
16 after BLM because they will be focusing on some of the  
17 issues that are coming up on the BLM Resource  
18 Management Plans.  
19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. I see that.  
21 Okay.  
22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: I would like to also  
24 ask that the Council consider allowing Lisa Stube to do  
25 her report tomorrow after the public and tribal  
26 comments because she has an aircraft to catch tomorrow  
27 afternoon. And she will be giving her report on the  
28 sheefish studies.  
29

30 Thank you.  
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah. We can  
33 do that. And I will put you right before ADF&G under  
34 item 12. Okay. Any other additions to this agenda.  
35

36 Council Members.  
37

38 MS. PELKOLA: This is -- Jack.  
39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Go ahead,  
41 Jenny.  
42

43 MS. PELKOLA: Well, I did bring in a  
44 letter and I gave it to Karen.  
45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen  
47 Deatherage. Yes. Member Pelkola gave me a letter from  
48 the Tribe in Galena regarding predator control. And so  
49 if you would like to have that, she has agreed to read  
50

1 that on the record and then I can respond with the  
2 boilerplate language that the Federal Subsistence  
3 Management Program has come up with what this body can  
4 and cannot do with respect to predator control.  
5

6 Thank you.  
7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could address  
9 that under public and tribal comments on non-agenda  
10 items. That's not an agenda item, but we can put that  
11 right after our Council member reports and chairs  
12 reports. Then when we do the public and tribal  
13 comments you can read that letter if you would like,  
14 Jenny.  
15

16 Sound good?  
17

18 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)  
19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
21

22 REPORTER: So Jack. So Aaron Moses  
23 wants to make sure you recognized him. Aaron Moses.  
24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Aaron, I  
26 recognized you.  
27

28 REPORTER: Okay.  
29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You signed on when  
31 we were asking who was on the phone.  
32

33 REPORTER: Aaron, go ahead.  
34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Aaron.  
36

37 MR. MOSES: Oh, yes. Thank you, Mr.  
38 Chairman. I would like the Yukon Delta's Wildlife  
39 Refuge Report to be added under Fish and Wildlife  
40 Service.  
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That will be  
43 under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and we will put you in  
44 as C, after Innoko/Nowitna. There will be Kanuti,  
45 Innoko, Koyukuk, Nowitna, and then I will put the Yukon  
46 Delta.  
47

48 And when you speak you're going to have  
49 to get a lot closer to that phone. You're on speaker  
50

1 phone. You're too far away.

2

3

MR. MOSES: All right. Thank you.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yes. I appreciate your report though. Thank you.

7

8

Any other agenda additions.

9

10

(No comments)

11

12

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the agenda, as amended.

13

14

15

MR. SIMON: So moved.

16

17

MS. PELKOLA: Second.

18

19

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock. Seconded by Jenny. Those in favor of the agenda, as amended, signify by saying aye.

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23

IN UNISON: Aye.

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25

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

26

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(No opposing votes)

28

29

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Council members reports.

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31

32

And Ray would like to give his report

33

on.....

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35

MR. COLLINS: Oh, okay. Thank you.

36

37

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

38

39

MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I'm Ray Collins, a resident of McGrath. And I have been on the Council since the beginning, which seems like forever now.

40

41

42

43

(Laughter)

44

45

MR. COLLINS: We had a good moose season, but it was late this year, the movement. But over the last week or so we have five days longer right around McGrath for people that register for their area before the hunt starts in August. They have to

46

47

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49

50

1 register. The regular season ended on the 20th. And  
2 it was very slow in the season, but then it really  
3 picked up towards the end.  
4

5 We lost calves this last winter it  
6 looks like because there wasn't too many yearlings or  
7 small moose observed. I don't know if that's general  
8 in the Interior or not, but it happened around here.  
9 So there will be a little dip I think in the breeding  
10 population because of that.  
11

12 I guess that's all.  
13

14 Well, I mentioned already the fisheries  
15 -- there is a little less escapement in the Upper River  
16 because of some earlier fishing down river. But they  
17 restricted it so it would get people ashore to fish  
18 earlier on in the season there when it's better drying  
19 time. And we still got pretty good escapement. Much  
20 better than in the past.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was for king  
23 salmon?  
24

25 MR. COLLINS: Yes. King salmon.  
26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.  
28

29 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Chinook. As you  
30 know, it jumped from around less than 2,000 to about  
31 6,000 just with the closures. So that was on poor run  
32 since that was coming in.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.  
35

36 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. That's all I have.  
37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And it dropped back  
39 to 2,000 again or.....  
40

41 MR. COLLINS: No. No. No. It didn't  
42 drop back that much.  
43

44 Kevin, do you know what the escapement  
45 was -- Salmon River? I didn't.....  
46

47 MR. WENTWORTH: I have the numbers in  
48 -- exact numbers in my packet, but just off the top of  
49 my head I think two years ago it was 8,000 salmon for  
50

1 Salmon Pitka Fork. And then last year it was right  
2 around 6,500, I believe. And then this year it's right  
3 around 4,900.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

6  
7 MR. WENTWORTH: And for the record,  
8 this is Kevin Wentworth.

9  
10 Thanks.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Kevin. Is  
13 that all you have then, Ray?

14  
15 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. That's all I had.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Okay.

18  
19 So we'll go to Jenny.

20  
21 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. We also had a good  
22 moose season although our family -- my husband didn't  
23 get any. But people always share with us, so we're  
24 good.

25  
26 Our fishing season was pretty good for  
27 kings. It seemed like everyone got what they needed,  
28 which was -- it seems like unusual for a long time.

29  
30 We didn't really get any berries due to  
31 the lack of rain. It was very, very hot, but that also  
32 helped the fish dry quickly.

33  
34 And we had two bit potlatches in our  
35 area to honor our past elders and there were a couple  
36 of youth, but it turned out very well -- well attended.

37  
38 Other than that, I think every -- oh,  
39 we did have a problem with some moose hunters that came  
40 in, ransacked the area seems like, with disrespect to  
41 our community. Cutting in front of our local hunters  
42 that -- like I would say were hunting there for all  
43 their lives. And this is what I -- was told to me. So  
44 I didn't see any of this, but it was told to me by many  
45 of the local people there. So I just want to -- I  
46 don't even know how to address that, but I think our  
47 tribal Council is going to look into it and see what  
48 they could do.

49  
50

1 And that concludes my report.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny.

4

5

Tim.

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7

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

Tim Gervais.

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To start out my report I'm trying to get some more information on this new story I'm hearing out of Fairbanks with the PFAS contamination. It's a chemical that's -- comes into the environment. It's a component used for firefighting foams at the Air Force bases and at the Fairbanks airport. And it's a -- just termed persistent chemical. I mean it doesn't break down. It doesn't break down very readily. And I've been working on getting in touch with the lady that deals with toxicology stuff for the Fish and Wildlife Service, but we haven't communicated by phone just yet.

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I'm concerned with that because it's -- potentially it could be building up in the fish. All that stuff is upstream from our Western Interior Regions, but also potentially there's materials -- there's some exposure to it from Galena with the Air Force base there and potentially in McGrath also. So I'm going to keep checking this topic out and see what kind of issue it may or may not be for our subsistence users.

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But otherwise the news stories this past month have been about where the State was kind of backing off on their regulation of it, but then I just saw a story last night where the State had kind of changed directions and agreed to -- I guess there's five different components or types of these PFAS chemicals that are in a normal test and at one point the State had said they were going to -- in order to save money they were going to back down and only test for two of these chemicals. But then the story I saw last night was five chemicals.

44

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So it just needs more research, but we need to be careful about any kind of issue where we have chemical contamination for the environment and for the water supply and how that interacts with the fish or wildlife.



1                   The big story for this summer seems to  
2 have been the water temperature for most parts of the  
3 State. We had long stretches with no rain and high air  
4 temperatures and salt water temperatures on the Lower  
5 Kuskokwim above 70 degrees. I was talking to Kevin  
6 about it last night. He said that even Emmonak had I  
7 believe ten days where they were above 70 degrees  
8 Fahrenheit.  
9

10                   What kind of scientists and managers  
11 are keen on is strategic temperatures to be like 18 to  
12 20 degrees Centigrade, which is like 64 and a half to  
13 68 degrees where these temperatures get real  
14 detrimental to salmon. Previous to this year I always  
15 thought if the water temperature got above 58 degrees  
16 Fahrenheit that was tough on the salmon. The fish on  
17 the go increase metabolism from the temperature.  
18 Apparently it lowers the oxygen carrying capacity of  
19 the water. Increased heart rate for the fish. And  
20 that increased metabolism, increased heart rate means  
21 the fish are using their energy stores up faster than  
22 maybe they're set up for in their evolution and  
23 whatnot, which is a real issue for -- we have a lot of  
24 long range spawners -- Yukon and Kuskokwim.  
25

26                   So we've gotten these environmental  
27 changes that are occurring at a rate faster than  
28 evolution can keep up, so we'll just have to pay  
29 attention and maintain cautious management approaches  
30 because now -- we've always, you know, kind of  
31 regulated or discussed the different user groups and  
32 everybody is having their take away from the resource,  
33 but now they have the additional stress from the high  
34 water temperatures and that's going to be another  
35 component that's taking away a percent of the  
36 population, affecting spawning success, and potentially  
37 the quality of the protein.  
38

39                   I also had a phone conversation with  
40 Stephanie Quinn Davidson. She's running the Yukon  
41 InterTribal Fisheries Commission and she was telling me  
42 about a trip she did. And I believe Holly was with her  
43 or worked with her on this so she could interject if I  
44 have not the right numbers. But they went up on the  
45 Koyukuk in July -- approximately mid-July and did a --  
46 they did a trip from Hughes down to Huslia and they  
47 counted 800 mostly chum salmon that seemed to be dying  
48 while they still had eggs or milt in them, so it was  
49 like a pre-spawning death.  
50

1                   And they couldn't figure out exactly  
2 how many had died beyond the 800, but some other  
3 biologists that she -- that Stephanie had talked to  
4 said it could be up to the tens of thousands of fish  
5 that had died from the high water temperature event.  
6

7                   Kevin told me last night that that  
8 Henshaw Creek escapement was like 32 or 35,000 when the  
9 ten-year average is 190,000. So that was an extremely  
10 significant lack of spawning performance there, so we  
11 have to keep that tracked.  
12

13                   In Bristol Bay where I was tendering in  
14 June and July the water temperatures over the last  
15 decade there -- they used to cap out at 52, 53 degrees  
16 Fahrenheit and the actual out of bay water was around  
17 54 degrees and then in the actual fishing districts  
18 where they inner tidal flow coming out of those main  
19 rivers -- Egegik River, Naknek River, Kvichak,  
20 Nushagak, Wood River -- those inner tidal temperatures  
21 were 58 degrees. And some of the temperatures on the  
22 ebb tide were actually getting the really dark river  
23 water. Coming back out in the District they were --  
24 they were up to about 61 degrees Fahrenheit, which is  
25 pretty high.  
26

27                   So they are trying to evaluate. There  
28 was one system -- there's five main systems in the Bay  
29 and Ugashik actually had kind of a run failure because  
30 -- don't know exact cause, but one theory is there was  
31 this one lagoon that the fish had to pass across to get  
32 to the weir or the counting tower. It was pretty  
33 shallow and pretty warm and some people are theorizing  
34 that created a thermal barrier that the fish didn't  
35 want to cross and get counted at the weir.  
36

37                   And that ended up with the -- the  
38 commercial fishery was shut down for a long, long time  
39 because they -- biologists wouldn't open the fishery up  
40 without meeting the escapement goals.  
41

42                   And then later on in the summer in  
43 August I was fishing down in Chignik and that's just  
44 general Gulf of Alaska water. And that water  
45 temperature is 54 degrees and that's about six degrees  
46 higher than what I'm used to seeing there in August.  
47

48                   So we just all have to keep learning  
49 what this means for us and keep an eye on these weather  
50

1 trends. See if it was a bad year or just what's going  
2 to be the new normal for us. But the salmon aren't  
3 really designed to handle these water temperatures and  
4 so we will have to act correctly from this Council and  
5 as subsistence users to adjust our harvest and policy  
6 to match up with helping these species survive this  
7 newer high temperature environment.  
8

9 We had good hunting around Ruby for  
10 moose. It seemed like most everybody that put forth a  
11 good effort was able to harvest a moose. The fishing  
12 for king salmon was good. The families generally had  
13 to change their fishing strategy a little bit where  
14 they would fish a shorter amount of time before the  
15 stopped on any given opener so they cut get their fish  
16 onto the cutting raft and get it processed before the  
17 fish got too warm.  
18

19 So that was one behavioral change that  
20 happened, but there was enough openings and enough fish  
21 to be caught that everybody was real happy with what  
22 they put away for king salmon.  
23

24 And then a few people fished chum.  
25 That wasn't as dominant of a subsistence product that  
26 was put up, but there was -- the amount of fish they  
27 were catching for the fall chum was pretty good and the  
28 quality of it was pretty good.  
29

30 We had talked in our February meeting  
31 or I guess it was the March meeting -- our spring  
32 meeting -- about the effects of the snow, from not  
33 having sea ice in the Bering Sea, and it looks like  
34 based on current conditions it will probably be another  
35 year where we have a lot of open water in the Bering  
36 Sea. That's going to affect our weather systems for  
37 the Western Interior and it's also just going to have  
38 other effects that affect that habitat, which we seem  
39 to be under the impression that's the habitat for our  
40 king salmon during their at-sea years in their mid-life  
41 cycle. So that's another change in the environment for  
42 one of our subsistence species.  
43

44 I appreciated Jack sending us this  
45 email explaining about the salmon shark and how it was  
46 eating king salmon. I'm still gathering information  
47 about that. From fishing Bristol Bay I didn't have  
48 much interaction with the salmon shark. I only had  
49 caught one in about 18 years of fishing, but when I'm  
50

1 fishing later in the year in Chignik we have a lot of  
2 interaction with salmon shark. Usually just two or  
3 three during the season, but this year -- maybe it was  
4 because of increased awareness or whatnot, I was -- we  
5 were actually seeing the sharks swimming on the  
6 surface. And at one point I had seen like four  
7 swimming in one spot in this one head of a bay. And  
8 then a week later than that I actually saw 30 salmon  
9 sharks all in one Region, coming around this one cape  
10 where these salmon were passing on their way up one  
11 river. So I'm going to keep trying to learn more about  
12 the salmon shark population and how much of a predator  
13 it is.

14  
15 I think for good management and  
16 interaction on this Council, you know, we've always got  
17 to be aware of all the different user groups that are  
18 taking a percent of the subsistence resource, but now  
19 we realize that these salmon shark are another user  
20 group that's eating the king salmon. I'm sure they're  
21 having impact on the chum salmon also.

22  
23 And I think that's about it for right  
24 now.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to give  
27 us a short impression of the Federal Subsistence Board  
28 meeting?

29  
30 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah.

31  
32 So I attended that Federal Subsistence  
33 Board meeting in April that -- that meeting was held  
34 later than originally scheduled because of the  
35 government shutdown. It was really -- it was a good  
36 experience to go down there and meet the Chairs of the  
37 RAC and the people of the Federal Subsistence Board.

38  
39 Tommy Kriska and Darrel Vent were down  
40 there and they gave public testimony to a couple of the  
41 different issues. I met with Alissa Rogers, with the  
42 Y-K Delta RAC and she was able to explain to me a lot  
43 about what the pulse was with the different proposals  
44 that come through that RAC. So that was just good  
45 getting to meet the people there.

46  
47 We got everything that this RAC had  
48 voted for was how the -- the Federal Subsistence Board,  
49 except for the one proposal about the sheefish.

50

1 Fishing on the Kuskokwim where we had -- this RAC --  
2 Western Interior had opposed that, but the other groups  
3 were for it and the Federal Subsistence Board approved  
4 it. And it sounded -- where we were under the  
5 impression -- we didn't support it because we thought  
6 it would end up in targeting king salmon or harvesting  
7 more king salmon than we wanted, it sounded like from  
8 management point of view the users felt that they could  
9 have that sheefish opening without it being very  
10 detrimental to the salmon run.  
11

12 And then there was a lot of debate --  
13 oh. And there was kind of a big issue that came up  
14 where the Federal Subsistence Board approved a measure  
15 where they -- the Federal Management took over the  
16 River for the month of June and it disallowed anybody  
17 but a Federally-qualified user from taking king salmon.  
18

19 And I'll let Kevin give those numbers  
20 of that harvest, but we need to keep -- myself and the  
21 other members of this Council -- we need to keep  
22 learning more and more about these subsistence harvests  
23 and the escapement goals because it's really been a  
24 tough three years for the people on the Kuskokwim  
25 River. So we need to I think keep reinforcing the  
26 position that we want to get fish onto spawning  
27 grounds. We want to get the fish upriver so that the  
28 Middle Kuskokwim and the Upper Kuskokwim users can meet  
29 their subsistence needs.  
30

31 And we need to just couple that -- all  
32 of this warming water temperature which is another  
33 stress on the salmon and try to get these king salmon  
34 stocks back into where we would consider healthy or  
35 traditional level.  
36

37 And there's a lot of debate. I think  
38 we need to just pay more attention to it, too, on how  
39 the InterTribal Fish Commissions are going to interact  
40 with the management scheme and what -- how their roles  
41 will develop into the management of State management  
42 and Federal management and then how the InterTribal  
43 Fish Commissions develop as advisors and potentially  
44 managers.  
45

46 So that -- I was getting the sense in  
47 the discussion that this Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish  
48 Commission is more -- it's a bigger issue. I don't  
49 really want to say controversial, but it's more  
50

1 significant of a player than what we have understood  
2 from our RAC position. But I believe if we can get  
3 some more Kuskokwim members recruited for the RAC it  
4 would go a long way in helping us to better understand  
5 how these InterTribal Fish Commissions are going to  
6 develop and be part of the management strategy for  
7 these stocks.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You got any  
10 more, Tim?

11  
12 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I just remembered  
13 one more. When I was talking to Kevin last night he was  
14 mentioning how in the last few years they have been  
15 getting an increased amount of sockeye or red salmon  
16 into the Kuskokwim River and they believe they are  
17 going up and spawning up through the Stony River into  
18 -- let me get the right name for this -- the lake where  
19 they're at. And I would hope that Kevin can give us  
20 some more briefing on this during his presentation.

21  
22 Is it Telaquana Lake? That's where  
23 they feel these sockeye are spawning. So that's kind  
24 of a new entrance into this Kuskokwim fish stock. And  
25 it did have a little bit of a -- it did have a little  
26 bit of action where apparently Fish and Game opened up  
27 -- had an opener that was supposed to be for the  
28 sockeye during the time when the Federal had the  
29 management on the -- while it was still under Federal  
30 management for the king salmon.

31  
32 So I would like Kevin and Ray to talk  
33 about that. How that played out and what they thought  
34 was good or bad about it. But it was just an  
35 interesting development where another species coming in  
36 and being significant enough population that they're  
37 actually going to start targeting it with some  
38 subsistence openings.

39  
40 And that's about it for now.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for  
43 your report, Tim.

44  
45 Pollock.

46  
47 MR. SIMON: Hello. My name is Pollock  
48 Simon, Senior. I live in Allakaket, Upper Koyukuk  
49 River area. I have been on this Board since the

50

1 beginning, I took a break for awhile and came back to  
2 it. This is my third or fourth trip down here and I  
3 always enjoy myself down here. Good hospitality and  
4 nice accommodations.  
5

6 When I left Allakaket yesterday it was  
7 10 degrees, it was freezing. Woke up this morning and  
8 it was really hot and I couldn't walk around town.  
9 Getting a little bit homesick, but I'm glad to be here.  
10 I have lots of friends down here that I visit with.  
11

12 When we were in Allakaket, the fish --  
13 plenty of chum salmon come up every year, but not much  
14 king salmon. In the past we've been restricted to king  
15 salmon but the last couple of years they told us to  
16 keep the net in for king salmon so -- but it's been a  
17 lot of snow and high water, so not too good for set  
18 nets. All the favorite fishing spots is kind of with  
19 high water, so not many peoples get king salmon or  
20 their king salmon is the main fish diet for our peoples  
21 up and down the river.  
22

23 The caribou hasn't returned for almost  
24 ten years around to the Allakaket area and due to the  
25 deep snow we get poor survivals for moose so -- and the  
26 moose population is not too high yet. This past season  
27 our peoples had a hard time finding moose. They'd go  
28 up and down the River, but due to warm weather the  
29 moose stayed in the hills. So they had to extend the  
30 moose season to the 1st of October because a lot of  
31 peoples didn't get moose. But we got -- the moose  
32 don't carry too much fat, only about an inch fat on the  
33 rump, whereas a few years ago it was three or four inch  
34 fat on the rump but moose has been getting lean in  
35 these past few years. I don't know why. I think it's  
36 all over the state and moose getting not too fat.  
37

38 But peoples had a hard time to find  
39 moose and last week there was some -- a couple peoples  
40 came to me and reported that there were helicopters  
41 flying around and asking questions. He landed at this  
42 camp and asked the fishermen, where's your hunting  
43 license, do you have hunting license, do you have moose  
44 harvest ticket and they also landed (indiscernible) in  
45 that portion in the river, going with boat and asked  
46 the same questions. I think this is unnecessary and  
47 like harassing the hunters. We also have -- our fish  
48 net so we don't always go out looking for moose they  
49 (indiscernible) if we're going to moose hunting or do  
50

1 we have a hunting license or a moose harvest ticket.  
2 That's unnecessary.

3  
4 Allakaket fish (indiscernible) low,  
5 there was not much moose and no caribou, so some  
6 peoples have hard time and we get a lot of snow  
7 already, and so I guess that was my report.

8  
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock. And  
12 Pollock was at the first meeting here in McGrath in  
13 1993.

14  
15 Go ahead, Don.

16  
17 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don  
18 Honea, from Ruby. I guess, you know, I'm probably  
19 going to reiterate some of the same things that Tim  
20 said and Pollock said. But it's always nice to meet  
21 here in McGrath. I appreciate the accommodations. I  
22 appreciate the fact that we just -- we are right across  
23 the road here and we have a good meeting place and, you  
24 know, I really like the hospitality and seeing Kevin  
25 and some of the locals here.

26  
27 We had a pretty good fishing season and  
28 actually I think when we consider all the meetings  
29 whether -- you know, I am on the InterTribal Fish  
30 Commission and I think, you know, over the years that  
31 we have been needing that. It's really been paying  
32 off. Whether it's the Yukon River panel or the  
33 InterTribal Fish Commission, when we come up with  
34 proposals -- when we come up with consensus up and down  
35 that River, that's -- it's a good thing.

36  
37 You know, I have to hand it to the in-  
38 season manager Holly for the work that she does because  
39 if you really consider all the factors and the windows  
40 that are being opened and stuff it's really a tricky  
41 thing. I mean to be able to allow us to use seven and  
42 a half inch after a certain number past a sonar -- it's  
43 -- I think it's a really tough job. And I think all  
44 the Commissions and stuff -- I think over the years  
45 that we've been meeting -- the pre-season meetings and  
46 stuff really show.

47  
48 And, you know, maybe we have little  
49 breaks and stuff, but for the most part they are pretty

50



1 liberal with us and in the windows that we had. So I  
2 appreciate that.

3  
4 Hunting was -- as Tim mentioned, in the  
5 Ruby area was pretty good. We have had a lot of take  
6 on the road itself right there and recently just within  
7 the last week or so there was sightings of like 15 to  
8 20 caribou. Where I am camped at Big Eddy -- Big Eddy  
9 is above Ruby, about halfway between Ruby and the  
10 Nowitna River. And there were sightings of like 15, 20  
11 caribou. And actually that's a good thing.

12  
13 The Kokrine Hills back there used to  
14 have a lot of caribou population. And so I think it's  
15 a good thing. You know, Jeremy or whoever is going to  
16 report on the three Refuges out of Galena, I don't have  
17 the numbers. I haven't been up to the check station  
18 there this fall at all, but -- so I can't report on the  
19 numbers coming out of there until later.

20  
21 But I keep saying this and, you know,  
22 generally out to the public here in McGrath or the  
23 Kuskokwim River -- I feel like, you know, with Ray  
24 stepping down or these last meetings here, I think it  
25 imperative that you guys -- that we have a rep. And  
26 from either -- from Aniak, Stony, Red Devil, wherever  
27 it is. When we come to fishing issues and proposals on  
28 the Kusko, I don't know anything about what your  
29 problems are. So, you know, much less what's on the  
30 Yukon -- the Lower Yukon. And I'm in the Middle Yukon,  
31 so we -- I think it imperative that we have those reps.  
32 And if we could get the word out here -- Kevin,  
33 consider that. Or somebody -- you know, Dennis Thomas.  
34 I met with him in Galena. We had a -- I think that was  
35 a pretty good voice and I think he was from maybe  
36 Crooked Creek or somewhere down there -- down the road  
37 there, but he was a good friend of mine. And I think  
38 it's vital that we have that rep because like I said, I  
39 don't know what your area -- whether it's from -- you  
40 know, Carl is from Aniak and he's off of the Board now,  
41 but I just wanted to kind of put that plea out there  
42 for -- maybe to -- whether it's from the Western  
43 Interior or whether it's from the public -- we need  
44 those voices.

45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

1                   You had another comment there, Pollock.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10                   MR. SIMON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
11 Chair. I just wanted to mention Ray Collins, he's been  
12 on this Board since beginning, to fill in -- and Ray's  
13 always been a member and good Council man, and I want  
14 to say thank you Ray.

15

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1 additional.

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3

Go ahead, Ray. Get the mic there.

4

5

6

MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Jenny brought up something about berries and I didn't really mention that.

7

8

9

We've got a huge berry patch behind here and it's actually -- thanks to Fish and Game there they were tagging moose and -- or calves and I had to chase a cow off and it started a fire. And it burned this whole black spruce forest out here, but it created a huge berry patch.

10

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But this last summer -- in May the blossoms came out and we were loaded with blossoms in there, but then we had the dry summer with no rain and so the berries were spotty when they -- the ones that made it to maturity. The plants were drying up on a lot of them.

And it's something we have to keep in mind with the weather changes, too. That with the lack of rain at a critical time it really impacts the berries. So we got blueberries -- some, but it was spotty. But it looked like it was going to be a healthy number.

So I'll just say we've got to watch the interplay between weather and berries, too. Although there's nothing we can do about that, I guess.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We had exactly the same condition. We had deep snow, which the plants over-wintered well. They had good blossoms. They pollinated well. We had lots of insects because it was nice and dry, but then we had the dry weather conditions that caused the plants to dry out. And so they were.....

MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It was real spotty blueberries, very spotty cranberries -- low bush cranberries. So that affects black bear populations and so forth. So that's something that we look at, but there's really nothing we can manage for. But it's something to consider in the management.

1                   So I will give my report.

2  
3                   I'm on the Koyukuk River Advisory  
4 Committee. We had a conference call on April 4th  
5 finalizing a moose proposal for Unit 24B down around  
6 Allakaket to lengthen the State season from a closure  
7 of September 25 to lengthen it through the 1st of  
8 October because people have a harder and harder time  
9 finding most -- because the moose move later and later.  
10 They breed on time, but they move later. And everybody  
11 sees the same thing. It's the moose just move at a  
12 later period of time.

13  
14                   The Gates of the Arctic Subsistence  
15 Resource Commission had a meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass.  
16 And they have lots of grizzlies and they have certain  
17 hunters that would like to have a larger bag limit, so  
18 the Gates of the Arctic Resource Commission submitted a  
19 proposal to the Board of Game to increase the bag limit  
20 to two bears in Unit 24B. And that will be in the  
21 State proposals in 25A. So there's not going to be a  
22 significant amount of harvest, but it will help certain  
23 hunters that need additional bag limit in primarily  
24 Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut. They hunt bears there  
25 also.

26  
27                   So I was concerned about the summer  
28 chum salmon run on the Yukon River, so I called a  
29 conference call with OSM on June 24th or 9th or I  
30 forget what date that was exactly. And I had a  
31 discussion with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional  
32 Advisory Council Chair Alissa Rogers and Don Woodruff  
33 was -- from EIRAC was on that call. We discussed with  
34 managers whether it was necessary to have a special  
35 action for protection of the summer chum for rural  
36 residents, but we decided to hold off and track that  
37 run, which then eventually came in really fairly  
38 strong.

39  
40                   But then I was very depressed to find  
41 out that the water was so warm and the fish died en  
42 route. We got -- but there was a lot of -- but the  
43 problem was managers are thinking that there's passage  
44 past Pilot Station, but this caught everybody off  
45 guard.

46  
47                   You were talking about Ugashik. I had  
48 a lady come to Wiseman and she told me she was born in  
49 Ugashik. Because she commercial fishes there all the  
50

1 -- in the Ugashik District all the time. She said  
2 there were dead sockeye salmon floating down the  
3 Ugashik River this. Belly up. There's no commercial  
4 harvest up there where she lives. People were watching  
5 salmon dying and floating. Floaters coming down the  
6 river.

7  
8 If they found 800 fish dead on the  
9 Koyukuk River -- and that's not counting all the ones  
10 that wolves and bears and every last scavenger is going  
11 to be picking them off the bars. They're just seeing a  
12 pinhole in the death of the Koyukuk River's summer chum  
13 salmon stocks.

14  
15 Don't think that it was quite as bad a  
16 problem in the fall chum salmon because the waters cool  
17 down, but one of the problems in the Upper Koyukuk --  
18 we had a super dry summer and the Koyukuk in the Middle  
19 Fork of the Koyukuk and all the Upper Koyukuk Drainages  
20 turn super clear when it's dry like that. The waters  
21 ran muddy all summer.

22  
23 Why is that. Because all these debris  
24 loads -- these thaw lobes come charging off the  
25 mountains and they emit lots of muddy water into the  
26 Upper Drainages. And all this mud was running -- the  
27 water was as muddy as the Yukon in front of my house  
28 when it should have been crystal clear. Well, that  
29 picks up that additional heat. The (indiscernible)  
30 hits those particulants and the water warms up. So  
31 warmer, sunnier weather hits. And normally that clear  
32 water would be all the way down by Hughes, but no it  
33 ran muddy all summer. So it was muddy as the Yukon in  
34 the Middle Fork. So that's kind of a problem.

35  
36 That's part of the warming of the  
37 waters was all of these thawed areas in the Brooks  
38 Range that have these ice masses are all like charging  
39 off the mountains. They're going to run over the  
40 Dalton Highway. They had to rebuild the road. All  
41 kinds of stuff is happening in the upper drainages  
42 because of climate change. That's a climate change  
43 issue and that's affecting a part of the effect on  
44 these warmer waters in the -- and killing salmon.

45  
46 And I was super depressed to hear that  
47 the Henshaw only had like 34,000 pass the weir for  
48 summer chum and 400 and some hundred king salmon when  
49 they usually have 1,100 or 12,000 kings. So we have  
50

1 really high mortalities this year on salmon, which is a  
2 real concern.

3  
4 We had an extremely deep snow year last  
5 year unlike everybody else in the rest of Alaska and  
6 managers don't seem to get it. They don't -- they keep  
7 -- Alaska Department of Fish and Game was sending  
8 hunters to the Brooks Range. Go to the Brooks Range.  
9 There's lots now. We had a high mortality year. A  
10 huge mortality year.

11  
12 We had 12 and a half feet of snow. I  
13 measure snow on a daily basis. We had 148 inches of  
14 snowfall on a daily, with a standing snow pack of over  
15 five feet of snow that compressed into 42 to 52 inches  
16 of snow pack on the south slope of the Brooks Range.  
17 And in March it rained on that and made a hard crust.  
18 And moose were breaking through that, cutting  
19 themselves up way into the end of April. We had a lot  
20 of moose die.

21  
22 We had -- just like Ray saw no  
23 yearlings, I haven't seen yearlings and I didn't see  
24 two-year old bulls either. I think it killed all of  
25 our -- killed all our yearlings. It killed all of our  
26 two-year old bulls. And I originally thought we lost a  
27 third of the moose, but after I walked willow bars that  
28 should have lots of moose tracks from -- it's a Venturi  
29 area. There were two tracks from the time of the high  
30 water in May. There was a bull went through in the  
31 fall time and there was one cow went through there all  
32 summer. I went to lakes -- where's there big lakes --  
33 where I've seen 15 moose in those lakes. Not hardly a  
34 track around there. We had a huge mortality factor and  
35 we're going to get a survey this fall and we're getting  
36 snow, so hopefully the State and the agencies come  
37 together to get a survey.

38  
39 The same thing happened with sheep.  
40 Our sheep population took a real beating and I tried to  
41 get Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission  
42 -- as a member, I wanted the Park Service to do a  
43 survey on the south slope of the Brooks Range. They  
44 surveyed the north slope of the Brooks Range. The  
45 North Slope of the Brooks Range was a completely  
46 opposite scenario. There was a snow shadow. There was  
47 hardly any snow on that side. The sheep did well over  
48 there. The south side took a real beating. And I was  
49 having a hard time finding any kind of a sheep. Ewe,  
50

1 lamb, ram from the 10th of September to when we got  
2 deep snow again on top of the mountains on the 17th of  
3 September this year, I saw zero sheep from the valley  
4 floor. I'm looking way back in creeks, I know where to  
5 look for sheep. There's sheep, but there was not that  
6 many.

7  
8 We had a lot of hunters. We had an  
9 increase in hunting pressure from the road. There's 20  
10 drawing permits issues north of Coldfoot. I saw over  
11 20 vehicles hunted with more than one hunter per  
12 vehicle. There as virtually no enforcement. The State  
13 cut back on enforcement. I saw no BLM Rangers. I saw  
14 no State Trooper. I saw no Park Service. I saw no  
15 U.S. Fish and Wildlife. And without emblems on the  
16 door of these vehicles, these guys think it's open  
17 season. I had some guys that I -- from Soldotna. I  
18 caught them -- there's a quarter mile area they can't  
19 go past. I caught guys from Soldotna five -- four and  
20 a half miles from the road. And they says well, our  
21 friends told us we could come up here and that we could  
22 hunt back here. I says no, you can't. I says I've  
23 gotten pictures of your license plate -- click. You.  
24 I says you kill a moose back here, I'm sending these to  
25 the Trooper. I have to enforce regulations.

26  
27 Twice I had to talk to hunters that  
28 were hunting illegally and they hadn't killed anything  
29 yet, but I have to curtail them. We have to have  
30 presence, law enforcement presence. Otherwise we have  
31 a -- the word gets out. It's a free for all.

32  
33 So we had a lot of hunting pressure and  
34 with that amount of hunters there were a lot of moose  
35 killed. And for the number of moose that were around  
36 it was a high number.

37  
38 I am concerned that this year was going  
39 directly into a bad year especially for sheep. We just  
40 -- before I came down here I was weathered out to get  
41 into Fairbanks. We had two days of snow. We had a  
42 standing snow pack when I left of 11 and a half inches  
43 of snow, but on top of the mountains there's two and a  
44 half feet. The snow -- the mountains are white with  
45 snow. The sheep are stuck in snow up there right off  
46 the bat. They didn't need another one of these.

47  
48 So they didn't fly a sheep survey this  
49 summer. Oh, it got too smoky. Well, it was only smoky  
50

1 for a few days. We had virtually hardly any smoke  
2 because we had no fires north of the Yukon River. They  
3 should have flown sheep survey this year.  
4

5 The Chandalar and the Koyukuk Drainage  
6 took a lot of snow. And they needed to fly a survey,  
7 but they have no sheep data for us for this year.  
8 Hopefully we'll get a moose survey for the Upper  
9 Koyukuk. The Koyukuk River system drainage all the way  
10 through the Middle Yukon and Kuskokwim -- I talked to  
11 Charlie Green from Galena. He traps a lot. He says he  
12 had five feet of snow, but then it settled down and by  
13 March it settled way down below three feet, so they --  
14 those moose survived. Whereas the moose up north --  
15 they were stuck and beyond their mobility up to their  
16 shoulder in snow.  
17

18 So the Council should be aware that we  
19 have some real management issues in the Upper Koyukuk  
20 and there's all kinds of proposals to increase the  
21 length of seasons for sheep for sporthunters off the  
22 Dalton Highway in Game Management Unit 24. We don't  
23 have sheep to give. And especially with additional --  
24 and without a sheep survey it's going to be real hard  
25 for me to fight those proposals back at the Board of  
26 Game level because there's no data.  
27

28 When the Department doesn't do surveys  
29 -- when they evade the issue. Oh, it got smoky that  
30 day, so we're too busy now. It's like unh-unh. They  
31 should have. They knew full well. I sent the managers  
32 pictures of the snow depths in April and early May.  
33 This is what we still have. I told the managers they  
34 needed to do those surveys. They didn't do it. So  
35 that was a little discouraging.  
36

37 So I'm concerned about Mulchatna. And  
38 we're going to have a discussion about Mulchatna  
39 Caribou. We have been concerned about Mulchatna since  
40 1995, when the herd was 200,000 and then got shot down  
41 to 14 bulls per 100 cows in 2007. And the herd crashed  
42 to 28,000. Staggered for ten years. And then  
43 increased bag limit, additional harvest. I need to  
44 know -- we have to have numbers. We have to have data  
45 if we're going to comment on this Mulchatna problem.  
46 It's at 13,500 right now. 200,000 down to 13,500. And  
47 Dennis Thompson [sic] when our deceased Council Member  
48 last fall says they used to have caribou coming down  
49 around Aniak and Chuathbaluk and Crooked Creek and they  
50



1 were getting caribou and they wanted to see those again  
2 -- well, that's never going to happen. Because small  
3 herds don't migrate. And unless we get this thing  
4 under control that herd is going to get below its  
5 predator threshold on its calving ground and that herd  
6 will never recover for 25, 30 years.

