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SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME III

Prince of Wales Vocational and  
Technical Education Center  
Klawock, Alaska  
October 26, 2023  
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Donald Hernandez, Chairman
  - Larry Bemis
  - Calvin Casipit
  - Michael Douville
  - Albert Howard
  - Harvey Kitka
  - Cathy Needham
  - Patricia Phillips
  - Robert Schroeder
  - Jim Slater
  - John Smith
  - Louie Wagner
- Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Klawock, Alaska - 10/26/2023)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. In order to get started this morning we'll first do a roll call and establish a quorum.

DeAnna.

MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Cal Casipit.

MR. CASIPIT: Here.

MS. PERRY: Mike Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: Here.

MS. PERRY: Robert Schroeder.

MR. SCHROEDER: Here.

MS. PERRY: Albert Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Here.

MS. PERRY: Patricia Phillips.

MS. PHILLIPS: Here.

MS. PERRY: Louie Wagner, Jr.

MR. WAGNER: Here.

MS. PERRY: Harvey Kitka.

MR. KITKA: Here.

MS. PERRY: Thank you, Harvey.

John Smith, III.

MR. SMITH: Here.

MS. PERRY: Cathy Needham.

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1 MS. NEEDHAM: Here.

2

3 MS. PERRY: Larry Bemis.

4

5 MR. BEMIS: Here.

6

7 MS. PERRY: And we'll go to the phones  
8 for Member Frank Wright. Member Wright, are you with  
9 us on the phone?

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. PERRY: Member Wright, you might  
14 just have to check, star, six, you might be muted, so  
15 if you could just check that for us.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MS. PERRY: Okay. And how about Member  
20 Jim Slater.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. PERRY: Okay. I know Member Slater  
25 had a meeting for a couple hours this morning, Mr.  
26 Chair, but will be joining us a little later. It looks  
27 like you have 11 members participating, you have a  
28 quorum.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You didn't call my  
31 name.

32

33 MS. PERRY: I did not. I always save  
34 the best for last, the Chair always have to go last.  
35 Sorry about that. Don, are you here?

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm here. Yes,  
38 I'm here.

39

40 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Still 11 out of  
41 the 13.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So as usual  
44 the first thing we start our meeting in the morning we  
45 allow public testimony on non-agenda items. If there's  
46 folks on the telephone that want to testify please let  
47 us know. I'd remind you that some -- there might  
48 people that want to testify on proposals, we're going  
49 to be doing proposals right after a couple items of  
50

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1 business this morning. If you want to testify on a  
2 proposal please wait until we get to that proposal to  
3 give your testimony. This is an opportunity for people  
4 to testify on any issue related to subsistence uses  
5 that may not necessarily be on our agenda. And then we  
6 do have -- like DeAnna said, we have a time certain  
7 commitment to hear a report at 9:00 a.m. So let's get  
8 started with testimony, I have -- if you did want to do  
9 a public testimony, like I say indicate over the  
10 telephone or hand in a blue card and I have one blue  
11 card here in front of me, and it's from Elijah Winrod.

12

13 Elijah.

14

15 I might mention that Elijah is a former  
16 Council member, he sat on the Council for a few years  
17 so good morning, Elijah.

18

19 MR. WINROD: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

20

21 REPORTER: Elijah.

22

23 MR. WINROD: This is Elijah Winrod.

24

25 REPORTER: Elijah, can you turn the mic  
26 around to you and then down a little bit. Thank you.

27

28 MR. WINROD: Thank you. Good morning,  
29 Mr. Chair and Council. Thank you for having me here.  
30 My name is Elijah Winrod, I'm from Klawock. I just had  
31 a few thoughts, probably it's already been thought of  
32 but just in case it hasn't.

33

34 I was recently up in Kotzebue and  
35 they've had a lot of controversy through the years of  
36 transporters and stuff, especially in the '80s and '90s  
37 and some even more recently where they'd have pallets  
38 of rotting caribou meat in the airport just because  
39 there was so many people up there that wanted to go get  
40 caribou and they didn't really care enough to be  
41 respectful. And we visited some of the transporters  
42 that are there now, they seem like they're really  
43 clean, they really do things right. But even fairly  
44 recently there was a transporter that was doing stuff  
45 like that, he would take meat and he was caught dumping  
46 meat in the lakes just to get rid of it, whatever, just  
47 mayhem kind of stuff. But anyway, in 2008 they  
48 implemented a working group to get the various  
49 interests all in the same room and see what could be

50

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1 done so they weren't like -- like where transporters  
2 wouldn't be taking their clients into where local  
3 people were hunting caribou just to avoid conflict.  
4 And I just wondered if something like that could be  
5 done here to get the interests that are involved with  
6 the 05 and 06 proposals, kind of all at the same table  
7 and just -- to me it seems like it's mostly about  
8 etiquette and respect, it's like I don't think the  
9 people from Angoon don't want anybody hunting on their  
10 island but it is rude, I'd say, to just go hunt right  
11 around where those people -- or where the majority of  
12 those people hunt the most.

13

14 So -- and we've seen the same kind of  
15 thing around here, it's legal but when you have  
16 thousands of people coming and sometimes they come from  
17 Wrangell or Metlakatla, they bring a seiner around and  
18 go home with 50 deer from around here, it's all legal  
19 but it really kind of leaves people with a bad taste in  
20 their mouth. And I just wondered if some kind of a  
21 working group to get people on the same page might be a  
22 better lever to use than changing the regulations,  
23 especially since there doesn't seem to be a major  
24 conservation concern in Unit 4 for the deer.

25

26 So that's just something I felt like  
27 might be helpful and just wondered what you thought  
28 about that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,  
31 Elijah, we'll keep that in mind; two thoughts there,  
32 respect for the resources and cooperation amongst users  
33 would be very helpful, I agree.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. WINROD: I have one question. I  
38 heard that maybe there was a working group up there  
39 that was for this, is that so or could it be more  
40 developed?

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Somebody might  
43 know the answer to that, I think there was some kind of  
44 a group put together.

45

46 Cathy.

47

48 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 The Hoonah Indian Association has a project going where  
50

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1 they are running a Unit 4 working group for advising  
2 how to collect additional data, like social science  
3 based data, they met a couple times. And you might  
4 have been here when Ian Johnson came in and gave us a  
5 presentation regarding some of the data that they have  
6 collected and that working group is basically advisory  
7 to Hoonah Indian Association's project. It's not quite  
8 the same of what you're talking about but there is a  
9 group of biologists and people from the community that  
10 are meeting and kind of trying to work on addressing  
11 the issue and finding ways to get meaningful  
12 information to inform regulations.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
15 Anybody else.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thanks for your  
20 thoughts this morning, Elijah, appreciate it.

21

22 MR. WINROD: Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I also have a card  
25 here from Heather Bauscher. Heather.

26

27 MS. BAUSCHER: Good morning, Council  
28 members. Everyone. I'll try and keep this brief. I  
29 just have a few updates for you. You all know me  
30 pretty well. I've been coming to the meetings for  
31 years in various different capacities. My role has  
32 shifted slightly in the past year or so. I'm still  
33 working for Sitka Conservation Society in some  
34 capacities but more operating under the Salmon State  
35 Team and still working on all the same issues that I've  
36 been working on before.

37

38 The transboundary issue came up earlier  
39 this week and my colleagues wanted to have me remind  
40 you, or let you know if you hadn't seen it yet that  
41 Senator Murkowski has recently penned a pretty strong  
42 letter on the transboundary issue. I told -- I sent  
43 DeAnna copies of that so you'll have that. But direct  
44 quote in there, it said, that the United States should  
45 be fighting, not funding the destruction of our wild  
46 salmon rivers and she asked not to allocate any U.S.  
47 funding to Canadian projects in transboundary waters  
48 and to withhold any U.S. support from mining projects  
49 within Canada until conditions are met. So I think

50

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1 that's pretty strong and it's cool to see that there's  
2 some movement there and that's really the result of the  
3 hard work here and all the tribes and municipalities  
4 across the region that have weighed in in various ways,  
5 and resolutions so I think if we keep standing strong  
6 on this issue we can continue to see forward movement.  
7 So that's an update there. I'll make sure that you  
8 have the copies of those letters and that's been a lot  
9 of work by the Salmon Beyond Borders folks also in  
10 collaboration with ALFA and ATA as well.

11

12 Other projects I'm working on. Skipper  
13 Science Partnership is a new thing through the Alaska  
14 Conservation Foundation and it's an app on your phone  
15 that's used with fishermen so when you're out on the  
16 water you can record your observations. That's now  
17 being generated into a report and we're working with  
18 NOAA scientists and these reports are now being  
19 delivered as part of the information at the North  
20 Pacific Council meetings. So this is like another way  
21 to influence policy. I feel like when we have moments  
22 of feeling as though it's hard to impact things on the  
23 decisionmaking level, another way to impact the  
24 decisions that are made is through the data that is  
25 collected and the things that are highlighted. So I  
26 just wanted to let people know that this was happening  
27 and more people could get involved and now we're  
28 starting to have specific studies and matchmaking  
29 fishery groups with NOAA scientists to get -- one  
30 example is to get a full ecosystem analysis of the Gulf  
31 of Alaska.

32

33 Another project is also the fish map  
34 app which is also through the Alaska Conservation --  
35 all of these started with the Aleut Community of St.  
36 Paul but have been working with Alaska Conservation  
37 Foundation, other partners like myself through Salmon  
38 State. The fish map app is about the anadromous waters  
39 catalog. So it's an app on your phone, but all of  
40 these things are for community monitoring and citizen  
41 science and the fish map app helps a person out in the  
42 field nominate a new stream for the anadromous waters  
43 catalog. This kind of goes back full circle to that  
44 thing a couple years ago when we were trying to change  
45 the language in the legislation around fish habitat  
46 permitting and for a stream -- or for fish habitat  
47 permits to be triggered for projects the stream needs  
48 to be in the anadromous waters catalog listing but you  
49 have to have a fish in hand for that stream to be on

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1 the list so a lot of the streams in Alaska are not  
2 actually on that list and don't trigger the permitting  
3 so this is just a new way for people out on the land to  
4 collect that information and it becomes an automatic  
5 nomination of a stream. So if anybody wants to talk  
6 about that or we could do trainings or collaborate in  
7 the future to help document more streams let me know.

8

9 And then -- oh, different hat. Taking  
10 that hat off. Putting my Sitka Advisory Committee hat  
11 on.

12

13 I will be stepping down from the Sitka  
14 Advisory Committee next week because I'm no longer  
15 living in Sitka full-time but I wanted to give a couple  
16 updates and follow up with Cal. We've been working  
17 hard on trying to move forward the unguided rental boat  
18 issue and I feel like we've been started to get some  
19 progress. We've spoken up enough times at the Council  
20 meetings now during Staff tasking, it's really a comp  
21 -- people think this process is complicated but I think  
22 that process is even more complicated and you have to  
23 bring something up over and over and over again at  
24 Staff tasking before you can even get it to be an  
25 agenda item. So we haven't fully gotten it as an  
26 agenda item to the Council, but we did get it on the  
27 halibut committee last week so last Friday -- and Patty  
28 called in, she listened, she was part of that as well  
29 and Cal's been giving testimony to the Council. We do  
30 have a person on the Council that's willing to help  
31 take up this issue but we are up against some barriers  
32 that Cal and I have talked about and we can figure that  
33 out more, but I also wanted to say that this issue is  
34 like all over the region and there's at least a number  
35 of Advisory Committee Chairs that are also concerned  
36 about this and I think in the future, on any of these  
37 issues, more collaboration between Advisory Committee  
38 Chairs and the RAC would help us all be able to move  
39 the issue forward. But I just wanted to give a couple  
40 updates on that. And, yeah, hope to continue to try  
41 and move all those things forward.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
44 Heather. There might be some questions on that.  
45 Anybody on the Council, questions.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

50



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1 MS. BAUSCHER: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, you bring us  
4 some -- oh, Cal, go ahead.

5

6 MR. CASIPIT: I just wanted to --  
7 sorry. No question. I just wanted to thank you for  
8 all your help and keeping me straight and answering my  
9 calls and texts and when I have a question so I just  
10 want to thank you for helping me out and keeping me  
11 straight and we'll be working together more.

12

13 MS. BAUSCHER: I look forward to it,  
14 you help keep me straight, too, Cal, and we're all  
15 learning together as we go through all of these things.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
18 Heather. You brought us some -- oh, excuse me, Harvey,  
19 go ahead.

20

21 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 Thank you for all your work, Heather. I realize this  
23 -- getting this to work is going to be slow and tedious  
24 because fishermen have a tendency to not tell the whole  
25 truth sometimes.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. KITKA: I understand that basically  
30 the science you want it's basically conditions that are  
31 happening out there in the ocean and things like that,  
32 and not really so much the fish but -- but maybe a  
33 closer eye on the climate change and what you find in  
34 the food out there. Thank you so much for all your  
35 help.

36

37 MS. BAUSCHER: Thanks, Harvey. Thanks  
38 for being a mentor and a guide all these years as well.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else.

41

42 MS. BAUSCHER: Thanks.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thanks for the  
45 news about some signs of progress, it's good to hear,  
46 it's a little bit of progress.

47

48 MS. BAUSCHER: Yeah. Yeah.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, DeAnna,  
2 check on the phone lines.

3  
4 MS. PERRY: Just a reminder for folks  
5 joining us on the phone if you'd like to give a public  
6 comment on non-agenda items at this time you can press  
7 star, five on your phone and that shows on our system  
8 that you'd like to make a comment. It's the asterisk  
9 button and the number 5 on your phone. We'll give that  
10 just a moment to see if anyone would like to make a  
11 comment on non-agenda items. As the Chair mentioned  
12 just a moment ago, for the remaining proposals that we  
13 have coming up we would ask that you hold those  
14 comments until such time as the Council hears that  
15 information.

16  
17 Mr. Chair, we do have someone on the  
18 phone who would like to comment. That caller's number  
19 ends in number 7-7. The commenter whose number ends in  
20 7-7 if you could please press star, six now to unmute  
21 your phone and it looks like your line is now unmuted.  
22 Please go ahead with your comment. Thank you.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 MS. PERRY: It looks like you're now  
27 muted again, if you could do star, six -- all right, it  
28 looks like you're set. Thank you.

29  
30 MS. STEVENS: Hi, good morning, I'm  
31 Susan Stevens and my Tlingit name is (In Tlingit).  
32 Stikine Kwaan. And as the President of -- am I.....

33  
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We're hearing you,  
35 go ahead.

36  
37 MS. STEVENS: All right. I am the  
38 President of Wrangell Tlingit & Haida Community Council  
39 and also (In Tlingit) which typically protected the  
40 Stikine River from invaders or threats so I would like  
41 to speak on behalf of the Stikine River Watershed being  
42 threatened by the British Columbia Mine and I would  
43 like to see you involved with the U.S. State Department  
44 to stop the Canadian government from ruining our salmon  
45 for commercial as well as subsistence fisheries.

46  
47 Please help us with this because we  
48 will not be able to exist without the salmon.

49  
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1 Gunalcheesh.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

4 Any questions, comments from the Council.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you

9 for talking to us this morning, appreciate it.

10

11 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, there are no

12 more callers at this time.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So we're still

15 waiting, let's see we have an appointment with somebody

16 at 9:00 a.m., they're not available yet, is there

17 anything short announcements we need to make, DeAnna,

18 or?

19

20 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I believe there

21 was a group that met last night regarding aquaculture.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

24

25 MS. PERRY: Perhaps Mr. Schroeder could

26 give us a quick report out on that. That is one of our

27 items that we brought over from yesterday.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure.

30

31 MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, DeAnna,

32 through the Chair. We met for an hour or two last

33 night and it seemed like we had a good time talking

34 about all kinds of hunting and fishing stories but we

35 actually did pay attention to aquaculture but I'll need

36 a few minutes before I can put the stuff on the record

37 but I think we're pretty close to what you want -- to

38 what you need, in that, we identified perhaps six or

39 seven points of things that should be in a letter.

40

41 So that's what we got and I'd like to

42 thank everybody for showing up on that and paying

43 attention and also, as usual, Council Member -- other

44 Council members bring in really great background

45 because of their experience in their communities with

46 -- in this case with aquaculture and just what's

47 happening out there. So if I can come back on a little

48 bit later it'd be great and I'll be prepared.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,  
2 Bob.

3  
4 REPORTER: Don. Don.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Then we can -- oh,  
7 excuse me. Just a brief report on the working group  
8 that met on the continuation of subsistence uses and  
9 meaningful priority. We had a meeting at lunch  
10 yesterday and the goal was to just kind of reformat, I  
11 guess was the term Cathy used, and we just moved things  
12 around a little bit, prioritized some of the statements  
13 but we didn't make any changes to the wording, just  
14 reorganized and maybe make it a little more effective,  
15 and a couple citations, so I think we can -- it sounds  
16 like the Council members were pretty satisfied with the  
17 original draft product so I think we could probably  
18 move through that quickly as well when we get a chance  
19 to do that.

20  
21 Anybody on the line yet?

22  
23 MS. PERRY: No.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Nope.

26  
27 MS. PERRY: Office of Subsistence  
28 Management could go ahead and give their report if  
29 they'd like, also Mr. Gallegos is here with his report.  
30 I don't know if you want to get to those.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, maybe we  
33 could do an agency report while we're waiting. How  
34 about OSM's report, they're usually not too lengthy.

35  
36 MR. VICKERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair  
37 and members of the Council. It's nice to do this  
38 report nice and early in the meeting.

39  
40 I want to thank you all, Council  
41 members, for your exceptional volunteer work on behalf  
42 of your communities and user groups. We value your  
43 expertise, contribution of your knowledge and  
44 experience to the regulatory process.

45  
46 For the record this is Brent Vickers,  
47 Office of Subsistence Management. Sorry about that,  
48 it's still early.

49  
50

1                   The Federal Subsistence Board is  
2 committed to providing Federally-recognized tribes and  
3 ANCSA Corporations with opportunities to be  
4 meaningfully involved in the subsistence regulatory  
5 process. To that end the Board plans to hold tribal  
6 and ANCSA consultations on regulatory proposals after  
7 the fall Council meeting cycle. Holding consultations  
8 after the Council meetings provides tribes the  
9 opportunity to participate in meetings and hear  
10 presentations after they hear presentations of proposal  
11 analysis. We also hope that holding consultations  
12 later in the year will be less of a conflict with  
13 subsistence activities. Currently we have identified  
14 the weeks between November 13th and December 15th to  
15 schedule consultations. In fact, I think I just saw  
16 yesterday we're tentatively planning for either  
17 November 14th or 16th. Additionally, the Federal  
18 Subsistence Board will again host tribal and ANCSA  
19 consultations at the start of the wildlife regulatory  
20 meeting which is April 2nd through 5th, 2024. The  
21 Board will also schedule consultations with tribal  
22 governments and ANCSA Corporations on any subsistence  
23 issues or concerns throughout the year as requested by  
24 the tribes. If you would like more information on  
25 scheduling tribal or ANCSA Corporation consultation  
26 consultations please call -- contact the Office of  
27 Subsistence Management, Native Liaison, Orville Lind at  
28 907-786-3953.

29

30                   Upcoming Board meetings.

31

32                   Upcoming Board meetings scheduled for  
33 next year include the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
34 Program work session, scheduled for Wednesday February  
35 7th, 2024, and the wildlife regulatory meeting which  
36 will be held April 2nd through 5th, 2024 in Anchorage.  
37 The Council Chairs or representatives who are liaisons  
38 to the Board are invited to participate in the Board's  
39 April regulatory meeting to share their region's  
40 subsistence report and discuss their Council's  
41 recommendations on wildlife proposals and closure  
42 reviews with the Board.

43

44                   Student Art Contest.

45

46                   OSM is inviting all Alaskan student  
47 artists, kindergarten through high school to submit  
48 original art work for the subsistence student art  
49 contest. The deadline for submissions is February 2nd,  
50

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1 Groundhog Day, 2024. We are specifically looking for  
2 art work that illustrates wildlife that are harvested  
3 for subsistence use or subsistence hunting activities.  
4 The winner's art work will be featured on the front  
5 cover of the 2024 through 2026 wildlife regulatory  
6 handbook and at least 16 other entries will be selected  
7 for display inside. The art contest offers an  
8 opportunity for students to express their talent and  
9 creativity while sharing their knowledge of subsistence  
10 resources. For more information, please contact Office  
11 of Subsistence Management and ask for outreach  
12 coordinator, Kayla McKinney.

13

14 RealID.

15

16 We keep reminding about this, please  
17 get your RealIDs because beginning May 7th, 2025 every  
18 traveler will need to present RealID to fly within the  
19 U.S., even when you fly on small commercial Bush  
20 carrier. For our program you will need to have your  
21 RealID in time for your fall 2025 Council meeting.  
22 That's two years from now. Get your RealIDs, State of  
23 Alaska, Division of Motor Vehicle website for  
24 information on that.

25

26 Changes in OSM Staffing.

27

28 OSM -- we unfortunately had to say  
29 goodbye to our Southcentral and North Slope Council  
30 Coordinator Jessica Bill -- Gill. She's greatly missed  
31 and a few of other Coordinators had to shift over and  
32 pick up her responsibilities and they did a great job  
33 with that.

34

35 We also had to say goodbye to our  
36 administrative support assistant, Michelle Andrews, who  
37 moved on to new opportunities.

38

39 But while saying goodbye to some, we  
40 are pleased to welcome two new members, Becky Brown and  
41 Janel Day. Becky joins us as an administrative support  
42 assistant. She has a background in defense payroll and  
43 lived overseas in the UK for many years. She will  
44 primarily be handling invitational travel and property  
45 for OSM. Janel is our new cartographer/GIS specialist,  
46 which we have not had in awhile, so you will have fun  
47 new maps in all your analysis. She has worked as a  
48 cartographer for National Park Service, Arizona  
49 Geological Survey, Kodiak Island Borough and the

50

0377

1 Anchorage Municipality, and private contracting  
2 company.

3

4                   Additionally, OSM is welcoming back our  
5 wonderful Anthropology Pathways Intern Kristen Morrow,  
6 who is here at the meeting. Christine was with us  
7 last summer but then had to take a year to complete her  
8 dissertation research in the jungles of Borneo.  
9 Christine will be working with us fulltime in Anchorage  
10 until she graduates and completes the Pathways Program.

11

12                   Thank you all. Council members, OSM  
13 Staff, multi-agency colleagues in subsistence,  
14 especially the Forest Service here for being wonderful  
15 hosts and thank you for all the public for attending  
16 and working towards our goal of inform subsistence  
17 management and implementation of Title VIII ANILCA.

18

19                   I'd be happy to answer any of your  
20 questions.

21

22                   Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the  
23 Council.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
26 Brent. Any questions.

27

28                   (No comments)

29

30                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I guess not,  
31 thank you very much.

32

33                   And I'll go to the phone again, it's a  
34 little after 9:00 o'clock, do we have somebody from the  
35 Department of Interior on the line ready to give us a  
36 presentation?

37

38                   MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, I did just  
39 receive a note that it looks like the person from DOI  
40 is not available at this time and maybe a little bit  
41 later, maybe significantly later, so I would suggest  
42 that this Council go ahead and start tackling its  
43 business items. I believe we left off with Wildlife  
44 Proposal 24-04. For those on the phone just joining  
45 us, this Council got through the presentation procedure  
46 on Page 116 meeting book up to the time of Council  
47 action.

48

49                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0378

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
2 DeAnna. Okay, time to get back to it. Now, we are at  
3 the point in the process where we need a motion from  
4 the Council to proceed with Wildlife Proposal 24-04.

5

6 (Off record comments regarding DOI  
7 phone number)

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, maybe we're  
10 going back to Department of Interior so hold off on  
11 your motions. Do we have somebody on the phone from  
12 the Department of Interior?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MS. PERRY: If so we'd just like to  
17 remind you that your line is probably muted, you'll  
18 need to press star, six to unmute your line.

19

20 MR. VICKERS: It ends in 1-0-7-2.

21

22 MS. PERRY: It looks as though we do  
23 have a Washington number showing up, it ends 1-0-7-2,  
24 if that's your number and you're from the Department of  
25 Interior wanting to speak to our agenda item, please  
26 press star, six to unmute your phone.

27

28 MR. RHODES: Good morning, or  
29 afternoon. This is Justice Rhodes, Ecosystem  
30 Restoration Coordinator for the Assistant Secretary of  
31 Indian Affairs in the Department of Interior. I have  
32 nothing to report at this time.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Good  
35 morning or good afternoon in Washington, D.C., we hear  
36 you, go ahead.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, sorry, you  
41 said you have nothing to report?