7  
8 The Department of Fish and Game only  
9 did the minimum to stabilize the harvest. So we're  
10 going to talk about that one and I'm real concerned  
11 about that one.

12  
13 That would be my report at this time.

14  
15 And so it's 10:24. And we'll take a  
16 five minute break because we're going to have these  
17 awards. They're time certain at 10:30.

18  
19 So we'll go for a five minute break.  
20 We'll come in after 10:30.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 (Off record)

25  
26 (On record)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to bring  
29 this meeting back to order again.

30  
31 (Pause)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Western Interior  
34 Regional Council, if everybody can sit down.

35  
36 So we're waiting for Ray to come up to  
37 his seat.

38  
39 So we're on agenda item eight, awards.  
40 And so who is going to be officiating this.

41  
42 Pippa.

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: No, Frank is.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Frank. Okay.

47  
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Frank and Pippa.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm just trying to get  
4 the camera going. There we go.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I'm  
7 turning this -- and Frank, you've got to -- oh, you've  
8 got a mic. Okay. Good. So go right ahead.

9

10 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. Good morning. For  
11 the record, this is Frank Harris, with OSM.

12

13 Today we have a number of awards that  
14 we're going to be presenting to the RAC Council  
15 Members. And I believe online we have Greg Siekaniec.  
16 If he's online he would be the one presenting one to  
17 Jack Reakoff.

18

19 Go ahead, Greg.

20

21 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Frank. And  
22 thank you all for letting me join this call.

23

24 Hopefully, Frank, you can tell me -- is  
25 this coming through okay?

26

27 REPORTER: Yes, go ahead Greg, we can  
28 hear you fine.

29

30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. Well, thank you  
31 again. I'm Greg Siekaniec, the Regional Director for  
32 the Fish and Wildlife Service here in Alaska. And last  
33 spring or winter I had the opportunity to recognize  
34 Jack Reakoff on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
35 Service. We do a Regional Directors award annually to  
36 notable individuals, partnerships, significant  
37 accomplishments, and I was very pleased to be able to  
38 present one to Jack Reakoff.

39

40 As Jack lives the subsistence  
41 lifestyle, he was doing the right thing, he was out  
42 caribou hunting and which hopefully he was successful  
43 on. But I'll just read the little paragraph here that  
44 we had put together at that time and then I will have a  
45 couple of extra comments.

46

47 But Jack Reakoff has served as a  
48 dedicated volunteer on the Western Interior Regional  
49 Advisory Council since 1993 and as the Chairman of this

50

1 Council since 2006. In addition, Jack has served on  
2 the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence  
3 Resource Commission and the Koyukuk River Alaska  
4 Department of Fish and Game Advisory Committee since  
5 1993.  
6

7 Jack lives a subsistence lifestyle in  
8 Wiseman and has worked as a trapper, hunting guide,  
9 commercial fisherman, and tour guide. Jack's knowledge  
10 of subsistence and leadership has been an invaluable  
11 asset to the committees he has served. And for that we  
12 appreciate Jack's years of dedicated service and  
13 recognize him with this Regional Directors Award on  
14 behalf of the Fish and Wildlife Service.  
15

16 Now personally I can vouch for, you  
17 know, Jack's understanding of, you know, species  
18 important to subsistence users. I had the opportunity  
19 to visit with you, Jack, in Wiseman and I have never  
20 heard a better description of the hare and lynx  
21 relationship in the Wiseman area, the Northern Alaska  
22 area, whether it be at university lectures I have  
23 attended or elsewhere. I have to say it was one of the  
24 most fascinating discussions I've ever had the  
25 privilege -- the taking in some of the places that I've  
26 visited.  
27

28 The value of your local and extended  
29 North Alaska experiences to our subsistence management  
30 program is, you know, incredibly valuable to us and we  
31 thank you for your efforts and dedication and frankly  
32 we look forward to many more years of interaction.  
33

34 So Jack, on, you know, behalf of the  
35 Fish and Wildlife Service and certainly me personally,  
36 thank you for all you do.  
37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, thanks so much,  
39 Greg.  
40

41 (Applause)  
42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your  
44 kind words and I've highly enjoyed working with the  
45 Federal Subsistence Management Program on meeting the  
46 resource needs and the needs of the subsistence users.  
47 And I was privileged to have elders that taught me a  
48 lot of stuff to look for and to watch for and to  
49 observe and I'm happy to have assisted in managers and  
50

1 the managers themselves and their investigations and  
2 research and then the managers on making decisions like  
3 yourself.

4  
5 So appreciate that, Greg. Appreciate  
6 the award. Thank you very much.

7  
8 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. And if you  
9 could spare a little bit of the keen sense of  
10 observation we could certainly use some of that through  
11 our ranks.

12  
13 (Laughter)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I have plenty  
16 more.

17  
18 MR. SIEKANIEC: So much appreciated.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have plenty more  
21 where that comes from.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks so much.

26  
27 And we have another presentation.

28  
29 Frank.

30  
31 MR. HARRIS: Yes. There are several  
32 more presentations of awards coming up.

33  
34 I would like to point out that sitting  
35 at this table there is over a century's worth of  
36 service to the Federal Subsistence Management Program.  
37 And to highlight these contributions and  
38 accomplishments these individuals have made through the  
39 Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
40 would take the better part of a day, so we are just  
41 kind of touching on the surface of it. Please forgive  
42 us for not detailing more of these extraordinary  
43 contributions to the program.

44  
45 But we have four more to hand out. We  
46 are going to start out with -- we would like to thank  
47 Timothy Gervais for ten years of service in the  
48 Council.

49  
50

1 Tim represents sporthunting, commercial  
2 interests in Ruby on the Council and has provided  
3 expertise particularly in the areas of fisheries for  
4 both commercial and subsistence use both in and outside  
5 of the Region.

6

7

Thank you, Tim.

8

9

(Applause)

10

11

12

MR. HARRIS: Another member of the  
community of Ruby, Don Honea, Junior. We would like to  
thank him for 15 years of service on the Council.

13

14

15

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19

20

Don represents subsistence uses on the  
Council for the Village of Ruby. He's a strong  
community leader. He helps ensure that the agency  
communication is clear and understandable by all and --  
and I can verify this. He is just an all around nice  
guy.

21

22

23

Thank you, Don.

24

25

(Applause)

26

27

28

29

30

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36

MR. HARRIS: Pollock Simon, Senior. We  
would like to thank him for over 25 years of service on  
the Council. Pollock is a highly respected elder in  
his community and a strong advocate for Alaska Native  
traditions in the Region. He also serves as the  
Council's representative for the Subsistence Resource  
Commission for the Gates of the Arctic National Park  
and Preserve. He is a strong advocate for subsistence  
threatened by development and continues to speak up on  
behalf of his community of Allakaket.

37

38

39

40

Thank you, Pollock.

41

42

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44

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50

MR. HARRIS: And lastly, we have Ray  
Collins. We would like to thank him for over 25 years  
of service on the Council. He has contributed more  
than words can capture. He actively advocates for  
subsistence in McGrath when areas are threatened by  
development and he is definitely an expert on fisheries  
issues, contributing regularly to the Kuskokwim River  
Working Group meetings. This will be Ray's last  
meeting as a member of the Council and he will be

1 sorely missed.

2

3

Thank you very much, Ray.

4

5

(Applause)

6

7

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Pollock -- do we

8

have one more.

9

10

MS. DEATHERAGE: One more. One more.

11

12

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

13

14

MR. HARRIS: We have one more.

15

Surprise on me.

16

17

MR. COLLINS: Thank you for the

18

recognition. I guess it's appropriate for me to

19

comment now.

20

21

MR. HARRIS: Yes, please.

22

23

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

24

25

MR. COLLINS: Okay. Yeah. My wife and

26

I came to Nikolai in 1963 and lived up there and

27

learned about the subsistence lifestyle from the elders

28

up there. And I developed a writing system for the

29

language there. And then that project was cancelled

30

because of the changing language used. Originally we

31

were going to do a translation up there.

32

33

But the service on these groups has

34

been pay back for what I learned from the elders in

35

Nikolai there, all of whom are now gone. All my peers

36

that I learned from, hunted and trapped with are gone.

37

And I miss -- but we recognize -- Sally and I -- just a

38

few years ago now with honorary tribal membership. And

39

that's one of the things I'm most proud of.

40

41

Thank you.

42

43

(Applause)

44

45

MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Ray.

46

47

And we have one more here. One for

48

Jack Reakoff. Another one.

49

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. HARRIS: For over 25 years of  
4 service on the Council. Can we say more about Jack  
5 Reakoff. I'm sure we probably could.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. HARRIS: He has been a huge asset  
10 to subsistence not only in the Region, but Statewide.  
11 He not only lives a subsistence lifestyle in Wiseman,  
12 but works diligently to ensure that the public, agency  
13 representatives, and researchers are aware of what's  
14 happening on the grounds and the impact to those  
15 dependent on the resource.

16

17 Thank you very much, Jack.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And I  
20 appreciate both awards and I will continue to try and  
21 help out where I can.

22

23 Thank you very much.

24

25 (Applause)

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And now Pollock.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: We're going to have to  
30 get a bigger plane.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Pollock wanted to  
35 say something after his award.

36

37 So go right ahead, Pollock.

38

39 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
40 live on the Koyukuk River, I'm Koyukon/Athabaskan. Our  
41 elders have always been proud people on the Koyukuk  
42 River. They help each other and being recognized is  
43 great, but we do this work to -- because we wanted to  
44 and our peoples have always done that. And when I was  
45 growing up my mother told me to help your uncles and  
46 not to expect to get paid or nothing, but we serve  
47 because we want to. Try to help our peoples.

48

49 Yeah, I'm really happy to be recognized

50

1 and get this award.

2

3

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5

(Applause)

6

7

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you so much  
8 for your dedication to Fish and Wildlife management,  
9 Pollock. And I've worked with Pollock for at least 25  
10 years or more and one of the things I remember that  
11 Pollock told us at a meeting, I get up in the morning  
12 and I wash my face and shave and put on a new shirt so  
13 people will listen to what I have to say. And people  
14 should always be listening to elders -- what people --  
15 the elders have to say.

16

17

18

So we appreciate all your comments that  
19 you've made over all these years and look forward to  
20 working with you further, Pollock.

21

22

Thank you.

23

24

MR. SIMON: Thank you.

25

26

(Applause)

27

28

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

MR. HARRIS: Yeah. I would like to  
30 apologize to everyone for if I cut them off and they  
31 wanted to speak when I was giving our their award.  
32 Sometimes I get a little uncomfortable standing up here  
33 talking, so I was just kind of in a rush. It was my  
34 bad.

35

36

37

38

So if anybody else would like to speak  
39 and the Chair says it's okay, then that would be great.

39

40

Thank you.

41

42

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

43

44

Do you have any words, Tim.

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
46 Just more of like making a note. I've always  
47 appreciated being the least experienced member on this  
48 Council so I can learn from all you guys. And I know  
49 it's a lot of -- it takes a lot of effort to be on



1 these committees. I myself get a lot of interference  
2 or un-cooperation from my wife and my kids for the time  
3 spent away from home doing these things, but I feel  
4 it's a way I can serve our community and help keep our  
5 subsistence economy healthy. And I feel it's really  
6 significant for the State to have its subsistence  
7 economy intact and I feel it's going to be the thing  
8 that's going to help rural Alaska be the healthiest  
9 they can be.

10

11 So I'm honored to be able to be on the  
12 Council with you guys and I appreciate the chance to  
13 put in what I have. But for me the real benefit is  
14 hearing what you folks have to say and being able to  
15 learn from your more extensive experience.

16

17 So appreciate it.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much, Tim.  
20 We appreciate all your input on this Council and your  
21 diligence to looking into data lapse and learning more  
22 about everything in general. And we appreciate that.

23

24 And Don, have you got some words about  
25 your award and service.

26

27 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah.  
28 I just wanted to say since I've gone on here, you know,  
29 we've served with many different members. I miss the  
30 Walker guys and Carl and all those. And, you know, I  
31 just wanted to say that every time that we don't have  
32 some of our members and I -- you know, I have not  
33 attended every one because -- every meeting because of  
34 the weather conditions and stuff, but we miss those  
35 reports. Tommy could be 200 miles away from me and I  
36 don't know what his issues are. You know what I'm  
37 saying. So it's wide and vast.

38

39 And I really appreciate Ray's input  
40 over the years. I have come to consider him as a  
41 mentor. I've learned. I appreciated over the years  
42 opening with his blessings. My cousin Jenny -- I've  
43 served with her for a few years and I appreciate all  
44 these -- all the views from the Villages. Whatever  
45 problems.

46

47 Like Jack always said, if you have  
48 hunting problems, issues or something, take pictures,  
49 compile something. If you have something to back up

50

1 your claim or something, so.....

2

3 And Pollock, I appreciate the service  
4 that he's done over the years. And so, you know, when  
5 we look back collectively there's a lot of experience,  
6 as you mentioned in here. And that's why I just -- you  
7 know, ideally you want to -- you want everyone present  
8 so we could know the issues.

9

10 But thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much, Don.  
13 We appreciate all that you do for this Council and your  
14 award is well deserved.

15

16 You had a comment, Karen.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 Thomas Doolittle, who is the acting Assistant Regional  
20 Director for the Office of Subsistence Management is on  
21 the phone and would also like to say a few words for  
22 the awardees.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

27

28 Go ahead, Tom.

29

30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hello, Jack, and  
31 everybody at the Council Meeting in McGrath. It's  
32 great to hear your voices. I'm going to another  
33 Council meeting this week and kind of spreading my  
34 person around to various Councils I haven't been  
35 attending meetings at.

36

37 But first, Jack, when I was listening  
38 in on your discussion of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and  
39 as you know I was tenured out in Bethel for a number of  
40 years both as a supervising biologist and as the deputy  
41 manager and acting manager is that the passion and the  
42 issue for trying to bring the Mulchatna Caribou Herd,  
43 you know, back to sufficient numbers for subsistence.  
44 And to hear your description, is that I echo your  
45 feelings.

46

47 But most importantly is that it shows  
48 the passion and understanding of the resource that you  
49 and all of the other awardees in that room have and all

50

1 the people that use subsistence and are part of our  
2 program. I don't care whether somebody has been  
3 involved in the program for a year or 25 years. The  
4 consistent involvement by everybody in the process --  
5 it makes it one of the great management tools that's  
6 ever been on the Continent, in my opinion. And you  
7 have all been an integral part of this. And this  
8 institutional knowledge of subsistence, of ANILCA, of  
9 the passion for resources should never be forgotten.  
10 Should only be built upon as we look toward the future.

11  
12 And I wanted to thank all the awardees  
13 and all the people attending for their participation of  
14 the subsistence process and because without you it  
15 can't happen.

16  
17 Thank you very much to all the folks  
18 that are there.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those  
21 kind words. Tom, this -- me and these Councils cannot  
22 work without the dedication of Council Members and I  
23 feel very privileged to work with Council Members who  
24 attend and read and are involved in the process.  
25 Bringing their customary and traditional knowledges to  
26 the table also.

27  
28 So you're right. The program is highly  
29 reliant on dedicated subsistence users who are willing  
30 to speak for their communities and the resource.

31  
32 So appreciate your words.

33  
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Jack. Have  
35 a great meeting.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Tom.

38  
39 Jenny, we need to have something from  
40 you now. Go ahead.

41  
42 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. I really enjoy  
43 working with this Committee, but I have been advocating  
44 for women to get on the Board since I've been the only  
45 one for a long time. But I have learned a lot from  
46 Jack and Pollock and Raymond and, well, all of them.  
47 Don, the Walker boys, and the late Ron Sam. And Mickey  
48 Stickman was on here at one time. Carl Morgan and the  
49 late Dennis Thomas. I've learned a lot from them and I  
50

1 -- it's very interesting to hear what they have to say.

2

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And like what Don was saying this morning, we do need a rep from the GASH area and the Kusko. So with Ray stepping down, I really hope that someone from McGrath or the Kusko would step in because when we meet we don't know your issues until they're brought up. And that way we can all work together. We don't work for only our area. We work for the whole area.

So with that I just hope that we will have someone in -- see, I forget names. Ray. Oh, at one time Ray was my teacher.

(Laughter)

MS. PELKOLA: Years ago.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. Yeah. I do -- thanks for bringing up our past members who were on this Council and were hard fighters for subsistence. Ron Sam pounding the table for subsistence. A very strong leader. I really learned a lot from Ron. He told me when he was 12 years old the elders told him you're smart. You've got to go to meetings. That's when they started training him. When he was 12 years old. He was a great leader and I -- everybody -- I pale in his shoes.

So I appreciate your bringing that to remembrance. Yes.

And we do -- it is good to have women on this Council also to bring different aspects to -- to holistic aspects of subsistence.

Appreciate that.

Do you have an announcement about lunch there, Karen.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Today's lunch is going to be provided by the McGrath Traditional Tribal Council and we're very grateful for that. They're back there making sandwiches. We also have some chili coming over from Jenny and there might be other folks from the community bringing in goodies. So they're preparing it now. I kind of let everybody

1 know about noon, so we still have some time to take  
2 care of some business beforehand. But I did want to  
3 recognize those lovely people back there working hard  
4 to make lunch for everybody.

5

6 So thanks, Gina and Maria.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So yeah, we do  
9 appreciate McGrath's Staff here. Gina, Marie. Coming  
10 up with lunch for us.

11

12 I don't eat lunch, but I appreciate  
13 people who do.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I do think we  
18 need to cover some agenda items.

19

20 So we're on the Wildlife Closure  
21 Review, Old Business, number ten.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Actually.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, let's see.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.  
28 I think this is the time, too, that we can welcome  
29 public or Tribal comments or any non-agenda items. We  
30 traditionally do this each morning after the Council  
31 conducts its official business.

32

33 But if anybody from a Tribe or any  
34 member of the public would like to speak to any non-  
35 agenda issues, they're welcome to come up now. If at  
36 the time that agenda issues come up that you're  
37 interested in speaking to, you will also be welcome to  
38 come up and testify. So this will be just one time  
39 before that.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My apology. I  
44 buried that public and tribal comments with a whole  
45 bunch of notes over the top of that and did miss that  
46 one.

47

48 So does anybody want to speak on any  
49 non-agenda item in the room.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Public or tribal  
4 comments on non-agenda items.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody on the phone  
9 have public or tribal comments on non-agenda items.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any.  
14 Kevin was providing you with some additional escapement  
15 date there, Ray. Did you want to clarify for your  
16 member report on those escapements for king salmon?

17

18 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. The Salmon River,  
19 where the put the weir in just a few years ago and then  
20 they had the closure early in -- as I mentioned, in May  
21 -- it started in May and went into June -- about the  
22 15th. In 2015 there were 6,736. 2016, 6,326. And  
23 2017 it jumped to 8,003. And that was a little bit  
24 expansion of adding numbers that went further up the  
25 Big River. Then in 2018 it dropped by 5,317. And this  
26 year it was 4,794.

27

28 So the four year average was 6,595  
29 kings up there, which makes it one of the high ones on  
30 the Kuskokwim. There's higher numbers down below, but  
31 more than the George. And the Koyukuk and the Kwethluk  
32 are both higher -- slightly higher, but it's a  
33 significant contribution the salmon ever makes -- or  
34 the headwaters make to the overall salmon population  
35 there. And it's a real challenge to protect that run  
36 because they get fished all the way up the river. And  
37 so I hope the Council will continue in the future to  
38 keep an eye on that because they're a major  
39 contributor.

40

41 That's all I have.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Was your impression  
44 from local people here that the waters were above 70  
45 degrees or nearing 70 degrees during that progress of  
46 that run or was that just a harvest issue, do you feel?

47

48 MR. COLLINS: I think it was a  
49 combination probably of that. But we did have very low

50

1 water, so the water was warmer.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hmm.

4

5

6

MR. COLLINS: And that may have impacted. I didn't hear any reports of dead salmon floating down river. I don't know.

7

8

9

10

Did you pick up anything on that, Kevin?

11

12

13

MR. WENTWORTH: (Shakes head negatively)

14

15

16

MR. COLLINS: No.

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Just a question off the top of my head.

20

21

MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Uh-huh.

22

23

24

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Jenny -- she had a letter from -- was it from.....

25

26

MS. PELKOLA: That was from the Tribe.

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. From the Tribe. Go ahead, Jenny.

30

31

32

33

34

MS. PELKOLA: Okay. This is addressed to the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. The subject is predator control in Game Unit 21D.

35

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44

Dear Committee Members, February 27th, 2018 Louden Tribal Council held a work session. At this session they created the vision, mission, strategies, and strategic objectives. This is an excerpt from the document. The vision is a happy, healthy community to raise our families and the mission of the Louden Tribal Council in collaboration with the Tribe and its members and other governmental agencies is to promote the self-sufficiency and overall well being of all tribal members.

45

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50

One of our strategies -- a voice at the table at all Subsistence Boards. One of our strategic objectives. Council pays attention to various Board seats when it comes to subsistence protection. Louden

1 Tribal Council approved a letter to be written to this  
2 and all other RACs on predator control.  
3

4 Moose meat has been our main  
5 traditional food for many generations. This  
6 traditional source is how our people have survived in  
7 this land. We want to continue living on this land for  
8 generations to come.  
9

10 We live in a community where food  
11 prices are high. For example, a gallon of milk in our  
12 community can cost up to \$23.90. Our administrative  
13 assistant must work for an hour and a half to buy this  
14 product. If we do not have this traditional food our  
15 people will no longer be able to afford to live in our  
16 villages. People will move into urban communities  
17 where food prices are cheaper, but the quality of life  
18 diminishes.  
19

20 Our traditional people might struggle  
21 making this adjustment. This is out-migration for our  
22 people -- of our people have our villages shrinking.  
23 We can no longer sit and wait for this to happen in our  
24 community. We will fight to keep our community alive,  
25 happy, and healthy.  
26

27 Not only is our traditional foods  
28 critical for the nutritional well being of our people,  
29 but our spiritual, cultural, and social well being as  
30 well. We depend on this food to help us survive in  
31 this ever changing world. Gathering of the traditional  
32 food helps us be happier, healthier, and culturally  
33 richer. These traditions help us in our mental health.  
34 This lifestyle prevents depression, low self-esteem,  
35 and even suicide.  
36

37 One of our elders said it best. This  
38 is not Native or traditional food to us. It is  
39 spiritual food. We are pleading with you to allow us  
40 to institute predator control in our area. We will  
41 work on gathering the scientific data to submit to  
42 prove the fact that moose population is declining while  
43 predator population continues to rise.  
44

45 Right now we are relying on our  
46 traditional knowledge of our people. We have a harder  
47 time hunting moose to feed our families. At this  
48 moment in time failure is not an option when our people  
49 is at stake.  
50



1 Thank you for listening. If you have  
2 any questions, please direct them to our Tribal  
3 Administrator, Suzie Sam. And she gave her email.  
4 Sincerely, Suzie. Well, somebody from the Council  
5 signed it. I can't read it. Louden Tribal Council  
6 Member.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thanks, Jenny.  
9 So basically they are requesting U.S. Fish and  
10 Wildlife to implement predator control or a multi-  
11 agency? They feel that there should be a multi-agency  
12 request for predator control?

13  
14 MS. PELKOLA: I think right now they  
15 are just searching on who to -- where to go to for  
16 this.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

19  
20 MS. PELKOLA: That's what I'm  
21 gathering.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen.

24  
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 I would be happy to respond to that letter as far as  
27 giving direction to the Tribe and the Council for how  
28 predator control issues are brought before this Council  
29 and what can and cannot be done. If you will give me a  
30 few minutes I will go ahead and read the boilerplate  
31 statement that OSM has developed to give guidance.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you very much.  
36 This is Karen Deatherage, Council Coordinator with the  
37 Office of Subsistence Management. And I'm going to  
38 read the information that should be helpful to you as  
39 you continue this discussion.

40  
41 Both the final Environmental Impact  
42 Statement for the Federal Subsistence Program and the  
43 Federal Subsistence Board predator management policy  
44 note that the Board's delegated authority under Title  
45 VIII of ANILCA only permits the Board to administer for  
46 subsistence taking and uses of wildlife on Federal  
47 public lands and that predator control is not a  
48 subsistence use. Thus, the Board is not empowered to  
49 engage in predator control and cannot direct land

50

1 managers to engage in it.

2

3                   Number two, Federal Subsistence  
4 Regional Advisory Councils may submit a request to  
5 Federal Land Managers for agency-sponsored predator  
6 control in their Region.

7

8                   Number three, Federal Subsistence  
9 Regional Advisory Councils may also submit a proposal  
10 to the Alaska Board of Game to modify regulations  
11 related to the intents of Game Management of big game  
12 prey populations.

13

14                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,  
17 Karen.

18

19                   So the Federal Subsistence Board -- and  
20 we're an arm of the Federal Subsistence Board. We  
21 can't make proposals to cause the Federal Subsistence  
22 Board to implement a predator control program, but the  
23 Council -- the policy says that we can request that an  
24 agency, which would be the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, work  
25 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to develop  
26 a predator management program for the Galena area.

27

28                   Would you like to do that?

29

30                   MS. PELKOLA: Yeah.

31

32                   And Karen is going to give me a copy of  
33 that, right?

34

35                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.  
36 Member Pelkola, yes. I will provide you a copy of the  
37 avenues that the Tribe can look to to work with the  
38 Council to put forth any proposal to either a Federal  
39 agency or the Alaska Board of Game and then you can  
40 take it from there.

41

42                   Thank you.

43

44                   MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

45

46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

47

48                   MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Mr. Chair, can you  
49 or Karen summarize again. There's two actions we can

50

1 do. One is request an agency -- that the Fish and  
2 Wildlife Service work with the ADF&G or we can put a  
3 proposal into the Board of Game. Is that the second  
4 remedy.  
5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could request  
7 that the Board of Game implement a predator control  
8 effort on the State-controlled lands, which are Native  
9 corporation lands and State lands and Bureau of Land  
10 Management lands would be eligible for predator  
11 control.  
12

13 It's a very involved process. Like the  
14 Department did a predator control for Unit 24B around  
15 Allakaket. They could only kill wolves on State lands  
16 or Bureau of Land Management lands. They couldn't kill  
17 wolves on the Fish and Wildlife lands. And the Fish  
18 and Wildlife lands -- Canadian National Wildlife Refuge  
19 -- were -- had much lower moose population than around  
20 Galena. I mean -- so the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
21 basically refused to allow predator control on the  
22 Wildlife Refuge lands because it didn't meet their  
23 criteria.  
24

25 There's two avenues that the Council  
26 can do if we wanted to support the Galena request --  
27 would be to go directly to the Board of Game and  
28 request predator management. And it has to be a  
29 delineated area. It has to be a fairly small area  
30 because it costs like a phenomenal amount of money to  
31 kill wolves with helicopters and stuff. So it would  
32 have to be a smaller delineated area where Galena would  
33 like that to happen.  
34

35 It would be best if -- the best way  
36 would be for Galena to actually submit a recommendation  
37 to the Board of Game under special action request and  
38 that the Western Interior endorse that just like we did  
39 when Galena made the proposal to the Board of Fish for  
40 drift net. And they submitted the proposal, then we  
41 endorsed that. That gives it more weight.  
42

43 But we're not -- we can make proposals  
44 to the Board of Game and make recommendations on  
45 proposals to the Board of Game, but we're not actually  
46 an arm of the Board of Game. We're not an Advisory  
47 Committee, so it would be better if the Middle Yukon  
48 and Galena submitted a -- and delineate where you have  
49 lower bull/cow ratios. Where you have a -- you know,  
50

1 like basically around Galena down to the edge of the  
2 Kaiyuh and the area right around there. Make it real  
3 defined and submit that as a special action request to  
4 the Board of Game and then at our spring meeting we can  
5 endorse that.

6  
7 That would be the best avenue to get  
8 this accomplished because if -- like I said earlier,  
9 they could make a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
10 Cana -- or Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko to work with  
11 Department of Fish and Game, but we already -- I'm  
12 pretty much sure that we're not going to get anywhere  
13 with that because it didn't even work at Kanuti where  
14 they have between .2 to .4 moose. When you've got two  
15 to five moose a square mile down there, the Refuge is  
16 going to push back on that.

17  
18 So the only real moving forward with  
19 that would be to get the -- just what they did in  
20 Allakaket. They had a small intensive management area  
21 right around Allakaket. They implemented it for three  
22 years. And Glenn Stout actually implemented that one  
23 and he's the Galena area manager, so he could actually  
24 simulate that in the Galena area.

25  
26 But I don't think that this Council can  
27 get too far with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. I just  
28 don't see where we're going to get moved forward on the  
29 Refuge lands like Kaiyuh Flats and the Koyukuk Refuge  
30 and the Novi. I just don't know that we can go there.

31  
32 What do you say about that, Jenny?

33  
34 MS. PELKOLA: I think that sounds very  
35 good. Uh-huh, yeah.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think.....

38  
39 MS. PELKOLA: And I will bring it back  
40 to the Council.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And if you submit  
43 that as a special action -- I think it's called a  
44 special -- it's not a special -- emergency order  
45 request or a request to the Board of Game to implement  
46 an intensive management agenda change request. The  
47 Board might have to go through an agenda change request  
48 to get that on the table. But if you submit that and  
49 that's submitted to the Board of Game, then at our

50

1 spring meeting then we can endorse that submittal. But  
2 that I would have -- so Middle Yukon is probably going  
3 to have a meeting pretty soon and if Galena works with  
4 Middle Yukon and get that together, then we can endorse  
5 that at our spring meeting.

6

7 So I think that's the best recourse for  
8 that particular issue.

9

10 Ray.

11

12 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Using the example  
13 of the McGrath area here, there may be a price that the  
14 local people will have to pay. Because what we did  
15 here -- when they finally approved it -- first they had  
16 to study to see what was killing the calves and then  
17 after -- at the end of that study they found that bears  
18 were significant predators and during the calving  
19 season. But of course wolves prey on them year-round.  
20 We had to close the hunting for about 20 miles around  
21 McGrath, so hunting -- subsistence or any kind of  
22 hunting was not allowed during that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: And that's what turned it  
27 around in our area.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. COLLINS: But it means that they  
32 need to discuss do they -- do they want that in order  
33 to turn the population around or not when they go to  
34 the State.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Uh-huh.

37

38 So do you understand that aspect,

39 Jenny?

40

41 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A closure? That  
44 would be kind of a hard thing to take.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Yeah. It means  
47 you have to travel more to get it.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Thanks for

50

1 bringing that up, Ray.

2

3

You had a comment, Tim.

4

5

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

Jenny, I wanted to hear if Louden Tribe had an idea of what area they were wanting to institute the intensive management in.

7

8

9

10

MS. PELKOLA: No. They didn't really say. They just gave me the letter on October 6th, the day I was leaving. So I'm sure they really haven't discussed the areas yet.

11

12

13

14

15

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

16

17

MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I had the same thing because, you know, coming out of Galena there, the three different Refuges, I was wondering specifically what area you were talking about.

18

19

20

21

22

23

But I fully support what -- whatever that we could do. I kind of like option A there if we had a choice, but the special action thing. And I think the way is to get the word out whether it's Ruby AC, Middle Yukon, whatever. That we could support those and either do it through the tribal councils or directly to the AC's.

24

25

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31

But I am in support of that. At least we would have a paper trail.

32

33

34

Thank you.

35

36

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. And so I feel that that would be best for it to come from more grassroots -- from the Middle Yukon. The Board of Game would be more -- they're more amenable to receiving proposals from their own Advisory Committees. Advisory Committees are an arm of the Regional Councils, so once that is submitted by that Middle Yukon, endorsed by Galena, then this Council can support that also.

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But it's kind of like putting the cart in front of the horse. And so I think it's the best -- politically the State of Alaska looks at a proposal from its own Advisory Committees with better light than it would from a Federal Regional Council as a

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49

50

1 submitter.

2

3

So can you bring that back to your.....

4

5

MS. PELKOLA: I sure will.

6

7

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And who is the Chair  
of the Middle Yukon now? Do you know?

8

9

10

MS. PELKOLA: Benedict Jones.

11

12

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He was. I don't  
know. Maybe he still is. I'm not sure.

13

14

15

Go ahead, Pollock.

16

17

MR. SIMON: Yeah. Pollock Simon,  
Senior. I live in Allakaket Unit 24B. We had a low  
moose population several years ago and went after the  
State for about ten years before they did intensive  
management. The last few years they -- three years  
they took some wolves out and that seems to help. The  
moose population is slowly coming back, so -- the  
intensive management, any place could work.

25

26

Because we live in the villages,  
there's no super store that we could get meat, so we  
have to have moose -- lots of moose available for our  
table. So I would support an intensive management  
because it could work.

27

28

29

30

31

32

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock. So  
Jenny will get back with the Galena and Middle Yukon on  
submitting that agenda change request or emergency  
order request for an intensive management area.

35

36

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38

39

And looking at the map there's lots of  
State-controlled land along the river from the -- in  
the 21D from the mouth of the Koyukuk River up to Ruby  
-- that area is pretty much under State control  
anyways. And this Federal Advisory Council would not  
have that much say so and I just don't think there's  
going to be -- anything will happen on the Federal  
lands there.

40

41

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48

So okay. We've covered that issue.