42

43 MR. RHODES: Yes, sir, that's correct.  
44 There has been some transition in the office this week  
45 and I will be listening in and will report back with  
46 any questions that may arise.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Well,  
49 thanks for that information, we'll standby for later.

50



0379

1 So thank you, appreciate you letting us know that.

2

3 Okay. I guess that removes that from  
4 the agenda for awhile.

5

6 Back to a motion on Wildlife Proposal  
7 24-04. Are we ready.

8

9 Mike.

10

11 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair. I move to  
12 adopt.

13

14 MS. NEEDHAM: Second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we have a  
17 motion and a second. So the proposal is now open for  
18 discussion.

19

20 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: What are the  
23 Council's feelings on this.

24

25 Mike.

26

27 MR. DOUVILLE: I'd like to offer.....

28

29 REPORTER: Mike, your mic. Mike.

30

31 MR. DOUVILLE: .....an amendment.

32

33 REPORTER: Mike.

34

35 MR. DOUVILLE: Oh, excuse me.

36

37 REPORTER: Thank you.

38

39 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair. I would like  
40 to offer an amendment to this proposal.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

43

44 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. For -- I don't  
45 have the correct wording but first I would like to  
46 change the dates from 1 through 15 to 1 through 10 and  
47 I would like to remove the WAA 4041 from the proposal.  
48 And that would be the amendment.

49

50

0380

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Just checking  
2 here, Mike, did you say the Wildlife Analysis Area 4041  
3 removed, is that the one.

4  
5 MR. DOUVILLE: That is correct, Mr.  
6 Chair.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We have an  
9 amendment proposed, did we get a second?

10  
11 MS. PERRY: Cathy seconded it.

12  
13 REPORTER: No, she seconded the  
14 original motion.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy seconded it,  
17 I thought she.....

18  
19 MS. PERRY: I'm sorry, not the  
20 amendment, sorry.

21  
22 MS. NEEDHAM: No, I didn't.

23  
24 REPORTER: The original motion.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No, Cathy seconded  
27 the original motion. How about on the amendment, do we  
28 have a second.

29  
30 MS. NEEDHAM: Second.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, there's a  
33 second.

34  
35 Okay, discussion, Mike, what's your  
36 feelings on that.

37  
38 MR. DOUVILLE: The rationale is there  
39 is healthy deer populations, however, I grew up in a  
40 really poor economy village, which was Craig, back in  
41 the early '50s and I fully understand what it's like to  
42 live that way and here we have Angoon with a similar  
43 economy. If you did not plan ahead, preserve food,  
44 things were very dire. With an 80 percent unemployment  
45 rate I can fully understand what it's like to live in  
46 that village. You have to plan ahead to survive and  
47 there are no frills. But in any case, this would  
48 lessen the impact on non-rural users by a considerable  
49 amount, it would still give Angoon a rural priority,  
50

0381

1 which is, in my opinion, that they need.

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It shouldn't be harmful to anybody and it minimizes the impact on non-rural users.

In any case I believe that this would be beneficial to Angoon and the non-rural users that typically come from Juneau, in my opinion, if they can afford to run that far down there to go hunting they are not in the same situation as Angoon residents. Overall, I think the impact would be very minimal on non-rural users.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike. Other Council members with thoughts on the amended motion.

Patty.

MS. PHILLIPS: It's not on the amended motion. The proposal is on Page 145 and Mr. Wagner was trying to find it in the booklet where we're at, so if we could identify where we're at in our booklet to assist the Council members that'd be helpful, thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you for that, Patty, yes. The analysis starts on Page 145 and on Page 145 has the language for the original proposed amendment and I might point out that the map which shows the Wildlife Analysis Area units that we're talking about is on Page 150 and the one that Mike proposed in the amendment to have removed from the original proposal is the one furthest to the south on that map, 4041. So for that, is everybody literally on the same page here?

(Council nods affirmatively)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thanks for that suggestion Patty. It's kind of hard to get restarted in the morning after leaving off in the afternoon and know where everybody is. Okay, any other comments from the Council on the amended proposal -- amended motion.

Patty, you have something, go ahead.

MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman Hernandez. Given the questions directed at Federal

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1 Staff and State representatives that the amount of  
2 harvest at that area that is being proposed to take out  
3 of the proposal, 4041, there isn't much non-Federally-  
4 qualified effort in that zone or WAA and so it's less  
5 than two percent of the overall harvest so I don't see  
6 the point to remove it.

7

8 Mr. Chair, thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
11 Patty. Any other thoughts.

12

13 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Albert, go ahead.

16

17 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
18 This is just a -- I guess I'm going to show my  
19 appreciation to this Council, Mr. Chair, you guys have  
20 worked really hard on this.

21

22 This type of proposal has an impact on  
23 generations. This process was put in place to address  
24 issues in our community and that's all I'm trying to  
25 do. One of my favorites is William Paul's speech to AFN  
26 in 1973. And I started this with the whole west side  
27 of Admiralty and now you've got -- and I agree, Mr.  
28 Douville, was courteous enough to sit and talk with me  
29 about it before he decided to make an amendment and I  
30 agreed with the amendment he made. But I don't want to  
31 turkey buzz it anymore. That's the history of our  
32 people, is, and you have to read the speech to  
33 understand what I'm talking about. I appreciate the  
34 effort you guys have put into this and it means a lot  
35 to Angoon and whether this makes it past the Federal  
36 Subsistence Board after a second try we'll see, but you  
37 guys have to leave here knowing you've done the best  
38 you could for Angoon and I'm always going to remember  
39 that.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So thank you  
44 Albert, I just want to be clear in my mind because I  
45 think it's pretty important, you did say that you would  
46 support the amendment?

47

48 MR. HOWARD: (Nods affirmatively)

49

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0383

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, appreciate  
2 that. Thank you. That's very significant to me.

3  
4                   John, go ahead.

5  
6                   MR. SMITH: In respect to Albert's  
7 words, maybe he can share William Paul's words with us  
8 so that we can pass it around and people can read it  
9 and then sense what he's sharing, his feelings. That'd  
10 be really cool.

11  
12                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: At some point  
13 during the meeting, you say, not right now?

14  
15                   MR. SMITH: Yes.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Okay,  
18 yeah, that'd be helpful. Any other Council members  
19 with thoughts on the amended proposal.

20  
21                   Bob.

22  
23                   MR. SCHROEDER: I can't speak directly,  
24 I don't have any additional information on whether 4041  
25 should be in or out of this closure but I respect the  
26 opinions of Mr. Douville and the concurrence of that  
27 amendment by Albert. I will note that, you know, in  
28 reviewing other Council actions over the years that the  
29 Council has really made a strong effort to have the  
30 least adverse effect on non-subsistence users that was  
31 possible while protecting subsistence uses. So with  
32 that in mind that would be the change of cutting down  
33 the potential closed area, would be consistent with  
34 that, with things we've done in other parts of our  
35 region. So we have some track record of not having  
36 kneejerk responses and calling for major, major  
37 closures but really refined in our approach on that so  
38 this would be consistent and it would show that the  
39 Council really is not in the business of trying to  
40 restrict non-Federally-qualified users without the  
41 necessity of doing so.

42  
43                   Thank you.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Thank you  
46 for that Bob. Anybody else.

47  
48                   (No comments)

49  
50

0384

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Just my  
2 thoughts on the amendment to the proposal are similar  
3 to what Mr. Schroeder stated. You know I was prepared  
4 to support the original proposal. This amendment, in  
5 my mind, would probably be about the minimum that the  
6 folks in Angoon would expect. It kind of limits the  
7 area to their immediate vicinity of Angoon and in my  
8 view makes a very short period of time with the  
9 subsistence priority in place, 10 days. That, in my  
10 view, would be about the minimum that folks in Angoon  
11 would expect from this process. I would be prepared to  
12 give them more but I'm perfectly willing to see through  
13 the efficacy of this amendment if it would lessen the  
14 impacts and give it a better chance of passing the  
15 Board. So I would support the amendment.

16

17                   Harvey.

18

19                   MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
20 will support this amendment. I really believe that it  
21 will have minimum effect on the hunters that come out  
22 of Juneau, it just won't affect them so much but it  
23 will help the community of Angoon, which is -- which  
24 has not been able to achieve their subsistence needs as  
25 needed. I know I really stand by the fact that if  
26 their subsistence needs are not being met, and this is  
27 where I'll stand, I'll stand behind them all the way.  
28 I really know that hunting period is very important  
29 because usually the bucks are at the healthiest stage  
30 of their life right then.

31

32                   So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey.  
35 Any other Council members.

36

37                   (No comments)

38

39                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, are we ready  
40 for the question.

41

42                   MR. CASIPIT: Call for the question.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Question's  
45 been called for -- this is just for the amendment to  
46 the proposal, we still have to come back and vote on  
47 the main proposal, but this is just for the amendment.  
48 The amendment to the main proposal would implement a  
49 closure to non-Federally-qualified users from November  
50

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1 1st through November 10th in two Wildlife Analysis  
2 Areas, lower Admiralty Island, those areas that would  
3 be closed would be 4042 and 4055.

4

5 Okay, all in favor of the amendment to  
6 the proposal, we'll do a roll call vote -- DeAnna.

7

8 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
9 is on the motion to amend.

10

11 Larry Bemis.

12

13 MR. BEMIS: Yes.

14

15 MS. PERRY: Cal Casipit.

16

17 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

18

19 MS. PERRY: Mike Douville.

20

21 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

22

23 MS. PERRY: Robert Schroeder.

24

25 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes.

26

27 MS. PERRY: Albert Howard.

28

29 MR. HOWARD: Yes.

30

31 MS. PERRY: Patricia Phillips.

32

33 MS. PHILLIPS: On the amendment, no.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Louie Wagner, Jr.

36

37 MR. WAGNER: Yes.

38

39 MS. PERRY: Harvey Kitka.

40

41 MR. KITKA: Yes.

42

43 MS. PERRY: John Smith, III.

44

45 MR. SMITH: Yes.

46

47 MS. PERRY: Cathy Needham.

48

49 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes.

50

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1 MS. PERRY: And Don Hernandez.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

4

5 MS. PERRY: And I'll go quickly to the  
6 phones, I don't believe these two Council members are  
7 on but want to make sure I call them. Frank Wright,  
8 are you on the line?

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MS. PERRY: And, Jim Slater, are you on  
13 the line to vote?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MS. PERRY: Okay. Mr. Chair, the  
18 motion to amend passes 10 yea, 1 nay.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,  
21 very much. And now we have an amended -- a new motion  
22 for discussion. So now we need to maybe expand our  
23 discussion a little bit and make sure we cover our  
24 rationale for the new amended motion and what our  
25 thoughts are on the amended motion. So Council  
26 members, other thoughts on what is now the main motion.

27

28 Cal.

29

30 MR. CASIPIT: I really don't -- I'm not  
31 ready to put my rationale on yet but I did want to  
32 mention something from yesterday. The State's comments  
33 mentioned, in all these proposals, the requested  
34 closure, the State mentions this Alaska v Federal  
35 Subsistence Board and I talked to Mr. -- I asked Mr.  
36 Churchwell about the citation and all and I apologize  
37 in advance, I don't mean to come down hard on any Staff  
38 or anything, I know that probably that passage and the  
39 position was probably written by somebody way above Mr.  
40 Churchwell, but I just want to make sure and I want  
41 Staff to know it's going to be really important to have  
42 legal Council there when this comes up in front of the  
43 Board because the particular case that's mentioned here  
44 in the State's comments has to do with a customary and  
45 traditional determination for moose in Chistochina in  
46 Unit 12. The State challenged that C&T determination  
47 through the Board's administrative procedures, took it  
48 to District court, they lost in District Court, they  
49 took it to the Ninth Circuit, they also lost that case

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1 in the Ninth Circuit and it has to do with customary  
2 and traditional use determinations, it has nothing to  
3 do with whether or not the Board has -- has authority  
4 to restrict non-subsistence uses.

5

6 So I just want to make sure that we  
7 know that and that legal Council is available for the  
8 Board to talk about that.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
13 Cal, for that information. So like I said, this is an  
14 opportunity for Council members to, you know,  
15 deliberate on any aspects of this proposal. I'm not  
16 asking you to make our justifications, but what are  
17 your thoughts on this proposal and glad to hear those.

18

19 Cathy.

20

21 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 This proposal from the very beginning of the last  
23 regulatory cycle, which I didn't support at the table,  
24 but did attend the Federal Board meeting and carried  
25 the wishes of this Council forward to the best of my  
26 ability, I still am on the fence about it. The hard  
27 part for me, it's -- I feel like it's pitting, you  
28 know, benefit to subsistence users versus unnecessary  
29 restrictions of other users. So those are the two  
30 issues at hand. They go head to head.