49

50

1 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go ahead, Don.  
4  
5 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
6  
7 Do you consider this an action item.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.  
10  
11 MR. HONEA: Should we have a motion.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.  
14  
15 MR. HONEA: Consensus.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We don't have a  
18 proposal before -- it needs to be a proposal submitted  
19 by the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee and possibly in  
20 conjunction with Ruby Advisory Committee to delineate  
21 an intensive management area. And that has to be  
22 submitted to the Board of Game and then the Council can  
23 comment or endorse that at the spring meeting if it was  
24 before the Board by that time.  
25  
26 That's my impression.  
27  
28 MR. HONEA: Okay. I just wanted to  
29 tell Jenny that, you know, whether I -- I think it  
30 would have more clout if -- if they submitted something  
31 in conjunction with Ruby AC, we would certainly take  
32 that up.  
33  
34 Thank you.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. I would  
37 suggest that you have a -- either inter-conference with  
38 Ruby AC because two AC's has more weight than one.  
39  
40 So okay. We've covered that letter.  
41  
42 And so now we have to move into old  
43 business at this point, which is Wildlife Closure  
44 Reviews. And so number one is WCR20-20, Unit 24 Moose,  
45 on page 23 of our meeting book.  
46  
47 Go ahead, Lisa.  
48  
49 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you, Mr.  
50



1 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Lisa Maas  
2 and I am a wildlife biologist in the Office of  
3 Subsistence Management.  
4

5 As you may recall, this Council  
6 considered and made recommendations on several wildlife  
7 closure reviews at its meeting last March. And the  
8 Federal Subsistence Board will make a final decision on  
9 these closures at its April meeting. I am going to  
10 provide a few updates on these reviews although I am  
11 happy to go into more detail if the Council wishes.  
12

13 The first closure review is WCR20-20  
14 concerning moose in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area in  
15 Unit 24B remainder. And again the analysis for WCR20-  
16 20 begins on page 23 of your meeting books.  
17

18 And again the Council provided a  
19 recommendation for this closure which is on page 35.  
20 This Council recommended maintaining the status quo  
21 because subsistence needs are not being met and the  
22 deep snow last winter negatively affected the moose  
23 population. Based on input from this Council, OSM  
24 modified its conclusion to also maintain status quo.  
25 And that's the updates from the last meeting when this  
26 closure review was presented.  
27

28 So that's all the updates, but if you  
29 guys have any questions or, you know, want more  
30 information, reminders on this closure review I can go  
31 into more detail.  
32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment would be  
34 after observing moose this fall and seeing what boots  
35 on the ground, real time actual observation of moose in  
36 the Upper Koyukuk, I have a real bleak outlook on the  
37 age composition. We've lost younger component -- two  
38 years old and younger. We have calf recruitment, but  
39 we have really high wolf numbers because -- we have a  
40 high wolf population currently because of the deep snow  
41 and combination with high hare population recruitment.  
42

43 And it's even more imperative to  
44 maintain this closure at this time because unless they  
45 get a survey that will reflect -- a biological survey.  
46 And they're supposed -- aren't they supposed to do a  
47 GSPE survey this fall for the Upper Koyukuk? As far as  
48 I recall, there's supposed to be a population survey.  
49  
50

1 MS. MAAS: Yeah. My understanding is  
2 they do that every year. The Kanuti Refuge in  
3 combination with the BLM -- the Central Yukon.....  
4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They do trend count  
6 surveys, but they don't do the population surveys and  
7 so the -- those are typically a five-year increment.  
8 And from what I recall, Glenn Stout was talking about  
9 doing a population survey, which is imperative.  
10

11 And so the Kanuti Refuge then should  
12 reflect that it's imperative to get an accurate  
13 population on the moose in the Kanuti National Wildlife  
14 Refuge and in the Upper Koyukuk River.  
15

16 So -- and discussing this WCR20-20,  
17 it's imperative to maintain this closure because I feel  
18 that we've lost certain age classes. Older age classes  
19 and younger age classes in the population and we're  
20 starting -- already starting into a weather trend out  
21 of the southwest. Oh, look out the window. See all  
22 that rain. That's snow in the Upper Koyukuk. It's  
23 snowing like crazy in Bettles right this minute. I  
24 looked at a webcam this morning. So we're looking down  
25 the barrel at another bad winter is what we're actually  
26 looking at, so we need to maintain this closure.  
27

28 And the record will reflect that for  
29 the Federal Subsistence Board process.  
30

31 Any other comments on that  
32 recommendation.  
33

34 (No comments)  
35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council Members.  
37

38 (No comments)  
39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.  
41

42 So WCR20-39, on page 36.  
43

44 MS. MAAS: All right. So again the  
45 next closure review is WCR20-39, concerning moose in  
46 the eastern portion of Unit 19A. And again this  
47 analysis begins on page 36 of your meeting books and  
48 the Council recommendations are on page 48.  
49  
50

1                   This Council recommended eliminating  
2 the closure to mirror the recently adopted State  
3 regulations, stating that the moose population can  
4 support a limited bull harvest due to high bull/cow  
5 ratios and that only issuing permits in the local  
6 communities gives local people the first opportunity at  
7 obtaining permits.

8  
9                   The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council  
10 deferred to this Council, although intends to consider  
11 this closure again at its upcoming meeting.

12  
13                   OSM modified its recommendation to  
14 align with this Council's recommendation. The only  
15 difference being that OSM recommended a State  
16 registration permit rather than a joint Federal State  
17 permit to simplify regulations.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the State is  
20 amiable to using the State registration permit for  
21 Federal take?

22  
23                   MS. MAAS: I mean that's always I guess  
24 a consideration that typically at the Federal Board  
25 meeting the State representatives say yes, this is  
26 fine. But generally speaking they appreciate just  
27 having one harvest reporting system.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

30  
31                   MS. MAAS: Because it's just easier for  
32 users to report with one system and just get word about  
33 one permit versus two. And if we eliminate this  
34 closure there's no difference really between the  
35 Federally and non-Federally users, so.....

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

38  
39                   MS. MAAS: .....the Federal users use  
40 that State permit. There's not a difference really  
41 between State and Federal regs.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would agree with  
44 OSM to maintain one permitting or one accounting  
45 system. Where I live we have Federal registration  
46 hunts for moose and Dall sheep. And we used to have  
47 redundancies of reporting of State and Federal  
48 reporting and they got really convoluted and some of  
49 the data would get lost. So it's better to have one  
50

1 type of reporting system for one -- for a specific area  
2 for each species.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 Any other comments about this closure  
7 from the Council.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. I think that  
12 we're staying with our -- and appreciate OSM's alliance  
13 with us on this proposal.

14

15 And so WCR20-43, 19A moose remainder,  
16 page 49.

17

18 MS. MAAS: All right. Thanks, Mr.  
19 Chair. So again the next closure review is WCR20-43,  
20 concerning moose in Unit 19A remainder. And again this  
21 begins on page 49 of your meeting books and the Council  
22 recommendations are on page 62.

23

24 This Council recommended maintaining  
25 the closure in Western Unit 19A and eliminating the  
26 closure in the Lime Village Management Area, but did  
27 not specify seasons or harvest limits. The Yukon-  
28 Kuskokwim Delta Council deferred to this Council,  
29 although intends to consider this closure again at its  
30 upcoming meeting.

31

32 OSM modified its recommendation to  
33 include seasons, harvest limits, and permit  
34 requirements in the Lime Village Management Area that  
35 mirror current State regulations.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm still in  
38 agreement with our past recommendation on this WCR20-  
39 43. Those -- the River corridors and remainder of 19A  
40 had heavy suppression of the bull/cow ratio caught  
41 augmenting the decline of the moose population and the  
42 bull/cow ratios have yet to recover to what I consider  
43 is an adequate level for breeding, population in  
44 conjunction with primarily subsistence use. So I feel  
45 that it's still needed to have a closure in that 19A  
46 remainder.

47

48 Any other comments from the Council.

49

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. Let's  
4 see here. So I think that covered those closure  
5 reviews. And so this -- if the populations were to  
6 expand to the point where there was a harvestable  
7 surplus for other uses, then this Council would  
8 consider eliminating the closures as we did in one  
9 area.

10

11 So thanks so much, Lisa.

12

13 So Karen, did you have a comment? You  
14 were fidgeting there. Do you have something? No.  
15 You're good?

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm next.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. You're next.  
20 Okay.

21

22 Council -- oh, 805(c) report,  
23 informational update.

24

25 So okay.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 This is Karen Deatherage, with the Office of  
29 Subsistence Management.

30

31 On page 67 of your meeting books you  
32 will find a copy of a letter that was sent to the  
33 Council and to the Chair reflecting the Federal  
34 Subsistence Board's actions on proposals that this  
35 Council made recommendations for. The purpose of the  
36 AF5C letter is to inform the Council of how the Board  
37 acted in accordance with ANILCA and especially in  
38 deference to the Council's recommendations.

39

40 So if you would like, I could briefly  
41 read those proposals that were passed by the Board in  
42 accordance with the Council's recommendation and then  
43 the one proposal that was opposed by the Board which  
44 wasn't in accordance with the Council's  
45 recommendations, but as Member Gervais reported  
46 earlier, there was a -- the justification given was  
47 believed to satisfy the Council's concerns about king  
48 salmon -- what you call that -- non-target catch with  
49 respect to sheefish.

50

1                   So the Board accepted the Council's  
2 recommendation and approved FP19-07 to add dip net as a  
3 gear type for subsistence harvest of salmon on the  
4 Yukon River.  
5

6                   The Board rejected Proposals 19-02 and  
7 03/04 to modify the closures to subsistence salmon  
8 fishing before, during, and after commercial openings  
9 in the Yukon River. If you recall, the Council  
10 rejected that because they were satisfied with the  
11 current closures and how that was being handled by the  
12 in-season managers.  
13

14                   The Board rejected the proposal to  
15 protect the first pulse of chinook salmon in Federal  
16 waters of the Yukon River and Proposal 19-08 to specify  
17 restrictions to the use of six inch or less mesh size  
18 gillnets in the Kuskokwim River drainage from June 1st  
19 to June 25th.  
20

21                   The remaining four proposals that  
22 affected the Western Interior Region that were on the  
23 non-consensus agenda, which means that there wasn't  
24 agreement with all the Councils -- the Board adopted  
25 Proposal 19-01 to allow the use of gillnets and rescind  
26 the net depth restrictions in Yukon River sub-districts  
27 4B and C. They adopted Proposal FP19-10 with a  
28 clarified version of the OSM conclusion reading all  
29 tributaries not expressly closed by the order of the  
30 Federal in-season manager or Federal Subsistence Board  
31 remain open to the use of gillnets more than 100 yards  
32 upstream from their confluence with the Kuskokwim  
33 River.  
34

35                   The Board rejected Proposal FP17-05,  
36 which was an older proposal that was tabled and brought  
37 back to place Federal Subsistence management plans,  
38 strategies, fishing schedules, openings, closings, and  
39 fishing methods under the independent authority of the  
40 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
41

42                   If you recall, the Council had  
43 reflected on the record that they were satisfied with  
44 the current in-season management between the Federal  
45 government and the State government for opening and  
46 closing and gear restrictions in accordance with what  
47 was showing up in pulses on the rivers.  
48

49                   The Board adopted FP19-09 to allow the  
50

1 use of six inch or less mesh size gillnets prior to  
2 June 1st in the Kuskokwim River drainage to provide for  
3 sheefish harvest opportunity. And again as Tim  
4 reported -- or Member Gervais reported, the Council had  
5 concerns about catching king salmon during this time  
6 period and the in-season managers have the opportunity  
7 and authority to stop any type of harvest of sheefish  
8 if it's impacting the chinook salmon.  
9

10 So that's the 805(c) report to the  
11 Council and thank you for your time.  
12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Council Members  
14 discussion on the Board actions in April that Tim also  
15 reported on.  
16

17 (No comments)  
18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: See none.  
20

21 Go ahead, Karen.  
22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 I do have one more comment.  
25

26 If the Council recalls, they put in a  
27 proposal to define the high water mark. I believe  
28 Member Kriska had some concerns over that and some  
29 enforcement issues. And the Board did write to the  
30 Chair and informed this Council that that proposal was  
31 rejected because it's not within the jurisdiction of  
32 the Federal Subsistence Board to make those  
33 definitions. It's up to the land managers in that area  
34 to define the high water marks for the rivers.  
35

36 Thank you.  
37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Go ahead, Lisa.  
39

40 MS. MAAS: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I also  
41 just wanted to note that the ordinary high water mark,  
42 which is basically the same as the high water mark,  
43 actually is defined in Federal regulations under  
44 navigable waters. So I can -- I have a copy of that I  
45 can give to you or read it on the record.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you could read it  
48 on the record it would be great.  
49  
50

1 MS. MAAS: Sure. So as defined under  
2 33CFR329.11A1, the ordinary high water mark on a non-  
3 title river is the line on the shore established by the  
4 fluctuations of water and indicated by physical  
5 characteristics such as a clear natural line impression  
6 on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of  
7 soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the  
8 presence of litter and debris or other appropriate  
9 means that consider the characteristics of the  
10 surrounding areas.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it's saying the  
13 debris line at the high water mark would be indicating  
14 the ordinary high water mark.

15  
16 MS. MAAS: Correct. I mean again when  
17 it's snowy it's kind of hard.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

20  
21 MS. MAAS: But this is the definition  
22 that's under -- that's in the CFR.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

25  
26 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

29  
30 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 Lisa, so what does that mean? Like when there's a  
32 flood in the spring and the drift logs go way back into  
33 the forest or a meadow, how does -- is that a -- does  
34 that definition have provision for flooding events?

35  
36 MS. MAAS: Yeah. Thanks for that  
37 question, but I mean I'm not a law enforcement officer  
38 or anything. I just found this definition in the CFR  
39 and, you know, your interpretation of it is as good as  
40 mine. I would assume that -- I mean this is considered  
41 mean, so a flood event is not ordinary.

42  
43 MR. GERVAIS: Oh. It is mean.

44  
45 MS. MAAS: Yeah.

46  
47 MR. GERVAIS: The mean events.

48  
49 MS. MAAS: I mean so they call it

50



1 ordinary high water mark, but ordinary and mean are  
2 pretty much the same thing.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But the convoluted  
5 thing comes about with the State of Alaska because they  
6 don't have a real clear definition. I have not seen a  
7 clear definition out of the State and I -- I do feel  
8 that the agencies in the State of Alaska should develop  
9 a standardized definition so that people know where  
10 that high water mark is. It behooves the agencies to  
11 come up with that definition.

12  
13 This is the Federal ordinary high water  
14 mark, but what does the State use. You know, they want  
15 more land, so they wildly are saying anything. If  
16 there's a drift log 50 miles back from the bank behind  
17 Galena from the 2011 flood, well that's the high water  
18 mark.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's like no. So  
23 everybody has got to come together and come up with a  
24 reasonable definition of a high water mark. And that's  
25 been an issue with subsistence users knowing where that  
26 high water mark is when they're harvesting.

27  
28 So I'm not sure where to progress with  
29 that issue, but I do think that this Council should  
30 have some input on protection subsistence users from  
31 overzealous enforcement that's interpreting the mean  
32 high water mark disparately with other agencies.

33  
34 Go ahead, Tim.

35  
36 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, could we add  
37 that issue into our annual report that the Fish and  
38 Wildlife Service should coordinate with the DNR or  
39 ADF&G or both to come up with an identical definition?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think it's a good  
42 annual report topic, but the response was that the  
43 Federal Board can't do that. But the Federal Board  
44 can. It's made up by the agency heads of the Federal  
45 managing agencies and they need to collaborate with the  
46 State of Alaska to develop a mean high water -- an  
47 ordinary mean high water mark.

48  
49 They have these InterAgency Staff

50

1 Committee meetings. Let's throw that out on the table.  
2 Let's talk about this at the InterAgency Staff level to  
3 come up with something that's -- so the enforcement  
4 officers sitting in the back of the room there -- I  
5 don't care what agency badge you have on, you know what  
6 we're talking about on mean high water mark. We don't  
7 want to be like guessing by going which one's which.  
8 We need to have a standardized definition.  
9

10 So yes, I do think it's a good idea to  
11 put that on the annual report topic.  
12

13 Pollock.  
14

15 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
16 kind of confused about the saying where is the high  
17 water mark. I thought it would be right under the  
18 bank, but this (indiscernible) the water was running  
19 over the bank for a couple of weeks, so personally I  
20 didn't know where the high water mark is.  
21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, according to  
25 what Lisa read here -- this paragraph -- it's showing,  
26 you know, basically the high water mark is the  
27 characteristic of the soil, the destruction of terrest  
28 -- presence of litter and debris. Basically, when you  
29 start to see logs and drift and stuff sitting at the --  
30 up in the brush in the fall. And it's -- and this  
31 fluctuates. It should be during the season that you're  
32 actually hunting. That's -- which has variations.  
33 Where the ordinary debris is at -- that should be the  
34 definition for that particular year. That's the high  
35 water mark. You can't -- you know, there's variations  
36 in the levels.  
37

38 So we -- and the agencies need to work  
39 with the State of Alaska. And this has been going on  
40 for 30 years, we've been talking about this mean high  
41 water mark. This is not the first time this has come  
42 up. It has to do with all -- throughout all kinds of  
43 regulatory processes and so it's something that the  
44 State and Federal government need to work together so  
45 that the -- we have a standardized Board of Game --  
46 Board of -- and Federal Subsistence Board have the same  
47 definition of mean high water mark. I don't think that  
48 that's an unreasonable request.  
49

50

1 Don.

2  
3 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
4 kind of confused here also. I don't know the intent of  
5 Council Member Tom Kriska's -- the reason behind this.  
6 I mean when we're talking about the high water mark it  
7 seems as if we're discussing the hunting and stuff.  
8 Well, you know, whether it's Federal or State or  
9 something. And this has nothing to do with fishing,  
10 right? I mean what exactly is his intent here. Is  
11 there a letter or what.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When we had our  
14 meeting in Fairbanks last spring, he said that a person  
15 was cited for killing a moose that was on the bar  
16 across the river from Nulato. So they were -- the  
17 enforcement was that they killed the moose outside of a  
18 hunt area.

19  
20 MR. HONEA: Uh-huh.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yet when they dug  
23 down through the snow there were little willows growing  
24 there on the bar. And they felt that that moose was  
25 above the mean high water mark because there was  
26 literally willows growing on the bar. So that's what  
27 augmented this whole discussion about where is the mean  
28 high water mark.

29  
30 You know, the Kaiyuh is open to hunting  
31 and the rest of the -- across the river was not. The  
32 Nulato side was not. So the enforcement was saying  
33 that he was still on the Nulato side of the line. We  
34 need to know where that line is. It has to do with  
35 hunting primarily. Not for fishing so much.

36  
37 So yes, let's put that as an annual  
38 report topic. We're not satisfied with the Federal  
39 Subsistence Board's response to shuffle it off to us.  
40 The agency heads should be developing -- because the  
41 Federal Subsistence Board has definitions in the  
42 Federal regulations and they have to develop a  
43 definition for those regulatory.

44  
45 Is there a discussion of mean high  
46 water mark.

47  
48 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. Not in  
49 the Federal regulations. Like originally when you guys

50

1 were discussing this proposal I thought the Federal  
2 Board might be able to define it and the include it in  
3 the list of definitions.  
4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Right.  
6

7 MS. MAAS: Yeah. In the regulation  
8 booklet. But I guess this is not under their  
9 jurisdiction. But I'm not sure if they.....  
10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got.....  
12

13 MS. MAAS: .....sure if they -- you  
14 know, they could still potentially include a definition  
15 in the reg book.  
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, in the  
18 annual report topic we will get into further detail  
19 about how this affects subsistence users because that  
20 -- that's not just some arbitrary thing. That has to  
21 do with people getting a ticket and getting their moose  
22 taken away from them when they thought that they were  
23 above the high water mark. And so it's a problem.  
24 It's not a little problem. It's a big problem for some  
25 people.  
26

27 And so well, it's just one person.  
28 Well, if you're that person it's a big deal. If you  
29 lost your moose, if you lost your entire summer's meat  
30 supply because some enforcement officer says those  
31 little willows aren't far enough away from the water,  
32 that's a big deal.  
33

34 And the agencies need to understand  
35 that this is not a little deal. It's a big deal for  
36 certain people with certain specific kinds of hunts.  
37

38 So the Federal Subsistence Board needs  
39 to know that this is an issue and they need to develop  
40 a definition so that the subsistence users and the  
41 State and Federal subsistence users know where that  
42 mark is. And so they need to work with an InterAgency  
43 Staff Committee to develop that mean high water mark so  
44 that we're all on the same sheet of music. So we're  
45 not taking -- we're going to -- that's in the annual  
46 report and we're going to talk -- we'll make further  
47 details into that when we submit that.  
48

49 Thanks, Tim.  
50

1                   And let's see here. We're almost 12:00  
2 o'clock, so what do you want to do now.

3

4                   Karen.

5

6                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Forgive me, Mr. Chair.  
7 This is Karen Deatherage. Did the Council approve the  
8 meeting minutes from the last meeting?

9

10                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Um, did we -- so  
11 I'm.....

12

13                  REPORTER: No, they didn't.

14

15                  MR. GERVAIS: We didn't.

16

17                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. If you wouldn't  
18 mind, it would be really good.

19

20                  And the reason why I ask that, too, is  
21 on page 15, Member Honea, the -- Tommy Kriska's  
22 testimony on the high water mark issue is on page 15 of  
23 the minutes. But the Council does need to approve the  
24 meeting minutes from the last meeting.

25

26                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

27

28                  MR. HONEA: I make a motion to such.

29

30                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, let's stop for  
31 one second and let's take one minute to look at the --  
32 it's on page five of the meeting book.

33

34                  Does anybody have any additions or  
35 subtractions from the minutes.

36

37                  I reviewed the minutes and under the  
38 Chair Report, the Porcupine Herd came in -- on page  
39 eight, the Porcupine caribou herd came into the Upper  
40 Koyukuk for the first time in 50 to 60 years. They  
41 were pushed out not by snowmachines, but by road  
42 traffic. The lead cows turned around and left because  
43 what they see with headlights on vehicles on the road  
44 is in their mind a snowmobile that's going to chase  
45 them down. They get hunted in the Old Crow Flats by  
46 Sno-Gos. They get hunted in the Arctic Village by Sno-  
47 Gos. They see headlights. They don't know it's a  
48 truck. They think it's Sno-Gos. And that herd  
49 deflected away from the Dalton Highway in mid-October

50

1 of 2018 because the headlight law. All vehicles  
2 driving on the Dalton Highway have to have their  
3 headlights on and there's a deflection factor.  
4

5 I wanted to clarify that for the  
6 record. That that's what I'm talking about. Not  
7 snowmobiles themselves, but the traffic has a  
8 deflecting -- and so they want to build a road all the  
9 way to Ambler. I'm talking about them foresightedly  
10 looking at how these roads deflect caribou migrations.  
11 The Porcupine Herd is trying to re-colonize the Central  
12 Brooks Range that they haven't been in for 50 years --  
13 60 years. They want to come back, but the road is  
14 deflecting them back to the east again.  
15

16 And so I wanted to clarify that in our  
17 minutes. Just one little word change there. To  
18 scratch out snowmachines and put in road traffic.  
19

20 And so any other comments on our  
21 minutes.  
22

23 (No comments)  
24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Don made a motion  
26 to adopt the minutes with my correction.  
27

28 Any other corrections.  
29

30 MS. PELKOLA: Second.  
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And who was  
33 seconded?  
34

35 REPORTER: Jenny did.  
36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, yeah.  
38

39 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second.  
40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we've got Jenny.  
42 So Don's motion to adopt. Jenny seconded.  
43

44 Any further discussion.  
45

46 (No comments)  
47

48 MS. PELKOLA: Question.  
49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is  
2 called on the minutes of our spring meeting in  
3 Fairbanks. Those in favor of adopting the minutes as  
4 modified signify by saying aye.  
5  
6 IN UNISON: Aye.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.  
9  
10 (No opposing votes)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think it's  
13 lunch time now. And so we're right at 12:00 o'clock.  
14 Right on time. So break for one hour. One hour is  
15 appropriate.  
16  
17 Karen.  
18  
19 Till 1:00 o'clock.  
20  
21 So those on the phone, we'll be  
22 breaking till 1:00 o'clock and we'll come back online.  
23  
24 (Off record)  
25  
26 (On record)  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
29 bring the meeting back to order.  
30  
31 Tim.  
32  
33 And Pollock is in the back of the room.  
34 So everybody is here.  
35  
36 So we're going to go back to our  
37 agenda. So we covered the wildlife closures, the 805.  
38  
39 We're on New Business.  
40  
41 And so we're on Wildlife Proposals.  
42 Regional Proposal WP20-36/37, revise hunts to be  
43 announced, seasons, permits, requirements for moose in  
44 21D.  
45  
46 Lisa, go right ahead. Glad you're  
47 well.  
48  
49 (Pause)  
50

1 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you, Mr.  
2 Chair. Members of the Council. Again for the record,  
3 my name is Lisa Maas and I will be presenting a summary  
4 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP20-36/37, which  
5 begins on page 72 of your meeting books.  
6

7 Wildlife Proposal WP20-36 was submitted  
8 by the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge  
9 and requests establishing a 15-day March moose season  
10 in a portion of Unit 21D, resulting in the creation of  
11 a new hunt area and eliminating the March to-be-  
12 announced moose season in Unit 21D remainder, requiring  
13 a State registration permit in the Koyukuk Controlled  
14 Use Area or a Koyukuk CUA and eliminating the March and  
15 April to-be-announced moose seasons in the Koyukuk CUA.  
16

17 Wildlife Proposal WP20-37 was submitted  
18 by the Western Interior Council and requests  
19 establishing a 15-day to-be-announced moose season  
20 between December 1st and 31st and a 15-day may-be-  
21 announced season between March 1st and 31st in a  
22 portion of Unit 21D, resulting in the creation of a new  
23 hunt area. The March season would be announced if the  
24 harvest quota is not met during the December hunt.  
25

26 The Refuge's overall intent is to align  
27 State and Federal regulations in Unit 21D due to the  
28 complexity of land ownership in the sub-unit, which  
29 makes it very difficult for users to know if they are  
30 on Federal or non-Federal lands. The Western Interior  
31 Council proposes establishing a December season n a  
32 portion of Unit 21D as harvesting a moose then would  
33 provide valuable meat over the winter. If quotas are  
34 not met in December the Council proposes opening  
35 another season in March.  
36

37 Federal moose seasons in Unit 21D have  
38 changed numerous times since 1990 in response to moose  
39 abundance and the changes in State regulations. Given  
40 the checkerboard pattern of land ownership in this sub-  
41 unit, aligning with State regulations was usually the  
42 impetus for modifying Federal regulations. In 2019 the  
43 Alaska Board of Game established a 15-day winter moose  
44 season in Unit 21D -- that portion south of the south  
45 bank of the Yukon River, downstream of the up-river  
46 entrance of Kala Slough and west of Kala Creek. This  
47 hunt area is depicted in Map 1 on page 74 of your  
48 meeting books. And I will hereafter refer to this hunt  
49 area as Unit 21D Southwest.  
50



1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What page was that  
2 again?

3  
4 MS. MAAS: Page 74.  
5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
7

8 MS. MAAS: Is the map of the hunt  
9 areas.  
10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.  
12

13 MS. MAAS: The Western Interior Council  
14 submitted Proposal 59 to the State, which is identical  
15 to Proposal WP20-37 and the Alaska Board of Game will  
16 consider Proposal 59 in March 2020.  
17

18 Moose in Unit 21D are surveyed in three  
19 distinct areas as shown in Map 1 -- again on page 75.  
20 The Middle Koyukuk survey area is located within the  
21 Koyukuk CUA hunt area. Surveys indicate the moose  
22 population in this area is stable or declining and low  
23 bull/cow ratios do not support increased harvest  
24 opportunity. The Lower Koyukuk Yukon survey area  
25 straddles all three hunt areas. While high calf/cow  
26 ratios indicate this population is growing, very low  
27 bull/cow ratios recommend conservative bull harvest.  
28 Indeed, 2017 bull/cow ratios in a portion of this  
29 survey area was only 10 bulls per 100 cows.  
30

31 The Kaiyuh [sic] Slough survey area is  
32 located within the State's new hunt area of Unit 21D  
33 Southwest. High bull/cow and calf/cow ratios in recent  
34 years, coupled with substantial increases in density,  
35 support additional harvest in this area. Indeed, this  
36 recent and substantial increase in population is what  
37 prompted the State to establish the March to-be-  
38 announced season in 2019 to slow, but not stop  
39 population growth.  
40

41 ADF&G announces a quota for this hunt  
42 each year, which is .9 percent of the estimated number  
43 of cows. Between 1990 and 2018 reported moose harvest  
44 in Unit 21D averaged 300 moose per year. Although  
45 ADF&G estimates unreported harvest as an additional 125  
46 moose per year. Federally-qualified subsistence users  
47 account for about half of the reported moose harvest in  
48 Unit 21D on average.  
49

50

1                   One alternative considered was  
2 establishing a cow only December hunt. This would  
3 accommodate the Council's desire for harvest  
4 opportunity in December, as well as addressing  
5 conservation concerns associated with harvesting  
6 additional bulls in December. This may result in user  
7 confusion over land ownership due to misalignment with  
8 State regulations. The Council may want to further  
9 consider this option.

10  
11                   Adopting Proposal WP20-36 would align  
12 Federal and State regulations, eliminating Federal only  
13 seasons where moose populations do not support  
14 additional harvest and establishing a March to-be-  
15 announced season in Unit 21D Southwest where moose  
16 populations are growing. The intent of the March  
17 season is to provide additional harvest opportunity and  
18 to slow, but not stop, the growth of the Kaiyuh Flats  
19 moose population.

20  
21                   Adopting Proposal WP20-37 establishes a  
22 15-day season in December in Unit 21D Southwest.  
23 However, conservation concerns exist for a December  
24 hunt due to very low bull/cow ratios in portions of the  
25 hunt area. As bulls still have antlers in December,  
26 people may target bulls when the intent on the winter  
27 season is to harvest cows as the moose population is  
28 growing, but cannot support additional bull harvest.

29  
30                   Adoption of Proposal 20-37 would also  
31 mis-align State and Federal regulations and once the  
32 Board of Game adopts Proposal 59. The Refuge is  
33 strongly opposed to mis-alignment of State and Federal  
34 regulations in Unit 21D due to the complex checkerboard  
35 of Federal and non-Federal lands which causes user  
36 confusion and law enforcement concerns. The Council  
37 also hoped to obtain input from the Middle Yukon AC to  
38 inform its decision on WP20-37.

39  
40                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
41 support WP20-36 with modification to clarify regulatory  
42 language and to delegate authority to the  
43 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko Refuge manager to announce  
44 season dates, harvest quotas, and sex restrictions via  
45 delegation of authority letter only and to take no  
46 action on WP20-37.

47  
48                   And the delegation of authority letter  
49 can be found in Appendix 1 on page 95.

50

1                   So thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of  
2 the Council.

3  
4                   I would be happy to answer any  
5 questions.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council Members  
8 questions.

9  
10                  MR. HONEA: Yes.

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

13  
14                  MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Lisa,  
15 I'm kind of a little confused about this. On the  
16 particular map here we have an open by ADF&G -- I don't  
17 know the exact dates and stuff, but the winter hunt.  
18 So this is in addition to that particular hunt.

19  
20                  MS. MAAS: Yeah. So Proposal 20-36,  
21 which was submitted by the Refuge, proposes to  
22 establish that March season in Unit 21D Southwest, the  
23 Kala Creek hunt area. And that would align State and  
24 Federal regulations. So then there would be a March  
25 moose season under both State and Federal regulations  
26 whereas right now it's only under State regulations.

27  
28                  WP20-37, which was submitted by this  
29 Council requests establishing a December moose season  
30 in Unit 21D Southwest. And that was initiated I think  
31 mostly by Tommy Kriska because a December hunt would  
32 provide meat over the winter whereas a March moose  
33 season obviously -- you know, the winter is mostly over  
34 by then. But that would mis-align State and Federal  
35 regulations. So then there would potentially be a  
36 December hunt in Federal regulations and currently  
37 there is not a December hunt under State regulations,  
38 but the State Board of Game will consider Proposal 59  
39 at their meeting this winter. And Proposal 59 was  
40 submitted by this Council and is exactly the same as  
41 WP20-37.

42  
43                  MR. HONEA: Okay. So is this a bull  
44 hunt in justification for it? I mean is there  
45 justification? Is there just like an overabundance of  
46 it? I mean if you look at the Kaiyuh over here they  
47 authorized it from Mr. Stout, the area biologist,  
48 because he mentioned there was a -- you know, an over-  
49 population of cow moose over there. So I'm just trying

50

1 to -- you know, what is the justification for this  
2 other one and is it an antler -- is it a bull hunt?  
3

4 MS. MAAS: When you say this other one,  
5 you're talking about the proposed seasons?  
6

7 MR. HONEA: The one in front of us.  
8

9 MS. MAAS: Yeah. So again for 20-36  
10 that's just aligning State and Federal regulations and  
11 -- yeah. Like you said the State established that  
12 season in the Kaiyuh Flats area because the moose  
13 population is growing. So their intent is to slow the  
14 growth of the herd and provide additional harvest  
15 opportunity.  
16

17 But for 20-37 that proposes a December  
18 moose season under Federal regulations.  
19

20 MR. HONEA: Okay. I appreciate that.  
21 Mr. Chair, I guess what I'm trying to -- you know,  
22 Louden's proposal here for maybe proposed regulation  
23 for predator control and stuff brings this all into  
24 play. That's why I wanted to know exactly where on the  
25 map we were talking about. Whether it was the Nowitna  
26 or the Koyukuk or Kaiyuh or -- you know, we would have  
27 to take all those into consideration.  
28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question is do  
30 you have a map of what the Koyukuk Refuge Proposal 36  
31 actually is delineating or are we just -- we don't have  
32 a map that actually shows that?  
33

34 MS. MAAS: The map for 20-36 is the  
35 same as Map 1 on page 74. So the Map 1 is depicting  
36 the State hunt areas and if 20-36 is adopted they would  
37 also be the Federal hunt areas.  
38

39 The only difference right now is Unit  
40 21D Southwest, the one, you know, between Koyukuk,  
41 Nulato, Kaltag -- that hunt area right now is part of  
42 Unit 21D remainder under Federal regulations.  
43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I'm still not  
45 clear on -- I'm looking at the map and I see a hatched  
46 -- large hatched area, including the part of the  
47 Koyukuk Refuge. I still -- I'm not seeing the exact  
48 boundary of the State hunt for the Kaiyuh Slough. Is  
49 that the green area?  
50

1 MS. MAAS: Oh, yeah. So the hunt area  
2 -- the Kaiyuh Slough hunt area, which I termed 21D  
3 Southwest is the vertical lines.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. The vertical  
6 lines.  
7  
8 MS. MAAS: Uh-huh. Yeah.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.  
11  
12 MS. MAAS: The colored areas are the  
13 terrain count areas.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
16  
17 MS. MAAS: So that's where the surveys  
18 are conducted.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's what I'm  
21 trying to get clarified here. 21D remainder shows  
22 cross hatch. 21D Southwest is the vertical lines. So  
23 the vertical lines on this map are the State hunt area?  
24  
25 MS. MAAS: (Nods affirmatively)  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And that is  
28 right up to the main Yukon drainage? Right up  
29 across.....  
30  
31 MS. MAAS: Correct. So it's.....  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right up to Galena  
34 or just above Galena?  
35  
36 MS. MAAS: It's south of the Yukon  
37 River.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: South of the Yukon  
40 River to above Galena. The first bend above Campion.  
41 So the Refuge is proposing to align what the whole  
42 State spring hunt to be announced for 15 days in March  
43 at some point.  
44  
45 The Upper -- the Koyukuk Refuge -- the  
46 area within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area has a  
47 season to-be-announced also that's -- but our bull/cow  
48 ratios have been low currently and our cow/moose  
49 population was stabilized and not growing. So we have  
50

1 not held that, but that's been in conference with the  
2 Refuge. And they're trying to eliminate that with this  
3 proposal which -- I don't feel that they should have  
4 coupled the two. That's mixing apples and oranges.  
5

6 They should not have coupled aligning  
7 the State season and the hunt area -- the vertical line  
8 area with the Koyukuk Refuge. It's just a completely  
9 different survey area, different moose population  
10 status. And so I don't like that part of this Proposal  
11 36.  
12

13 37 -- our proposal adds the five days  
14 or the season to-be-announced for December in Proposal  
15 37. And Tommy was -- a 15-day season to-be-announced  
16 between December 1 and December 31 -- a 15-day to-be-  
17 announced season with a backup of March. That's what  
18 Tommy wanted us to do. It made sense to this Council  
19 at that time. And I still feel that the Board of Game  
20 is also going to review that proposal and will meet  
21 before the Federal Subsistence Board.  
22

23 So we can do two things.  
24

25 We can modify Proposal WP20-36 to adopt  
26 the portion of the State land hunt area, which is in  
27 the vertical lines on Map 1, and eliminate the Koyukuk  
28 Refuge's proposal to eliminate the winter hunt option  
29 for March in 21D Koyukuk Controlled Use Area because  
30 they are -- basically are trying to kill that hunt with  
31 mixing the State hunt together with a completely  
32 different Federal hunt.  
33

34 There's also a Federal hunt in Unit 21B  
35 for the Novi. Also, a winter hunt is also  
36 contemplated. That's not in this analysis. So the  
37 reality is they just want to kill that -- the Koyukuk  
38 Controlled Use Area hunt because it's a political hot  
39 potato and they don't want to go there. So we're not  
40 going to listen to that one. I don't feel that they  
41 should have mixed that orange into this batch of  
42 apples.  
43

44 And so does the Council understand what  
45 I'm discussing here. The Koyukuk Refuge wants to -- is  
46 basically proposing an alignment with the State of  
47 Alaska for the vertical lines on Map 1, page 74. Is  
48 that clear. That's Proposal 36.  
49  
50

1 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. I just  
2 wanted to clarify that the Refuge is proposing through  
3 WP20-36 to align all of Unit 21D moose regulations with  
4 the State.  
5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. And I  
7 disagree with that -- that part of it.  
8

9 I agree with making a proposal to align  
10 in the State hunt area -- the Kaiyuh Flats hunt area.  
11 We all refer to it as the Kaiyuh Flats hunt area.  
12 South of the Yukon River. And I will agree with that  
13 portion of Proposal 36, but I don't agree with  
14 eliminating the other Federal hunts in 21D. The other  
15 Federal hunt being the one up there in the Koyukuk  
16 Controlled Use Area. So I don't agree with that part.  
17

18 So does the Council have any discussion  
19 on these two proposals -- our proposal -- Federal  
20 Proposal WP37, which would at least bring to the table  
21 a 15-day December hunt which is also one of our Board  
22 of Game proposals. 58.  
23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: 59.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 59.  
27

28 So do you have a comment, Karen.  
29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 I might suggest that we follow the protocol on the back  
32 of the card here to hear from the agency folks. This  
33 is certainly a time to ask questions of the analysts,  
34 but as far as any way of figuring out how the Council  
35 is going to support or reject these proposals, you can  
36 have that under the recommendation discussion. But to  
37 go ahead and get some other input which might be  
38 helpful to how the Council proceeds on these proposals.  
39

40 Thank you.  
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the effects of  
43 -- the effects of the proposal and how they're to  
44 divide the proposal needs to be on the table to start  
45 our thought process. Now we can work into the other  
46 comments, but Koyukuk Refuge has muddied the waters  
47 with this Proposal 36 on how they made the proposal.  
48

49 Go ahead, Tim.  
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I'm questioning  
2 why we're discussing it as one proposal when it's two  
3 different proposals.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: OSM's response.