31

32 Previously, I didn't feel there was  
33 overwhelming evidence that the benefit to subsistence  
34 users, there wasn't much on the record, there wasn't  
35 much in the analysis that really supported it other  
36 than having one person representing an entire  
37 community. And now here we are two years later, we  
38 have very much more detailed analysis that starts to  
39 make an argument that there is good information out  
40 there about the benefit to subsistence users and their  
41 needs in Angoon. I appreciate our Council Member  
42 Howard's continuation of speaking on the behalf of the  
43 people that he represents in Angoon, I think he  
44 represents them well. I really would like to see --  
45 personally I'd really like to see other people  
46 testifying. We've seen this on other proposals where  
47 -- in support, I guess I should say, we just see so  
48 much opposition from outside of it, but I'd like to see  
49 more support, diverse support and I would really have

50

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1 liked to have seen what tribal consultation would have  
2 brought out about this. I hope that Mr. Howard pursues  
3 that between whatever our decision at this table is now  
4 and before the Federal Board meeting, that he can get  
5 tribal consultation and maybe rally some additional  
6 folks to put additional information on the record from  
7 other people. I know he represents a lot of people,  
8 but just a little extra would go a long way. I really  
9 feel that way about another proposal that we're going  
10 to see.

11

12 So I'm still really undecided about  
13 this but I would say that I'm much more supportive than  
14 I was the last round and I'd like to hear other Council  
15 member's opinions on whether this benefit to meeting  
16 subsistence uses and needs within the community of  
17 Angoon really does outweigh restricting other users.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.  
22 Other Council members.

23

24 Mike.

25

26 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair. I speak in  
27 favor of the motion. I do know what -- we're not  
28 talking about -- this is not a conservation concern,  
29 however, it's our job to improve access to the  
30 resources and give a rural priority. But we had a  
31 situation here in the '90s where there was -- there  
32 wasn't -- we were okay with deer but we had a  
33 competition factor. We were having cars block the  
34 roads before the August 1 season opened and local  
35 people would go out there, well, they couldn't even --  
36 you know, the clear-cuts were desirable, everybody  
37 likes driveby hunting, don't get me wrong, even rural  
38 people do, I mean particularly, probably non-rural. So  
39 that was a problem. And we went through a quite long  
40 process to correct this problem. It was partially  
41 resolved because this Council failed -- perhaps more  
42 than once to take a week in the front end of that  
43 season for rural users, the problem was solved somewhat  
44 by opening the season early because there was so much  
45 resistance to taking that little window out. But it  
46 took more than one meeting, it took two or three, and a  
47 lot of that -- a deer planning committee was formed and  
48 it addressed other problems as well.

49

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0389

1 I think this is an okay thing. It's a  
2 small area. It may be unpopular with non-rural  
3 hunters, but I do think it would be very beneficial to  
4 those users that depend on this resource. They have to  
5 have it. And there is a competition issue.

6  
7 So in my mind this will not solve the  
8 problem totally, but it would help in that direction.

9  
10 The other thing that I would say is for  
11 Hoonah, Angoon and Pelican and other stakeholders, I  
12 would encourage the committee be formed to address some  
13 of these and perhaps find some common ground down the  
14 road.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.  
19 Did you have something to add Cathy?

20  
21 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes, I have a question  
22 for him if that's fine.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead,  
25 Cathy.

26  
27 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
28 just had a quick question for Mr. Douville. In Unit 2  
29 when regulations were changed to provide an additional  
30 season for subsistence users at the forefront of the  
31 deer hunt, that wasn't necessarily to close or restrict  
32 -- I mean it was restricting non-Federally-qualified  
33 subsistence users but it wasn't closing a season for  
34 them, it was adding a benefit, what I really wanted to  
35 know is, is that -- do you feel like that was a  
36 beneficial thing for Prince of Wales residents, do they  
37 utilize that hunt and is it a meaningful priority  
38 having the two weeks at the beginning of the season for  
39 just residents, and maybe Don can answer that question  
40 as well.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, I know you  
43 directed it to Mike but I also wanted to point out  
44 there was also a closure involved. They added time at  
45 the beginning of the season but they also delayed the  
46 opening of the non-subsistence hunters 10 days, so  
47 there was actually a 20 day window, which is kind of  
48 interesting the way that worked out. We asked for an  
49 early opening and the Board kind of took it upon  
50

0390

1 themselves to add an additional closure as well. So  
2 there was a closure involved, it wasn't just an early  
3 season. But Mike want to answer the rest of the  
4 question, go ahead Mike.

5  
6 MR. DOUVILLE: Additionally, I think  
7 there was an adjustment made for the south end to --  
8 via the proposal process to open that portion earlier  
9 than it would have been under the regulation at the  
10 time. And to answer your question about the early hunt  
11 is not as important now because those clear-cuts have  
12 grown in and the driveby hunting is not as good as it  
13 was at that time so there's less competition for it,  
14 there's also less competition overall on the island  
15 because we have a declining deer population so we're  
16 not seeing a big influx of people from outside coming  
17 in here to hunt like they were in the '90s. We've had  
18 a decline and they don't want to work hard for their  
19 deer so there's other places they go or do something  
20 else, I don't know, but we're not seeing it. And  
21 certainly we're seeing less deer.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Patty, go ahead.

24  
25 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman  
26 Hernandez. This Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
27 is broad in regional representation because we all have  
28 our local knowledge for our areas that we live in. And  
29 each area has their dynamics that affect, you know, the  
30 type of recommendations that we would bring to the  
31 area. I would agree that POW issues took up a lot of  
32 time, money, Staff effort to come up with the solutions  
33 that they came up with. However, we are now dealing  
34 with Unit 4 and three community proposals and like,  
35 Albert, I thank the RAC for following through on the  
36 three proposals that failed previously and now based on  
37 the Staff analysis and community participation that  
38 recognized that we should reduce the amount of time  
39 for the -- to provide a subsistence meaningful priority  
40 for a deer hunt that would give 15 days in November.

41  
42 I support the proposal.

43  
44 ANILCA, Title VIII subsistence  
45 management, under the findings, Congress finds that:  
46 this is Congress saying it, and this was back in the  
47 1970s that Congress met before ANILCA was actually  
48 implemented: That the continuation of subsistence uses  
49 by rural residents, both Native and non-Native for  
50

0391

1 physical, economic, traditional, cultural existence, or  
2 physical, economic, traditional and social existence.  
3 So economic is specifically stated in ANILCA. So when  
4 we have people saying that while I got to pay 5.45 a  
5 gallon to go get my deer and I want it -- I would like  
6 to be able to go and get it in one trip, that is a  
7 justifiable reason for a citizen -- for a rural  
8 resident to say, hey, I would like to meet my  
9 subsistence needs, they're not being met, and why are  
10 they not being met they tell us, so we also have a  
11 finding that says, increase accessibility of remote  
12 areas containing subsistence resources and the  
13 increasing population in Alaska with resultant pressure  
14 on subsistence resources. This is in ANILCA, specific  
15 wording.

16  
17 So we have people who have come to us  
18 and testified or Council members, because we're a broad  
19 representation of the region saying my community needs  
20 are not being met and we have outside pressure who are  
21 non-Federally-qualified that are affecting our ability  
22 to harvest the resource that we need to meet our  
23 subsistence needs.

24  
25 And so also there's been a lot of  
26 disenfranchisement of segments of the population of the  
27 region and it's not my place to say why aren't you  
28 coming forward and testifying because of some of this  
29 disenfranchisement that they experience. In the last  
30 round, of which I was only a member of the public for  
31 part of the time and then for which I came in as a  
32 renewed Council member is there was a lot of -- as OSM  
33 has stated, controversy, hard feelings, tensions with  
34 these proposals and so it's like they said it once, why  
35 do they have to say it again and it really did create  
36 these riffs within the community that are actually not  
37 being mended and it is -- the Hoonah Indian Association  
38 stepped up and said that we will do these studies  
39 within these three communities and we'll, you know, try  
40 to find some facts based on these specific issues and  
41 that forum was opened to non-Federally-qualified and  
42 there was very limited non-Federally-qualified other  
43 than State agencies stepping in with their information.

44  
45 So you can't force someone to the  
46 table. But what we are here to do is represent the  
47 needs of the rural users of subsistence and so, Mr.  
48 Chair, that's my comment.  
49  
50

0392

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.

4 Other Council members.

5

6 Bob.

7

8 MR. SCHROEDER: I'll be supporting this  
9 proposal. The reasoning kind of goes in two routes.  
10 One is that we've heard a fair amount of testimony  
11 related to this specific situation in Angoon. I'd also  
12 be thankful -- oh, many, many years ago I actually  
13 hunted in this area with an Angoon friend in a really  
14 small boat when we could not possibly have gotten any  
15 place else, I'm not a Federally-qualified subsistence  
16 users but I do know the land there. So I'm convinced  
17 on the basis of testimony and Council Member Albert's  
18 representation of his community that there is a problem  
19 for Angoon residents meeting their subsistence needs  
20 and this has to do with -- and so I believe that that's  
21 convincing evidence for me.

22

23 I'd also refer back to our really  
24 lengthy statement that we worked on on looking at our  
25 meaningful priority position statement which we talked  
26 about a little bit on the first day of our meeting and  
27 which is being reformatted at this time. And this goes  
28 into a lot of detail on the need to protect subsistence  
29 uses even if there's not a conservation concern. So  
30 our job is not simply to respond to conservation  
31 concerns and ratchet down seasons and bag limits when  
32 those occur, but it's our job to protect subsistence  
33 uses. What that analysis showed and I'm bringing that  
34 up because I'd like it to be considered as part of our  
35 rationale for whatever actions we take on this and the  
36 other two proposals dealing with Unit 4 deer, is that,  
37 though we may not like the situation but this is what's  
38 happening. We have a larger population in Alaska, many  
39 more demands on natural resources, in this case deer,  
40 and we have huge technological change that can get  
41 people from Juneau to the southern end of Admiralty  
42 Island faster than anyone imagined could happen in  
43 1980. And we have many other changes which have to do  
44 with the economic structures of communities that may  
45 make subsistence harvesting just really more difficult  
46 for subsistence users. This has to do with price of  
47 gas, the migration of commercial fishing permits away  
48 from small communities and many other factors, which  
49 are outlined in our meaningful priority position  
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0393

1 statement.

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So I guess the one thing that does concern me is that I think as our world gets smaller and smaller and there are more demands put on resources, we're going to be doing a lot more of this and I'd anticipate that in coming years we'll increasingly be required by the directions of ANILCA and our authority to put restrictions on non-Federally-qualified subsistence users, not because we particularly want to do so but because it's necessary to protect subsistence uses, which is what our job is.

I also really appreciate, I mean this has been frustrating to have these proposals come back again and again, but this has permitted refinement of what kind of restrictions may be put on non-Federally-qualified hunters and as Chairman Hernandez said this may be about the minimum, this is the least that could be done to protect subsistence uses for Angoon residents and minimizing the effect on non-Federally-qualified hunters.

So that's the rationale that I have and I will support this proposal and in our stated rationale on this we should refer to our position statement.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Bob. Other Council members with thoughts on this.

Larry.

MR. BEMIS: As we're deliberating and I agree with the amendment, you know, for not being involved with much of the Board business and, you know, I'm listening and evaluating and I've been here before but not in the last couple years, a lot has changed.

The one thing that I found from the outside looking in is I see a lot of study and analysis, but I don't see enough area representation of everybody having a voice. It's like when we had our public comment the other day, I did not hear any individual coming up as a non-area hunter, I mean subsistence user coming up to complain on this own personal behalf other than groups of other

0394

1 representation of other people in the sense of a  
2 business or a group or something like this. If this  
3 was such an issue there should have been some  
4 individuals that are just regular people having a say  
5 about it and I didn't see that and I don't think there  
6 was enough community input also to make an analysis  
7 based on what you think the other person's thinking or  
8 what the whole thought process is. If -- you know it  
9 just seems like to me there wasn't enough information  
10 on both sides for the pro and the con of this proposal.