6  
7 MS. MAAS: Sure. So these proposals  
8 concern the same area. Like there's overlap in the  
9 Koyukuk Flats hunt area, so if you support one proposal  
10 and then make a different decision on the next proposal  
11 there's, you know, conflict on what the actual -- you  
12 know, there can only be one regulation in the Kaiyuh  
13 Flats area.

14  
15 So since they're concerning the same  
16 regulations we combined proposals.

17  
18 MR. GERVAIS: Well, they're not.  
19 Because like Proposal 37 is just about creating a hunt  
20 and Proposal 36 is about eliminating other hunts. So I  
21 don't -- to me they don't feel like the same proposal.

22  
23 MS. MAAS: Yeah. So for example, if  
24 you supported -- I mean just hypothetically if you  
25 supported both proposals then the Federal Subsistence  
26 Board will go well, they supported a to-be-announced  
27 March moose season in the Kaiyuh Flats area through  
28 Proposal 36, but then they also support a December hunt  
29 through Proposal 37. And if there's quota left over  
30 then they may announce a March season.

31  
32 So there is confusion on whether if you  
33 support both proposals the Council intended only to  
34 have the March moose season or to also have this  
35 December season with an optional March season if quota  
36 is left over.

37  
38 Does that make sense.

39  
40 MS. PELKOLA: I have a question.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny, go ahead.

43  
44 MS. PELKOLA: So both of these  
45 proposals passed?

46  
47 MS. MAAS: Oh, no.

48  
49 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, no.

50



1 MS. MAAS: I'm just speaking  
2 hypothetically that we -- I'm trying to explain why we  
3 combined these proposals because they concern the same  
4 area. They both concern moose regulations in the  
5 Kaiyuh Flats hunt area.  
6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A lot of the  
8 deliberation of the Federal Subsistence Board will go  
9 along with what the Board of Game actually passes in  
10 their March meeting because the Federal Subsistence  
11 Board won't meet on these proposals until mid-April-ish  
12 of 2020.  
13

14 So we should get into the -- go on to  
15 the list here and get other input into this whole  
16 thing. We've introduced the proposal and presentation  
17 and analysis.  
18

19 Report on the Board consultation,  
20 Tribes. Was there any tribal consultation on what the  
21 affected Tribes. Would be Galena, Nulato.  
22

23 MS. MAAS: Yeah. Through the Chair. We  
24 held tribal consultations, but no comments were  
25 received on this particular proposal.  
26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No comments. Okay.  
28

29 MS. MAAS: And same for the ANCSA  
30 corporations.  
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.  
33

34 So then agency comments. Do we have  
35 Alaska Department of Fish and Game -- are they on the  
36 phone on this deliberation on these proposals.  
37

38 (No comments)  
39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is the phone -- is  
41 anybody on this phone?  
42

43 REPORTER: Yes.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is anybody on  
46 there for Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
47

48 Mark.  
49  
50

1 MR. RINALDI: Todd Rinaldi is.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tom Noldia. Speak  
4 closer to the phone.

5

6 MR. RINALDI: Todd Rinaldi.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Todd. Go  
9 right ahead.

10

11 MR. RINALDI: T-O-D-D. And I'm only  
12 representing wildlife proposals for Region 4.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. This is  
15 Region 3. So is anybody on there for Region 3. Glenn  
16 Stout or anybody from the Fairbanks office on these  
17 proposals.

18

19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: This is for  
20 Proposal 36.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It would be Proposal  
23 36 to align with State seasons. 37 is to include a 15-  
24 day season in December, which has also got a State  
25 Board of Game Proposal 59.

26

27 Do we have anybody from the State.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mark Burch, are you  
32 going to speak for the State? Are you on there?

33

34 MR. RINALDI: Mark Burch is no longer  
35 in conference.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, the  
38 State dropped of on this deliberation, so we're at  
39 Federal agency comment. That would be  
40 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko.

41

42 The proponent of Proposal 36, are you  
43 on the phone.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Apparently not.

48

49 And tribal comments.

50

1 Did Galena meet on any of these Federal  
2 proposals, Jenny?

3  
4 MS. PELKOLA: No. I don't think so.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

7  
8 Advisory Groups. Other Regional  
9 Councils.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is within  
14 region, so I doubt that.

15  
16 Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Did  
17 Middle Yukon meet or comment -- or Ruby AC.

18  
19 MR. HONEA: We have not met yet.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Not met yet. Okay.

22  
23 And Subsistence Resource Commissions  
24 don't apply to this.

25  
26 Summary of Written Public Comments. Did  
27 we get any written comments, Karen?

28  
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 This is Karen Deatherage. There were no written  
31 comments received for WP20-36/37.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

36  
37 Public testimony. Anybody in the room  
38 care to comment on this.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Discussion and  
43 justification. We need a motion. Regional Council  
44 recommendation.

45  
46 So the way I look at these combined  
47 Proposals 36 and 37 is to -- because we don't know what  
48 the Board of Game is going to do. That's the problem.  
49 Is the Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board  
50

1 are not going to meet simultaneously, so we have no  
2 idea what's going to happen.

3  
4 I would prefer to have an alignment of  
5 State regulations with Federal regulations as proposed  
6 in the Kaiyuh Flats hunt, but I do not agree with  
7 Koyukuk Refuge's elimination of the Federal hunt in the  
8 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area to the north and the rest  
9 of -- in the northern part of Unit 21D.

10

11 So I would prefer.....

12

13 Vince, do you got a comment?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: I just contacted the  
16 Galena office. They're not in the office, but they're  
17 en route here. I don't know exactly what that means,  
18 but there is bad weather.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: So I don't know if that  
23 changes your deliberation, but since there was  
24 discussion about their proposal I thought that it might  
25 be good if they were.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see. Well.....

28

29 Karen.

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
32 Chair. And thank you, Vince.

33

34 We were informed that they were trying  
35 to fly into McGrath and that they were being held up by  
36 weather, so we did email them to ask them to call on  
37 the phone. We gave them the phone number, but I  
38 haven't heard anything back. So indeed they might be  
39 en route and this Council might consider tabling this  
40 for now until there are some representatives here to  
41 address these particular proposals.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At that point,  
46 knowing that they are trying to get here or they're at  
47 least going to be on the phone at some point in the  
48 future if they don't, we should table this. But I'm at  
49 this juncture where I feel that they should not have

50

1     tried to eliminate the rest of the Federal hunts  
2     throughout all of 21D. So we will talk to them about  
3     that.  
4

5                     But I also feel that we have our own  
6     proposal for the December hunt and I feel that one way  
7     or another I still agree with our previous Proposal 37  
8     that's before the Board of Game and going to be before  
9     the Federal Subsistence Board to allow a 15-day hunt in  
10    December. And Koyukuk Refuge's opinion do not make any  
11    difference. I feel that we should address both  
12    proposals, but 37 I feel should go forward.  
13

14                    What do you think.

15  
16                    Tim.  
17

18                    MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair. May I make a  
19    motion to adopt Proposal WP20-37 and discuss WP20-36  
20    after the Koyukuk Staff is available.  
21

22                    CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second  
23    to that.  
24

25                    MR. HONEA: Second.  
26

27                    CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.  
28    Motion on the table to adopt Proposal 37, which Member  
29    Kriska was fairly adamant about.  
30

31                    That people that didn't get a moose in  
32    the fall were in hardship for meat and if there's an  
33    opportunity he had preferred the hunt to occur in  
34    December. We had the area biologist Glenn Stout at our  
35    meeting. He was reluctant to talk about that until he  
36    had discussed it with Staff.  
37

38                    So we will have the Board of Game  
39    Proposal 59 before the State Board of Game. We will  
40    have this loaded in the magazine for the Federal  
41    Subsistence Board. And contingent on what happens at  
42    the Board of Game meeting, we will know how to proceed.  
43

44                    But it is not a convoluted issue in my  
45    mind that both proposals can be adopted, but we're  
46    relying on the State. And yeah, that's a total wild  
47    card. We have no idea what they're going to do.  
48

49                    So I am in support of Proposal 37  
50

1 because it's still moved forward if the Board of Game  
2 feels -- and local people are successful in talking the  
3 Board into allowing a 15-day season in December and  
4 with a fall back for additional quota to be allocated  
5 in March. So we don't know what the Board of Game is  
6 going to do, so I am in support of Proposal 37 at this  
7 time.

8

9

Other Council Members discussion.

10

11

Tim.

12

13

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

Yeah. I agree that I don't have -- I feel like our  
Council is still supporting WP37 as we drafted it  
during our last meeting. I haven't heard anything from  
any of the Council Members or anybody in our area that  
has put up any opposition to it. And I don't recall  
any conversation about eliminating this March season in  
the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area during our previous --  
when we drafted this proposal, so I'm comfortable with  
supporting this proposal as -- WP20-37 as written.

24

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim.

25

26

Anybody else have comments.

27

28

Don.

29

30

(No comments)

31

32

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: None.

33

34

MR. HONEA: Call for question.

35

36

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

37

38

Wait.

39

40

Jenny.

41

42

MS. PELKOLA: No.

43

44

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I want to get  
the -- and Lisa, go ahead.

45

46

47

MS. MAAS: Yeah. Thanks. I just wanted  
to remind the Council that there are conservation  
concerns for a December hunt because of the very low

48

49

50

1 bull/cow ratio in the northern part of the hunt area.  
2 So one alternative considered was to establish a cow  
3 only hunt in December. And if you look at Map 1 the  
4 green area -- that's the Kaiyuh Slough area where the  
5 bull/cow ratios are adequate, the population is  
6 increasing, but if you look at the yellow area that's  
7 the bull/cow ratios are ten bulls per 100 cows and so  
8 there is concern especially because that area is pretty  
9 heavily hunted since it's right along the river between  
10 Koyukuk and Galena. So it experiences fairly high  
11 harvest pressure that there should not be any  
12 additional bull harvest in that yellow portion of the  
13 hunt area.

14  
15 So I just wanted to remind the Council  
16 of the conservation concerns and the other alternative  
17 considered of just a cow only December hunt.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that  
20 comment very much, Lisa. That's true.

21  
22 And so the Council should recommend  
23 that it be antlerless hunt for the December portion of  
24 the hunt. That's what we should have originally wrote  
25 into it. Didn't real -- not realizing that it was only  
26 ten bulls per 100 cows right there by Galena. When you  
27 get down into the main Kaiyuh Slough area they have 38  
28 or 42 bulls per 100 cows. They've got a huge bull/cow  
29 ratio down there.

30  
31 So we could modify. Do two things.  
32 Either eliminate antlered bulls during the December  
33 hunt on the State land area or push the hunt area below  
34 Nulato in December to eliminate that low bull/cow ratio  
35 area.

36  
37 What do you want to do there.

38  
39 Tim.

40  
41 MR. GERVAIS: Well, I had a question.  
42 When they drafted this proposal in the spring, I didn't  
43 realize it was this entire 21D Southwest. I thought it  
44 was -- I was envisioning it being the area adjacent to  
45 that Kaiyuh Slough trend count area. Well, the Kaiyuh  
46 Slough trend count area and the area to the east of  
47 there. I didn't realize that it went all the way up to  
48 Galena and all the way down past Blackburn.

49  
50

1                   When we did this in the spring were the  
2 other Council Members considering this 21D Southwest as  
3 the affected area of the hunt.  
4

5                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. It's in this  
6 analysis that -- it's come to light that we have this  
7 really -- it includes this very low -- what do they  
8 call that drainage there. The Squirrel Creek trend  
9 count area. The yellow.

10  
11                   MS. MAAS: Oh.

12  
13                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Something like that.  
14 Anyways, that one has got a really -- a super low  
15 bull/cow ratio. And didn't realize that that was  
16 included in our hunt area.

17  
18                   But I do feel that the Kaiyuh Flats  
19 proper can support additional harvest in December.  
20 When we -- supplementary they -- when they deliberated  
21 antlerless moose hunts or bull hunts with antlers, by  
22 the middle of December Glenn Stout told us that 60  
23 percent of bulls have lost antler by mid-December.  
24 That would be a -- sort of a rule of thumb.

25  
26                   So we should actually modify Proposal  
27 37 to eliminate the area of concern in -- basically  
28 from Nulato down river and the Kaiyuh Flats hunt area  
29 should be the open season in December and then the  
30 entire area should be open the end of March  
31 contemplation.

32  
33                   What does the Council think about  
34 modifying Proposal 37.

35  
36                   Jenny.

37  
38                   MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. I think that's a  
39 good idea to do that because like you say, we didn't  
40 realize there was such a -- yeah.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

43  
44                   MS. PELKOLA: You know.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I knew they  
47 had low bull/cow ratios, but I didn't realize it was  
48 that low.

49  
50



1 So the Chair will entertain a motion to  
2 modify Proposal 37 for the December hunt to be from  
3 Nulato Village down river in the winter hunt south of  
4 the Yukon River in the Kaiyuh Flats.

5  
6 Do we have a -- anybody want to make an  
7 amendment.

8  
9 MR. GERVAIS: I just would wonder if  
10 anybody that was familiar with that area had a good  
11 drainage or landmark down there that you could -- would  
12 help to find that area.

13  
14 I mean I see what you're saying down  
15 river from Nulato, but are you just saying a straight  
16 line right across?

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

19  
20 MR. GERVAIS: I guess that would work,  
21 but which way do those creeks run off to that east side  
22 though.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, if we had  
25 Tommy here. That's why we need Tommy. It would be the  
26 Kaiyuh Slough. You know, that's -- the Kaiyuh Slough  
27 should be the boundary. The Kaiyuh Slough which comes  
28 in like right almost -- is it above or just below  
29 Nulato?

30  
31 MS. PELKOLA: Below.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just below Nulato.  
34 So Kaiyuh Slough and down river southwest and south of  
35 the Yukon River. The southwestern portion for Proposal  
36 37 when the December to-be-announced season.

37  
38 Do we want to modify the Proposal 37 to  
39 include that language with concerns about the bull/cow  
40 ratio in the upper portion of the State hunt area.

41  
42 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I would make a  
43 motion to adopt WP20-37 with the modification that it's  
44 not that entire 21D Southwest areas on Map 21, but only  
45 that portion from Nulato.....

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kaiyuh Slough.

48  
49 MR. GERVAIS: South of Nulato, in that

50

1 -- excuse me. 21D Southwest, not the entire. Let me  
2 state it again to be clear.

3  
4 That area of 21D Southwest that's south  
5 of Nulato Village.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Do we have a  
8 second to that.

9  
10 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.  
13 And.....

14  
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Who seconded that?

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny. So  
18 discussion on the modification to Proposal 37. Any  
19 further discussion.

20  
21 Don.

22  
23 MR. HONEA: No.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

26  
27 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Jenny, you're the  
28 closest member that's here for that hunt area. That's  
29 going to create burden for Galena residents. They're  
30 not going to be able to just travel right across the  
31 river to hunt. Are you okay with that? Eliminating  
32 that top portion even though it's going to make a lot  
33 more travel for the Galena and Koyukuk residents to be  
34 in the hunt area?

35  
36 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. I think that's a  
37 good idea to do that because I don't want to lose our  
38 moose in our area.

39  
40 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the record will  
43 reflect that Jenny is supportive of that concern about  
44 the low bull/cow ratio.

45  
46 Lisa.

47  
48 MS. MAAS: Yeah. Thanks, Mr. Chair. I  
49 just wanted to clarify this new hunt area. And so it's

50

1 the intent for it to be south of Nulato or south of  
2 Kaiyuh Slough and then as far as how east it goes.  
3 Just because we are going to have to define this  
4 somehow in our regulations to be a complete  
5 description.

6  
7 So I have heard Nulato and Kaiyuh  
8 Slough.

9  
10 MR. GERVAIS: My intent was to have  
11 Nulato be the boundary line and just have it.....

12  
13 MS. MAAS: So just straight east from  
14 Nulato?

15  
16 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. But I'm looking at  
17 it now. I'm looking at that like -- that does make the  
18 area -- it does -- by doing that it looks like right  
19 across the river from Galena may be eligible for in  
20 that hunt area.

21  
22 Jenny, what do you think? Would you  
23 like to have that area be available to hunt if  
24 that's.....

25  
26 MS. PELKOLA: No.

27  
28 MR. GERVAIS: So is there a way we can  
29 -- should we say it needs to drain into the Kaiyuh  
30 Slough?

31  
32 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen.

35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: I apologize for the  
37 interruption. I have just been told that the folks  
38 from the Refuge have landed in McGrath. And so.....

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: They're in Galena.

41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh. They're in  
43 Galena?

44  
45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

46  
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: All right. But  
48 they're on their way here?

49  
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: No. They will call in.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: They're going to call  
4 in from Galena. So some of this delineation may be  
5 available from Staff that would help the Council if  
6 needed based on your amendment.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I would  
11 have preferred to have Koyukuk/Nowitna here, but the  
12 weather precluded that.

13

14 So we do want a specific drainage  
15 boundary that would be advantageous to local people and  
16 if Koyukuk Refuge Staff can call in and we can discuss  
17 what our issues are with them, that would help a lot.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Vince, you got a  
20 question or a comment.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: If we can get it, I think  
23 what you want is the UCU map, Unified Code area map.  
24 And then that would give you drainages where they do  
25 the surveys and then maybe you could use those. I  
26 assume in regulation to say this defined hunt area  
27 would include these UCUs. But it's online somewhere  
28 where that UCU map is.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We want to  
31 have a specific drainage. The Kaiyuh Slough is a real  
32 defined exit from the Yukon River and then some creeks  
33 or drainages that drain into the Kaiyuh Slough should  
34 be the delineating line so people on the ground know  
35 where those things are.

36

37 So at this point I think we have moved  
38 as far on this proposal until we can get the Koyukuk  
39 Refuge on the line and a map. We need a map to look at  
40 -- to delineate for the discussion for the Federal  
41 Subsistence Board. So the modified proposals -- we  
42 have to have specific language about where that's at.

43

44 And so you had something to say there,  
45 Pippa?

46

47 And so I would like to table this right  
48 now because we're kind of at a standstill because we  
49 need to have the Koyukuk Refuge Staff and we need to

50

1 have a map.

2

3

4 So if someone at OSM's office could  
5 come up with a more defined topographical type map or  
6 something that they can transmit by email that we can  
7 look at, we need to have that map to continue this  
8 deliberation.

8

9 So Lisa, do you think you could come up  
10 with a map for us somehow?

11

12

MS. MAAS: I can try.

13

14

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, somebody can.

15

16

17

MS. MAAS: We'll do our -- yeah, do our  
18 best to contact somebody at OSM that.....

18

19

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

20

21

22

MS. MAAS: I'm not sure if we have  
23 printing.....

23

24

MS. DEATHERAGE: Megan's there.

25

26

MS. MAAS: Okay.

27

28

MS. DEATHERAGE: She's got a green dot.

29

30

31

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Koyukuk Refuge  
32 might be able to have more of a -- but all the maps  
33 that we're looking at are so large scale we can't --  
34 we're at an impasse right now to come up with the  
35 correct language to do exactly what we want to do.

35

36

36 So we're going to table these Proposal  
37 36 and 37 until we get Koyukuk Refuge on the phone.

38

39

39 So Karen. So what should we -- should  
40 we move on to another proposal until they get on?

41

42

MS. DEATHERAGE: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

43

44

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're at  
45 Crossover Proposal WP20-27, allow use of snowmobiles to  
46 assist in taking caribou.

47

48

And Lisa -- no, Pippa.

49

50

1 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Members of the Council. The analysis for Proposal WP20-  
3 27 is on page 99 of your Council books. And for those  
4 in the audience, the Council book looks like this and  
5 there's extra copies in the back of the room. And for  
6 the record, my name is Pippa Kenner and I am an  
7 anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence Management  
8 in Anchorage.  
9

10 I would also like to direct you to a  
11 map. If you have a -- I gave each of the Council  
12 Members a regulatory book. And for people in the  
13 audience, there's regulatory books in the back of the  
14 room and the map for Unit 17 is on page 78.  
15

16 So this proposal was submitted by the  
17 Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and  
18 it requests a unit specific regulation for Unit 17  
19 allowing use of a snowmachine to assist in the taking  
20 of a caribou and allowing caribou to be shot from a  
21 stationary snowmachine using the regulatory language  
22 adopted by the Alaska Board of Game in February 2018.  
23

24 And that language is found on page 100.  
25 Oh, excuse me. It's on page 101. Unit 17 -- unit  
26 specific regulations in the bold. In Unit 17 a  
27 snowmachine may be used to assist in the taking of a  
28 caribou and a caribou may be shot from a stationary  
29 snowmachine. Assist in the taking of caribou means a  
30 snowmachine may be used to approach within 100 --  
31 excuse me -- within 300 yards of a caribou at speeds  
32 under 15 miles per hour in a manner that does not  
33 involve repeated approaches or that causes a caribou to  
34 run. A snowmachine may not be used to contact an  
35 animal or to pursue a fleeing caribou.  
36

37 So before I get into this more I want  
38 to tell you that the reason why this is -- well, the  
39 reason why the Western Interior Council is being asked  
40 to take this up is because there are two communities in  
41 the Western Interior Region that are in the customary  
42 and traditional use determination for caribou in Unit  
43 17. That means they can hunt under Federal  
44 regulations. Those two communities are Lime Village  
45 and Stony River.  
46

47 I will go on with a little history  
48 about where this regulation came from. First of all,  
49 the proposal was submitted by the Council at the  
50

1 recommendation of a working group consisting of  
2 representatives from the public, the Bristol Bay  
3 Regional Council, the Bristol Bay Native Association,  
4 the Togiak National Wild Refuge, and the Alaska  
5 Department of Fish and Game, and the Office of  
6 Subsistence Management, and State and Federal law  
7 enforcement officers. The proponent states a desire to  
8 keep State and Federal hunting regulations aligned.  
9

10 So the beginning of this particular  
11 issue in Unit 17 began in 2017, when an individual from  
12 Manokotak in the Bristol Bay area submitted a proposal  
13 requesting that Federally-qualified users be allowed to  
14 use snowmachines to position caribou, wolves, and  
15 wolverines for harvest in Unit 17 provided the animals  
16 would not be shot from a moving snowmachine. He  
17 submitted the same proposal to the Board of Game.  
18

19 The Bristol Bay Council and the Board  
20 rejected the proposal after some discussion. The  
21 Alaska Department of Fish and Game adopted the proposal  
22 with modification. And that modification was what  
23 ended up to be the regulation that I had read to you.  
24 To this proposal is to take the Alaska Department of  
25 Fish and Game regulation and put it in Federal  
26 regulations.  
27

28 So there is another proposal that's  
29 relevant to this. And that is the Council also  
30 requested the ability to use snowmachines to position  
31 wolves and wolverines. And we'll get to that one  
32 later. So they split it between caribou and wolves and  
33 wolverines.  
34

35 So the effects of the proposal -- it  
36 will provide regulatory language describing snowmachine  
37 use for the purposes of hunting caribou in Unit 17. It  
38 will align State and Federal regulations on snowmachine  
39 use while hunting caribou in Unit 17. The proposed  
40 regulation is not expected to result in significant  
41 population changes for caribou as snowmachines are  
42 already used in Unit 17 to access hunting grounds. And  
43 harvest members will continue to be managed by seasons  
44 and limits within regulation.  
45

46 I'm going to go on with more effects  
47 now. Adopting the proposal will not alter current  
48 prohibitions for snowmachine use on Federal lands.  
49 Currently Federal regulations prohibit hunters taking  
50

1 caribou from a snowmachine in motion and Federal  
2 regulations prohibit using a snowmachine to pursue or  
3 drive, herd or molest wildlife.  
4

5                   However, the proposed regulation does  
6 provide clarification on how the hunter may use a  
7 snowmachine to assist in the taking of a caribou while  
8 remaining in compliance with existing regulations. But  
9 the specificity of the proposed regulatory language may  
10 act to restrain use rather than support a traditional  
11 practice because it's putting limits on it.  
12

13                   So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
14 support. The use of snowmachines for subsistence  
15 purposes is a traditional practice in the Bristol Bay  
16 area and Statewide. Public testimony and discussion at  
17 Council and Board meetings affirms the significance of  
18 snowmachine use to the subsistence way of life while  
19 seeking guidance on issues of compliance. The proposed  
20 regulatory language will provide clarity to the hunter  
21 on ensuring compliance while using a snowmachine to  
22 harvest caribou on Federal lands.  
23

24                   Because it mirrors a recent addition to  
25 State regulation it will reduce complexity between  
26 State and Federal regulations and decrease the  
27 potential for inadvertent non-compliance by Federally-  
28 qualified subsistence users. This approach was agreed  
29 upon by a diverse group of stakeholders.  
30

31                   I just want to end by reminding you  
32 what your choices are after you have heard testimony  
33 and deliberated, the Council can support, it cannot  
34 support, it can modify or it can defer to the home  
35 region.  
36

37                   Thank you very much.  
38

39                   That's the end of my presentation.  
40

41                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Pippa.  
42 Does anybody have questions on -- go ahead, Don.  
43

44                   MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
45 just had a question on Unit 17. Is this the Mulchatna  
46 Caribou Herd?  
47

48                   MS. KENNER: Thank you for that  
49 question. Through the Chair. Again, this is Pippa  
50



1 Kenner with OSM.

2

3

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It may or may not be. Most of the Federal public land in Unit 17 -- there's a corner up in Lake Clark National Park. There's Federal public lands around Togiak, the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. And there's a few blocks of BLM lands. And I believe that that is within the range of the Mulchatna Herd.

MR. HONEA: Okay, Mr. Chair. One more question. I mean it just seemed odd to me that we're -- whether we vote yes or no on this, that endangered species as it is -- I mean that we're going to discuss in the numbers that you would give this kind of flexibility.

That's just my opinion.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Pippa, on this language -- the State language on page 101, the last line, may not be used to contact an animal. What does that mean? To run it over?

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah. It can mean running over. Yeah.

MR. COLLINS: Yeah. One part of that kind of bothers me. That you've got to 100 yards from the animal. If there's any trees around, you come through trees and there's caribou standing right out in front of you out there. You've got to wait till it gets 100 yards away before you could shoot it? That doesn't make sense to me.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 300 yards.

MR. COLLINS: Hmm?

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It says 300 yards of caribou.

MR. COLLINS: Oh, 300. Well, that's even worse.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: May be used to approach within 300 yards. My thought when I heard

1 that was what if you're coming down the trail and you  
2 come over a rise and there's a caribou 150 yards away.  
3 It's like uh-oh. They've got to wait for the caribou  
4 to run to 300 yards. It's like that shouldn't be  
5 written that way because that vastly restrict -- I  
6 don't know how many times I've bumped into caribou at  
7 like 150 yards -- 100 yards and jumped off your Sno-Go  
8 and you shot this caribou. So you're not pursuing it.  
9 You just inadvertently bump into it.

10  
11 The reality is the regulation is set up  
12 -- I mean if you're approaching -- if you can see the  
13 caribou and are approaching to 300 -- 300 yards is kind  
14 of a long shot. Sometimes you can actually go closer  
15 than that.

16  
17 Go ahead, Pippa.

18  
19 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
20 is Pippa Kenner with OSM.

21  
22 I think the intent of the proposal is  
23 that you can go as fast as you want before you hit 300  
24 yards. And if you get to 300 yards you have -- you're  
25 supposed to try to slow down to 15 miles an hour. So  
26 it's saying you may use your snowmachine to approach a  
27 caribou at speeds under 15 miles per hour within 300  
28 yards.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that what it  
31 says?

32  
33 MS. KENNER: I think it is. And as  
34 soon as you -- thank you, Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

37  
38 MS. KENNER: As soon as you started  
39 talking I began to doubt it myself, but I'm sure that's  
40 what this means. However, your point is well taken.  
41 The analysis authors did mention that this may restrict  
42 otherwise what may have been considered legal operation  
43 of a snowmachine around caribou, but the intent of the  
44 proponent was to get on paper some type of definition  
45 of what appropriate use of a snowmachine is.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it should have  
48 been a snowmachine may be used to knowingly approach  
49 within 300 yards. You might be driving down a trail  
50

1 going 30 miles an hour, you come around -- you're  
2 riding in a slough and you come around the corner and  
3 there's caribou 150 yards away. You're going 35 miles  
4 an hour. Uh-oh. I've broken a regulation because I've  
5 been going faster than 15 miles an hour.  
6

7 There's a whole bunch of scenarios  
8 where this could be highly restrictive to subsistence  
9 users that are just inadvertently bumping into caribou.  
10 So I think if anything we should modify the language.  
11 Snowmachines may be used to knowingly approach within  
12 300 yards of caribou at speeds under 15 miles an hour.  
13 And make it clear on the record that we feel that they  
14 can approach until the caribou flees or -- or, you  
15 know, causes the caribou to run or to flee from the  
16 snowmachine.  
17

18 So we want to clarify this whole  
19 language thing. Tell the Bristol Bay Regional Council  
20 that we have concerns about an inadvertent approach at  
21 higher speeds than 15 miles an hour and that we feel  
22 that you should be able to approach at 15 miles an hour  
23 until the animal flees to within whatever range the  
24 hunter deems necessary to begin to take an animal in a  
25 clean manner.  
26

27 So if we deliberate the proposal we  
28 should contemplate that modification of the language.  
29

30 So we're clear on the proposal. We got  
31 into deliberation. Sorry about that.  
32

33 Go ahead, Pippa.  
34

35 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
36 would just like to ask Robbin LaVine in our Anchorage  
37 office if they're.....  
38

39 REPORTER: Wait a minute. There's no  
40 one on the line.  
41

42 MS. KENNER: Oh, okay. Never mind.  
43 Thank you. Robin LaVine might come on. I think we  
44 should just keep moving. But Robin Lavine might come on  
45 later. She's.....  
46

47 REPORTER: So Robbin are you on line,  
48 go ahead, Robbin if you are.  
49  
50

1 MS. LAVINE: Yes.

2

3 MS. KENNER: I'm going to start over  
4 again.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Want me to ask if  
7 Robbin LaVine is on the phone?

8

9 REPORTER: She is.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you on the  
12 phone, Robbin? Is Robbin LaVine on the phone?

13

14 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
15 Council. This is Robbin La Vine. Can you hear me.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. We can hear  
18 you now. And could you hear our discussions on this  
19 Proposal WP20-27, approaching caribou within 300 yards  
20 proposal?

21

22 MS. LAVINE: All right. This is Robbin  
23 LaVine for the record, and as soon as you began to  
24 suggest a possible modification our call was dropped  
25 and I have only just now rejoined you, so I do not know  
26 your discussion beyond that.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

29

30 MS. LAVINE: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The discussion was  
33 that subsistence hunters can inadvertently be traveling  
34 at faster than 15 miles an hour and approach within 300  
35 yards of a caribou and would be cited because they  
36 traveled within 300 yards beyond the speed limit. That  
37 would be an inadvertent mistake, but an opportunity  
38 that a subsistence hunter has a valid reason to -- so  
39 we feel that the language should be modified. Assist  
40 in taking a caribou means a snowmachine may be used to  
41 knowingly -- insert knowingly approach within 300 yards  
42 of a caribou at speeds under 15 miles an hour in a  
43 matter that does not involve repeated approaches or  
44 that causes a caribou to run.

45

46 We agree that the hunter should be able  
47 to at 300 yards knowingly cease caribou at 500 yards.  
48 Approach within -- getting that 300 yards dropped down  
49 to 15 miles an hour in approach until the caribou

50

1 flees. We agree with that, but I have concerns about  
2 people being cited that are inadvertently traveling  
3 down a slough. Come around a corner. There's caribou  
4 150 yards away. Jump off their Sno-Go and shoot it.  
5 Didn't know they were there. The caribou didn't know  
6 they were there. Suddenly they are on top of one  
7 another and a hunter has an opportunity to not pursue,  
8 but to shoot from that point and get cited because they  
9 traveled faster than 15 miles an hour. I'm concerned  
10 about that.

11  
12 MS. LAVINE: Uh-huh. Yes.

13  
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Can Robbin say  
15 something.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robbin.  
18 Do you have a comment on that.

19  
20 MS. LAVINE: No, Mr. Chair. I'm just  
21 really appreciating the discussion on this issue. And  
22 any discussion on the use of snowmachine, you know, for  
23 the subsistence way of life I think is really helpful  
24 to the analysts.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate  
29 that.

30  
31 We have an enforcement officer. Mr.  
32 Gusse, go ahead.

33  
34 MR. GUSSE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35 Walker Gusse, for the record.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Gusse.

38  
39 MR. GUSSE: Yes, sir. I would just  
40 like to clarify. I don't know this specifically, but  
41 from a law enforcement perspective this law is  
42 specifically addressing taking. So if in the  
43 definition of take -- I'll read it from your book here.  
44 It means to pursue, hunt, shoot, trap, net, capture,  
45 collect, kill, harm or attempt to engage in any such  
46 conduct.

47  
48 So from a law enforcement perspective  
49 you riding your snowmachine at 60 miles an hour coming  
50

1 around the corner seeing caribou at ten yards, you  
2 haven't engaged in taking yet. It's saying once you  
3 know that there's caribou there -- or the way that I'm  
4 reading this regulation, once you know that there is  
5 caribou there, now we're saying it's okay for you to  
6 stay on your snowmachine, ride it 15 miles an under --  
7 to reposition yourself to a place where you can shoot  
8 your caribou at 100 yards or 150 yards of whatever  
9 particular distance you can get to it without repeated  
10 the approaches that causes the caribou to flee  
11 basically.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate  
14 that clarification.

15  
16 MR. GUSSE: Absolutely.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pippa.

19  
20 MS. KENNER: Thank you very much. This  
21 is Pippa Kenner with OSM. And also it actually allows  
22 you on the snowmachine going under 15 miles an hour.  
23 If that causes caribou to move you're still legal.  
24 It's only when they start fleeing that you have to  
25 stop.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I still feel  
28 that for the public's safety that a snowmachine may be  
29 used to knowingly approach -- I feel that knowingly  
30 approaching should be in the regulation so that they  
31 know that the person understands that unknowingly  
32 approaching within this range and I need to slow down  
33 to 15 miles an hour. We have a 15 mile an hour speed  
34 limit within this range so they knowingly can  
35 accommodate this regulation.

36  
37 So we're going to go to tribal  
38 comments. Did we have any tribal comments on this  
39 issue. Did anybody at OSM participate in the tribal  
40 consultation process.

41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pippa.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pippa, did you?  
45 Anybody in the OSM participate in the tribal  
46 consultation process with their comments on this.

47  
48 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes  
49 and I believe it was Robbin. And just before I sign  
50

1 off here I would like to -- the audience has asked me  
2 to remind you that the regulation is also in State  
3 regulations.

4  
5 Robbin, were you at tribal  
6 consultation?

7  
8 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. Through the  
9 Chair. I did attend tribal consultation and I'm going  
10 to have to review my notes. I don't have anything with  
11 me at the moment. I can get back to you on that and I  
12 cannot recall if there were comments on this, so please  
13 give me a moment and let me look. All right?

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So for edification  
16 of the Council, we're on -- in this deliberation of  
17 these proposals we're going to need to have the tribal  
18 consultation comments for each one of these proposals  
19 because we're going to keep asking for these as we go  
20 through these proposals.

21  
22 So we need to have those. Somebody  
23 online has to be able to comment one way or another  
24 because that is a big part of the Federal program is to  
25 have tribal consultation. So we need to have somebody  
26 review what happened regarding each one of these  
27 proposals.

28  
29 So any ANCSA Corporation comments.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none.

34  
35 Robbin is going to review and she can  
36 come back to us on that.

37  
38 Agency comments.

39  
40 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Do  
41 we have anybody on ADF&G that wants to comment on this  
42 Proposal WP20-27. Snow machine use within 300 yards of  
43 caribou.

44  
45 MR. RINALDI: Yes. This is Todd  
46 Rinaldi, Division of Wildlife Conservation in Region 4  
47 here. I have been listening to most of the  
48 conversation. It sounds like it's very similar to the  
49 conversation we had at the Board of Game. I guess with

50

1 the -- and I appreciate the opportunity to make a  
2 comment. I guess what I would do is I would just read  
3 what our recommendation is on this particular proposal,  
4 if that meets your needs.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. It's  
7 appropriate because it's Alaska Department of Fish and  
8 Game comments. Go right ahead.

9  
10 MR. RINALDI: Okay. So the Board of  
11 Fish and Game is neutral on the adoption of WP20-27 due  
12 to increasing biological concerns that would result  
13 from inadvertent harassment and additional caribou  
14 harvest.

15  
16 While this proposal does align State  
17 and Federal regulations allowing hunters to use a  
18 snowmachine to assist in taking caribou in many  
19 instances it will likely lead to high levels of  
20 disturbance resulting in increased energetic demands at  
21 critical periods especially if the same groups of  
22 animals are hunted on a daily basis.

23  
24 This is an increasing concern because  
25 the Mulchatna has dropped further below the population  
26 objective, which was not known to the Board of Game at  
27 the time of adoption of the regulation.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. That's a  
32 very pertinent thing, but it's a method and means  
33 question, not a population question. Elimination of  
34 the winter hunt should be a priority is what it should  
35 be. And that's a different issue which I -- I had  
36 planned to discuss Mulchatna and I hope you're on the  
37 call for that one as we get further down in this agenda  
38 -- mostly likely tomorrow.

39  
40 But as far as customary and traditional  
41 methods of harvest, I agree that the use of snowmobiles  
42 to approach animals slowly to position is a customary  
43 and traditional practice. Since snowmobiles were  
44 invested as far as my long term memory of 62 years. I  
45 know people in Huslia used to approach Sno-Gos -- to  
46 approach caribou -- the Western Interior caribou that  
47 were on the Kaiyuh Flats. I know that.

48  
49 But this is a method and means that's

50



1 on the books. And if the Department feels that the  
2 herd can't support winter harvest then they need an EO  
3 of that winter hunt.

4  
5 So how does the Council feel about this  
6 proposal.

7  
8 We've gotten comments from the  
9 agencies. Now we need to -- I would like to get a  
10 motion on the table to adopt Proposal WP20-27.

11  
12 Karen.

13  
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.  
15 We do have one written comment on this proposal.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I could do  
18 the comments, but I want to get this on the -- or do we  
19 want to actually address this. That's what I want the  
20 Council to answer.

21  
22 We've had a discussion on this. This  
23 is an important issue, but I want to know if the  
24 Council wants to adopt or vote against this proposal.

25  
26 The Council's Chair will entertain a  
27 motion to adopt proposal to get it on the table.

28  
29 MR. GERVAIS: I make a motion to adopt  
30 WP20-27.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt. Got  
33 a second.

34  
35 MR. HONEA: Second.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Don.

38  
39 Other Regional Councils.

40  
41 Bristol Bay has not met on this yet.  
42 This is their proposal though.

43  
44 Fish and Game Advisory Committees. Has  
45 the Dillingham Advisory Committee met on this. Is  
46 there a comment from them. No transmittal from them?

47  
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 I have not received any transmittal of comments from  
50

1 the AC. Thanks.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Lake Clark

Subsistence Resource Commission would have part of this  
in their area. Don't know that they have had a meeting  
yet.

National Park Service.

Matt.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No comment from  
National Park Service.

Written comment.

Karen.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
This is Karen Deatherage. I will read to you a short  
comment from Alaskans for Wildlife.

They oppose WP20-27. This proposal  
would expand this practice apparently from other land  
management units. In essence positioning is another  
term for what in reality will result in chasing and  
harassing wildlife to exhaustion. Prohibitions in the  
regulation notwithstanding due to impossible  
enforcement limitations.

As an example, when asked to explain  
existing regulations for snowmachine use in trapping  
and hunting, an Alaska wildlife trooper explained he  
did not even understand the regulation.

Expanded snowmachine use positioning  
will amount to a continued enforcement challenge.  
Widespread abuse will surely result and will continue  
to give subsistence the reputation of abuse when it  
really needs public support.

We feel that as we now face mass  
extinctions of wildlife species there is a new public  
and growing focus on the crisis. This is an extremely  
unwise plunge to the bottom and we caution a futuristic  
consideration.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, but  
4 their statement basically -- I guess they didn't read  
5 the proposal because if the animal begins to run then  
6 it's not legal to -- pursue it. And so they didn't  
7 read the proposal apparently, so I don't agree with  
8 their comment.

9

10 So I.....

11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: They did read it.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray, you have a  
15 comment.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Yes. I do. I was trying  
18 to think back of -- I can only remember one time of  
19 using a snowmachine. It was a number of years ago. We  
20 knew there were caribou in the area and we just drove  
21 to the area and finally came out of the trees and they  
22 were over there. And I don't know the distance. I  
23 think it wasn't more than 100 yards. We didn't pursue  
24 them at all. They were there. And so we shot from  
25 where we were. We stopped the machine of course  
26 because you can get a good shot and you can't do it  
27 when you're moving. And so we would have broke this  
28 regulation because that's the way we hunted. I  
29 mean.....

30

31 And I could see somebody if they come  
32 across tracks they're going to find those caribou. So  
33 they're pursuing them from that aspect, but they're  
34 never seeing the caribou. So they follow the tracks on  
35 through and come out and there's a caribou, you just  
36 stop at that point and you shoot.

37

38 And to wait till they've got to -- till  
39 they actually took off and ran 300 yards, we would have  
40 never got a caribou that way.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, they have  
43 clarified that. Pippa's -- the deliberation on the  
44 proposal was that within 300 yards you can continue to  
45 go closer, but you can't be going over the speed limit  
46 of 15 miles an hour.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Okay. So.....

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Enforcement isn't  
2 clarified. If you're just driving down the trail at 60  
3 miles an hour and you come around the corner and  
4 there's caribou, you at that point -- and you're within  
5 300 yards -- you have to slow down to 15. And if they  
6 start to run you can't pursue.

7

8

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it has to do with  
11 take and definition. So I'm supportive of the  
12 proposal, but I feel that just for the Federal  
13 Subsistence Board edification that they should have  
14 knowingly approach within 300 yards as a back up. But  
15 that's -- it's in State regulations, so we'll --  
16 probably not the best to go there, but I think it  
17 should say that.

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MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

Tim, you have a comment.

MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. It's a complex  
issue. I'm sure people in the Bristol Bay have spent  
days of their lives trying to define this language and  
whatnot -- a lot meetings. But I feel this Council  
should support it because at least getting this  
language in the regulation to match the State language  
where they are defining 300 yards, you have to be going  
15 miles an hour or less, that provides some degree of  
restraint to what's currently available.

So I feel like it's -- they're just  
trying to put some quantities on a practice and take  
less guesswork out of what's correct. And they're just  
trying to get it more defined on what's legal and  
what's not legal and that helps out the users and the  
law enforcement people so everybody is working from a  
known regulation.

So yeah, it is -- the people in the  
public comment, they have a point. And everybody  
commenting on it probably has a point that is fairly  
valid, but I feel like overall if you can get this  
within 300 yards, less than 15 miles an hour, I think  
that would take a little bit of the dilemma out of a  
situation that's never going to be crystal clear  
anyways.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those  
comments for the record, Tim. Appreciate that.

1 Any other comments.

2

3

4

5

6 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's  
7 the way of life in the village to hunt caribou with a  
8 snowmachine. We used to have dog teams and hunt  
9 caribou with dog teams but now we use snowmachine and  
10 we don't chase caribou or make them run or anything,  
11 but we approach caribou and then park the snowmachine  
12 and then shoot them. So it's a way of life in the  
13 village.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those  
comments, Pollock.

Don.

MR. HONEA: Yeah. I also would support  
this. I think that what we're about to do is something  
that's already being done. And when they make  
decisions like this I'm kind of a numbers person. I  
don't think the take is going to be more than what they  
could handle.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We're  
recognizing that this is a customary and traditional  
practice to hunt caribou with snowmobile. In fact, the  
snowmobile has saved a lot of caribou.

Why is that. Because they used to kill  
caribou for dog feed. When I was a kid there was  
stacks of caribou in front of Kobuk Village and down in  
Anaktuvuk. Thousands and thousands of caribou went to  
dog feed in Alaska -- in the northern part of Alaska.  
So when they eliminated the use of caribou for dog feed  
people went to snowmobiles. Well, there's actually a  
lot less harvest of caribou than there used to be  
because the per capita consumption by people is way  
less than by dogs.

So people have a hard time with the  
snowmachine thing, but that's what people have switched  
to and it's actually been beneficial to the caribou  
population. Western Interior herd went from over

1 250,000 down to 75,000 primarily because as the herd  
2 began to go into hardship people were killing caribou  
3 for dog feed. They still were killing.  
4

5 In 1975 they stopped the use of caribou  
6 for dog feed. That eliminated dog team use. That's  
7 when that stopped. That's when the caribou population  
8 grew dramatically because nobody had dogs anymore.  
9 They couldn't afford it. They switched to fish or  
10 something else -- or commercial feed. A little  
11 supplementary information there.  
12

13 So Regional Councils were supporting  
14 the language as written because it's State language. I  
15 feel that this is a valid proposal recognizing  
16 customary and traditional use practices that Bristol  
17 Bay Regional support, so I support the proposal.  
18

19 Any further discussion.  
20

21 (No comments)  
22

23 MR. SIMON: Call for the question.  
24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question is called.  
26 Those in favor of Proposal WP20-27 as stated in bold on  
27 page 101, signify by saying aye.  
28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.  
30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
32 sign.  
33

34 (No opposing votes)  
35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion adopted.  
37

38 So Karen, what do you -- we think we  
39 move on to the next one?  
40

41 Do we have Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge on  
42 the line. Let me ask that question.  
43

44 MR. HAVENER: Mr. Chair.  
45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Jeremy. Okay.  
47

48 MR. HAVENER: I want to apologize real  
49 quick for our absence. We tried making a move down to  
50

1 McGrath this morning and we ran into some pretty bad  
2 weather and we had to turn back. We spent probably  
3 three and a half hours in the air, so I apologize for  
4 missing the proposal and -- yeah, we're here for  
5 questions and comments.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we worked  
8 through Proposal WP20-36 and we're working through  
9 WP20-37. They are combined in the analysis, but we  
10 want to divide them up. We don't agree fully with  
11 WP36. We agree with portions of WP36. We do not feel  
12 that the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area winter hunt should  
13 have been eliminated as entire 21D.

14  
15 So we're at least -- we're working on  
16 Proposal 37. We still feel that Member Kriska wanted  
17 to have winter hunt opportunity and so we submitted  
18 Proposal 59 to the Board of Game to allow a 15-day  
19 season in December and to be announced through December  
20 1 through December 31.

21  
22 But we have concerns with Lisa Maas  
23 pointing out that there is a really super low bull/cow  
24 ratio in the northeastern portion of the State hunt  
25 area. We wanted to delineate the December hunt as the  
26 Kaiyuh Slough entrance across from Nulato or around  
27 Nulato Village and down that slough to a point that  
28 would go almost directly south to eliminate the  
29 northeastern portion of the State hunt area. What we  
30 wanted to find was a map that would delineate a line to  
31 allow hunting from the Kaiyuh Slough southwest.

32  
33 Did you find a map, Lisa, at all?  
34 Or.....

35  
36 MS. MAAS: We're working on it. Vince  
37 has the USGS Quad map up on his computer that we could  
38 potentially project. We were trying to get a map that,  
39 you know, had the hunt area delineated and the  
40 drainages a little more detailed.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

43  
44 MS. MAAS: And someone in our office is  
45 working on it, but we haven't received the map.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we were  
48 working on that component.

49  
50

1                   Then on Proposal 36, Jeremy, we were  
2 talking about adopting 36 -- the portion for the State  
3 hunt for the March hunt, but eliminating the portion of  
4 Proposal 36 that eliminates the Koyukuk Controlled Use  
5 Area hunt. If that population recovers I still feel  
6 that there is -- Huslia is not going to travel all the  
7 way down to Nulato to go hunting if they can help it.  
8 If they have moose available, we should also have the  
9 opportunity for Huslia to hunt in the Koyukuk  
10 Controlled Use Area.  
11

12                   And we analyze that on an annual basis  
13 until at some point we are -- hopefully we will get a  
14 moose population back. But I don't feel comfortable  
15 eliminating that either as proposed in Proposal 36.  
16

17                   So when we get to Proposal 36 I would  
18 like to eliminate that portion of the proposal, modify  
19 it to eliminate the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area hunt  
20 and adopt the winter hunt in March is what you're  
21 actually aligning with State season. And also submit  
22 that because we don't know what the Board of Game is  
23 going to do. Whether they will adopt a December hunt  
24 and adopt both portions of our proposal or they stay  
25 with the State spring season in March. And so we'll go  
26 along with Federal seasons aligning with that also. So  
27 we have to have both proposals on the table because we  
28 don't know what the Board of Game is going to do.  
29

30                   And so we will be deliberating on  
31 Proposal 59 at our spring season, which is in early  
32 February of 2020.  
33

34                   So that's bringing you up to speed,  
35 Jeremy.  
36

37                   So Vince has got a map.  
38

39                   MR. HAVENER: Mr. Chair. This is.....  
40

41                   REPORTER: Wait a minute Jeremy, I'll  
42 let him know you're on line.  
43

44                   MR. HAVENER: Mr. Chair.  
45

46                   REPORTER: Jeremy is on line.  
47

48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you hear us,  
49 Jeremy?  
50



1 MR. HAVENER: Yes, I can hear you.

2  
3 REPORTER: Can he go now?  
4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, yes. Go ahead  
6 and talk if you've got something to day.  
7

8 REPORTER: Jeremy, you're on now, go  
9 ahead.  
10

11 MR. HAVENER: Okay. Thank you. Yeah.  
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council Members.  
13

14 Again I apologize for our absence  
15 there. We were really hoping to be there to discuss  
16 this proposal. You know, I had Brad Scotton and myself  
17 and we were going to come down there. And Brad had  
18 some biology to present, but unfortunately weather  
19 wasn't cooperating with us today.  
20

21 And, you know, hearing your concerns, I  
22 really appreciating hearing that. And obviously we  
23 don't want to do anything as far as putting a proposal  
24 through that the WIRAC doesn't support. So hearing  
25 those comments, you know, I'll take those and I'm going  
26 to relay those to our Staff.  
27

28 But, you know, just so you guys know  
29 what -- what our interest was with this proposal was to  
30 really just try to simplify things so it's easier for  
31 everybody to understand. Because the reality of it is  
32 when you look at 21D and you see all these different  
33 areas and then the land status issues with, you know,  
34 the checkerboard pattern that we see, it really is  
35 confusing for folks who are following it closely. And,  
36 you know, bottomline is we want to prevent any kind of  
37 compliance issues.  
38

39 So that was our main priority with this  
40 proposal. So I just wanted to make that clear.  
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I understand that  
43 and I'm supportive of that, but you were at our spring  
44 meeting and Tommy Kriska was fairly concerned that  
45 people would not have enough -- wanted the State season  
46 to open in December to give earlier opportunity if the  
47 moose population can support that. And that's why we  
48 submitted Proposal WP37 and Board of Game Proposal now  
49 numbered Proposal 58 -- or correction, 59.  
50

1                   So we -- but mixing in the Koyukuk  
2 controlled use hunt, which is on -- strictly on Federal  
3 lands should not have been a part of the proposal.  
4 Aligning on the Kaiyuh Flats winter hunt for the State  
5 hunt, that was accepted. And I understand that -- the  
6 checkerboard pattern issue.

7

8                   So Vince is now -- go ahead, Vince.

9

10                   MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. Jeremy, to help you  
11 track what we're doing, all I have is the Quad map.  
12 The Nulato quad. It has no land jurisdiction on it, so  
13 it's basically there to show the different drainages.  
14 So it's the Nulato Quad map.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We don't  
17 really need to know what land status is. We just need  
18 to know the area -- what we want to eliminate to the  
19 northeast.

20

21                   MR. MATHEWS: And I don't know how to  
22 make it work, so.....

23

24                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Well.....

25

26                   MR. GERVAIS: Jack.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

29

30                   MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I'm looking at the  
31 hunting regulation book and we're trying to protect  
32 that northern portion of that southwest hunt area, but  
33 it doesn't look like there's very much Federal land up  
34 there anyways. I don't know whose land that is. If  
35 it's the Village Corp or Doyon's land, but as far as  
36 Innoko northern unit there's not very much land there  
37 that would be in that area with the low bull/cow ratio.  
38 So maybe we don't have to modify the proposal.

39

40                   There's only that corner section that's  
41 above Nulato.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

44

45                   MR. GERVAIS: That's part of the  
46 Refuge.

47

48                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Is this good enough.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We can see  
2 that.

3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Are we able to use  
5 this map.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn your mic on,  
8 Karen for Frank.

9  
10 MR. HARRIS: Kaltag is here. Nulato is  
11 just above Nine Mile Camp.

12  
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there's no  
16 specific drainage. What's this. There's got to be a  
17 creek that comes into the Kaiyuh Slough that would --  
18 we're looking for a drainage that comes from the --  
19 right there, moving -- Bonanza Creek comes down into  
20 the Kaiyuh Slough. It goes through that Flats and it  
21 comes into the Kaiyuh Slough drainage. And so can you  
22 delineate where that's going to come out? Do you  
23 see.....

24  
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: What's that right  
26 there.

27  
28 MR. HARRIS: It's Kaiyuh Slough and  
29 there's just a whole bunch of lakes in here. It's hard  
30 to delineate.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So.....

33  
34 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

37  
38 MS. MAAS: Yeah. I think if the  
39 Council used Bonanza Creek and Kaiyuh Slough -- if you  
40 just said southwest of those drainages.....

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

43  
44 MS. MAAS: .....that that would be --  
45 you know, we could effectively delineate that hunt  
46 area.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

49  
50

1 MS. MAAS: Whether you want to just say  
2 south of those rivers or, you know, creeks.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

5  
6 MS. MAAS: .....or include the whole  
7 drainage.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we could.....

10  
11 MS. MAAS: That would work for us to be  
12 able to delineate.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we could  
15 delineate it as south of the Yukon River and south and  
16 southwest of Kaiyuh Slough and Bonanza Creek.

17  
18 MS. MAAS: Yeah. I mean if you're  
19 looking south of Nulato -- I mean I guess technically  
20 it's more east of the Yukon River by that point, but  
21 yeah. So east of the Yukon River and south of Kaiyuh  
22 Slough and Bonanza Creek.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Correct.

25  
26 MS. MAAS: And then those mountains  
27 right there -- I mean I don't know how much hunting  
28 really goes on over there anyway, but if the intention  
29 is just to keep it west of that, so it would be  
30 basically the Bonanza Creek drainage and then southwest  
31 of that.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Can we redefine that.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the definition  
38 would be the winter hunt area for Proposal 37 would be  
39 from Kaiyuh Slough at Nine Mile Camp and down to the  
40 Bonanza Creek drainage and across to the mountains of  
41 the Bonanza Creek drainage and south of that. The  
42 entire -- everything in the State hunt area all the way  
43 down by Kaltag would be included in that. And that's  
44 that high density moose population.

45  
46 The intention of the Council is to have  
47 winter hunting opportunity in December in the high  
48 density moose area, not the entire State land use area.

49  
50

1                   So is that clear on the record. The  
2 delineation of that Kaiyuh Slough downstream from Nine  
3 Mile Camp, downstream to the Bonanza Creek drainage and  
4 to the mountains. To the -- I can't tell what the  
5 names of those mountains are over there on the Bonanza  
6 Creek drainage, but.....

7  
8                   MR. HARRIS: Yeah. I don't recall the  
9 name either.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: To the.....

12  
13                   MS. MAAS: Kaiyuh Mountains.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....Kaiyuh  
16 Mountains. Kaiyuh Mountains. Good.

17  
18                   So the record shall reflect that  
19 delineation of those land features for the winter hunt  
20 for December 1 through December 31 for Proposal 37.  
21 And if this passes we should also transmit that  
22 modification to the State Board of Game for Proposal  
23 59. But that's a future thing here.

24  
25                   So was that -- we have a motion to  
26 modify the Proposal 37 for the winter hunt to be  
27 delineated by the Kaiyuh Slough, Bonanza Creek drainage  
28 to the Kaiyuh Mountains.

29  
30                   Was that okay with you, Tim?

31  
32                   MR. GERVAIS: I'm not opposing what  
33 you're saying, but I don't see where there's enough  
34 Federal land north of there anyways that we need to  
35 make the modification.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. There's some.  
38 And it comes up -- can we turn the light back on now.  
39 The land -- there's some Federal land coming up real  
40 close to below Koyukuk Village there. So we don't want  
41 people to get all like hunting in that low density  
42 moose population, running up those -- by Bishop  
43 Mountain.

44  
45                   That's Bishop Mountain area there,  
46 Jenny?

47  
48                   MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you see those  
2 little pink squares?

3  
4 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it's just better  
7 if we delineate it as we have so that it's clear to the  
8 public what we're actually talking about. Because you  
9 get out in the middle of nowhere on pink squares, that  
10 can be a problem.

11  
12 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

13  
14 So I will make a motion to.....

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Modify language for  
17 Proposal 37.

18  
19 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. To include that  
20 Unit 21D southwest area within the Kaiyuh Slough and  
21 Bonanza Creek drainage and the areas south of that.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

24  
25 MR. GERVAIS: Up -- but do we need to  
26 say that it doesn't extend east of the Kaiyuh  
27 Mountains?

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's within 21D so  
30 it's a -- so you get into the Kaiyuh Mountains. Nobody  
31 is going to cross those hills. I really doubt somebody  
32 is going to go over those mountains to go moose hunting  
33 over on the other side, which is going into higher  
34 moose densities. It's the area along the Yukon River  
35 between Koyukuk and Galena that has that 10 bulls per  
36 100 cows, so we're not concerned about going basically  
37 at that point east in 21D below that Kaiyuh Slough,  
38 Bonanza Creek, Kaiyuh Mountain line.

39  
40 I'm not concerned about that.

41  
42 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. I need a second.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second  
45 for that amendment.

46  
47 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second it.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.

50

1                   And Jenny is looking at the map, for  
2 the record.

3  
4                   Any further discussion on that  
5 modification of Proposal 37.

6  
7                   MR. SIMON: Question.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's -- you  
10 have one last comment?

11  
12                   MS. MAAS: Well, I just wanted to make  
13 sure I'm understanding this and clarify that the  
14 intention is for this modified hunt area to apply only  
15 to the December hunt.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: December hunt.

18  
19                   MS. MAAS: And then the March season  
20 would be the whole.....

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The entire hunt  
23 area.

24  
25                   MS. MAAS: .....hunt area.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As the State season  
28 is currently.

29  
30                   MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a good  
33 clarification. Appreciate that, Lisa.

34  
35                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen.

38  
39                   MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen  
40 Deatherage. Another clarification is that March hunt  
41 in WP37 is only if the quota is not met in the December  
42 hunt. And I think that's an important distinction also  
43 between the two proposals.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: True. But we're  
46 only discussing this line for the December hunt.

47  
48                   MS. DEATHERAGE: Right.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's the  
2 clarification. The December hunt line is south of the  
3 Kaiyuh Slough and the Bonanza Creek drainage to the  
4 Kaiyuh Mountains.

5  
6 Go ahead, Lisa.

7  
8 MS. MAAS: Okay. I think you just  
9 clarified. I just wanted to make sure your intent was  
10 the drainages and not the actual creeks themselves.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

13  
14 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I would like the  
15 hunt area to include the drainages -- Bonanza Creek  
16 drainage, Kaiyuh Slough drainage west of the Kaiyuh  
17 Mountains.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Good  
20 discussion.

21  
22 Further comments.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
27 Those in favor of the Proposal 37 for the winter hunt  
28 in the -- there will be a 15-day season in December 1  
29 to December 31 to-be-announced south of the Kaiyuh  
30 Slough and drainages and the Bonanza Creek to the  
31 Kaiyuh Mountains and drainages of Bonanza Creek.

32  
33 Those in favor of the modified language  
34 signify by saying -- and Proposal -- signify by saying  
35 aye.

36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

40  
41 (No opposing votes)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you vote, Ray?

44  
45 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Was that an  
48 aye?

49  
50



1 MR. COLLINS: Yes, it was.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Good. So  
4 moving back to Proposal 36, I feel that Proposal 36  
5 needs to be modified to maintain the Koyukuk controlled  
6 use winter hunt for 21D. And so eliminate the Koyukuk  
7 controlled use winter hunt elimination, which is what  
8 this proposal is doing. Maintain the Koyukuk  
9 controlled use winter hunt opportunity if it can be  
10 supported by the population. And also to adopt the  
11 March winter hunt proposal alignment with the State  
12 season, which is delineated in -- it was in -- oh,  
13 where are we at. It's right here on page 74. The  
14 vertical hatch is the winter hunt from March -- would  
15 be from the east of Galena along the hills -- oh, it  
16 follows the Nulato Hills here. Or correction, the  
17 Kaiyuh Hills, isn't it. The Kaiyuh Mountains.

18  
19 So anyways, we're supportive of -- I'm  
20 supportive of Proposal 36 for the alignment with the  
21 March portion of the State season to-be-announced. A  
22 15-day season between March 1 and March 31 within the  
23 Kaiyuh Flats hunt area as delineated by vertical lines  
24 on page 71.

25  
26 But I do not support the elimination of  
27 a Koyukuk Controlled Use Hunt in the northern portion  
28 of 21D for Proposal 36.

29  
30 Do we have a motion to adopt Proposal  
31 36, with modification as stated.

32  
33 MR. COLLINS: So moved.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Ray. Do I  
36 have a second.

37  
38 MR. SIMON: Second.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.

41  
42 Lisa, you have a comment.

43  
44 MS. MAAS: Yes. So you already acted  
45 on Unit 21D southwest, the Kaiyuh Flats hunt area,  
46 through Proposal 37.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

49  
50

1 MS. MAAS: And so now.....  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For the winter hunt  
4 in December.  
5  
6 MS. MAAS: Right.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But not the March  
9 hunt.  
10  
11 MS. MAAS: But my understanding is that  
12 you intended for there to be a March hunt if the  
13 December quota was not met.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. And that's the  
16 fallback hunt which then allows the entire State hunt  
17 area to be used. And so we're adopting -- we don't  
18 know what the Board is going to do. They might just  
19 throw -- the State Board of Game might throw 59 out.  
20 We have nothing. So we would like -- still like to  
21 align with Proposal 36 for the March hunt, but we do  
22 not agree with Proposal 36 elimination of the Koyukuk  
23 Controlled Use Area hunt.  
24  
25 MS. MAAS: Okay. Because you're kind  
26 of -- you're saying through 37 have a December hunt.  
27 And then if the quota is not met have a March hunt in  
28 the whole hunt area. But then if you support 36 you're  
29 saying have a March hunt no matter what in the whole  
30 hunt area.  
31  
32 Do you see the conflict there?  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. I see the  
35 conflict.  
36  
37 MS. MAAS: So this is why.....  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
40  
41 MS. MAAS: .....these proposals were  
42 combined.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
45  
46 MS. MAAS: Is you can't just flat --  
47 you can't do both in Unit 21D southwest.  
48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I see your  
2 point and I stand corrected. Thank you for clarifying  
3 that issue.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this point we  
8 do not support Proposal 36. We don't need to. We have  
9 addressed that with Proposal 37, as modified.

10

11 And forgive me, Council, for being  
12 mixed up there.

13

14 Go ahead, Tim.

15

16 MR. GERVAIS: No. I think we need to  
17 -- we never had a vote on 36 yet. I think we need to  
18 vote it up or down.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. We need to  
21 vote it up or down.

22

23 MR. GERVAIS: I make a motion to adopt  
24 WP20-36, as written.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As written. Anybody  
27 second that.

28

29 Pollock.

30

31 MR. SIMON: Second.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We had Pollock a  
34 second on that. Do you agree with that second,  
35 Pollock?

36

37 MR. SIMON: Yes.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Proposal 36,  
40 as written, is on the table and my intention is to  
41 oppose Proposal 36 because of what we -- actions taken  
42 on Proposal 37.

43

44 Any further comment.

45

46 MR. SIMON: Question.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
49 Those in favor of Proposal 36, signify by saying aye.

50

1 (No aye votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

4

5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you had a comment  
8 there, Lisa.

9

10 MS. MAAS: Well, I just wanted to  
11 clarify if the Council's intention for 37 is contingent  
12 on Board of Game action at all. I mean whether that  
13 should be in the justification and rationale that you  
14 support a December hunt no matter what or you only just  
15 support it if the Board of Game supports it or if  
16 there's any -- I mean just so when the Board acts on  
17 it, it's clear what the.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Excuse me. We  
20 intended to have a December 1 to December 31 hunt for  
21 15 days in the southern portion of the Kaiyuh hunt  
22 area. If the Board of Game eliminates that we still  
23 want -- our proposal also allows the March hunt, which  
24 we support the entire hunt area at that point to be  
25 completely aligned with the State of Alaska and from  
26 March 1 to March 31, 15-day season somewhere in there.

27

28 And we didn't eliminate the March  
29 component. It's dependent on what the Board of Game  
30 does and what the Federal Subsistence Board does with  
31 the December component. But we still retain in  
32 Proposal 37 the ability to align with State season for  
33 the entire -- all the Federal lands in Proposal 37. I  
34 don't see where we've lost that.

35

36 Tim.

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: I thought that -- let's  
39 say the Board of Game does not approve that Proposal  
40 58.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 59. Yes.

43

44 MR. GERVAIS: 59. But if Proposal 37  
45 passes, regardless of what the Board of Game does it  
46 would still -- if Proposal 37 passes then there would  
47 still be a Federal hunt for Federally-qualified users  
48 in that drainage, right? It doesn't depend on the  
49 State.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: True.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: So it doesn't matter --  
4 the only thing it will allow if the -- if the State  
5 approves 59, then that would just allow all Alaskan  
6 residents to do that hunt in the State hunting area.  
7 But we are -- by passing 37 we're at least providing a  
8 Federal hunt on the Wildlife Refuge.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Got that. We could  
11 give a caveat to the Federal Subsistence Board. If the  
12 State Board of Game eliminates -- does not adopt  
13 Proposal 59, which is our proposal for the December  
14 hunt, that we are amicable to the entire hunt area  
15 being under Federal -- hunt Federal areas being open in  
16 the March 1 to March 31.

17

18 The Federal Subsistence Board can  
19 modify the proposal to their -- and we've -- I feel  
20 that it should be clear on the record that this Council  
21 wants to align the March season with the State hunt on  
22 the Federal lands in the Kaiyuh winter hunt. That's  
23 why I was leaning more towards the Proposal 36 modified  
24 to make that clear, but we could clarify it under 37.

25

26 Additional language in our  
27 justification that to the Federal Subsistence Board  
28 that we're proposing a December portion in Proposal 37,  
29 but if our proposal fails for the December hunt that  
30 the Federal Subsist -- we would expect the Federal  
31 Subsistence Board to eliminate the December component,  
32 not have it stand alone. And that we would have a  
33 March 1 to March 31 State -- simultaneous State and  
34 Federal season within the Kaiyuh hunt area as  
35 delineated on Map 1, on page 74, with the vertical  
36 lines in our workbook.

37

38 Is that enough language insertion for  
39 the Federal Subsistence Board. Do you think that I  
40 should be able to say that to the Federal Subsistence  
41 Board at the meeting, with clarification. That the  
42 record is clear to that issue.

43

44 Is that agreeable to the Council. Do I  
45 have affirmative to that clarification for the  
46 justification for 37.

47

48 Is that good for you, Tim?

49

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Well, I thought we were  
2 -- I thought we didn't want to have any hunting in that  
3 Squirrel Creek area at all during the winter.  
4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. The State is  
6 going to allow it anyway. So the area -- the white  
7 areas on the map there are going to be open.  
8

9 But it's a winter hunt and the bulls  
10 are not going to have antler at all. And so there --  
11 it's going to be any moose. And so the State is taking  
12 risks with people killing bull moose, but there's a lot  
13 of moose there. Nobody's -- I wouldn't shoot a bull  
14 moose. Me -- I wouldn't shoot a bull moose in March  
15 because he's -- if I've got to -- can kill a cow or a  
16 bull, I'm going to shoot a -- I'm going to shoot a dry  
17 cow. A swayed back, old dry cow that's really fat.  
18 I'm not going to shoot a bull.  
19

20 But the State is allowing that already.  
21 And that's -- the white areas that you see there across  
22 from Galena are open. And so we can't -- I don't want  
23 to go disparate with the State of Alaska in the March  
24 hunt.  
25

26 Understand my line of thinking?  
27

28 MR. GERVAIS: Not all the way, but I'll  
29 defer to it. So.....  
30

31 (Laughter)  
32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Am I clear, Lisa?  
34

35 MS. MAAS: Yeah. I just -- so Through  
36 the Chair. The difference is a hunt in December versus  
37 March. Because in December the bulls still have their  
38 antlers and people might be more likely to target  
39 bulls, whereas in March none of them have antlers and  
40 -- it's really just more of a cow targeted hunt, so  
41 that's why there's that difference between the March  
42 hunt that's clearly allowed under State regulations  
43 versus the proposed December hunt.  
44

45 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Well, I thought we  
46 were trying to -- that Tommy was asking as far as we  
47 would provide hunting opportunity in December so that  
48 people could eat that meat December through March.  
49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, our proposal  
2 is that. And south of the delineated Kaiyuh Slough to  
3 the Bonanza Creek drainage. Our proposal is for that,  
4 but if the Board of Game does not adopt Proposal 59,  
5 then look at the map. It looks like it's going to be  
6 really tough to get that far into the Kaiyuh Slough  
7 area to actually get on these -- we don't want a  
8 disparate hunt in December.  
9

10 That's what I don't to see -- is a  
11 disparate hunt in December. We have to have a Board of  
12 Game hunt simultaneously in the -- and I would like a  
13 transmittal to the Board of Game for modified proposal  
14 to be discussed at the Board of Game so that we --  
15 they're clear that we're talking about the southern  
16 portion of the winter hunt area for December to -- for  
17 concern about the bull/cow ratio in the northern  
18 portion.  
19

20 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. I'm good with  
21 that.  
22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I think  
24 the record is fairly clear. Long discussion, which is  
25 excellent, because we have to have those transcripts to  
26 clarify what our intent was. Because when it will go  
27 to the Federal Subsistence Board and the Board of Game  
28 that we need to be clear about what this Council did on  
29 the record.  
30

31 So Koyukuk Refuge -- I want to know if  
32 you're clear about our intent, Jeremy.  
33

34 MR. HAVENER: Yeah. I got pretty good  
35 understand of what you're looking for with the December  
36 hunt. If I could just real quick ask because my phone  
37 has been cutting out -- what is going to be your  
38 northern boundary again?  
39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The northern  
41 boundary will be the Kaiyuh Slough and tributaries to  
42 the Kaiyuh Slough down to the Bonanza Creek drainage  
43 that goes to the Kaiyuh Mountains. And the drainages  
44 of the Bonanza Creek drainage will be the northern  
45 boundary of the hunt area for the December 1 to  
46 December 15, the announced season for 15 days.  
47

48 MR. HAVENER: Okay. I just want to be  
49 clear on that because I am going to -- once we get off  
50

1 here I'm going to try to sit down with our biologist  
2 and our deputy Refuge manager and just talk to them  
3 about this to see if we can get a stance at the Refuge.  
4

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I just want  
7 Koyukuk to be aware of where we went with that  
8 proposal. And Proposal 36 was defeated.  
9

10 Jenny.

11

12 MS. PELKOLA: I had a question and it  
13 just -- who was that?  
14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's Jeremy on the  
16 phone. You got a question for Jeremy, Jenny?  
17

18 MS. PELKOLA: I thought I had a  
19 question, but I.....  
20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Jenny thought  
22 she had a question there, but doesn't at this point.  
23

24 MS. PELKOLA: Oh. I remember now.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
27

28 MS. PELKOLA: It came back.  
29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.  
31

32 MS. PELKOLA: Is this just for the  
33 people that didn't get their moose in the moose season  
34 in the fall?  
35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. This hunt is  
37 only -- you have to have a State harvest ticket and if  
38 you harvested a moose you're not eligible to hunt under  
39 -- without the harvest ticket. So that's a regulatory  
40 harvest ticket.  
41

42 So -- okay.  
43

44 Are we good, Karen? That was  
45 convoluted. I know you're upset.  
46

47 (Laughter)  
48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I'm not  
50



1 upset. I just want to make sure we capture what the  
2 Council meant. And I think we clarified, too, the  
3 differences between the two proposals and the conflict  
4 that would be involved. And I appreciate that -- Lisa  
5 doing that. So I think we're clear.