11

12 And the other thing I would like to  
13 add, it really has nothing to do with exactly where  
14 we're at, but in Yakutat for our subsistence extension  
15 of the hunt, we had a two week early hunt for the  
16 youth, you had to be of age and they had to have  
17 somebody 21 years old to go hunt with and the youth had  
18 to have gone through a gun safety course. And, you  
19 know, not many deer were taken, there was quite a bit  
20 of family, you know, but what it did is it got the  
21 youth involved in their hunting and they got to go out  
22 and be first in the field and it was really good. I  
23 mean it -- it gave a little earlier hunt and gave the  
24 youth a chance to be with -- out there in the area and  
25 learn a little bit about it.

26

27 That's all I have at this time, thank  
28 you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Larry.  
31 Is there anybody else.

32

(No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I wanted to give  
35 my thoughts on this proposal which I am in favor of and  
36 I think Bob did a pretty good job of kind of outlining  
37 our justifications. I want to point out some issues  
38 here that, you know, I've identified in this proposal  
39 and the other proposals before us.

40

41 This is a proposal very much crafted to  
42 address a situation which Bob and Patty outlined for us  
43 where ANILCA foresaw that there would be competition  
44 for resources in the rural areas. And now it's time,  
45 we're going to be addressing that in Unit 4, we've  
46 addressed it in other areas and now it's become an  
47 issue in Unit 4, and I think our position statement  
48 that we're going to send to the Board on this I think  
49 pretty well outlines the Councils feelings on this

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0395

1 issue and I think it is a very valid issue to be  
2 addressing.

3

4

5 And in relation to that I want to  
6 address, you know, a lot of the public comments. You  
7 know we have pages and pages -- dozens of public  
8 comments here and I did read through them all, I got my  
9 highlights there and I really appreciate the public  
10 comments, they're almost all in opposition as we know,  
11 it really helps me to formulate what the issues are and  
12 I do really appreciate it but there's just some  
13 statements in there that are just flat wrong. I know  
14 people believe it but it's just wrong. They say  
15 explicitly, you know, I've got -- you know I have them  
16 highlighted but I'm not going to look through them all,  
17 that the only time you can restrict a non-subsistence  
18 user is if there's a conservation concern, we know  
19 that's not true. I know people believe that but it's  
20 just not true.

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Our mandate is to also protect the  
continuation of subsistence uses and that's a concept  
that maybe a lot of people just don't grasp. I'm sure  
in a non-subsistence community it's really hard to  
grasp. But subsistence uses are all the practices that  
subsistence users undertake to do their subsistence  
harvesting and it's where you harvest, it's when you  
harvest, it's how you harvest, all of those need to be  
protected. And if they're being interfered with in  
some way by -- I'll call it competition, or just the  
presence from other hunters -- we -- and a lot of  
people talked about that competition factor. I saw a  
testimony in there that said, you know, I've hunted  
there for years and I don't see the competition that  
the local people are seeing, well, of course you're  
not. I live on Prince of Wales Island and I've lived  
there for almost 40 years but I lived in Petersburg 10  
years prior to that and every year I hunted on  
Admiralty Island and I did like the other people from  
Petersburg, I went on a boat with a group of people,  
usually four or five of us, we went to Pybus Bay, we  
always got our limits, the deer hunting was great but I  
can recall -- we always left around the 10th of  
November and when the deer were in the rut, the bears  
were in their dens, hopefully, and we could be home for  
Thanksgiving dinner, okay, that was our pattern. And I  
can recall being in Pybus Bay -- we always went to  
Pybus, that was our favorite spot, I can recall being  
there in a stormy stretch of weather and the best

1 anchorage in Pybus, everybody -- there were 14 boats  
2 anchored in that one little anchorage. And every one  
3 of those boats, you know, had four, five, six people on  
4 them. It was kind of a zoo. We all kind of hunt the  
5 same, that's just the way it was. They were mostly  
6 boats from Petersburg and Juneau, I don't think I ever  
7 saw anybody from Kake, I don't think I ever saw anybody  
8 from Angoon, they don't hunt that way. So you can say,  
9 oh, we didn't see any competition, well of course we  
10 didn't see any competition, they're not going to be  
11 there, they're not -- they're not there because they  
12 don't want to be there, they're not there because we're  
13 there, and that's the way it works. You know now I  
14 live on Prince of Wales Island, there's a lot of  
15 competition on Prince of Wales Island, I don't hunt the  
16 roads, I've never had a vehicle on POW, I hunt with a  
17 skiff and there's a lot of competition there too. That  
18 competition comes mostly from Wrangell and Petersburg,  
19 and we're all hunting with boats. Now, I have my  
20 favorite spots and they have their favorite spots and  
21 if I'm going out for a hunt and I see somebody from,  
22 not one of my neighbors, in a place where I want to go,  
23 I absolutely will not go there because I'm going to a  
24 specific spot and leave my skiff in a spot that I know  
25 that's protected and I'm going to a specific spot and I  
26 don't want anybody else to know where that is, if they  
27 don't already know where it is I don't want them to see  
28 where I am. You just don't do that. So to say you're  
29 not seeing competition, of course you're not seeing  
30 competition, that just -- you know, so that was one  
31 thing.

32  
33                   The other thing is the misconception on  
34 why we can impose a restriction, not just for  
35 conservation concerns.

36  
37                   The other thing we've heard in  
38 testimony, mostly from the State. They talk about how  
39 they're seeing less use from the folks in Angoon. And  
40 I'm sure that's a really complicated issue and I don't  
41 know Angoon very well, I've never been to Angoon, it's  
42 one of the few places in Southeast Alaska I've never  
43 visited and that's just kind of the way it is with  
44 Angoon, we don't know what goes on there and we only  
45 hear from our Council members usually. I'm sure it's a  
46 complicated situation. And if there's a situation  
47 where for some demographic economic reason less people  
48 are hunting in Angoon and that's affecting the overall  
49 subsistence needs of the community, I kind of got the  
50

0397

1 impression from the State of Alaska that, you know,  
2 that might be happening, it's not the fault of the  
3 people in Juneau [sic] that that's happening, so don't  
4 -- there's nothing you can do to fix it. Well, if  
5 there's a situation like that where the needs are not  
6 being met, but we see a solution, if, you know, less  
7 people are hunting, the economics of hunting are more  
8 difficult, there's all these factors involved, and we  
9 actually see a solution that would make it more  
10 efficient and economical for people in Angoon to be  
11 able to meet their needs and it involves, you know,  
12 some very minor restriction on other users, well, yes,  
13 we should do that. Okay, it may not be their fault but  
14 there is a solution, we can make it more efficient and  
15 easier for the folks in Angoon to meet their needs and  
16 we should do that.

17  
18 And it's a very -- I believe it's a  
19 very small imposition on the non-subsistence users,  
20 there is a lot of area in Unit 4 they can still hunt.  
21 A lot of time. But like I say, this is probably the  
22 minimum that we would do to help the folks in Angoon,  
23 so, yes, I do support it.

24  
25 Yeah, those are my thoughts.

26  
27 So I think we also pretty well covered  
28 the rationale, so other Council members, any additional  
29 thoughts.

30  
31 Mr. Howard, go ahead.

32  
33 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
34 keep hearing Mr. Howard is the only one sitting here  
35 speaking for Angoon. Mr. Chairman, there's people, you  
36 know, the 20 percent that want to speak are working at  
37 the school district this morning. They're cooking  
38 lunches, they're doing dishes at the lunch program  
39 because they fed the kids and a lot of my friends are  
40 out hunting today. So you're given a choice to come  
41 here and call in and give your position on this  
42 proposal or go hunting because the weather's nice. So  
43 you're -- we live in different worlds. There's Angoon  
44 and how we do things and then there's this governing  
45 body and everyone in this room that expects more than  
46 Mr. Howard to explain the situation in Angoon. And in  
47 my mind that's not fair. I have a 12th grade education  
48 and thanks to Patty and the rest of this Council I've  
49 learned to read this document and comprehend what it  
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0398

1 means and when I look at the comments opposing the  
2 proposal these people don't get this.

3

4 Mr. Chairman, I -- what's on my mind  
5 now is when this goes to the Federal Board what do I --  
6 in my mind I'm trying to put a plan together so it gets  
7 passed this time. I listened in, I testified because I  
8 couldn't afford to fly to Anchorage, and they got it,  
9 they understood, but according to this there was no  
10 conservation concerns so they didn't pass the original  
11 document we sent them. So now I'm trying to wrap my  
12 head around how am I going to get them to pass this  
13 one. And I appreciate OSM and all the effort that was  
14 put into this and I'm hoping we can get it passed.

15

16 I appreciate everybody's effort here.  
17 It means a lot to me and I'm -- this isn't something  
18 I'm going to forget any time soon.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.

23 Anybody else.

24

25 Patty.

26

27 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair. Just for the  
28 record, this, that Mr. Howard was referring to is  
29 ANILCA.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Thank you,  
32 Patty. Anybody else.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Mike.

37

38 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
39 said this before, that Angoon lives in a depressed  
40 economy and subsistence is very important but we're not  
41 just talking about deer. I grew up the same way and we  
42 ate a lot of fish until I didn't even like fish  
43 anymore. But when the weather was good, five or six of  
44 us could get aboard a little troller and go out and  
45 handline anything we could catch, we were after red  
46 snapper, and anything we caught came aboard. When the  
47 tides were right we got the gas lamp out and we went  
48 and dug clams. Deer was hard to get in the '50s that's  
49 why the Federal Fish and Game poisoned (ph) them. But  
50

0399

1 when we did get one it was just like a total treat. I  
2 had five brothers and two sisters, there was 10 of us  
3 living at home and we'd eat a deer a week, we didn't  
4 have a freezer or even a refrigerator. If we didn't  
5 get a deer the following week we had to eat fish again.  
6 But this is kind of a window into what it's like to be  
7 in a village that has a depressed economy, so you're  
8 always thinking about what you're going to get next to  
9 eat and you had to go do it yourself. But I don't know  
10 if everybody understands because we're only talking  
11 about deer but it involves a whole way of life.

12

13 So I know what it's like to grow up  
14 with a subsistence way of life, truly.

15

16 I think that this proposal would go a  
17 long way into helping Angoon residents continue their  
18 subsistence way of life.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.  
21 Anybody else.

22

23 Patty.

24

25 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 In the Congressional Record on ANILCA it also talked  
27 about in their deliberations trying to figure what they  
28 were going to do to address subsistence needs in  
29 Alaska. They talked about subsistence zones, where  
30 only subsistence uses would occur, and then in the end  
31 we ended up with what we have in ANILCA. But in my  
32 mind these communities of Angoon, Hoonah and Pelican  
33 are asking for a subsistence zone during this time  
34 period of two weeks when the deer are in the rut, when  
35 they can go and get a deer, they know they can get a  
36 deer during that two week time period.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.  
41 Anybody else.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Question. Are we  
46 ready for the question.

47

48 MR. DOUVILLE: Call for the question.

49

50

0400

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, question's  
2 been called for. DeAnna, you want to go through a roll  
3 call vote.

4  
5 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is a  
6 vote on the main motion as amended. Do you want me to  
7 go over that, the amendment, is everyone clear on the  
8 amendment or I could put it in the record again.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sorry, we should  
11 restate the motion, as amended.

12  
13 So the motion is to adopt Wildlife  
14 Proposal 24-04. This proposal would institute a  
15 closure to non-Federally-qualified users from November  
16 1st through November 10th in two Wildlife Analysis Area  
17 units that surround the community of Angoon. I think  
18 that states it.

19  
20 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21  
22 Mike Douville.

23  
24 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

25  
26 MS. PERRY: Bob Schroeder.

27  
28 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes.

29  
30 MS. PERRY: Patty Phillips.

31  
32 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

33  
34 MS. PERRY: Harvey Kitka.

35  
36 MR. KITKA: Yes.

37  
38 MS. PERRY: John Smith, III.

39  
40 MR. SMITH: Yes.

41  
42 MS. PERRY: Cathy Needham.

43  
44 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes.

45  
46 MS. PERRY: Larry Bemis.

47  
48 MR. BEMIS: Yes.

49  
50

0401

1 MS. PERRY: Cal Casipit.

2

3 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

4

5 MS. PERRY: Albert Howard.

6

7 MR. HOWARD: Yes.

8

9 MS. PERRY: Louie Wagner, Jr.

10

11 MR. WAGNER: Yes.

12

13 MS. PERRY: Don Hernandez.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

16

17 MS. PERRY: And checking the phones for  
18 Council Member Frank Wright. Star, six, Frank, to  
19 unmute your line and provide your vote.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. PERRY: And Council Member Jim  
24 Slater, are you on the phone to vote?