6  
7 I did want to let you know that I do  
8 have a report on some of the proposals, some tribal  
9 consultation, and Christine Brummer from our office is  
10 -- and Orville Lind is on the phone if there are any  
11 questions about any tribal consultation or ANCSA  
12 Corporation consultation on these proposals.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Were there any  
17 tribal consultation comments on Proposal WP36 and 37.

18  
19 Orville.

20  
21 REPORTER: Orville, are you there. If  
22 you are, you're up.

23  
24 MR. LIND: Yes. Hi, Jack. Board  
25 Members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM.

26  
27 We did conduct consultations on  
28 September 23rd for your region and there were no  
29 discussions on those proposals from the Region. We  
30 only had two tribes call in. One from (indiscernible -  
31 phone crackling) and one from Seldovia. So that's all  
32 I have for you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate  
35 that. So okay. We've covered those proposals. We've  
36 got Proposal 20-27 out of the way. We're down to  
37 Proposal WP20-43, 44, 45, and 46.

38  
39 Do you want to have a break for a  
40 little bit there.

41  
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We're going  
45 to have a 15-minute break for -- and go on to the next  
46 proposals. These eliminate bull closures and prohibit  
47 -- prohibition on cow -- on calf harvest for Unit 23.

48  
49 So we're going to take a 15-minute

50

1 break. That should put us back here at approximately  
2 3:25.

3

4 (Off record)

5

6 (On record)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
9 come back on the record again. So we've got -- Lisa is  
10 going to go over Proposal -- these are Crossover  
11 Proposal WP20-43, 44, 45, and 46, which would be on  
12 page 114 of our meeting book.

13

14 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you, Mr.  
15 Chair. Members of the Council. Again my name is Lisa  
16 Maas and I will be presenting a summary of the analysis  
17 for Wildlife Proposals WP20-43, 44, 45, 46. And again  
18 that's on page 114 of your meeting books.

19

20 Wildlife Proposal WP20-43 was submitted  
21 by the Kotzebue Sound AC and Proposal WP20-45 was  
22 submitted by the Northwest Arctic Council. And both of  
23 these proposals request a year-round bull season for  
24 caribou in Unit 23.

25

26 Wildlife Proposal 20-44 was also  
27 submitted by the Kotzebue Sound AC and requests that  
28 harvest of caribou calves be permitted in Unit 23.

29

30 Wildlife Proposal WP20-46 was submitted  
31 by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group or  
32 WACH Working Group and requests both a year-round bull  
33 season and that harvest of caribou calves be permitted  
34 in Unit 23.

35

36 The Kotzebue Sound AC note that the  
37 migration of the Western Arctic Herd has occurred later  
38 in recent years resulting in the bull season already  
39 being closed when caribou pass through accessible  
40 areas, therefore harvest has shifted to cows which  
41 could become a conservation concern. Opening the bull  
42 closure would allow harvest of younger bulls that do  
43 not stink during the rut, conserving cows and  
44 alleviating compliance issues associated with  
45 distinguishing between bulls and cows.

46

47 The Kotzebue Sound AC also state that  
48 while no one targets calves, legalize calf harvest  
49 would allow take of orphan calves that may otherwise be

50

1 killed by predators. The WACH Working Group provided  
2 the same rationale as the Kotzebue AC.  
3

4 The Northwest Arctic Council states  
5 that eliminating the bull closure would allow harvest  
6 of younger bulls, reducing harvest pressure on cows.  
7 The Council echoes concerns with the Kotzebue AC that  
8 due to caribou migration occurring later in the year  
9 only the cow season is open when caribou migrate  
10 through accessible areas. Eliminating the bull closure  
11 would take pressure off Federally-qualified subsistence  
12 users to harvest caribou during a certain time frame.  
13

14 In 2013, an aerial photo census  
15 indicated significant declines in the Western Arctic  
16 Herd. In response the Board of Game and the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board implemented a suite of regulatory  
18 restrictions across the range of the Western Arctic  
19 Herd in 2015, including closing the bull season during  
20 the rut and prohibiting calf harvest. Therefore, these  
21 restrictions have only been in regulations for a short  
22 time and were intended as a conservation measure during  
23 a time of steep decline.  
24

25 The Kotzebue Sound AC and the WACH  
26 Working Group also submitted identical proposals to the  
27 State. Proposals 19, 20, 24, and 25. The Board of  
28 Game will act on these proposals in January 2020.  
29

30 The Western Arctic Herd declined from a  
31 peak population of 490,000 caribou in 2003 to a low of  
32 201,000 caribou in 2016. In 2017 the herd increased to  
33 an estimate 259,000 caribou. While a photo census was  
34 not completed in 2018, results from a successful 2019  
35 photo census are currently being processed and should  
36 be available by December. Bull/cow ratios have been  
37 adequate and generally above 40 bulls per 100 cows.  
38

39 Caribou calving generally occurs in  
40 June while weaning occurs in late fall before the  
41 breeding season. Calves stay with their mother through  
42 their first winter which improves calves access to food  
43 and body condition. Calves orphaned after weaning have  
44 a greater chance of survival than calves orphaned  
45 before weaning. Since about 2000 the timing of fall  
46 migration has become less predictable, often occurring  
47 later than in previous decades.  
48

49 Caribou have been and are a primary  
50

1 subsistence resource in the Northwest Arctic Region.  
2 Traditionally cows and calves were highly valued for  
3 their hides and were harvested in late summer when  
4 their hides were prime for making clothes. Calves also  
5 provided food for elders as their meat was more tender  
6 and easier to chew. However, hunters no longer target  
7 calves in the Northwest Arctic Region and Northwest  
8 Arctic Council Members indicated harvest of calves to  
9 be wrong and unethical.

10  
11 The harvestable surplus of the Western  
12 Arctic herd is calculated as seven percent of the  
13 estimated population. In 2016 harvest likely exceeded  
14 the harvestable surplus when harvest was estimated at  
15 15,000 caribou, while the harvestable surplus was only  
16 12,000 caribou. However, the population increase in  
17 2017 increased the harvestable surplus estimate to  
18 18,000 caribou, likely bring harvest back to  
19 sustainable levels.

20  
21 Local community harvest reflects  
22 caribou availability rather than population trends and  
23 Federally-qualified subsistence users account for  
24 approximately 95 percent of total Western Arctic Herd  
25 harvest. As caribou migration has been occurring later  
26 in recent years, subsistence harvest has also been  
27 occurring later. In November, for example, rather than  
28 September.

29  
30 One alternative considered was to  
31 maintain the prohibition on calf harvest as some  
32 members of the Northwest Arctic Council voiced strong  
33 opposition to calf harvest.

34  
35 Since no conservation concerns are  
36 associated with allowing calf harvest and it increases  
37 harvest opportunity, OSM supports calf harvest, but  
38 recognizes Northwest Council Members may consider calf  
39 harvest to be in conflict with its subsistence  
40 lifestyles and beliefs. Regardless, that is for the  
41 Councils to decide, not OSM.

42  
43 Additionally, other subsistence users  
44 on the Kotzebue Sound AC and the WACH Working Group  
45 support calf harvest and other Councils, including the  
46 North Slope, Western Interior, and Seward Peninsula  
47 will also consider this issue.

48  
49 If these proposals are adopted, the  
50

1 bull caribou season would be open year-round and the  
2 harvest of caribou calves would be permitted in Unit  
3 23. Eliminating the bull closure provides more harvest  
4 opportunity and poses no conservation concerns. Young  
5 bulls could still be harvested during the rut taking  
6 harvest pressure off of cows and providing more harvest  
7 flexibility to Federally-qualified subsistence users.  
8

9 Permitting calf harvest would allow the  
10 harvest of orphaned calves, however identifying orphan  
11 calves can be difficult as cows and calves are  
12 sometimes separated by substantial distances. Allowing  
13 calf harvest may also reduce wanton waste as calves  
14 mistakenly shot are left in the field since they cannot  
15 be legally harvested or salvaged. Northwest Arctic  
16 Council Members and a local biologist have reported  
17 seeing wounded or orphaned calves out in the field that  
18 are not legally available for harvest.  
19

20 The Western Arctic and Teshekpuk  
21 caribou herds are the only herds in Alaska where calf  
22 harvest is prohibited and it's only been prohibited  
23 since 2015. Calves only comprise an estimated two  
24 percent of the harvest -- and this was prior to the  
25 prohibition in 2015 -- which is not biologically  
26 meaningful. Indeed, prohibiting cow harvest would have  
27 much more of a conservation impact on herd abundance  
28 than prohibiting calf harvest.  
29

30 The Board of Game will consider these  
31 issues in January. If only the Board of Game passes  
32 these proposals and not the Federal Subsistence Board,  
33 Federal regulations would be more restrictive than  
34 State regulations, which is contrary to ANILCA.  
35 Differing State and Federal regulations would also  
36 create user confusion and cause users to distinguish  
37 between Federal and non-Federal lands, including the  
38 mean high water mark, which can be very difficult to  
39 define.  
40

41 In sum, adopting these proposals  
42 increases harvest opportunity and there are no  
43 conservation concerns, although there may be social and  
44 cultural concerns.  
45

46 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
47 support WP20-46 and to take no action on Proposals  
48 WP20-43, 44, and 45.  
49  
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Lisa. And  
4 why was 46 preferred over the other ones?

5

6 MS. MAAS: 46 was the one that included  
7 both the calf -- allowance of calf harvest and bull  
8 caribou harvest.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And 46 is.....

11

12 MS. MAAS: Whereas the other ones only  
13 included one or the other.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 46 was proposed by  
16 the WACH?

17

18 MS. MAAS: Correct.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

21

22 MS. MAAS: And so it's basically -- I  
23 mean we could have supported Proposals, you know, 43  
24 and 44, but it just seems simpler to support one.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And 45 does not  
27 allow the harvest of calves?

28

29 MS. MAAS: 45 was submitted by the  
30 Northwest Arctic and only requested the year-round bull  
31 season. So basically OSM supported both the year-round  
32 bull season and allowing calf harvest.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Was there a -- they  
35 got -- excuse me. Is there -- there was a photo census  
36 taken in 2019. Was there an estimate of the cow/calf  
37 ratios on the natal grounds? When they take the photo  
38 you can see those calves on that high digital photo.  
39 Did they do any kind of indication of where  
40 recruitments were?

41

42 MS. MAAS: Yeah. The photo census is  
43 usually in July and then they do the cow/calf ratios in  
44 June and again in the fall. The most recent -- you're  
45 asking the June cow/calf ratio?

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: June cow/calf ratio.

48

49 MS. MAAS: I don't think I have that

50

1 for 2019. The most recent is for 2018. And I remember  
2 it's in the 20s, but the exact -- let's see.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it would be  
5 the.....

6  
7 MS. MAAS: Yeah. In -- yeah. I mean  
8 June cow/calf ratios have been good throughout the  
9 whole decline of the Western Arctic herd. I mean  
10 between 2004 and 2016 the June cow/calf ratio averaged  
11 71 calves per 100 cows.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

14  
15 MS. MAAS: And in 2016 it was actually  
16 86 calves per 100 cows, which is about the highest it's  
17 ever been recorded. So as far as the decline goes,  
18 it's not really the calf production that has been the  
19 issue. It's more recruitment.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Survival.

22  
23 MS. MAAS: So survival. Yeah.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Survival.

26  
27 MS. MAAS: Calf survival and  
28 recruitment.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

31  
32 MS. MAAS: Yep.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So did you have  
35 questions, Pollock? You have a Western Arctic Caribou  
36 Work Group. Did-- were you supportive of calf harvest  
37 and extending the bull season to year-round?

38  
39 Turn your mic on there Pollock.

40  
41 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
42 on the Caribou Working Group Committee and just  
43 wondered about the Noatak area where it's -- close to  
44 (indiscernible) but they have hunting -- sporthunting  
45 and fishing on the Noatak River and the local residents  
46 state that they have a hard time getting caribou. But  
47 the caribou population has stabilized. It's not  
48 declining anymore. But they're getting a lot of  
49 caribou hunters because most of the caribou is

50

1 traveling to the west. And although the caribou hasn't  
2 populated high, but most of the caribou is going to  
3 catch (indiscernible) want more caribous, like five per  
4 day.  
5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the proposal  
7 from the Western Arctic Caribou Work Group is to allow  
8 year-round harvest, not stop bull harvest in October so  
9 that people can harvest younger bulls, which the  
10 bull/cow ratio -- what were some of the -- there used  
11 to be 52 or 53 bulls per 100 cows. They have a  
12 management objective of 40 bulls per 100 cows, so  
13 they're exceeding their management objective, Lisa?  
14

15 MS. MAAS: Correct. Yeah, if you look  
16 at Figure 3 on page 138, there's a graph of the  
17 bull/cow ratios. So it looks like there was kind of a  
18 brief dip below -- I think it was 39 bulls per 100 cows  
19 in 2014. But then it's since then increased back up  
20 above 50 bulls per 100 cows.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.  
23

24 MS. MAAS: And I mean -- you know, it  
25 kind of bounces around, but overall it's been above the  
26 40 bulls per 100 cows. And, you know, other herds the  
27 objective is 30 bulls per 100 cows, so the fact that  
28 it's 40 -- it's been above 40 is a pretty good bull/cow  
29 ratio.  
30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 40 bulls -- my  
32 opinion. I'm opinionated about these caribou quite a  
33 bit. My opinion is that 35 to 40 bulls is a good  
34 number to have for bulls. And because you've got to  
35 have at least eight large bulls -- eight years old per  
36 100 cows for your breeding population. That's the  
37 breeding component.  
38

39 Then you have this recruitment of  
40 younger bulls into the population that are typically  
41 excluded from breeding. All the caribou breed in one  
42 week. Most of the calves are born in one week. Half  
43 the calves are born in two days. A few are born on  
44 both ends. You have to have a lot of bulls. They have  
45 small testes. They don't produce -- they can't -- you  
46 have to have a lot of -- you've got to have an adequate  
47 number of large bulls.  
48

49 Mulchatna is the graphic as to how to  
50



1 destroy a caribou herd. Shoot it to one large bull --  
2 one large bull per 100 cows and you see reproductive  
3 failure and the herd goes right from 200,000 to 28,000  
4 -- snap -- just like that.  
5

6 You want to destroy a caribou herd.  
7 Shoot all the big bulls out of the population. So 40  
8 bulls per 100 cows is good. I would like to know a  
9 composition of -- you know, when you make data  
10 presentations, I would like to know what those  
11 compositions of bulls are for future reference, because  
12 that's a very important issue -- is what those larger  
13 bull components are for caribou. Because apparently  
14 the performance of the State of Alaska with various  
15 caribou herds including Nelchina shows they have to go  
16 to caribou management school because they continuously  
17 destroy caribou herds.  
18

19 And so I am satisfied with 50 bulls per  
20 100 cows. I'm supportive of the WACH Proposal to allow  
21 calf harvest now because the herd has come back --  
22 returned -- coming back up again. If they shoot a cow  
23 and it's got a calf starts hanging around you, you  
24 might as well shoot it because it's not going to do  
25 real well by itself.  
26

27 So when the herd was low and we needed  
28 that recruitment so bad I was supportive of calf  
29 restrictions, but at this point Western Herd is  
30 starting to edge back up again and so spreading the  
31 harvest a little wider across the population would be  
32 good.  
33

34 So that's the data presentation. We  
35 didn't have any tribal comments because Orville says we  
36 didn't have -- there would be no comments from that  
37 Region. So I would be surprised.  
38

39 Is that correct, Orville, on the phone  
40 there? Are you there still?  
41

42 MR. LIND: This is Orville, Chairman  
43 Jack. That is correct.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yes. As I  
46 suspected. Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
47 comments. Do we have ADF&G on the phone for Proposal  
48 -- it would be Proposal 45, the Work Group Proposal.  
49

50

1 REPORTER: ADF&G, anybody for ADF&G.

2

3

4 MR. MULLIGAN: This is Ben Mulligan  
5 from Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The  
6 Department hasn't finalized its analysis of their  
7 proposal yet, so we don't have a position at this time.

7

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So -- oh,  
10 correction. My correction is it's Proposal 46 -- is  
11 what OSM is supporting with the year-round bull harvest  
12 and allowance for calf harvest. So the Department  
13 doesn't have a position on that.

13

14

15 The Federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service. OSM is speaking for Fish and Wildlife on this  
17 proposal or is Fish and Wildlife -- it would be the --  
18 and Unit 23 would be a large portion -- is.....

18

19

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50

1 Are you there, Marcy?

2

3

(Pause)

4

5

6

REPORTER: Marcy, are you on line, go ahead if you are.

7

8

9

MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. This is Marcy Okada with Gates of the Arctic National Park.

10

11

12

13

14

15

Kobuk Valley National Park SRC did meet last week, but I would have -- I would feel more comfortable if Hannah Atkinson, the subsistence coordinator for that SRC made those comments on behalf of the SRC.

16

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And she would not be on the phone?

20

21

22

MS. OKADA: She is not currently on the teleconference line.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's too bad. So I would feel that that Kobuk Valley probably made the recommendation, but I -- but they're not available. Those comments aren't available unfortunately. And if there are comments I would encourage some Park Service subsistence resource coordinators to submit those recommendations to the affected Councils because this is a Federal process.

32

33

34

35

36

So thank you, Marcy.

Were there written comments, Karen, at all? Or.....

37

38

39

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There were no written comments on these proposals.

40

41

Thank you.

42

43

44

45

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And there would be public testimony. Is there anybody on the phone that would like to testify to these proposals.

46

47

(No comments)

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none. The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt Proposal -- a

1 proposal, but I would prefer Proposal WP20-46 and take  
2 no action as OSM preliminary conclusion to support calf  
3 harvest and to return to year-round bull harvest for  
4 the Western Arctic caribou herd in Unit 23.

5

6

Do we have a motion to that effect.

7

8

MR. SIMON: So moved.

9

10

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.

11

12

MR. GERVAIS: Seconded.

13

14

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.

15

16

Discussion on this proposal. I made my  
17 discussion previously during the data presentation.

18

19

Any other discussions.

20

21

(No comments)

22

23

MR. SIMON: Question.

24

25

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.

26

Those in favor of Proposal WP20-46, signify by saying  
27 aye.

28

29

IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And take no action

32

on Proposals WP20-43, WP20-44, and WP20-45 because of  
33 action taken on 46.

34

35

So all right.

36

37

So we're going to go to Statewide  
38 Proposals WP20-08, require traps and snares to be  
39 marked with the name or State identification for all  
40 furbearers in all units.

41

42

You're presenting, Pippa -- oh, Lisa?

43

44

MS. MAAS: Yeah. I'm presenting this

45

one.

46

47

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

48

49

MS. MAAS: The next one Pippa is

50

1 presenting.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

4

5

MS. MAAS: All right.

6

7

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Go right

8

ahead.

9

10

MS. MAAS: So again my name is Lisa

11

Maas, for the record. And I will be presenting the

12

summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP20-08,

13

which again begins on page 157 of your meeting books.

14

15

Wildlife Proposal WP20-08 was submitted

16

by the East Prince of Wales AC and requests

17

implementing a statewide requirement that traps and

18

snares be marked with either the trapper's name or

19

State identification number.

20

21

The proponent believes that current

22

regulations do not provide accountability if a trapper

23

leaves their trap set after seasons close or uses

24

illegal bait. The proponent states that requiring trap

25

identification would make law enforcement easier and

26

help to reduce illegal trapping practices.

27

28

The Alaska Board of Game adopted a trap

29

marking requirement for Units 1 through 5 in 2006.

30

Federal regulations followed suit in 2012. Trap

31

identification was required in Southeast Alaska because

32

wildlife troopers, ADF&G, and the public all agreed on

33

marking traps in an effort to reduce illegal trapping

34

practices and incidental take.

35

36

In 2014 the Federal Subsistence Board

37

rejected Proposal WP14-01 which requested requiring

38

trapper identification tags Statewide and was opposed

39

by all ten Councils. In 2016 the Board of Game removed

40

the trap identification requirement for Southeast

41

Alaska because the requirement was not actually

42

preventing illegal trapping or incidental take. In

43

2018 Federal regulations followed suit.

44

45

This proposal is not expected to have

46

any effect on any wildlife populations and would not

47

prevent illegal trapping activity or incidental take of

48

pets or non-target wildlife. It could benefit law

49

enforcement although users could just trap under State

50

1 regulations on Federal public lands to avoid this  
2 requirement.  
3

4 This requirement would substantially  
5 burden Federally-qualified subsistence users who would  
6 need to spend time and money marking all of their  
7 traps. Misalignment between State and Federal  
8 regulations would also create user confusion.  
9

10 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
11 oppose WP20-08.  
12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks, Lisa.  
16

17 Go ahead, Pollock.  
18

19 MR. SIMON: I think that this proposal  
20 was adopted several years back but we opposed it. When  
21 I used to trap marten sometimes I put out 100 traps.  
22 If this proposal should pass then I would have to  
23 identify each trap and that would take a lot of time  
24 and trouble, so I don't like this proposal.  
25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for the  
29 comment, Pollock. Any questions on the presentation.  
30

31 Don.  
32

33 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I think  
34 this is more geared toward an urban setting where --  
35 maybe Anchorage or the Mat-Su Valley or something where  
36 they may -- you know, out in the rural areas I think  
37 this in all practicality would be a hardship.  
38

39 Like Pollock mentioned here, somebody  
40 has 50 to 100 traps set out or something specifically  
41 for martin and -- you know, I just don't see the need  
42 for it. Most people pick up when the season is over  
43 with, so that's my take on it.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.  
46

47 Any other.  
48

49 Jenny.  
50

1 MS. PELKOLA: I agree that this is not  
2 a very good proposal for the same reasons stated by  
3 Pollock and Don.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we will go  
6 through the list here. We introduced the proposal.  
7 Report on the Board consultations with Tribes.

8

9 Was there any tribal consultation and  
10 opposition or support, Orville?

11

12 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair, Board Members.  
13 There was no discussion on this proposal during the  
14 consultation.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Other  
19 Regional Councils have not weighed in on this.

20

21 Fish and Game Advisory Committees. Has  
22 there been any opposition from Advisory Committees  
23 throughout this.

24

25 Karen.

26

27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 We have a written comment from the Ketchikan Advisory  
29 Committee. They oppose this proposal and their  
30 justification is though some type of compromise should  
31 be reached in regards to labeling of trap snares, a one  
32 size fits all regulation could be overly burdensome in  
33 some areas.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's the  
38 only written comment you have?

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry. There's  
41 another written comment, but because you specifically  
42 asked for Advisory Committee I thought it would be a  
43 good time to read this.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Subsistence

50

1 Resource Commissions.

2

3

Has Denali met at all, Ray?

4

5

MR. COLLINS: No.

6

7

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,

8

Lisa.

9

10

11

12

13

14

MS. MAAS: Yeah. For the Regional Advisory Councils, the only other Council that has met so far to consider this Statewide proposal is Kodiak Aleutians. And they took no action on this proposal.

15

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for that, Lisa. And -- okay. Those comm -- written comment, Karen?

19

20

21

22

23

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28

29

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is one more written comment from Alaskans for Wildlife. They support this proposal even in urban municipalities of Alaska as conflicts in public use areas resulting in injuries to hikers, pets, and other outdoor public land users are rising. Keeping in mind even the use of more remote public land grows as outdoor users of their lands increase and potential for conflicts, including serious injuries resulting from hidden unidentified traps, will increase.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

Organized trappers have strongly opposed such requirements as proposed here in the past requests for change considered by the Alaska Board of Game. We witness the public land users, including of Federal lands, would most certainly strongly favor this accountability. We strongly favor this proposal.

37

38

39

40

41

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you for those comments.

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

But the comments keep referring to urban conflicts and so that's kind of an issue. The Federal Subsistence Board has delineated non-subsistence areas -- and those would be the conflict areas where we do not even have subsistence use. These are Federal proposals.

49

50

So I'm looking at page seven of the



1 Federal Subsistence Regulations that delineate all  
2 these non-subsistence areas. Those are the places  
3 where they're having conflicts. These are Federal  
4 subsistence proposal. They don't actually apply to any  
5 of the rural subsistence lands where we have a priority  
6 use for trapping, so it would be my comment in regards  
7 to that written comment.  
8

9 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
10 adopt WP20-08 to get it on the table.  
11

12 MR. HONEA: I move.  
13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.  
15

16 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded.  
17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.  
19

20 Discussion.  
21

22 My discussion is I trap in the  
23 wintertime. There's -- I got -- if I'm trapping martin  
24 all various lynx sets and wolf sets and all these  
25 various kinds of sets, that's a lot of trap marking.  
26 The only time I've had enforcement officers on my trap  
27 line is when they wanted to go along to learn how to  
28 trap.  
29

30 (Laughter)  
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They might fly by or  
33 something, but they don't go out on my trap line. And  
34 nobody wants you digging up your traps -- finding your  
35 traps and messing with your sets to look at the tags on  
36 the traps. That would give this auspices that they  
37 could do that.  
38

39 I feel that in rural Alaska it's pretty  
40 relatively clear who is trapping where in a community  
41 and an enforcement officer can stop and talk to the  
42 trapper along the trail. But it's not been an issue in  
43 our area. We do -- we have had a couple of instances  
44 where trappers have come on the road and they set some  
45 wolf snares and didn't pick them up, but that has to do  
46 with road trappers and that doesn't fall under Board of  
47 Game regulations. But it's a fairly rare instance.  
48

49 So I'm opposed to this proposal because  
50

1 it's basically burdensome to rural subsistence users  
2 who are trapping and it's -- as the Board of Game found  
3 out it's not been effective in deterring illegal  
4 trapping activities. And they could trap under State  
5 regulations anyways.

6  
7 So I oppose the proposal. That would  
8 be my justification as I delineated.

9  
10 MR. COLLINS: Question.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on  
13 the proposal. Those in favor of WP20-08, signify by  
14 saying aye.

15  
16 (No aye votes)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

19  
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so then we're to  
23 -- let's see here. WP20-26, allow use of snowmachines  
24 for positioning wolves and wolverines.

25  
26 Pippa.

27  
28 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
29 Members of the Council. My name is Pippa Kenner and I  
30 am an anthropologist at OSM in Anchorage.

31  
32 The analysis for Proposal WP20-26  
33 begins on page 170 of your Council books. And again  
34 there are Council books on the back table and right  
35 here for anyone in the audience.

36  
37 And we're going to be talking about  
38 Management Units 9 and 17. And so if you look in your  
39 Federal book -- just to let you know, Unit 9 the map is  
40 on page 49 and Unit 17 the map is on page 79. 49 and  
41 79. That's Units 9 and 17.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see it on  
44 79.

45  
46 MS. KENNER: Excuse me. Oh, I'm sorry.  
47 In Wildlife Regulations.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, the regulations.

50

1 MS. KENNER: I'm sorry.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

4  
5 MS. KENNER: In the Wildlife  
6 Regulations.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

9  
10 MS. KENNER: And for those in the  
11 audience, there's Wildlife Regulations in the back of  
12 the room somewhere. So that's 49 and 79.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So -- well, 78 in  
15 the Reg book and.....

16  
17 MS. KENNER: 78.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And 49. Let's see.

20  
21 MS. KENNER: So Unit 9 is  
22 generally.....

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

25  
26 MS. KENNER: Unit 9 is generally Lake  
27 Clark, Iliamna Lake, and Alaska Peninsula Region and 17  
28 is the Bristol Bay Region.

29  
30 This Proposal was submitted by the  
31 Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and  
32 it requests that Federally-qualified users be allowed  
33 to use a snowmachine to position wolves and wolverines  
34 for harvest on Bureau of Land Management lands in Units  
35 19B and C and 17B and C, provided the animals are not  
36 shot from a moving snowmachine.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment on page  
39 70 of our book, it does not show 19B or C in the  
40 proposal. It shows 17B and C, but it doesn't show 19B  
41 and C on page 170.

42  
43 This clarification -- for the record,  
44 what we're looking at on.....

45  
46 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
47 You're absolutely right. So what the Chair just said,  
48 for the record, is that on page 70 the proposal  
49 regulation in error does not include Unit 9B and C.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is it 19B or 9?  
2  
3 MS. KENNER: 9.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. 9.  
6  
7 MS. KENNER: 9.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
10  
11 MS. KENNER: And this proposal does  
12 include Units 9B and C.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.  
15  
16 MS. KENNER: And 17B and C.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No 19.  
19  
20 MS. KENNER: No 19.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
23  
24 MS. KENNER: Okay.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Stand corrected.  
27 Okay. I see it on the other side here. It's in the  
28 discussion under draft State analysis. Page 171 gives  
29 those units -- the proposals.  
30  
31 So go ahead.  
32  
33 MS. KENNER: But thank you very much  
34 for that clarification. It could be very confusing to  
35 somebody who is trying to follow along.  
36  
37 Okay. So the reason why this proposal  
38 is coming to you is that there are residents in the  
39 Western Interior Alaska Region that may hunt and trap  
40 wolverine and wolves under Federal regulations in Unit  
41 17 and Unit 9. So in that sense it's a crossover  
42 proposal.  
43  
44 The proponent states that the use of  
45 snowmachines to position wolves and wolverines is a  
46 traditional practice in rural areas and the proposed  
47 regulation will mirror Federal regulations in Unit 23.  
48 So a regulation like this was adopted in Unit 23 by the  
49 Federal Board.  
50

1                   Some recent regulatory history to keep  
2 in mind. And so Proposal 16-48 was submitted by the  
3 Native Village of Kotzebue and it requested that  
4 Federally-qualified users be allowed to use  
5 snowmachines to position caribou, wolf, and wolverine  
6 for harvest in Unit 23. The Board adopted the proposal  
7 with modification to allow this method of harvest only  
8 on those lands managed by the Bureau of Land  
9 Management. The Bureau of Land Management regulatory  
10 language does not specifically prohibit the use of  
11 snowmachines to position animals for hunting and this  
12 harvest method is allowed on some State-managed lands  
13 also.

14  
15                   Then 2017 we have the individual from  
16 Manokotak who submitted a proposal requesting that  
17 Federally-qualified users be allowed to use snowmachine  
18 to position caribou, wolves, and wolverines for harvest  
19 in Unit 17 provided the animals would not be shot from  
20 a moving vehicle. And he submitted the same proposal  
21 to the Board of Game. So the Federal Subsistence Board  
22 and the Bristol Bay Council did not support the  
23 proposal at the Board of Game meeting, but some public  
24 testimony was received in support.

25  
26                   So as you remember, we had already gone  
27 over Proposal WP20-27, which was for caribou only in  
28 Unit 17, so it's related to this proposal.

29  
30                   So if adopted, this proposal would  
31 allow hunters to use a snowmachine to position wolves  
32 and wolverines for selection and harvest as long as  
33 they were not shot from a moving snowmachine. Currently  
34 in the Bristol Bay Region the majority of wolves  
35 harvested in the most recent five-year reporting period  
36 were taken by firearm, while the majority of wolverine  
37 over the same five years were taken by trapping.

38  
39                   The proposal regulation may not result  
40 in an increase in harvest of wolves and wolverine by  
41 trap or snare; however, such regulatory changes could  
42 likely increase the take of wolves and wolverine by  
43 firearm and may result in more opportunistic harvest.

44  
45                   Currently the wolf population is  
46 believed to be stable. Less is known about the  
47 resident wolverine population and this change in  
48 regulation could result in increased biological  
49 vulnerability.

50

1 Another effect is that regulations for  
2 the use snowmachine when harvesting wolves and  
3 wolverines would be different on State-managed lands;  
4 however, this situation is already the case and should  
5 the proposal be adopted it does not add regulatory  
6 complexity that does not already exist. Specifically  
7 in State regulations a snowmachine may be used to  
8 position a hunter to select an individual wolf for  
9 harvest and in Federal regulations a snowmachine -- and  
10 in Federal regulations a snowmachine could then be used  
11 to position a wolf or wolverine for harvest.  
12

13 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
14 support the proposal. Hunters using snowmachine to  
15 position wolves and wolverines for harvest is a  
16 traditional practice in the Bristol Bay area. While  
17 methods and means for taking wildlife in ethnographic  
18 literature describe hunters interacting with wildlife  
19 while taking them, until the 1960s hunters were largely  
20 on sled or foot.  
21

22 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
23 found it necessary to exclude snowmachines as a legal  
24 method to take wildlife species in the category of game  
25 when the use of snowmachines became common in the  
26 1960s. These regulations were adopted to explicitly  
27 prevent hunters from using snowmachines to harass,  
28 drive, herd or molest game.  
29

30 A hunter could take game from a  
31 snowmachine if the motor had been completely shut off  
32 and progress from the motor's power had ceased. Only a  
33 hunter on foot or dog sled could legally use  
34 traditional hunting strategies that might affect a game  
35 behavior. However, hunters persist in using  
36 traditional methods purposefully meant to alter the  
37 behavior of wildlife in order to position them for  
38 harvest because these methods are efficient.  
39

40 Additionally, the Board has adopted a  
41 similar regulation in Unit 23. The proposal regulation  
42 change might increase opportunity through an enhanced  
43 method for the harvest of wolverines and could result  
44 in more harvest. Impacts to wolverine populations are  
45 unknown at this time and are difficult to track.  
46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Members of the  
48 Council.  
49  
50

1 That's the end of my presentation.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thank you,  
4 Pippa. So the reason we're using -- we have a  
5 customary and traditional overlap for wolf and  
6 wolverine in Unit 17.

7

8 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
9 9.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And 9. Okay. So it  
12 applies only to the Bureau of Land Management lands  
13 which in our Reg book is the yellow lands, which are  
14 fairly small areas within those game -- more along the  
15 Bristol Bay -- between Katmai and the Upper Nushagak  
16 drainage is what the delineation would actually be.  
17 You can see the shading there on page 78, where the two  
18 units overlap. So.....

19

20 MS. KENNER: Yes, Mr. Chair. And in  
21 Unit 9 the impact would be primarily for villages like  
22 Levelock, Igigiok, Kokhanok that are in that area on  
23 the Kvichak.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

26

27 MS. KENNER: Where there are BLM lands.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this is a  
32 customary and traditional practice. I don't see any  
33 issue with the proposal.

34

35 Does the Council feel like deliberating  
36 this proposal.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel we should.  
41 We should take a statement on this proposal as a -- so  
42 we introduced the proposal.

43

44 Was there any public comments, tribal  
45 comments, Orville?

46

47 (No comment)

48

49 REPORTER: Orville, are you still with

50

1 us?  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there,  
4 Orville?  
5  
6 (No comment)  
7  
8 MS. MAAS: Sorry. Through the Chair.  
9 There were no public comments on this proposal.  
10  
11 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead.  
14  
15 MS. LAVINE: This is Robbin LaVine.  
16 And in review of the tribal Council notes there were no  
17 comments from the tribal consultations and the ANCSA  
18 consultations.  
19  
20 Thank you.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that,  
23 Robbin.  
24  
25 Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
26 comments. Is there comments, Region 4.  
27  
28 MR. RINALDI: No. There were no  
29 comments here.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The Federal  
32 land.....  
33  
34 REPORTER: Could whoever just said that  
35 identify themselves?  
36  
37 MR. RINALDI: Yep. I apologize. This  
38 is Todd Rinaldi.  
39  
40 REPORTER: Thank you.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. It's best if  
43 you say your name because we're a little bit wobbly on  
44 the phone here.  
45  
46 Appreciate that.  
47  
48 And Bureau of Land Management comments,  
49 Bruce?  
50



1 MR. SEPPI: (Shakes head negatively)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.  
4  
5 And tribal.  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.  
10  
11 Advisory Committees, other Regional  
12 Councils.  
13  
14 (No comments)  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Kodiak Aleutians  
17 -- did they take -- they didn't have any statement on  
18 that.  
19  
20 Agent specific.  
21  
22 (No comments)  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Somebody have  
25 written comments. Did we have written comments on  
26 that.  
27  
28 Karen.  
29  
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 We did have written comments which were similar to the  
32 comments provided on WP20-27, which opposes this  
33 proposal.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And by the.....  
36  
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Alaskans for Wildlife.  
38 Thank you.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
41  
42 So public testimony.  
43  
44 (No comments)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Regional Council  
47 recommendation.  
48  
49 (No comments)  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will  
2 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 20-26.  
3  
4 MR. SIMON: So moved.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.  
7  
8 MS. PELKOLA: Second.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.  
11  
12 Discussion.  
13  
14 Is there a conservation concern. I  
15 don't feel that there is. You know, the justification.  
16 The recommendation -- the biological data would be in  
17 the climate change issue is that snowmachines are  
18 getting harder and harder to use in these game  
19 management units in the coastal areas, so there's been  
20 a reduction in harvest is what is actually occurring  
21 because of accessibility.  
22  
23 Like me -- even in the Arctic I have a  
24 harder and harder time starting in the beginning of the  
25 trapping season because the rivers don't freeze up, the  
26 creeks don't freeze up on time. And so that's kind of  
27 a problem. So a lot of trappers are having more and  
28 more problems getting out.  
29  
30 It will be beneficial to subsistence  
31 needs. It will allow subsistence users to access  
32 subsistence resources more economically.  
33  
34 I don't feel that it's a restriction on  
35 subsistence uses. I wanted to answer those questions  
36 on our card here.  
37  
38 The question's called by Pollock. I  
39 support the proposal myself. Those in favor of the  
40 proposal, signify by saying aye.  
41  
42 IN UNISON: Aye.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.  
45  
46 (No opposing votes)  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: WP20-26 is adopted.  
49 So we are at a point where I want to just -- in the  
50

1 agenda this -- shortly discuss this Mulchatna Caribou  
2 Herd decline.

3  
4 There's a special action request, which  
5 is 19-07, I think, Lisa. Special action request. The  
6 Board of Game. Maybe you should give us a rundown,  
7 Todd, of what the Board of Game did and when the Board  
8 of Game reduced the bag limit for the Mulchatna Caribou  
9 Herd.

10

11 Are you still there?

12

13 REPORTER: Todd, are you still there?

14

15 MR. RINALDI: Yes. I'm sorry. I had  
16 to step out for a minute.

17

18 REPORTER: Okay.

19

20 MR. RINALDI: So what was the question?

21

22 REPORTER: Okay. Hold on. All right,  
23 go ahead Jack.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. My question,  
26 Todd, is we're at the point in the agenda where I  
27 inserted the Mulchatna Caribou Herd decline. Give us a  
28 rundown of when the survey was conducted, what actions  
29 the Department took with the Board to reduce the bag  
30 limit for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. There's a  
31 special action request by the Togiak and Y-K Delta  
32 Refuges to reduce the bag limit to align with State  
33 regulations and I wanted to discuss this issue further.

34

35 So I would like you to delineate what  
36 steps the Alaska Department of Fish and Game took on  
37 Mulchatna.

38

39 Go ahead.

40

41 MR. RINALDI: So I'm going to take a  
42 step back here and give you some of that background  
43 information. And for the record, this is Todd Rinaldi,  
44 with the Department of Fish and Game.

45

46 Well, let's see. So this summer we  
47 were able to complete a photo survey. It's the first  
48 time since 2016 I think we were able to get a photo  
49 survey in. 2017 we weren't able to conduct a

50

1 population survey due to poor survey weather and of  
2 course the caribou didn't cooperate.

3  
4 We did collect some population  
5 information 2018, but the most accurate and viable  
6 population estimate that we currently have is this one  
7 from late June of 2019, which is this year.

8  
9 On that survey it was noted by pilots  
10 and by observers who have been involved in these  
11 Mulchatna surveys for a number of years that even  
12 though we were getting good aggravations of caribou the  
13 size of the caribou groups seemed smaller than in past  
14 years. And that actually did prove to be true. We  
15 observed a considerable number less than what we've  
16 observed in past years. And so when we modeled out the  
17 population using our radio collars we came in with a  
18 population estimate of about 13,500.

19  
20 Well, previous years -- if you look  
21 back all the way to 2012 let's say, we've been  
22 observing an increase in the caribou population. We  
23 went from about 24,000 in 2012 and we hovered around  
24 29,000 in 2016. And then obviously this new updated  
25 information has outlined a decline of 50 percent over  
26 the last three to four years here.

27  
28 The Department has been carrying out  
29 calf productivity and survival studies for -- well,  
30 geez, going back to at least 2001 if not longer on the  
31 Mulchatna Herd. Calf productivity and survival has  
32 been good in most areas. And this year it was 92  
33 percent pregnancy rates for three year olds, but we're  
34 also seeing pregnancy rates that have been increasing  
35 over the last five years in our two-year old cows,  
36 which is unusual. But we've seen an increase in  
37 pregnancy rates there, so that combined with other  
38 information from four and five year olds suggests that  
39 we don't have nutritional limitations in the Mulchatna  
40 Caribou population range. And survival of those calves  
41 has been pretty good over the last X number of years.

42  
43 What we did not have information on is  
44 adult survival. And we're expanding -- well, we have  
45 some basic information on adult survival, but we're  
46 expanding to increase more detailed understanding. We  
47 don't believe that the problem is occurring in the  
48 younger neonatal cohorts. We believe that missing  
49 caribou might be showing up in the adult cohort.

50

1 Harvest in the Mulchatna over the last  
2 X number of years has been slowly increasing till about  
3 a couple of years ago when it's declined a little bit.  
4 2019 data is still coming in, but at the peak of  
5 harvest over the last seven or eight years we have a  
6 reported harvest of only 448 caribou taken in 2017.  
7 And that's the most that's been reported over the last  
8 few years. And that's given on average about 2,400 to  
9 2,600 registration permits are issued each year for  
10 RC503. So we give out, you know, 2,500 permits. We're  
11 harvesting about anywhere from 250 to 450 caribou per  
12 year.  
13

14 So the actions that we've taken -- so  
15 if we look at the composition -- the bull to cow ratios  
16 and the calf to cow ratios, our calf to cow ratios are  
17 still -- they're still very good. We have exceeded  
18 calf to cow ratios in most year and currently we're at  
19 a combined calf to cow ratio. When I say combined it's  
20 because we looked at the eastern area in Unit 17 and  
21 the western area in Unit 18 -- combined at 34 to 100  
22 cows, which is healthy.  
23

24 The bull to cow ratio is under  
25 objective. It's been under objective since about 2015,  
26 2016. We're currently at 31 to 32 bulls to per 100  
27 cows. And so when -- we don't have our fall  
28 composition information. It's actually a fall  
29 composition. Surveys are going on today and tomorrow  
30 if the weather cooperates, so we'll have further  
31 information moving forward in the next few days.  
32

33 So the State -- with this information  
34 -- I guess let me back up again. As you know, there's  
35 been predation control on wolves for the benefit of  
36 caribou -- the Mulchatna Caribou since about 2011. The  
37 area under control the first few years until 2016 was a  
38 small area. It wasn't the maximum area that was  
39 designated or allowed under statute by the Board of  
40 Game.  
41

42 There was an agreement in place with  
43 local villages that we would not open up the areas  
44 around local villages to same day airborne and  
45 predation control activities until local villagers had  
46 an opportunity to take some wolves via hunting and  
47 trapping. And so up until about 2016 areas were closed  
48 until February 1st, allowing the local opportunities to  
49 harvest wolves.  
50

1                   In 2017 we expanded the wolf control.  
2 The wolf control area was focused on the core calving  
3 grounds. And as you guys know, calving grounds can  
4 shift and they have been shifting all around in Unit 17  
5 for a number of years.

6  
7                   We opened up the control area to almost  
8 10,000 square miles encompassing most of 17A, B, and C,  
9 and the core areas of the eastern calving grounds. And  
10 we've been harvesting wolves out of that area through  
11 hunting and trapping and the wolves have been taken  
12 through same day airborne.

13  
14                   The progress on that -- it's basically  
15 -- as you all know, it's dependent on the weather.  
16 Whether or not people can get out on the ground and  
17 hunt and trap and whether or not planes can fly into  
18 these areas and take wolves through same day airborne.  
19 But we've had -- we basically -- we have waves of  
20 harvest. I believe this year's harvest in 2019 will be  
21 more similar to the harvest in 2017, which was 51  
22 wolves taken out of -- or I'm sorry -- 86 wolves taken  
23 out of the area. And I think that we will probably be  
24 looking at a similar harvest for 2018.

25  
26                   So we've been removing wolves at the  
27 caribou calving grounds. It seems to have had an  
28 effect at least on neonatal caribou, which are newly  
29 born calves.

30  
31                   And so having said all of that, so  
32 knowing what we've been doing out there in the area and  
33 then getting this information, this year was quite a  
34 shock. We really had no indication that the population  
35 had declined to this level.

36  
37                   We decided -- we didn't have to go  
38 through the Board of Game. We had the discretion to  
39 limit the bag limit on this hunt. And we chose --  
40 because we are sensitive to subsistence needs in rural  
41 communities we chose to limit the State bag limit to  
42 one caribou. Not limited to bulls only because have a  
43 lower bull to cow ratio than the objective. And then  
44 we presented information to U.S. Fish and Wildlife and  
45 asked them for a similar conservation response -- and  
46 which is what they have done.

47  
48                   And I will leave it at that for now for  
49 additional questions.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thanks so  
2 much, Todd. That's exactly the numbers that I was  
3 looking for. I appreciate all of those.  
4

5 And so -- but one supplementary  
6 information -- Western Interior Regional Advisory  
7 Council had a meeting in Fairbanks in late March 2019.  
8 We had Aaron Moses from Yukon Delta Refuge comment to  
9 us on his report that there was fairly heavy caribou  
10 harvest from the Lower Kuskokwim villages. They got a  
11 lot of caribou. So I vividly recall that and pay close  
12 attention to those kinds of information. And so I  
13 suspect there was -- and so my question now is.....  
14

15 I want to put you on hold there, Todd.  
16

17 Do we have Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge  
18 State. Are you still there, Aaron?  
19

20 (No comment)  
21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have Yukon  
23 Delta on this call. I know they were earlier.  
24

25 MR. MOSES: Can you hear me?  
26

27 REPORTER: Okay. Aaron, is that you?  
28

29 MR. MOSES: Yes. It's Aaron.  
30

31 REPORTER: Okay, Aaron's on, go ahead  
32 Jack.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So my question,  
35 Aaron, is last spring you commented that there was  
36 fairly good success on harvesting caribou in Unit 18.  
37 And my concern is how much harvest. Did the Refuge  
38 enumerate how much harvest and did Togiak take into  
39 account that kind of harvest?  
40

41 MR. MOSES: The last harvest estimate I  
42 have seen online it was around -- they said it was  
43 around about 247 caribou were caught. But we've had --  
44 we do have trouble sometimes with not reporting and so  
45 there could have been a higher harvest than what was  
46 reported.  
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So it was  
49 your impression that most of that hunting was occurring  
50

1 in the southern part of Unit 18, up against the -- what  
2 I'll refer to as the Mulchatna Mountain Range. Was  
3 that your impression also?  
4

5 MR. MOSES: The majority of the harvest  
6 appeared on our Refuge.  
7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Stand by a  
9 second while I get the correct map here. So you're  
10 what Refuge. Not Togiak Refuge? Togiak Refuge is  
11 close to the Mulchatna Range Mountains that drain to  
12 the north into the Lower Kuskokwim River. So you're  
13 saying that most of your harvest was in the Yukon Delta  
14 Refuge to the north of Bethel?  
15

16 MR. MOSES: Right. Yeah. In the  
17 wintertime that Mulchatna Caribou Herd is predominantly  
18 on our side of the Refuge. And we have a lot more  
19 hunters and normally have better snow conditions so  
20 it's easier to access them.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's an  
23 interesting thing. So the -- going back to the  
24 Department.....  
25

26 (Phone interruption)  
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's Todd  
29 wanting to speak.  
30

31 Go ahead, Todd.  
32

33 MR. RINALDI: Thank you. Sorry about  
34 that. Our numbers don't reflect that. Our numbers do  
35 not reflect -- although we are under the impression  
36 that a considerable level of harvest occurs in Unit 18.  
37 Our harvest numbers do not show that. We show that  
38 less harvest and in many cases by 50 percent or more is  
39 being taken in Unit 18 and that the majority is being  
40 taken in Unit 17.  
41

42 And I'm not sure if that's a reporting  
43 issue or where that lies, but the number that the  
44 gentleman just provided I think was 247 for Unit 18  
45 harvest. And last year I only have a reported harvest  
46 of 240-some odd caribou being harvested throughout the  
47 whole Range.  
48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So therein lies the  
50



1 problem, I think. I think that people are catching a  
2 lot of caribou in Unit 18 and the Department of Fish  
3 and Game is unaware of that harvest level.  
4

5 Where do adult caribou go. In four  
6 years when you have a herd reduced it has a fecundity  
7 of 92 percent pregnancy rate. You've got two-year old  
8 cows showing high fecundity. You've got high  
9 reproductive capacity and you're producing lots of  
10 recruitment and the herd falls in half -- that's going  
11 through a -- that's a harvest problem or a predation  
12 factor.  
13

14 So I have the impression that we have a  
15 missing figure. Lisa, you got additional harvest  
16 information?  
17

18 MS. MAAS: Yeah. I just wanted to  
19 clarify. Maybe what Aaron and Todd are saying is that  
20 if you look at total reported harvest the majority  
21 occurs in Unit 17, but if you're looking only at  
22 Federally-qualified subsistence users, the majority of  
23 the harvest occurs in Unit 18. So that might be the  
24 distinction there.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. So I --  
27 when I heard about this decline I put one and one  
28 together. When Aaron told us that there was high heavy  
29 winter harvest in Unit 18 and a herd has declined by 50  
30 percent and it's not being taken so much with fall  
31 hunting inside the mountainous regions in the fall  
32 time, I got very concerned that we had like high  
33 numbers of winter harvest.  
34

35 And what the -- the Department's  
36 restriction reducing the bag limit to one instead of  
37 two, when you have a 50 percent reduction you still  
38 maintain the same harvest rate. You haven't reduced  
39 the harvest rate yet. My concern is that you're still  
40 harvesting one caribou. And it was a two caribou, but  
41 you thought you had 26,000 or 28,000. Now you have  
42 13,500. You're still harvesting at the same rate.  
43

44 My concern is that if the caribou  
45 migrate back out into the plains of Unit 18 and  
46 especially this component -- this westerly component  
47 that's shown the dramatic drop, I can -- I am concerned  
48 that that component may be put below its predator  
49 threshold.  
50

1 I don't care how much wolf control you  
2 do on a calving ground. I used to fly over the  
3 Mulchatna Caribou Herd when it was calving when I  
4 fished in Bristol Bay and I watched ten foot brown  
5 bears chasing down caribou calves and eating them like  
6 popcorn. So the problem is we've got brown bear  
7 predation factors that aren't being addressed with this  
8 wolf predation issue.  
9

10 So I am concerned that this winter hunt  
11 -- I feel that the Department's -- it's incumbent upon  
12 the Department of Fish and Game to eliminate the winter  
13 hunt. Do not allow access to this herd. That  
14 component cannot endure any additional harvest. In  
15 fact, there should be zero harvest. My opinion -- if I  
16 had a caribou herd that was cut in half I would have  
17 those big restrictions needed to be put in place.  
18

19 And for Central Arctic I talked the  
20 Board of Game into eliminating cow harvest in Unit 26B  
21 when that herd fell by 66 percent.  
22

23 So I feel that -- that I wanted you to  
24 be aware, Todd, that there's a possible high number of  
25 unreported harvest. And I'm very concerned about  
26 Mulchatna getting below thresholds where they can't  
27 recover for decades. That's what happens when herds  
28 get too small. They can't come back out of that hole  
29 because they only have one calf. They don't have  
30 twins.  
31

32 So I'm real concerned about this issue.  
33 I am supportive of Special Action Request 19-07 because  
34 that's the bare minimum to align with what the State  
35 has done, but I don't feel that it's adequate to arrest  
36 what the issue is. I feel that Subsistence Division  
37 for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game needs to do  
38 -- may have additional harvest information for those  
39 communities if they've done household surveys. AVCP --  
40 there's got to be more harvest information. I think  
41 it's a hole in the data that you could throw a Mack  
42 truck through.  
43

44 That's what I wanted to get on the  
45 record. That's what is going to be -- the Councils are  
46 going to be talking about. And I would like Y-K Delta  
47 -- and I was requested by the Y-K Delta's Regional  
48 Council's Chair to call into their meeting when they  
49 have their meeting. They want me to call into --  
50

1 Alissa Rogers wants me to talk to them about this  
2 Mulchatna issue because she was on the conference call  
3 on October 3rd on Special Action Request 19-07.  
4

5 Do you have any additional comments,  
6 Todd?  
7

8 MR. RINALDI: No. I don't have any.  
9

10 Thank you.  
11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I wanted the  
13 Council to be aware that if we don't recover this herd,  
14 nobody is going to have caribou in our Region for many  
15 years in the southern part of the Region. Mulchatna  
16 was moving north of McGrath. Mulchatna was doing  
17 great. It was starting to move in country it hadn't  
18 been in for decades.  
19

20 The progression is -- if you look at  
21 the trail systems on the ridges in the Kuskokwim  
22 Mountains, there's trails that go all the way to the  
23 Yukon River. They used to swim the Yukon at Ruby by  
24 the hundreds of thousands of caribou. They had to tie  
25 up the steamboats at Ruby because there were lots of  
26 caribou coming out of the south. That herd was  
27 eliminated in the gold rush. Iditarod, Flat. All  
28 these market hunters shot that herd back down.  
29

30 They were wintering on the north edge  
31 of the Alaska Range. Huge migrations used to winter on  
32 the north edge of the Alaska Range. The herd dwindled  
33 away and finally recovered itself back to 200,000. And  
34 the bull component was shot out and it's -- now it's  
35 crashed. And now it's going to a point where we need  
36 to stop winter hunting today. Not tomorrow. Not next  
37 year. We need to do this sooner than later.  
38

39 And the Department needs to reevaluate  
40 what the harvest rates have been with these unknown, no  
41 survey data for four years, where this herd has  
42 probably been getting some pretty heavy hunting  
43 pressure.  
44

45 Aaron, do you have additional harvest  
46 indications from other years? Aaron Moses.  
47

48 REPORTER: Aaron, are you there?  
49  
50

1 MR. MOSES: Yeah. I'm here.

2  
3 REPORTER: Okay.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question, Aaron.  
6 Do you have additional other years where you've done --  
7 with your work with the Refuge about other years of  
8 high caribou harvest in winter?

9  
10 MR. MOSES: We do suspect that there is  
11 a high unreported harvest here on this side of the  
12 Refuge -- on our Refuge.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Togiak Refuge is  
15 not on this call.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want an OSM who is  
20 going to be working through WP19-07 -- or correction --  
21 the Special Action Request 19-07 to incorporate the  
22 discussion that this Western Interior Regional Advisory  
23 Council has made with the very concerning events that  
24 the current restriction only stays with the status quo  
25 really. With one caribou limit when your herd's in  
26 half, you're still at the same harvest rate. And if  
27 that herd goes back out onto the plains of Unit 18, we  
28 could lose that entire component.

29  
30 I want the Federal Refuges and the  
31 Alaska Department of Fish and Game to work together to  
32 restructure what we just heard with comments from Y-K  
33 Delta Regional -- or Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge Staff.

34  
35 So that's where I wanted to go with  
36 this discussion because this is the first Council.

37  
38 I am very appreciative, Todd, that you  
39 actually provided us with data for this discussion.

40  
41 Not faulting anybody. This is just the  
42 way it has -- this is just the big picture, and I  
43 wanted the big picture shown on the wall to see where  
44 we're going with this one.

45  
46 Final comments, Todd.

47  
48 MR. RINALDI: Yes. Thank you. The  
49 only thing I would add is, you know, if you look at the

50

1 five year, the average harvest over the last five  
2 years, not including this current year, we're looking  
3 at about 295 caribou. So that's under a system that  
4 administers one -- or either two State permits or two  
5 Federal permits for an ultimate harvest of two caribou.

6  
7 So that being said, 300 caribou being  
8 reported as being harvest on a population of this size  
9 wouldn't necessarily trigger conservation concerns for  
10 us, but obviously we know the history here.

11  
12 That being said, as far as expected  
13 harvest with those number of permits was averaging 300.  
14 If we reduce the harvest to one caribou we should  
15 expect a decreased harvest effort.

16  
17 Thanks.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If your herd is in  
20 half and you reduce it by 50 percent harvest rate,  
21 you're at the same. That's just the numbers. That's  
22 the way it goes.

23  
24 So the reality is that hasn't done  
25 anything yet. You need to eliminate the winter  
26 harvest. Do you have the discretionary authority to do  
27 that?

28  
29 MR. RINALDI: Yes. We have the  
30 discretionary authority to do that for the State hunt,  
31 yes.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would seriously  
34 advise you to look into that. I don't think you got --  
35 I think YK Delta is telling you they suspect high  
36 unreported harvest. I don't think it's 300 caribou. I  
37 think it's a lot more than that. And I think a lot of  
38 it happened last year because they actually interviewed  
39 people that took those caribou. So I think there needs  
40 to be a reevaluation of what that harvest rate is. And  
41 it's better to err on the side of conservation than to  
42 err on the side of providing additional opportunity.  
43 Because we -- we're not -- we don't have caribou to  
44 give.

45  
46 If it was me, cut the caribou off.  
47 Let's go hunt moose over in the Yukon or do something  
48 else. We're not going to wipe out these caribou.

49  
50

1 Tim.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 Aaron, can you give us your estimate of what the  
5 unreported harvest is on the Yukon Delta side of Unit  
6 18 and -- and if you know? We don't have -- we haven't  
7 had any communication with the Togiak Refuge. Do you  
8 know what kind of harvest they're getting off of the  
9 Togiak Refuge side of Unit 18?

10

11 So two things. What's your estimate on  
12 unreported harvest and then how much harvest are they  
13 getting on the Togiak side of Unit 18.

14

15 MR. MOSES: Hey, Tim. This is Aaron  
16 again. Hello. Can you hear me?

17

18 REPORTER: Yeah, we can, Aaron. But if  
19 you could either talk straight into the mouthpiece it  
20 would be better.

21

22 MR. MOSES: Okay. How about now.

23

24 REPORTER: Yeah. Much better.

25

26 MR. MOSES: Okay. Yeah. We don't have  
27 a grasp on what the unreported harvest is, but just  
28 from personal experience is, from our past  
29 (indiscernible - phone warbly/echo) we've had a high  
30 number of people going out with no licenses and no tags  
31 and (indiscernible - phone warbly/echo) catching more  
32 than the bag limit. So just from my personal  
33 experience and from talking with (indiscernible - phone  
34 warbly/echo) leaders there have been quite a few number  
35 of people un-reporting or having illegal harvest. And  
36 so.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that  
39 comment. I know you can't enumerate it, but that's a  
40 very important highlight of what the problem is.

41

42 Another question there, Tim.

43

44 MR. GERVAIS: Aaron, do you guys  
45 communicate with Togiak Refuge on what the harvest is  
46 on the Togiak Refuge?

47

48 MR. MOSES: Tim, no, we don't. Not  
49 right now. But another thing I want to say is when the

50

1 caribou are around Bethel, can catch 300 caribou  
2 easily. And so when the caribou are available, people  
3 around here will go get them by any means. So when the  
4 reported harvest is low, just thinking about how Bethel  
5 people alone can harvest 300 caribou by themselves.  
6 And that's a big number, so.....

7

8

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

9

10

MR. GERVAIS: Is that.....

11

12

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray's got a  
13 question. Go ahead, Ray.

14

15

16

MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Did you get  
17 further deep snow last year or did you have a crust on  
18 that snow, which meant that it was pretty easy for  
19 snowmachines to get around? Was weather a factor, in  
20 other words?

20

21

MR. MOSES: Weather was a factor later  
22 in the season but early in the season we had some  
23 pretty good snow conditions to access up into the  
24 mountains.

25

26

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you don't have a  
27 counterpart at Togiak Refuge that you -- or an RIT over  
28 there that talks about the subsistence harvest from  
29 those communities, like Goodnews and on that side?

30

31

MR. MOSES: We're uncertain to as what  
32 they know. So we will try to work with the Togiak  
33 Refuge and see what we could come up with.

34

35

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I would  
36 encourage that to happen before the Federal Subsistence  
37 Board deliberates the Special Action Request for 19-07.

38

39

MR. GERVAIS: Jack.

40

41

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One more question  
42 there, Tim. Go ahead.

43

44

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Aaron, how -- has the Mulchatna Herd always migrated  
46 over into the Yukon Delta Refuge or is that just a --  
47 kind of a new behavior?

48

49

MR. MOSES: Most winters from --

50

1 usually between January through March is when most of  
2 the caribou do show up on this side of the mountain  
3 range.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
6 Appreciate that.

7  
8 You had a comment, Lisa.

9  
10 MS. MAAS: Yeah. Thanks. I just have  
11 some household survey data. And I mean there's a lot  
12 of caveats that could be said for household survey  
13 data, but just looking at data -- and it's mostly from  
14 2010 to 2012 for communities in Unit 18. It's  
15 approximately 800 to 900 caribou.

16  
17 And again I'm not going to -- I can't  
18 really enumerate all the caveats associated with the  
19 household survey data and, you know, that.....

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The dates again?  
22 Between 2000.....

23  
24 MS. MAAS: Yeah. It's generally the  
25 surveys for Unit 18 are from 2010 to 2012. And just  
26 kind of a ballpark estimate it's 800 to 900 caribou  
27 from Unit 18, according to the household survey data.

28  
29 And also Alissa Rogers, the Chair of  
30 the Yukon Y-K Delta RAC commented during a tribal  
31 consultation in a public hearing that after the chinook  
32 salmon in 2012 a lot of people surplus caribou. So  
33 they kind of were replacing their chinook salmon  
34 harvest with caribou. And she thought that may have  
35 contributed to some of the unreported harvest.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I really  
38 appreciate those numbers, Lisa. That's very important  
39 figures.

40  
41 So Todd, you're hearing that Bethel  
42 possibly harvested 300 caribou -- doubling what your  
43 estimate was for the harvest for the entire herd --  
44 last winter. And then Lisa's talking about 800 to 900  
45 harvest of caribou in '18. I think we've got a missing  
46 component here and I think we need to reevaluate this  
47 winter hunt.

48  
49 So I will leave it right there.

50



1                   You got a final question -- comment,  
2   Todd, before we move on?

3  
4                   MR. RINALDI: You know, I would just  
5   add that the State knows that the reporting mechanisms  
6   in Region 5 and then in the Mulchatna area are not  
7   accurate. We view these as minimum counts. We have no  
8   way to ascertain what the non-accounted for harvest  
9   actually is, but we understand it to be considerable as  
10   you've heard.

11  
12                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so I  
13   think this was a very worthwhile discussion for the  
14   Western Interior Council. So I would hope that these  
15   transcripts would be provided to the Federal  
16   Subsistence Board in their deliberation process on  
17   Special Action 19-07. And I feel that Managers --  
18   Federal and State Managers should look seriously at  
19   closure for the winter hunt.

20  
21                   So we're going to move on.

22  
23                   Karen, we're.....

24  
25                   MS. DAMBERG: This is Carol Damberg.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. We've got.....

28  
29                   REPORTER: Oh. Hold on, Carol. Carol  
30   Damberg.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Carol, go  
33   ahead.

34  
35                   REPORTER: Go ahead, Carol.

36  
37                   MS. DAMBERG: Hi, Jack. This is Carol  
38   Damberg with the Fish and Wildlife Service and  
39   InterAgency Staff Committee.

40  
41                   I just want to say I appreciate your  
42   discussion on this action. It's very helpful and all  
43   of that will be very useful to the Board as they  
44   deliberate. And so I just wanted to say I greatly  
45   appreciate your discussion on this action.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Carol. I  
48   felt that it was a worthwhile discussion for this  
49   Council to provide a -- herd of conservation concern

50

1 additional protections. I think Y-K Delta Regional  
2 Advisory Council is also going to be highlighting  
3 additional protections also, so I think you will  
4 probably hear more from down there also.  
5

6 So we're going to move on now. We  
7 covered that Mulchatna issue which I felt was  
8 imperative. So we're at fisheries monitoring program.  
9

10 What should we do here, Karen, we've  
11 got 5:00 o'clock. I would like to cover that fisheries  
12 monitoring program.  
13

14 Is everybody good for -- as far as  
15 break status.  
16

17 (Council nods affirmatively)  
18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're all good.  
20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 It seems like we can make this presentation about 15  
23 minutes with questions. If that's agreeable to you, we  
24 can continue on the agenda.  
25

26 Thank you.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I polled the  
29 Council. Everybody is good on break status.  
30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: So we're going to take  
32 a break.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. They said  
35 everybody's good right now.  
36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay.  
38

39 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair, this is Alissa  
40 Rogers.  
41

42 REPORTER: Hold on, Alissa. So Jack, do  
43 you want to -- Alissa's on.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Alissa, are you  
46 there?  
47

48 REPORTER: Alissa, go ahead.  
49  
50

1 MS. ROGERS: Hi, Mr. Chair. Thank you.  
2 I've been on since this morning and just quietly  
3 listening in the background and getting a feel. After  
4 -- I just wanted to bring it your attention that maybe  
5 if it's possible to maybe we'd do a recommendation that  
6 the Advisory Chairs for this herd is affected, maybe  
7 could pull all the Chairs together to have a meeting  
8 after we have discussion with our Council in our  
9 Regions, that we all get together and discuss our  
10 possible options and that way we have one voice linked  
11 to the Federal Subsistence Board.  
12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's an excellent  
14 idea. I would be willing to participate in that if  
15 time available and as OSM can facilitate that. That  
16 would be after your meeting and Bristol Bay meeting so  
17 that everybody's got sort of a position lined up.  
18

19 Lisa.  
20

21 MS. MAAS: Yeah. Through the Chair.  
22 The reason OSM is not presenting this analysis to all  
23 the Councils is because the Board will most likely make  
24 a decision on the Special Action before all of the  
25 Councils meet. So right now the Board will likely  
26 decide on it before the Yukon Delta Council meets.  
27

28 But the OSM has been directed to get  
29 comments from all the Council Chairs. And it's  
30 actually in ANILCA that Council Chairs need to be  
31 consulted on temporary special actions. So I mean  
32 having a teleconference between the Chairs is a  
33 possibility. Of course it's a busy time for everyone,  
34 but it's not really possible to have all Councils  
35 consider this Special Action before it goes to the  
36 Board.  
37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for  
39 that clarification. I forgot that they weren't all  
40 going to meet.  
41

42 But I do feel that the main points of  
43 the Western Interior Council's discussion should be  
44 provided to the other Regional Advisory Councils and  
45 that if possible the Federal -- why is the Federal  
46 Subsistence Board under pressure to deliberate the  
47 action request before the Councils have met and  
48 actually had input, which under .805 of ANILCA any  
49 issue that affects subsistence is to be addressed by  
50

1 the Regional Councils.

2

3 So go ahead, Lisa, you got an answer to  
4 that one.

5

6 MS. MAAS: Yeah. So according to OSM  
7 policy, Special Actions will be presented to the  
8 Council if it does not incur an undue delay. And undue  
9 delay is somewhat subjective, but in this case since  
10 the season's already open -- and if it was presented to  
11 all Councils that would delay it by a month. Just the  
12 way our review process works in scheduling the Board  
13 meeting. OSM considered delaying action by a month  
14 considering the season's already open as an undo delay.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The winter hunt is  
17 not occurring yet. It's not quite winter yet. The  
18 caribou have not moved.

19

20 Aaron is telling us the caribou are  
21 there from January through March. And that's -- I feel  
22 that I would prefer to have all the Councils discuss  
23 this issue. But if not, I would be willing to  
24 participate as a Chair with the other Regional --  
25 Bristol Bay and Y-K Delta as Alissa's -- to bring  
26 everybody up to speed.

27

28 And we need to be on the same sheet of  
29 music with the Federal Subsistence Board process. And  
30 I most likely would call into the Federal Subsistence  
31 Board on this issue, so -- and I would hope that the  
32 other Council Chairs would do the same thing.

33

34 So one way or another, the Councils  
35 have to be aware of what we're actually talking about  
36 at this meeting and this biological information that  
37 was provided by the Department of Fish and Game.

38

39 So I would appreciate a conference call  
40 with the other Chairs.

41

42 So we're going to give the Fisheries --  
43 and Alissa, thanks so much for your comment on that if  
44 you're still on the line. And I didn't realize you  
45 were there. Otherwise I would have incorporated you  
46 into the call.

47

48 MS. ROGERS: You're welcome.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to give  
2 the -- we have the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
3 Program presentation.

4  
5 So go right ahead.

6  
7 (Pause)

8  
9 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. We're having a  
10 little bit of technical difficulties right now.  
11 Hopefully they will be resolved momentarily.

12  
13 (Pause)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So for those on the  
16 phone, we're looking at a slide presentation that  
17 they're bringing up on the screen on the wall. So for  
18 those who can't see this -- and so they're going to go  
19 over the Fisheries Monitoring Program.

20  
21 And of course there's that 50 percent  
22 PowerPoint presentation glitch factor that always  
23 inherently happens that all.....

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Powerless Point.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Powerless Point.

30  
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So everybody always  
34 has problems with that and that's just the way it is.

35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's giving me the  
37 presenter view.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're not looking  
40 at anything yet for those on the phone.

41  
42 (Pause)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go ahead.

45  
46 MR. HARRIS: All right. First of all,  
47 I would like to apologize for technical difficulties.  
48 Can't figure this one out. We'll talk to it. Do the  
49 best we can. I do have some page numbers written down

50

1 on some of this stuff, so you can look at it and follow  
2 along in your Council books in some areas. Other areas  
3 there just -- the visuals just won't be there.  
4

5 But Mr. Chair, Members of the Council.  
6 For the record, my name is Frank Harris. I'm here with  
7 Pippa Kenner. I am a fisheries biologist for the Yukon  
8 Region and for the Office of Subsistence Management in  
9 Anchorage.

10  
11 The goal today is to present you with a  
12 brief overview of the Fisheries Monitoring Program and  
13 its accomplishments to date. I will review the funding  
14 process, the original overview, and finish up by  
15 requesting Council comments on the project submitted  
16 for the Kuskokwim and Yukon Regions during the 2020  
17 call for proposal.

18  
19 This is not an action item. There is  
20 no motion necessary for this process.  
21

22 The Fisheries Monitoring Program  
23 materials begin on page 187 of your Council books. So  
24 if you want to follow along, page 187.  
25

26 The Fisheries Monitoring Program is a  
27 multi-disciplinary collaborate effort that enhances  
28 subsistence fisheries research and provides necessary  
29 information for the management of subsistence fisheries  
30 on Federal public lands in Alaska. The program  
31 encourages partnership between Tribes, rural  
32 organizations, universities, and Federal and State  
33 agencies. In addition, it encourages inter-  
34 disciplinary approaches to conducting research and  
35 addressing issues.  
36

37 The Office of Subsistence Management  
38 administers the monitoring program. The program has  
39 intents of advancing projects of strategic importance  
40 to the Federal Subsistence Management Program and  
41 coordinating information sharing of ongoing new  
42 subsistence research efforts -- ongoing and new  
43 subsistence research efforts.  
44

45 Since its inception in 2000 the  
46 Monitoring Program has funded more than 450 projects  
47 Statewide with a total allocation exceeding \$120  
48 million. The figure -- well, we don't have the slide  
49 pulled up, but that should -- I don't have the page on  
50

1 what that is on, but that is in your book -- within  
2 there.