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MS. PERRY: Okay. Mr. Chair, 11 yeas,  
29 no nays, two absent. The motion passes.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,  
32 DeAnna. Let's take a 10 minute break before we move on  
33 to our next proposal and come back at 10:15.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37 (On record)

38

39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'd like to get  
40 started on the next set of proposals.

41

42 MS. PERRY: And a reminder for those on  
43 the phone if you'd like to follow on our meeting book  
44 can be found online, [www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions/se](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions/se) and  
45 you'll see a box there marked meeting books or meeting  
46 materials and you'll be able to find our agenda and  
47 documents there.

48

49 (Pause)

50

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right we're  
2 going to go ahead and get started after the break. We  
3 are now on the point of our agenda where we're going to  
4 hear about Wildlife Proposal WP24-05 and it looks like  
5 we have Mr. Jason Roberts at the table to give the  
6 presentation on the proposal.

7  
8                   MR. ROBERTS: Yes, thank you, Chair and  
9 members of the Council. Unfortunately, you get to hear  
10 from me a lot in this meeting. This is -- I'll be  
11 presenting a summary of the analysis for Wildlife  
12 Proposal WP24-05. The analysis of this proposal begins  
13 on Page 183 of your meeting book and I'll try to keep  
14 this at least slightly shorter than the last one.

15  
16                   Proposal WP24-05 was submitted by the  
17 Southeast Council. The proponents are requesting to  
18 close the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area to  
19 deer hunting by non-Federally-qualified users from  
20 November 1st to the 15th. The Northeast Chichagof  
21 Controlled Use Area is located on Northeastern  
22 Chichagof Island and corresponds approximately to  
23 Wildlife Analysis Areas 3523, 3524, 3535, 3526, 3551,  
24 4222, 4252 and 4253. Combined, this represents about  
25 48 percent of Chichagof Island. And you can see this  
26 area illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 on Pages 187 and  
27 188 of your meeting book.

28  
29                   The proponents state that they  
30 submitted WP24-05 to establish a meaningful preference  
31 for the continuation of subsistence uses of deer by  
32 Federally-qualified users in the Hoonah area. Hoonah  
33 residents depend on deer as a key component of their  
34 subsistence lifestyles, however, the proponents assert  
35 that residents in this area have been experiencing  
36 difficulty harvesting enough deer to meet their  
37 subsistence needs because of increasing competition and  
38 user conflicts with non-Federally-qualified users. The  
39 proponents note that large numbers of non-Federally-  
40 qualified users come to Hoonah via ferry during the  
41 deer hunting season. The proponents assert that the  
42 amount of non-Federally-qualified users utilizing the  
43 area in recent years has often clogged the roads with  
44 large campers, trailers and tents that remain in the  
45 area for long periods of time. Both Federally-  
46 qualified and non-Federally-qualified users prefer  
47 hunting the road system around Hoonah because it's  
48 safer than hunting by boat. This creates issues of  
49 over crowding and hunting safety concerns as well as  
50



1 inhibits access to hunting areas by Federally-qualified  
2 users who cannot find a place to park or camp. This  
3 influx of non-Federally-qualified users also  
4 substantially increases competition for deer,  
5 Whitestone Harbor and Freshwater Bay are examples of  
6 areas where these issues regularly occur. Non-  
7 Federally-qualified users may also decrease the success  
8 of Federally-qualified users if they shoot at deer and  
9 miss causing deer to be more skittish and wary of  
10 hunting presence. Subsistence livelihoods depend upon  
11 effective and efficient harvest. The proponents  
12 explained that the proposed two week closure window in  
13 early November is the most efficient time for  
14 subsistence deer hunting in Unit 4 for several reasons.  
15 First, the deer are still fat providing the highest  
16 quality and amount of meat. Second, the deer are in  
17 rut making them more susceptible to harvest. And,  
18 third, weather conditions are typically favorable and  
19 proper meat processing. The proponents assert that  
20 this two week closure would allow for the continuation  
21 of subsistence uses and provide a meaningful  
22 subsistence priority enhancing opportunity for  
23 subsistence users in helping them meet their needs by  
24 reducing competition and improving access to hunting  
25 areas during the most important time of year for  
26 subsistence hunting. Additionally, the proponents note  
27 that the proposed closure area is limited in scope but  
28 represents the area most hunted by Hoonah residents.

29  
30 The proponents believe this closure  
31 will have a relatively small impact on non-Federally-  
32 qualified users who would maintain significant time and  
33 space to hunt deer in Unit 4 but it would provide vital  
34 benefits to local subsistence users.

35  
36 So just a brief bit on regulatory  
37 history.

38  
39 In 2022 four proposals concerning Unit  
40 4 deer regulations were submitted during the Federal  
41 wildlife regulatory cycle. The stated intent of these  
42 proposals was to protect local deer populations from  
43 further depletion by reducing hunting pressure from  
44 non-Federally-qualified users. WP22-08 was submitted  
45 by the Southeast Council requesting the Northeast  
46 Chichagof Controlled Use Area annual deer harvest limit  
47 for non-Federally-qualified users be reduced to two  
48 male deer. The current proposal is similar to this  
49 proposal in that it requests a change to deer hunting  
50

1 regulations for non-Federally-qualified users in this  
2 area, however, the current proposal requests a 15 day  
3 deer closure by non-Federally-qualified users instead  
4 of a season long harvest limit reduction in this area.

5  
6                   As I noted in the previous analysis,  
7 monitoring deer populations in Forested habitat is  
8 challenging as the total number of deer cannot be  
9 directly counted through ground or aerial surveys.  
10 Changes in deer populations in Unit 4 have historically  
11 been monitored using three methods deer pellet surveys,  
12 hunter harvest reporting and hunter surveys and more  
13 recent aerial Alpine surveys. Winter body condition  
14 and beach mortality surveys may also be conducted to  
15 understand changes in the health and abundance of deer  
16 populations. A deer pellet survey was conducted at  
17 Pavlof Harbor in 2019 along the southern portion of the  
18 proposal area near Tenakee Springs. The average of  
19 2.47 pellet groups per plot counted for this survey is  
20 considered to indicate a high density deer population.  
21 However, I would note the study by Brinkman and  
22 colleagues I talked about in the last presentation,  
23 questions about the accuracy of deer pellet counts as  
24 an index of deer population. This count was considered  
25 to represent a 39 percent index in average pellet  
26 groups counted during the last survey conducted at  
27 Pavlof Harbor in 2010. There have been no recently  
28 published data on deer pellet surveys conducted closer  
29 to Hoonah. Before 2019 the most recent deer pellet  
30 surveys conducted on Chichagof Island were taken at  
31 Finger Mountain in 2011, 2015, 2017 and 2018. Only the  
32 2015 survey at Finger Mountain did not indicate a high  
33 density population. More information on the results of  
34 the deer pellet surveys conducted on Chichagof, Baranof  
35 and Admiralty Island can be found in Table 2 on Pages  
36 195 and 196 of your meeting book. Aerial Alpine  
37 surveys were conducted over two locations in Unit 4  
38 between 2015 and 2018. Surveys were flown over  
39 Southern Admiralty Island in 2015, '16 and '17 and  
40 Northeast Chichagof Island in 2017 and 2018.  
41 Northeast Chichagof exhibited numbers of deer similar  
42 to North Prince of Wales Island. And this information  
43 is shown in more detail in Table 3 on Page 196 of your  
44 meeting book.

45  
46                   Annual harvest data estimated from  
47 harvest reports and hunter surveys can also provide  
48 another indicator of deer population status and  
49 potential change over time. This information is  
50

0405

1 discussed in more detail in the harvest history section  
2 of the analysis.

3

4

5 Based on the combination of harvest  
6 data, pellet survey data, aerial surveys and related  
7 information managers in the area assert that the  
8 overall deer population in Unit 4 has recovered from  
9 the population decline suffered during the severe  
10 winters of 2006 to 2008 and may be reaching winter  
11 carrying capacity in some areas.

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So turning a bit to community characteristics for the communities in the proposal area. There are four communities located within the proposed closure area, Hoonah, Game Creek, Tenakee Spring, and Whitestone Camp. Hoonah is a Tlingit community of longstanding. It's the largest and oldest community in this area. Whitestone Logging Camp and Game Creek are more recently developed communities located along the road system a few miles southwest of Hoonah. Tenakee Springs is an older community located on Tenakee Inlet about 20 miles south of Hoonah. Tenakee has a year-round population but also serves part-time residents and recreational tourists who arrive in the summer. The four communities in this area can only be accessed from the outside by plane or boat and Tenakee Springs is not road-connected to other communities. Gustavus is a community located outside the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area, however, it's also reliant on the proposed closure area for deer hunting as Glacier Bay National Park is closed to subsistence activities. Gustavus, likewise, can only be reached by ploom -- plane, ploom -- plane or boat. Gustavus, like Tenakee Springs has a population that increases substantially during the summer months with the arrival of part-time residents and tourists.

The populations of all five of the coastal communities located in and around the proposal area have regularly fluctuated, primarily in response to changing opportunities for employment through fishing, logging, tourism, and other industries. Their combined population, however, has nearly doubled since 1960 to an estimated roughly 1,700 people in 2020. Hoonah and Gustavus, in particular, have shown upward trends in population since the census first started collecting data for these communities. The population of Tenakee Springs has remained relatively stable for the past several decades while the populations of Game

1 Creek and Whitestone Camp have generally declined  
2 since the '90s.

3  
4 Commercial salmon and halibut fishing  
5 have long been important industries in the area and  
6 tourism has also been growing as an economic driver  
7 with recent declines in commercial fisheries. These  
8 commercial activities have become important compliments  
9 to the more traditional subsistence hunting and fishing  
10 practices that have taken place in the area for  
11 generations.

12  
13 The most recent period of logging took  
14 place in the area in the 1980s and an extensive network  
15 of logging roads were built around Hoonah to facilitate  
16 timber harvest. These roads changed how Hoonah  
17 residents access certain subsistence resources, as well  
18 as how non-local people hunt and use the land. Active  
19 logging has been greatly reduced in recent years but  
20 the effects of past timber harvest and road building  
21 continue to be felt in Hoonah today.

22  
23 Deer have been a key subsistence  
24 resource utilized by Hoonah residents and residents of  
25 the other communities in or near the proposal area for  
26 many years and generally represent the most significant  
27 terrestrial source of meat for rural residents of  
28 Southeast Alaska. Hoonah residents participated in  
29 comprehensive household surveys documenting their  
30 harvest and use of deer and other wild resources in the  
31 '80s, '90s and 2010s. The other four reliant  
32 communities participated in surveys in the '80s or  
33 '90s. In all these studies the vast majority of  
34 households utilized deer and deer consistently ranked  
35 as a primary resource in terms of both contribution to  
36 subsistence diets at times only trailing salmon, non-  
37 salmon fish and/or berries.

38  
39 Before logging roads were constructed  
40 Hoonah residents accessed deer hunting areas almost  
41 exclusively by foot or boat and hunting by non-locals  
42 was limited. After 1980 the newly constructed logging  
43 roads became the main means of accessing deer hunting  
44 locations and the Hoonah road system quickly gained the  
45 reputation of being a relatively inexpensive productive  
46 and easy place to hunt deer for both locals and non-  
47 locals. Reports of increasing hunter competition and  
48 localized depletions of deer have been common in the  
49 Hoonah area since the most recent period of logging.

0407

1 As early as 1986, Schroeder and Kookesh observed Hoonah  
2 hunters having difficulty harvesting deer in some parts  
3 of Hoonah's core harvest area. Hoonah residents who  
4 were successfully harvesting deer at abandoned areas  
5 near roads as competition from other hunters had  
6 significantly increased these areas. Similar concerns  
7 were documented in 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2021. For  
8 example, ADF&G researchers noted in 2012 the issue of  
9 how many deer are taken by non-local hunters was a  
10 concern due to the affect it has on local hunters as  
11 was simply the number of deer hunters out hunting  
12 making local areas and roads too crowded to hunt.

13

14 Overall, approximately 80 percent of  
15 all recent deer harvest in Unit 4 have been made by  
16 boat based hunters. The proposed area may be a  
17 particular popular destination for non-local hunters  
18 because it's accessible by the ferry system and offers  
19 the opportunity to hunt along the road or by boat. At  
20 a Southeast Council meeting in 2021 an area resident  
21 explained that last season was particularly hard  
22 competition wise. There were days I'd go out and have  
23 to hop over three bays before seeing any sign of deer.  
24 Suggesting the deer population in these bays may have  
25 been hunted out. Another Council member explained that  
26 the extensive road network around Hoonah allows people  
27 to get to coastlines that you don't have to take a  
28 skiff to. The Council member continued Whitestone  
29 Harbor experience really really high pressure from  
30 skiffs and from what I presume is non-Federally-  
31 qualified users. The hunters from Hoonah who would  
32 drive out to Whitestone Harbor and basically not be  
33 able to hunt there because of having three boats parked  
34 up at Whitestone Harbor hunting the entire thing like  
35 every weekend and during the week too.