3  
4 The figures on this slide demonstrate  
5 both the allocation of funds and the number of projects  
6 funded through the Monitoring Program by the  
7 organization of a principal investigator. Although not  
8 displayed there because we don't have the slide pulled  
9 up, some of the funds have been used by principal  
10 investigators, organizations to subcontract with  
11 research partners, such as communities, Tribes, and  
12 other research organizations.

13  
14 Within here -- well, let me see here.  
15 On page -- well, it's slowing me down over here. Oh,  
16 here we go. Page 190 shows the guideline for  
17 allocation of funds by Region. While this provides  
18 initial target for planning, allocations are often  
19 adjusted as needed to ensure that quality projects are  
20 funded. So you notice all the reasons I listed with  
21 our proposed -- our guidelines for funding. Again  
22 these are just guidelines. Not always followed to a T.

23  
24 Next I will jump into how the funding  
25 process actually works. The Program is divided into  
26 six regions. These regions correspond to Federal  
27 subsistence fisheries areas that generally hold stock,  
28 harvest, and community issues in common. And those six  
29 regions are listed on page 190, in table one at the top  
30 there.

31  
32 During the first step of the process  
33 the Regional Advisory Councils with support from OSM  
34 Staff and Federal and State fisheries and land managers  
35 ensure the Monitoring Program focuses on the highest  
36 priority subsistence fisheries information needs for  
37 each region. Councils ensure issues of local concern  
38 and knowledge gaps related to subsistence fisheries are  
39 identified for priority information need development.  
40 Ideally principle investigators will work closely with  
41 Councils in order to develop strong proposals that are  
42 responsive to those needs. The Office of Subsistence  
43 Management provides technical assistance as needed.

44  
45 The second step is requesting new  
46 project proposals which the program does every two  
47 years. Submissions must be complete, on time, and  
48 address the five criteria outlined in the notice of  
49 funding opportunity in order to be competitive. The  
50

1 criteria are strategic priority, technical and  
2 scientific merit, investigative ability and resources,  
3 partnership and capacity building, and cost benefit of  
4 the project. A more detailed description of the five  
5 criteria can be found on page 191 of your Council book.

6  
7 Once submitted a Technical Review  
8 Committee evaluates and rates each project proposal  
9 package. The Technical Review Committee is a standing  
10 InterAgency Committee of senior technical experts  
11 brought together to evaluate project proposals and  
12 ensure the program is maintained in consistency with  
13 its mission. It is the responsibility of the Technical  
14 Review Committee to develop the strongest possible  
15 monitoring program for all Regions across the State  
16 based on evaluation criteria.

17  
18 Well, looky there.

19  
20 (Pause)

21  
22 MR. HARRIS: During the proposal  
23 evaluation process the Technical Review Committee  
24 adheres to its specific guidelines in order to assess  
25 how well the project addressed the five criteria.  
26 While some agencies may have more than one senior  
27 expert on committee, such as social scientist and a  
28 fisheries biologist, each agency provides a single  
29 consolidated review.

30  
31 Agencies do not score their own  
32 proposals and the final score for each proposal is  
33 based on an assessment of the five criteria.

34  
35 Next slide, please.

36  
37 Once a draft Monitoring Program is  
38 developed it is brought before the Regional Advisory  
39 Councils for their input and comments. This is where  
40 we are at in the current cycle and we will come back to  
41 this in a moment.

42  
43 Next step, please.

44  
45 Additional comments on the process and  
46 draft 2020 Fisheries Monitoring Program for the  
47 Kuskokwim and Yukon Regions will be provided by the  
48 InterAgency Staff Committee. These along with comments  
49 developed by the Councils are all provided to the

50



1 Federal Subsistence Board. The Board takes into  
2 consideration comments and concerns generated by the  
3 process and endorses the final funding plan -- or  
4 endorses the funding plan. Final approval of the  
5 funding plan is made by the Assistant Regional Director  
6 of OSM.

7

8

Next slide.

9

10 Now we're shifting to overview of the  
11 Kuskokwim and Yukon Regions. In the Kuskokwim Region  
12 99 projects have been undertaken for approximately \$27  
13 million in funding. You can see from the chart that  
14 the project leads have been predominantly the State of  
15 Alaska or Department of Interior agencies. Most of  
16 these projects also have included other agencies and  
17 Alaska rural organizations as research partners. The  
18 other category includes universities, non-profit  
19 organizations, independent contractors, and other non-  
20 government organizations.

21

22

Next slide.

23

24

For 2020 there is an anticipated \$1  
25 million to \$1.5 million available for new projects  
26 Statewide and up to \$1.8 million for ongoing already  
27 funded projects. The available funding amount for the  
28 new 2020 projects is budgeted for each project's first  
29 year, not the total project request.

30

31

For the Kuskokwim Region there were  
32 eight projects submitted for the current cycle. The  
33 projects are listed in numerical order by project  
34 number. Justification for the technical review  
35 committee scores begin on page 198 of your Council book  
36 and project executive summaries are on page 206. We  
37 will come back to this slide in a few minutes once we  
38 start collecting comments. We are going to continue  
39 with the regional overview of the Yukon.

40

41

Next slide, please.

42

43

In Yukon Region 114 projects have been  
44 undertaken for approximately \$21 million in funding.  
45 You can see from the chart that project leads have been  
46 predominantly State of Alaska or Department of Interior  
47 agencies. Most of these projects also include other  
48 agencies and Alaska rural organizations as research  
49 partners. Again the other category includes

50

1 universities, non-profit organizations, independent  
2 contractors, and non-government organizations.

3

4

Next slide.

5

6

7 Again for 2020 there's an anticipated  
8 \$1 million to \$1.5 million available for new projects  
9 Statewide. 1.8 for ongoing already funded projects.  
10 For the Yukon Region there are eight projects -- there  
11 were eight projects submitted for the current cycle.  
12 The projects are listed in numerical order by project  
13 number. Justifications for the Technical Review  
14 Committee scores begin on page 226 of your Council  
15 books and project executive summaries are on 233.

15

16

Next slide, please.

17

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We also want to know if the Council has  
any specific concerns about a project based on the  
provided materials. Lastly, after the Councils have  
completed commenting specifically on the projects we  
are always interested in hearing your thoughts on the  
-- that you may have on the FRMP Program as a whole.  
We're always looking for ways to improve.

Thank you.

We will take your comments on the  
Kuskokwim Region first.

Pippa, if you could go back to that  
slide.

Thank you.

Again these -- if you can't read that  
on the wall, this is on page 199 of the RAC books.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do the Council  
2 Members have comments on any of those projects as you  
3 see on -- this is on 199 in the book. And then the  
4 Yukon will be 233 in the book if you can't see the  
5 screen.

6  
7 Any comments on the Kuskokwim, Ray.

8  
9 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. The Salmon River  
10 really -- it is really critical right now to see what  
11 is happening there. And they really need to think  
12 about resetting the escapement. I don't think they  
13 have an escapement goal but it's been averaging about  
14 6,000 for the last five years now -- or six years I  
15 guess.

16  
17 So that's one of the critical ones in  
18 our area.

19  
20 And I guess they've finished the work  
21 on the whitefish and they found out that about 80  
22 percent of them were spawning in Salmon River -- or up  
23 the Big River. Excuse me.

24  
25 And I mentioned many times that the  
26 name for that is (In Native) sheefish. And it's  
27 Sheefish Harvest River, was the Athabascan name for  
28 that river. So they knew that a long time ago -- that  
29 that was the place to go to harvest in the fall. And I  
30 was able to point that out. And I think they have been  
31 monitoring it, but it's really important to see that  
32 that -- if Donlin goes through, and any work there  
33 doesn't disturb that spawning area because what happens  
34 is they spawn after the snow melt stops from the  
35 mountains and the water clears up.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

38  
39 MR. COLLINS: So all along you got  
40 clear water until the spring breakup.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

43  
44 MR. COLLINS: And that protects the  
45 eggs. If they get the silt cover then that will  
46 smother them.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

49  
50

1 Appreciate those comments, Ray.

2

3 The Salmon River Pitka Fork Chinook  
4 Salmon Escapement Monitoring -- that's all slated for  
5 funding.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I am -- all of those  
10 are worthy projects. They have scored high. So I  
11 don't see anything wrong with those.

12

13 Do you have any comments, Council  
14 Members.

15

16 Tim. Fishery Member Tim.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: No.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that looks good.  
25 So we'll go to the Yukon Region proposals.

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: What page in the book,  
28 Frank?

29

30 MR. HARRIS: Yukon is on page 233.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So 233. These are  
33 the -- is this the funded projects in the book versus  
34 -- that's diff -- the slide is different than what  
35 we're looking at in the book here.

36

37 MR. HARRIS: I'm sorry. I quoted the  
38 wrong page on that. It's page 226.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, 226.

41

42 MR. HARRIS: Maybe. Yes, 226.

43

44 MR. HONEA: Jack.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

47

48 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
49 Chair. Are you guys open for questions on these.

50

1 MS. KENNER: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

4

5

6 MR. HONEA: Okay. I just had a  
7 question on the Customary Trade in the Lower Middle  
8 Yukon River. What is that. What does that entail. I  
9 mean like \$310,000 is a pretty good sum of money that's  
10 requested there. But the average -- I mean it's a  
11 pretty good chunk of money. I was just wondering how  
12 does that work. I mean what's the deal.

12

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Because -- I mean before you answer  
that I guess TCC had a program where they were  
measuring the king salmon that we -- certain villages  
were selected to that -- random villages. And they  
provided some kind of income for fuel and stuff like  
that. And I guess they -- this past summer it wasn't  
funded, I guess, and so I was -- so I guess I was  
wondering what is the protocol to get funding or how do  
you guys from the RACs I guess get suggestions to  
propose something.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, the mic. Speak  
to the mic, please.

MS. KENNER: Yeah. Oh, thanks for the  
question. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. So there was  
a couple of questions there and I'm going to start at  
the beginning.

Over a year ago we engaged with your  
Council and the other two Councils on the Yukon and  
developed some priority information needs. And so when  
we published the notice of funding opportunity that  
people respond to with their research ideas, we include  
that list of priority information needs and we ask  
people to respond to it.

So that's how you get most of these  
topics. People submitting proposals with these  
particular topics. So it's a really good question  
about what does that research entail. And we do have  
-- each of the proponents did send us an executive  
summary describing their project. You don't have to go  
to it now. It's in the book. It's on page 243 for  
that project.

What they talk about doing is going to

1 communities in the Lower Kuskokwim River. Doing a lot  
2 of up front work in order to get permission to come  
3 into the villages to introduce the project. If the  
4 villages feel like they want to participate, the  
5 researchers will the go house to house with a small  
6 survey, talking to people about their customary trades  
7 that they have done throughout the year and in an  
8 attempt to quantify it -- to get an idea of how much  
9 wild resources are being traded for cash.

10

11 I do want to say I'm a little negligent  
12 here. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and YR DFA  
13 just completed one of these projects for the Middle  
14 Kuskokwim River. And I noticed what they did -- excuse  
15 me. For the Upper Kuskokwim River. They were Lower  
16 Middle -- yeah. For more of the Upper and Middle  
17 Kuskokwim -- Yukon River.

18

19 And I noticed what they did is they put  
20 the customary trade practices in the continuum of  
21 exchange. So they start talking about sharing, barter,  
22 and different kind of trades and then they talk about  
23 where customary trade fits into that continuum.  
24 Customary trade is the exchange of resources for cash.

25

26 This issue has been highlighted over  
27 the years of just how much customary trade is occurring  
28 particularly with chinook salmon, but other resources  
29 also. So that's why this topic has been brought up in  
30 the priority information needs.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Answer your  
35 question, Don?

36

37 MR. HONEA: Well, I guess. I mean  
38 actually you didn't really clear that up. I mean how  
39 does -- okay. I mean say -- do you do it in a kind of  
40 -- do you randomly pick villages or do we -- you send  
41 something to the Native Council or you send some -- or  
42 we as RAC Members have to request that.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that  
47 question. Again Through the Chair. This is Pippa  
48 Kenner with OSM.

49

50

1                   We ask the researchers to do that. In  
2 general, when we're developing the priority -- when the  
3 Councils are developing the priority information needs,  
4 we ask them to be more general. If we're too specific  
5 we -- we don't get those propo -- we don't get any  
6 proposals for real specific things. If we do it more  
7 generally we are likely to get more proposals.  
8

9                   However, in those proposals we ask the  
10 investigators to tell us why are these communities  
11 important to justify the work that they're doing and to  
12 let us know why they think these communities are the  
13 priority.  
14

15                   I think they are considering these  
16 communities the priority now because they've done the  
17 work further up the river and now they want to focus on  
18 the lower river.  
19

20                   MR. HONEA: All right. Thank you, Mr.  
21 Chair. I don't want to keep going on on this, but, you  
22 know, I mean these are opportunities for villages on  
23 the Yukon whether it's -- you know, some of them might  
24 be redundant. I mean you might be doing something for  
25 years. I'm just trying to maybe spread the wealth and  
26 say how do we get involved. Do we -- you know, how  
27 would we try to initiate a program or something like  
28 that in all fairness. I appreciate those.  
29

30                   Thank you.  
31

32                   MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.  
33

34                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Go ahead.  
35

36                   MS. KENNER: Thank you very much for  
37 that question, Mr. Honea. This is Pippa Kenner with  
38 OSM. So the focus of this program is on partnerships  
39 and capacity building in that. Of the evaluation  
40 factors, one is the level of partnership and capacity  
41 building with rural organizations. So we really push  
42 researchers to partner with local rural organizations  
43 -- Tribes, non-profits, that kind of thing. And so  
44 part of the score is based on whether or not they are  
45 partnering with local communities.  
46

47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
48

49                   Other questions on those projects.  
50

1 Do you have any questions for the  
2 Yukon, Jenny?

3  
4 MS. PELKOLA: No.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

7  
8 MR. GERVAIS: No, thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. I think the  
11 Yukon River Coho Salmon Radio Telemetry is a very  
12 worthwhile project. Coho are little understood on the  
13 Yukon River -- where they actually are going to, where  
14 they're actually spawning. We know they go up the  
15 Yukon, but -- I know a lot of them are going up above  
16 the Yukon Bridge, but we don't know where they go. I  
17 know they go in the Koyukuk, but I only know --  
18 personally know of one place where they actually go to  
19 spawn myself. And so they're actually a species that  
20 really needs to be understood more and so I am glad to  
21 see that project there.

22  
23 I don't see any other problems with  
24 those. I think they're all worthwhile projects.

25  
26 That would be my comment.

27  
28 Tim.

29  
30 MR. GERVAIS: After these projects are  
31 complete, how can the Council Members access the  
32 information that was learned from them.

33  
34 MS. KENNER: Thank you again for that  
35 question. Through the Chair. This is Pippa Kenner with  
36 OSM. So tomorrow you will be receiving some  
37 presentations of people who have been doing this  
38 research. We don't ask every researcher every Council  
39 meeting to come, but every Council meeting -- either  
40 YRDFA or Fish and Game or some of the other  
41 investigators come and give a presentation.

42  
43 You can also at any time ask for that  
44 information and we will try to get it to you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
47 questions, comments from the Council -- Resource  
48 Monitoring Program.

49  
50



1 Tim.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: So in the near future  
4 does -- do you think the program is going to be  
5 affected a lot with the State budget trying to cut  
6 funds to -- probably to Department of Fish and Game.  
7 How much of an effect is that going to be on the  
8 program.  
9

10 MS. KENNER: Thank you again for the  
11 question. Through the Chair. Well, it will affect our  
12 program in that we may be getting more proposals from  
13 the State. As they lose money to fund weirs and  
14 activities, we may start getting more requests from  
15 them to help them fund their regular programs. And  
16 this -- it's not just going to be now. This has been  
17 happening incrementally for -- you know, since the  
18 beginning of the FRMP.  
19

20 MR. GERVAIS: And help me out with the  
21 -- what's the funding source to Fish and Wildlife  
22 Service from the tax on the outdoor gear.  
23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's two -- as  
25 far as sportfishing and sporthunting or hunting to the  
26 States, that would be the Pittman-Roberts Funds. Is  
27 that like -- it's 11 percent tax. It's allocated to  
28 the State on a three to one ratio for license sales.  
29 It's tied to license sales.  
30

31 Under Fisheries it would be for  
32 sportfish equipment and stuff. I'm not sure what the  
33 tax rate is. Again it's the Dingle funds and they're  
34 allocated to the State on license sales. That has to  
35 do with licensing and that's how -- and that's an  
36 allocation system -- because there's so much  
37 sportfishing in Alaska, that's -- the State gets a --  
38 so sportfish is getting a lot of money infusion.  
39 That's where all their -- they're not hurting.  
40

41 The State Legislature increased the  
42 non-resident licenses, hunting licenses and the tag  
43 fees. So non-residents pay high tag fees. Caribou is  
44 like 500 bucks. So for every \$500 they sell on license  
45 for a caribou tag, they get three times that amount.  
46 That's a \$1,500 for Pittman-Roberts Funds, plus their  
47 \$500. That's a \$2,000 caribou. That's what that  
48 actually means to the State of Alaska.  
49  
50

1                   So those -- and then the non-resident  
2 license 160 bucks times three. That allocation of  
3 times three. But this State funding for these kind of  
4 projects -- I'm not sure if these are general funds or  
5 where the State of Alaska gets these matches.

6

7

Pippa.

8

9

10                   MS. KENNER: I am not an expert in  
11 this, but I do know in general the Division of  
12 Commercial Fisheries does not benefit from those funds  
13 and neither does Subsistence Division. It's just the  
14 sport aspect.

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                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Well, these  
kinds of resource monitoring -- it could be fisheries  
enhancements or it could be some kind of Federal  
programs that they could get, but I am not exactly sure  
about that. I can't answer that question because I  
don't know deep enough into how these channels of  
funding flow towards the State. It's like capillaries  
going into the State coffer.

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So Tim.

                  MR. GERVAIS: So where -- the money  
that the Fish and Wildlife Service has put into this  
FMP -- where is that money derived from.

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                  MS. KENNER: Thanks for the question.  
Again this is Pippa Kenner. Through the Chair.

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                  First, I'm going to back up a little  
bit. So when the program -- when Katie John was  
decided and the program moved to managing fisheries  
that flow adjacent to them within Federal public lands,  
there was also programs developed to gather information  
needed for management. And that's where this program  
came from.

40

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                  Frank, do you have any more information  
about where the money comes from?

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                  MR. HARRIS: I'm slightly embarrassed  
to say I'm not fully positive on where the money comes  
from, but it's allocated from Congress and works its  
way -- funnels its way down to OSM.

48

49

50

MS. KENNER: For this specific purpose.

1 MR. HARRIS: For this specific purpose.

2 Yeah.

3

4 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So it's just a  
5 line item on a Department of Interior budget or  
6 something.

7

8 MR. HARRIS: Exactly.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. So any other  
11 fisheries monitoring -- comments on the projects.

12

13 Pollock.

14

15 MR. SIMON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
16 Chair. I'm glad that the weir on the Henshaw Creek is  
17 being funded again. It provides jobs for local peoples  
18 so I'm glad it's funded again.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot. Yes.  
23 I too -- as being part of that Upper Koyukuk -- the  
24 Henshaw data is like extremely important for -- as a  
25 large component of the summer chum run. So it's a very  
26 important project.

27

28 Appreciate that.

29

30 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Another comment,  
33 Pollock.

34

35 MR. SIMON: In the past few year we  
36 haven't been getting much fall chum run so they should  
37 come to Koyukuk River Villages also.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's my opinion  
42 there's significant fall components that go into the  
43 south fork main stem below the Gem River drainage.  
44 Very little fall chum spawn above that Gem River  
45 drainage, but in the main stem of the south fork I know  
46 they're in the Alatna River. There's some main stem  
47 fall chum components that's -- I have not -- don't see  
48 a lot of data on also.

49

50

1                   So researchers may look at fall chum  
2 investigation with a telemetry project in the future.  
3 Because again like coho, fall chum is little understood  
4 about -- we know quite a bit about -- because we --  
5 summer chum spawn in deep -- in shallow waters and you  
6 can see them real easy. I had an easy time catching  
7 those samples.  
8

9                   Fall chum -- they spawn in deeper  
10 waters and they come late. And they're not -- they're  
11 under ice a lot and so you don't see them nearly as  
12 much. But just follow the bear and wolf tracks.  
13 You'll see where they go. It's a bleeding elephant in  
14 the snow. They go right to those spawning areas.  
15

16                   Tim wanted to talk about -- I think  
17 we've finished the resource monitoring issue.  
18

19                   So are we done with that issue -- the  
20 resource monitoring.  
21

22                   MR. HARRIS: If you're done with the  
23 comments, then we are done. Yep.  
24

25                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a comment  
26 there, Ray.  
27

28                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I do. There's one  
29 thing that I've been thinking about an awful lot. The  
30 Kuskokwim River is the last major river in North  
31 America that's not off the road system, which means  
32 that the whole river is -- wildlife can move up and  
33 down and so on and all of that. And I'm wondering  
34 about the economic impact of that and -- because  
35 they're always talking about putting roads in and --  
36 for mining and other kind of things.  
37

38                   But it's a unique river and it would be  
39 good if somebody could put something together to see  
40 how unique it is. And what does it mean to fish and  
41 wildlife and other things to have a river like that  
42 left in North America.  
43

44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.  
45

46                   MR. COLLINS: Well, I don't know if  
47 anybody's looking at a holistic picture of the whole  
48 thing. Somebody might take that on a research project  
49 -- put a bug in somebody's ear.  
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pippa, did you have  
4 a response to that, and then I'll go to Tim.

5

6 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Through the  
7 Chair. Mr. Collins. This kind of thing was a priority  
8 information need developed for the Kuskokwim. People  
9 were talking about -- the Councils were talking about  
10 how much the harvest of salmon changed with the  
11 development of the commercial fishery. And also  
12 there's been a lot of questions about the growing sport  
13 interest in these more remote areas like the Kuskokwim.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

16

17 MS. KENNER: And so we have had a  
18 couple of responses. None of them were kind of right  
19 on, but the one on food knowledge and place name  
20 documentation on the Kuskokwim River continuity and  
21 change -- that -- this topic that you've brought up is  
22 one of the things that project is asking people about.

23

24 And this project uniquely is more  
25 aligned with the Middle and Middle Upper Kuskokwim  
26 River. So much of the research has focused on the  
27 Lower River, but this is -- we have asked for that  
28 research in the -- more of the Middle and Upper River.

29

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Yeah. That's a pretty fascinating comment, Ray.  
37 Because it's come up on several other different issues.

38

39 Like I know I spent a fair amount of  
40 time writing comments to the Corps of Engineers and  
41 stuff on Pebble Mine and various development projects  
42 that we talk about with this Council for like Ambler  
43 Mining District, Yukon River Highway, Yukon River  
44 Railroad. So -- and then also this project that the  
45 Pew Trust is working on with BLM on the areas of  
46 critical conservation concern.

47

48 So it keeps coming back to this. Like  
49 what's the value of an intact ecosystem or what's the

50

1 value of not putting industrial development into rural  
2 Alaska. And I think it's a pertinent question that we  
3 need -- the Council needs to keep developing. And at  
4 some -- whatever. It seems like there's a lot of -- a  
5 lot of people that understand the concept of how rare  
6 it is to have undeveloped parts of the rural.

7  
8 I mean I only heard it on the radio  
9 this summer. And I was not getting good coverage on  
10 it, but like this issue with like people around the  
11 world complaining to Brazil about those fires in the  
12 Amazon. Like -- it's like well, who's got -- who has  
13 the authority to say whether that area can get  
14 destroyed or converted to agricultural uses.

15  
16 And then like a debate that I have  
17 thought about a lot recently with Trump Administration  
18 and Dunleavy Administration is -- is it really the  
19 right of a president or a State administration to say  
20 that such and such can be developed against all the  
21 stuff that can happen in the future when that place --  
22 I mean is undeveloped.

23  
24 So I would encourage some research on  
25 that and I would encourage some thought process on the  
26 Council Members on moving that discussion to something  
27 a little more evolved and quantifiable that we can --  
28 can use it as a justification in a lot of times on our  
29 comments about various projects.

30  
31 So like even when we were talking about  
32 Donlin this morning with their AVCP changing their  
33 stance on it. That's like -- that's one aspect of  
34 people starting to realize that hey, that's like --  
35 it's really valuable and really irreplaceable what it  
36 is right now. So is our society -- is our civilization  
37 ready to pay the price to have something mined or  
38 drilled or a road put in and take that away from --  
39 from the current -- the current regime and from all the  
40 -- all the stuff that could happen in, you know, 100 or  
41 2,000 years from now.

42  
43 Because there's a lot of development  
44 that's already taken place and there's not much of the  
45 world that's untracked, so I think most people are  
46 underestimating the value of the non-developed Regions  
47 right now.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment to that

50

1 would be the general world population is like the frog  
2 that's put in a pot and slowly brought to temperature  
3 to boil. They get used to more and move development  
4 around them. But the frogs who were like -- jumped  
5 into a hot pot of water, they want to jump out of it.  
6 That's the rural people who are used to real wilderness  
7 and stuff. And you see what the rest of the population  
8 seems as a normal thing of destruction -- it's like no.  
9 Don't wreck your -- don't pee in your bed.

10

11 You need to like think about what our  
12 future generations are going to have. We're not  
13 thinking about the future too much. We're thinking  
14 about money today. Worry about the super funds that  
15 are going to be expended by some other generation to  
16 support all those -- the dams and treatment plants.

17

18 Look at Canada. They welcomed these  
19 big mines with open arms. Well, they're going to spend  
20 \$3 billion in Faro to recover the giant zinc mine  
21 that's sitting over there with -- already spent \$40  
22 million just to stabilize it until they can do  
23 something about it. The governments are responsible  
24 for astronomical amounts of money once these big mines  
25 go through.

26

27 And in Kuskokwim watershed -- a  
28 completely intact watershed with no roads into it --  
29 you start building pipe lines and bringing invasive  
30 weeds -- corridors for invasive weeds and all of the  
31 stuff that happens afterwards, it's the beginning of  
32 the end. Eventually you have nothing left.

33

34 But thanks for those comments, Tim.

35

36 Pippa.

37

38 MS. KENNER: Thank you very much.  
39 Through the Chair. I just wanted to make some  
40 comments. And maybe I'll treat this topic just a  
41 little bit more gently.

42

43 We do have -- in Alaska we do -- we  
44 have made observations about what happens as areas  
45 develop. And it's hard to talk about one area  
46 specifically because there's so many factors involved.  
47 But we do know that as people's incomes grow there will  
48 be more subsistence. As people have money for better  
49 snowmachines, boats, they can get out more -- guns.

50

1 Income is very important to subsistence uses.

2

3 However, in general what has been seen  
4 is that as people turn to wage labor and a shift  
5 schedule and their focus on subsistence does diminish.  
6 And as development increases there does seem to be a  
7 relationship to decreasing overall harvest.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Tim, I think  
12 we've covered the Resource Monitoring Projects.

13

14 Tim brought up after our discussion  
15 about Mulchatna the Special Action Request 19-07. He  
16 felt that the Council needed to take some kind of an  
17 action. OSM does not want to hear our actions, but we  
18 can have a resolution or something. Our deliberation  
19 -- our investigation of the Mulchatna issue warrants an  
20 action by this Council to be transmitted to the other  
21 Councils and to the Federal Subsistence Board who is  
22 going to deliberate the Mulchatna problem.

23

24 Our action should be as an absolute  
25 minimum to adopt Special Action Request 19-07, but with  
26 the caveat that that was the absolute minimum that  
27 needed to be done to align with State regulations. But  
28 they need to go further. And they need to go further  
29 by eliminating the winter hunt. They need to  
30 immediately close the winter access to the Mulchatna  
31 Caribou Herds on their wintering grounds. Pregnant  
32 cows -- we have very low population status.

33

34 And they need to -- the Refuge Systems  
35 and the Park Service and the State need to work  
36 together to develop a strategy to recover this herd.  
37 Not to stabilize this herd. Not to stop the decline.  
38 We need to recover this herd. So we need to go through  
39 strategies to be -- which may need special action  
40 request and agenda change request to the Board of Game  
41 to recover the Mulchatna Caribou Herd from the  
42 precipice that it's falling over.

43

44 The data that should be presented  
45 should be that the herds harvest rates were far, far  
46 below what was recognized by the Department of Fish and  
47 Game in their analysis, but it shows in the herd's  
48 productivity versus declining population with excellent  
49 winters. It shows you have a harvest problem --

50



1 period. There's no doubt about it. It doesn't take a  
2 rocket scientist to say look at that.

3  
4 So there needs to be a reduction in  
5 winter harvest -- a stop to the winter harvest. And  
6 the herd needs to be looked at for recovery.

7  
8 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
9 send a recommendation to the other Federal Regional  
10 Advisory Councils. Bristol Bay, Y-K Delta, and to the  
11 Federal Subsistence Board to adopt immediately Special  
12 Action Request 19-07, with the additional incentive by  
13 the Federal Subsistence Board to work with the State  
14 for an emergency closure for the winter hunt on the  
15 Mulchatna Caribou Herd post haste -- immediately.

16  
17 So.....

18  
19 MR. HONEA: I so move.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Don.

22  
23 MR. SIMON: Second.

24  
25 MR. GERVAIS: Second.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.  
28 Those in favor of sending that recommendation as soon  
29 as possible to accommodate the other Regional Advisory  
30 Councils' meetings and the Federal Subsistence Board's  
31 deliberation, signify by saying aye.

32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
36 sign.

37  
38 (No opposing votes)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I appreciate  
41 that, Tim. That we did need to take action.

42  
43 It wasn't just a talk. We needed to  
44 take an action and I appreciate you suggesting that.

45  
46 MR. GERVAIS: Well, in the request can  
47 we bring up the point again that it would be -- it  
48 seems like we need to get Yukon Delta Refuge, Togiak  
49 Refuge, and ADF&G communicating about what can be done  
50

1 to better quantify that harvest.

2

3 And then potentially contact the Tribes  
4 and say hey, this is -- we've got to stand down on the  
5 caribou if at all possible because they're not -- their  
6 population is moving in the wrong direction at a time  
7 when there's not even enough animals available for  
8 subsistence use right now.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's actually an  
11 excellent suggestion that the recommendation should  
12 incorporate tribal consultation with the Tribes to  
13 alert them. Maybe they're not aware that the herd has  
14 fallen in half. And that's like we saw a lot of  
15 caribou, so we killed a whole bunch last year. But  
16 maybe they're not aware that there's 13,500 caribou in  
17 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

18

19 And these are the reasons why we have  
20 to put the restrictions on because otherwise we're not  
21 going to have caribou anymore.

22

23 Lisa, you got a comment.

24

25 MS. MAAS: Yeah. Thanks. Lisa Maas,  
26 for the record. We did conduct a tribal consultation  
27 for WC19-07.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was on that call.  
30 Guess how many people were on there. Not many.

31

32 MS. MAAS: Are you talking about the  
33 public hearing.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Public hearing  
36 and.....

37

38 MS. MAAS: Yeah. So we had another  
39 separate tribal consultation on September 24th.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And how many.....

42

43 MS. MAAS: And again, you know, I'm  
44 sure more -- you know, there could have -- certainly  
45 have been more tribal participation, but we.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I think  
48 that.....

49

50

1 MS. MAAS: .....conduct a.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My -- my feeling is  
4 that Togiak Refuge and YK Delta Refuge need to go to  
5 every community and within the range of the Mulchatna  
6 Caribou Herds within their Refuge boundaries and they  
7 need to tell -- portray what is actually going on here.  
8 We have a real problem here. Not a little problem. A  
9 big problem. And this why we're contemplating  
10 restrictions. Why there's these restrictions.

11

12 I don't think that having a conference  
13 call -- I was on the Bethel call and there was like  
14 hardly anybody on the call. It was not that I was --  
15 you know, Alissa Rogers was on the call, but that's not  
16 getting the word out to the communities. We need to go  
17 through tribal consultation.

18

19 This is something that the Federal  
20 Board should direct, but the comment to the Federal  
21 Board should be that there needs to be tribal  
22 consultation with the communities about this caribou  
23 crisis with Mulchatna. I consider it a crisis  
24 situation.

25

26 Any other comments from the Council  
27 Members.

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: This is kind of an  
34 example of what potentially could happen because of the  
35 unrestricted corridor because what they were able to do  
36 was to come clear up by McGrath. You can go down at  
37 Delta and so on. And they are going through wild land.  
38 They were picking up old trails.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: But they took off through  
43 the forest here going towards Telida. But they found  
44 some of those ancient trails that they could -- how  
45 would they know that there was food on the other side,  
46 you know.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

49

50

1 MR. COLLINS: But they were able to do  
2 that because the system is still in good shape.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

5  
6 MR. COLLINS: So it could certainly  
7 support a lot more animals and they would have a lot of  
8 -- well, just an example then of the importance of  
9 having that wild country for them to expand to if  
10 they're managed properly.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. The intact  
13 ecosystems. I've told managers -- and I'll say it  
14 again. There needs to be an analysis of all of the  
15 historical trail systems that are caribou migration  
16 routes that are etched into the ground. And this time  
17 of the year when it snows just a little bit they just  
18 stand out -- they highlight. They're all over the tops  
19 of these mountains coming from the Southwest Alaska,  
20 all along this Kuskokwim Range. They go directly down  
21 the Ruby Road, right over the bank, right into the  
22 River, going into the Kokrine Mountains. And their  
23 steamboats had to tie up for days because there were  
24 hundreds of thousands of caribou in the gold rush  
25 swimming across the Yukon River. They're gone.

26  
27 Who was that. What caribou was that.  
28 That's Mulchatna. It was a 500,000 caribou herd that  
29 migrated -- or exceeding that -- that migrated north of  
30 Yukon River. We've got migration routes completely  
31 unused caribou habitat and the Department seems to  
32 think they eat themselves out of house and home. It's  
33 like no. They haven't even started to use their  
34 historic ranges.

35  
36 And they started to in the '90s until  
37 you shot the tar out of them. Five caribou bag limit.  
38 Non-residents shooting into caribou herds, killing lots  
39 of caribou. There was dead caribou -- enforcement will  
40 tell you there was dead caribou all around lakes. They  
41 couldn't tie it to any one person. There was massive  
42 amounts of wound loss. Massive amounts of wound loss  
43 in the Mulchatna debacle.

44  
45 So the herd crashes. Gets down to low  
46 bull/cow ratio. Herd comes down from 200,000 to 28,000  
47 and now look at what we're doing. We're trying to keep  
48 it from -- it's been staggering for over ten years --  
49 fifteen years now.

50

1 We need to recover this herd. We need  
2 to stabilize it. And allowing another winter harvest  
3 this winter could be the death nail of that herd. We  
4 could be looking at 30 years of recovery to come back  
5 from that one.

6  
7 Intact ecosystems are integral to  
8 caribou. And so they -- I'm concerned.

9  
10 So it's getting late and we need to go  
11 to eat dinner.

12 Pollock.

13 It's 6:00 o'clock.

14  
15 MR. SIMON: Okay. You were talking  
16 about the caribou and I got a little story, too.

17  
18 All the pipeline -- all that was  
19 started in 1974. Prior to that we had caribou just  
20 (indiscernible) Allakaket all those years and then the  
21 Haul Road was completed, they told us it's for  
22 commercial use only but later on the road was turned  
23 over to the State and opened to the public and in 1974  
24 was the last time we saw caribou close by for 10, 12  
25 years there was no caribou, so this tells me that any  
26 kind of road development will impact the caribou  
27 migration route.

28  
29 And there is not much fish in the  
30 Koyukuk River and no caribou and low numbers of moose  
31 so no wonder the peoples in my area are complaining  
32 about Haul Road development and now they're pushing for  
33 Ambler Road to go (indiscernible) haul some more rocks  
34 and everybody in my area is opposed to that road  
35 construction also.

36  
37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock. The  
40 frogs in the pond are being boiled and we don't like  
41 it.

42 (Laughter)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
45 have a break or recess till tomorrow morning at 9:00  
46 a.m. is when we start. And we've got a lot of agenda  
47

48  
49  
50

1 to go through, so have a great evening.

2

3

And anything else, Karen.

4

5

6

MS. DEATHERAGE: No, just dinner,  
report for dinner.

7

8

9

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do you want to  
say that again, Karen?

10

11

12

MS. DEATHERAGE: Council Members are  
required to report for dinner tonight.

13

14

(Off record)

15

16

(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 for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered \_\_\_ through \_\_\_ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 8th day of October at McGrath, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 25th day of October 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22