36

37 Other comments received during the fall  
38 2021 Southeast Council meetings noted that reduced  
39 subsistence harvest of deer in the area could stem from  
40 localized depletions that ADF&G unit-wide data is too  
41 course to detect or from competition and crowding from  
42 non-Federally-qualified users who are displacing  
43 Federally-qualified users from preferred and  
44 traditional hunting areas. Some Federally-qualified  
45 users also noted that hunting -- hunter effort and  
46 harvest reporting data tend to underestimate the amount  
47 of hunting activity that actually takes place in an  
48 area. Hoonah residents have also explained that  
49 localized population declines and increased hunting  
50

1 pressure may still be related to the legacy of logging  
2 and road construction in the area. Together these  
3 issues have exacerbated user conflicts around Hoonah.  
4 However, as a member of the public testified during the  
5 same Council meeting there are a lot of cabin owners in  
6 the Freshwater Bay who don't really compete with the  
7 road system hunters from Hoonah who this proposal WP22-  
8 08 would adversely affect. I think this potential  
9 regulation change is unnecessary for those folks.  
10 There's a lot of deer there, you just have to get out  
11 of your truck to go get them. Similarly some  
12 Federally-qualified and non-Federally-qualified users  
13 have suggested that deer hunting issues currently  
14 being experienced in places like Hoonah stem from local  
15 preferences for beach and road accessible hunting. An  
16 aging population of hunters in communities like Hoonah  
17 might be more reliant upon beach and low elevation  
18 hunts in an otherwise steep and rugged landscape. As  
19 one Juneau resident explained, the perception of  
20 increased competition leading to localized declines in  
21 the Unit 4 deer population may also be due to recent  
22 mild winters which resulted in deer being spread out  
23 through Forest rather than concentrated and observable  
24 on beaches or near roads.

25  
26 Changing, less predictable weather  
27 patterns are also affecting local deer populations and  
28 associated hunting strategies. During periods of heavy  
29 snowfall deer typically move to the beaches and Forest  
30 fringe to seek food. However, in 2012 in an ADF&G  
31 subsistence study Hoonah residents reported changing  
32 weather patterns -- one resident noted, whereas 20  
33 years ago winters used to reliably have snowfall, now  
34 there are years of high snow fall followed by years  
35 where it mainly rains. There is more rain during  
36 winters with less consistent snow fall. This issue was  
37 noted again at a Southeast Council meeting in 2021 when  
38 a resident explained, we'll get a dump of snow and a  
39 bunch of rain for six weeks and deer disappear until  
40 the snow comes back. In the future we're going to have  
41 more of this.

42  
43 The rising cost for fuel for boats and  
44 vehicles has also impacting hunting strategies of  
45 Hoonah residents. In 2021 ADF&G researchers observed  
46 as the coast has risen since the mid-90s hunters and  
47 fishers may elect to search closer to town in order to  
48 conserve fuel and money. One Hoonah resident told the  
49 researchers with current economic conditions and high  
50

0409

1 fuel prices, it's very important to be efficient when  
2 going out to harvest, it's too expensive to not bring  
3 back a harvest. Some Hoonah community members and  
4 residents of other Unit 4 communities cannot afford to  
5 hunt outside of their local core subsistence area. As  
6 one Southeast Council member noted they can't afford to  
7 go anywhere else because it's just too expensive,  
8 that's not really subsistence you're spending  
9 everything that you have to try to get anywhere and it  
10 just doesn't make sense.

11

12                   Consequently reductions in deer hunting  
13 efforts and harvest reported by Hoonah residents during  
14 the most recent five year reporting period could be  
15 related to the impacts of declining commercial  
16 opportunities combined with the rising price of gas and  
17 other consumer items. These issues have led some  
18 Hoonah residents to reiterate concerns over food  
19 security and the necessity of efficiently harvesting  
20 wild resources to offset the high cost associated with  
21 living in small rural Alaskan communities. Residents  
22 note that increasing hunter competition and user  
23 conflict over access to favored hunting locations close  
24 to home is impacting local people's ability to harvest  
25 sufficient subsistence resources.

26

27                   Looking at harvest history.

28

29                   Hunter harvest and effort reporting, as  
30 noted before, is another way that managers use to  
31 monitor deer populations in Unit 4. As Bafune notes,  
32 hunter harvest trends, particularly those observed at  
33 larger scales typically reflect current population  
34 levels, however, hunter self-reported harvest and  
35 effort data should be analyzed cautiously as reporting  
36 rates can be less than ideal. This is particularly the  
37 case in small rural communities where reporting rates  
38 are often lower than elsewhere, sometimes less than 30  
39 percent and Hoonah and Angoon have been mentioned in  
40 the past as areas with low reporting rates. However,  
41 management Staff typically call hunters to ask about  
42 their hunting efforts to try to achieve a 60 percent  
43 reporting rate when response rates are low. However,  
44 to account for hunters who do not report data are  
45 proportionally expanded by community size, therefore in  
46 small communities with low reporting rates, expanding  
47 data may be based on the reports of only a handful of  
48 hunters resulting in a good deal of uncertainty about  
49 the accuracy of this expanded data. Additionally,

50

0410

1 calculations of hunter effort and success may be  
2 misleading because some subsistence users only document  
3 their successful hunts. As one Unit 4 resident  
4 explained I question this harvest success information  
5 when I complete a deer hunter survey I only list actual  
6 deer harvested and it's always a one day hunt. I never  
7 list the times I hunt without success and it may be  
8 three, four, or five times before I shoot a deer.

9

10 With that said, and looking at the  
11 available harvest data from 2000 to 2021 proximity to  
12 Hoonah and the Hoonah road system appears to be a key  
13 factor for residents when selecting deer hunting  
14 locations. According to this data approximately 80  
15 percent of Hoonah residents reported deer harvest and  
16 79 percent of their reported hunting days took place  
17 within the Wildlife Analysis Areas covered by the  
18 proposal area. The eastside Port Frederick Hoonah  
19 area, Whitestone Harbor, Freshwater Bay and Humpback  
20 Gallagher Creek area accounted for the vast majority of  
21 these harvest and hunting days. A relatively small  
22 amount of hunting and harvest took place in the  
23 remaining Wildlife Analysis Areas in the proposal area.  
24 Hoonah residents also reported minimal hunting and  
25 harvest occurring in areas located outside the proposal  
26 area. And this information is shown in more detail in  
27 Table 9 on Page 211 of your meeting book. Based on the  
28 reported data, an average of approximately 568 total  
29 users hunted for 2017 days harvesting a total of 693  
30 deer within the proposal area each year from 2000 to  
31 2021, however, the total number of hunters, hunter days  
32 and deer harvested in this area by both Federally-  
33 qualified and non-Federally-qualified users was  
34 variable between years. In most years Federally-  
35 qualified users harvested more deer from the proposal  
36 area due to the larger number of hunters present in  
37 this group. On average, roughly 55 percent of all  
38 reported hunters utilizing the proposal area each year  
39 were Federally-qualified users. About 77 percent of  
40 these users were Hoonah residents. Non-Federally-  
41 qualified users accounted for an average of about 45  
42 percent of all hunters utilizing the proposal area.  
43 Most of these users came from Juneau. However, the  
44 proportion of non-Federally-qualified user hunter  
45 effort and harvest within the proposal area has  
46 increased fairly substantially over the two most recent  
47 reporting periods from 2011 to 2015 and 2016 to 2020.  
48 During the 2016 to 2020 reporting period non-Federally-  
49 qualified users accounted for an average of 54 percent  
50



0411

1 of all reported hunters, 67 percent of all reported  
2 hunter days and 50 percent of all reported harvest  
3 taken from the proposal area. And overall non-  
4 Federally-qualified users were the only user group  
5 reporting increases in average yearly hunter, hunter  
6 days and harvest in the proposal area between the 2001  
7 to 2005 reporting period, and the most recent 2016 to  
8 2020 reporting period. Hoonah hunters reported the  
9 most substantial declines and average hunters, hunter  
10 days and harvest per year.

11

12 For all user groups and reporting  
13 periods years of declining harvest were generally  
14 correlated with declines land reported hunters and  
15 hunter days. This issue complicates the analysis,  
16 though there may be contextual factors such as those  
17 previously discussed that aren't discussed in this  
18 data. This information is displayed in more detail in  
19 Table 10 on Page 213 of your meeting book. The  
20 proposal area accounted for a relatively substantial  
21 amount of non-Federally-qualified users overall hunting  
22 efforts and harvest within Unit 4 between 2000 and  
23 2021. Wildlife Analysis Areas 3525, 3526 and 3524 were  
24 the portions of the proposal area most heavily utilized  
25 by non-Federally-qualified users accounting for over 58  
26 percent of all non-Federally-qualified hunting effort  
27 and harvest in the proposal area during this period.

28

29 Looking at the effects -- the potential  
30 effects of this proposal.

31

32 If the Board adopts this proposal it  
33 will restrict non-Federally-qualified users from  
34 hunting deer within the proposal area on Northeast  
35 Chichagof Island from November 1 through the 15th.  
36 This could potentially provide Federally-qualified  
37 users in the area with an enhanced subsistence harvest  
38 opportunity by reducing user competition and conflict  
39 during a period of peak hunter effort and harvest.  
40 Adopting the proposed closure could lead to increased  
41 harvest effort by non-Federally-qualified users before  
42 and after the closure period. Adopting the proposal  
43 would also prevent non-Federally-qualified users with  
44 local ties to the area from directly participating in  
45 deer hunting during the period of closure but they  
46 would be able to still participate in other ways, such  
47 as with meat processing. While deliberating similar  
48 proposals during the previous wildlife cycle some  
49 Southeast Council members expressed concern over the

50

0412

1 potential displacement of non-Federally-qualified users  
2 to other parts of Unit 4 if these types of proposals  
3 were to be adopted. These Council members were  
4 particularly concerned about potential displacement  
5 creating similar problems elsewhere if all three deer  
6 proposals under consideration at the time were to be  
7 adopted. These concerns may still be relevant as  
8 adopting the current proposal and similar proposal  
9 WP24-06 would close over half of Chichagof Island to  
10 non-Federally-qualified users during the same time  
11 period.

12  
13 And, once again this is very difficult.  
14 I've gone back and forth and in consultation, this is  
15 not really the product of my own individual thought  
16 process, but a group effort, the preliminary conclusion  
17 for OSM at this time is to oppose WP24-05.

18  
19 The justification is that deer have  
20 been and continue to be very important to local  
21 subsistence livelihoods for Federally-qualified users  
22 living in the Hoonah area. Many area residents have  
23 noted that they've had to change their deer hunting  
24 methods to focus their efforts closer to home as it's  
25 become too expensive and dangerous to travel further  
26 without the necessary fuel or equipment. Residents  
27 have noted that recently increasing numbers of non-  
28 Federally-qualified users utilizing the Hoonah road  
29 system are anchoring boats in narrow embayments to hunt  
30 for deer are increasing issues of competition and  
31 conflict in the area. Residents of Hoonah and similar  
32 communities have also noted that deer populations in  
33 Unit 4 may not be tracked at a fine enough scale to  
34 consistently capture localized depletions that  
35 exacerbate issues of competition and conflict.  
36 Residents have also explained that hunter effort and  
37 harvest reporting tend to under estimate the amount of  
38 hunting effort taking place and over estimate hunting  
39 success rates. There is data presented in this  
40 analysis that supports these arguments suggesting that  
41 rates of competition for deer in the recent years may  
42 be impacting the success and efficiency of residents of  
43 the Hoonah area who have had to focus their deer  
44 hunting efforts closer to home.

45  
46 However, it's still not clear that --  
47 to OSM that the current levels of competition created  
48 by non-Federally-qualified users in the proposal area  
49 pose an imminent threat to the continuation of  
50

0413

1 subsistence at this time. There may be a better  
2 compromise available to address the proponents concerns  
3 without enacting a closure to non-Federally-qualified  
4 users or without enacting a closure of this size to  
5 non-Federally-qualified users.

6  
7                   Though, Hoonah residents deer harvest  
8 have generally declined over the past 22 years,  
9 analyzed for this proposal, these declining harvests  
10 have typically been associated with declines in  
11 reported hunter effort that cannot always be explained  
12 by associated declines in the community's population.  
13 Despite limitations in the hunter harvest and effort  
14 reporting framework this issue complicates the  
15 analysis. We think that more information is required  
16 to better understand local hunter effort -- or local  
17 hunter harvest reporting practices and the potential  
18 relationships between declining economies, rising fuel  
19 costs, local hunter effort, the residual impacts of  
20 logging and increasing rates of competition from non-  
21 Federally-qualified users in the proposal area.

22  
23                   OSM hopes to receive this type of  
24 information through additional meetings of the  
25 Southeast Council and the Unit 4 deer working group.

26  
27                   And that completes my long-winded  
28 summary.

29  
30                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
31 you for that presentation of the proposal. Before we  
32 go into questions I just want to let everybody know  
33 that we do have a time certain for the Department of  
34 Interior at 11:10 and that my interrupt our proposal  
35 process a little bit. But we will only get them for 15  
36 minutes so we really need to take that call. I just  
37 want to let everybody know that, I'll be watching the  
38 clock. And then I just want to remind Council this is  
39 a time to ask the Office of Subsistence Management that  
40 prepared this presentation of the proposal to us,  
41 questions, it's not necessarily a time for us to  
42 express our opinion or deliberations.

43  
44                   So with that if there are any questions  
45 for Jason please let me know.

46  
47                   Mr. Schroeder.

48  
49                   MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Madame

50

0414

1 Chair. A couple of questions. I may have missed it if  
2 I wasn't listening carefully enough, did you talk about  
3 posted land in this area? Yeah, Sealaska Corporation  
4 and Hoonah Totem Corporation have major land holdings,  
5 those are basically reflected on Page 187, the white  
6 areas around Hoonah and I don't know the current status  
7 perhaps someone on board here does know or perhaps Rob  
8 knows, but in some years Hoonah Totem and Sealaska have  
9 posted their land, that's State land so under State  
10 management so it wouldn't be affected by this proposal  
11 but it would show that if it is posted that the  
12 corporations have taken some action to limit hunting to  
13 protect local subsistence users. So did you include  
14 that or is that?

15

16 MR. ROBERTS: No, I will look into  
17 that, I haven't included that.

18

19 MR. SCHROEDER: Okay. And then a  
20 second question is, and this also applied to the last  
21 proposal but we didn't bring it up or discuss it, in  
22 the rationale and justification section, we're talking  
23 about an imminent threat to the continuation of  
24 subsistence uses at this time, that's the second  
25 paragraph from the bottom. And I can understand what  
26 those words mean but this almost suggests that there's  
27 a standard that an imminent threat, well, perhaps we  
28 need to take some action on that, but just if it's not  
29 an imminent threat we don't, and I'm wondering if you  
30 can tell me where the concept of imminent threat came  
31 from or if it's just something put in to say that we  
32 don't think it's a very serious threat; in other words  
33 does this concept imminent threat have any regulatory  
34 standing?

35

36 MR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. Mr.  
37 Schroeder. Dr. Schroeder. That's a good question.  
38 That's just poor wording on my part. We're not sure it  
39 rises to the level where we can justify a closure of  
40 this size.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Follow up.

43

44 MR. SCHROEDER: Yeah, my concern was  
45 mainly because much of our deliberations that we're  
46 talking about significant priority which does have  
47 legal standing and then we talk about restriction to  
48 non-Federally-qualified users and that has a legal  
49 standing and so that just sort of struck out to me  
50

0415

1 there. I think -- let's see I think possibly other  
2 things I have on my mind should wait for deliberations  
3 but we'll call you up for deliberations to clarify  
4 things.

5

6 Thank you.

7 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are  
8 there any other questions regarding the OSM analysis.

9

10 Harvey.

11

12 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair. I  
13 just was -- maybe I didn't quite understand Bob  
14 Schroeder's comments but how much is private, how much  
15 belongs to Hoonah Totem and how much hunting effort is  
16 actually on Federal controlled lands?

17

18 MR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. Mr.  
19 Kitka. That is information I could get for you later,  
20 I don't have that right now.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

23

24 Patty.

25

26 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
27 On Page 188 it shows, you know, the WAAs for the  
28 NECCUA, was there a look at the harvest from east Port  
29 Frederick versus west Port Frederick?

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MS. PHILLIPS: 188.

34

35 MR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. Ms.  
36 Phillips. If you'll turn to Page 211, Table 9, that  
37 shows a break down of reported harvests in the various  
38 Wildlife Analysis Areas in the proposal area and then  
39 outside of the proposal area, and that's for Hoonah  
40 residents though.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Other questions  
43 regarding the analysis.

44

45 MR. CASIPIT: Not a question but I  
46 wanted to thank you for including some of this  
47 demographic and information for Gustavus because we do  
48 use significant portions of 4222.

49

50

0416

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Don, you have a  
2 question.

3  
4                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, the  
5 community of Tenakee Springs is also included in this  
6 area, I didn't hear much information on Tenakee, have  
7 you done much research on what their uses are? I don't  
8 recall seeing much public testimony from there as well.  
9 Any information on Tenakee?

10

11                   MR. ROBERTS: I have not done a ton on  
12 that, I know that they do have some sort of a  
13 recreational, tourism, guiding type operations that go  
14 on there. But, yeah, I don't have a ton of information  
15 on them.

16

17                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Follow up.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, just follow  
20 up. You also mentioned Whitestone Harbor, sounds like  
21 there's some private land there, private cabins but I'm  
22 not familiar with it. Is that extensive or a few  
23 scattered folks, or what's Whitestone Harbor?

24

25                   MR. ROBERTS: Forest Service Staff may  
26 be able to correct me but I think it's more of a  
27 scattered thing.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

30

31                   John.

32

33                   MR. SMITH: Just a comment. I know  
34 that some of the locations that you're sharing and even  
35 Tenakee is a landless community. I know that's on the  
36 table. But Freshwater Bay and many of the locations  
37 you were sharing are very traditional and we have a lot  
38 of cultural stories that come right out of that area so  
39 I think definitely looking at the tribal map -- and I  
40 know that Hoonah Totem and them, over there, they  
41 manage their land very well. They actually have a land  
42 watcher, I don't know if that's still in place, but  
43 when I lived there Louie White was managing and he  
44 would -- and there was some other younger ones that he  
45 was mentoring to keep an eye on those properties but I  
46 think that would be important to take a peak at that.

47

48                   Hey, thank you for your report.

49

50

0417

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, are  
4 there any other questions regarding the OSM analysis.

5

6 Ms. Phillips and then Mr. Douville.

7

8 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
9 So I'm just going to call it the west side of the  
10 NECCUA. I don't know how else to call it. But is that  
11 accessible by the road system from Hoonah proper? Like  
12 the 4253, 4252, 4222, is that accessible by the road  
13 system from Hoonah?

14

15 MR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. Ms.  
16 Phillips. If you'll look on the map on Page 188  
17 there's a layer on there that shows the road system,  
18 those brown lines, it looks to me that it is not.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville.

21

22 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
23 Are these roads accessible or are there landings other  
24 than -- I'd assume that some of them are accessible  
25 from private land unless the corporation's block them,  
26 but are they accessible in these areas where they look  
27 like they reach the beach?

28

29 MR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. Mr.  
30 Douville. I would call on Forest Service Staff who  
31 might be more familiar with the road system there for  
32 that question.

33

34 MR. DOUVILLE: Since Council Member  
35 Wright is not here, he could answer a lot of our  
36 questions, maybe he's listening but I'm trying to get a  
37 grasp of how much the road system is used as opposed to  
38 how much beach hunting is done, which is the most  
39 popular or productive, you know, just general  
40 information.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
43 Douville. Mr. Casipit. And then Mr. Smith, if you  
44 have questions.

45

46 MR. CASIPIT: Not a question but I had  
47 an answer on road issues.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Go ahead.

50

0418

1 MR. CASIPIT: Actually I'm looking at  
2 4252 and there are some -- I know there's roads in  
3 there because there's timber harvest there but it's not  
4 showing up on a map for 4252 and I don't know what  
5 layer was used for the road layer. But in 4222 you can  
6 see the little road going up into 4222, and that I  
7 believe -- well, it's called a Chicken Creek -- the  
8 Chicken Creek road system so I think that accesses the  
9 upper end of 4222. But you're right, for most of 4222  
10 that is totally unroaded. There is some roading high  
11 up in the watershed that comes over the top but 4252  
12 doesn't have the road system on there and I know that  
13 there's roads there because there's clear-cuts there,  
14 the 13 miles of disrespect.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay, thank you  
17 for that Mr. Casipit. And we'll also wait to see if --  
18 I don't know that we'll wait but we'll check to see if  
19 Mr. Wright is going to be calling in and connecting  
20 with us.

21

22 John, do you have a question?

23

24 MR. SMITH: No, but I can answer the  
25 question about the beach hunting and the road hunting.  
26 I was just there and I wanted to go out to Freshwater  
27 Bay and see the new cabin so I took a friend out there  
28 and we left at about 4:00 o'clock and, of course, my  
29 buddy wanted to hunt but I don't road hunt and, of  
30 course, I seen lots of deer, it's just beautiful over  
31 there in the town, in the city, on the roads. We ran  
32 into quite a few bucks, quite a few does on the way but  
33 I don't road hunt so my buddy really wanted to stop but  
34 I kept going. On the way back we ran into many  
35 families, because we were out there, and just testimony  
36 that they were relatives of mine that lived there and  
37 they were road hunting and they were -- so when I ran  
38 into them I shared with them all the markers, where all  
39 those deer were. But I know that, you know, there's a  
40 good partnership between the State and the Forest  
41 Service and that to manage and take care of the roads  
42 so everybody's maintained but a lot of their -- there's  
43 a lot of cabins, Forest Service cabins all over the  
44 place in there, some of them are condemned but some of  
45 them are new and updated and they're being used but  
46 just to share that point of view.

47

48 And as far as the beach hunting, I grew  
49 up there since I was a young kid and I know our

50



0419

1 families beach hunt.

2

3 So just to share a perspective, thank  
4 you.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Smith. Mr. Schroeder, did you have something -- okay,  
8 Mr. Douville.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville,  
13 did you have a question?

14

15 MR. DOUVILLE: Oh, yeah, but you said  
16 Mr. Schroeder so I was -- I have a question on -- I  
17 know when the private land was logged, that started in  
18 the '80s but you have other looks like Forest Service  
19 logged in there, but I guess I'm looking for a general  
20 description of how those loggings, both private and  
21 Forest Service -- at what stage of second growth are  
22 they in, is it like here or does it stay more open, or  
23 just how does it compare to here?

24

25 MR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. Mr.  
26 Douville. That is something I'll have to look into, I  
27 don't know -- rely on Forest Service Staff, we'll look  
28 into that.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
31 Douville. I see the Staff is kind of looking so  
32 they're probably just not ready yet and maybe they can  
33 come up after if they are able to answer that question.  
34 Did you have a follow up.

35

36 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
37 The reason for asking is I'm trying to get a grasp if  
38 people are using these roads to access non-logging  
39 areas or they're road hunting on the road or just how  
40 -- or what the dynamics are.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great, thank  
43 you, Mr. Douville.

44

45 Ms. Phillips, you had a question.

46

47 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
48 Just a question to local knowledge Member Casipit, do  
49 those roads on the west side connect directly to Hoonah  
50

0420

1 or do you have to access some road systems from Port  
2 Frederick, do you know?

3

4 MR. CASIPIT: I believe it's both.  
5 There's some areas that are and some areas that aren't.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there other  
8 questions for OSM at this time regarding the analysis.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is there a  
13 question?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay, thanks.  
18 Thank you for that, it sounds like we might have a  
19 little bit of additional questions before we get into  
20 that. I think we're going to pause in our proposal  
21 process right now. I know it is about four minutes  
22 before we have a time certain at 11:10 and I don't want  
23 to ask the next presenter to come up and be interrupted  
24 in the middle of it so if we can kind of hold tight for  
25 four minutes.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Musslewhite,  
30 did you have a quick answer to the question that you'd  
31 like to come up and give.

32

33 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: (Not at a microphone)  
34 give a quick summary of what I do have.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Will it take two  
37 to three minutes?

38

39 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Sure.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Thank you, Madame  
44 Chair. For the record my name is Jake Musslewhite,  
45 Biologist out of Juneau. I haven't spent a lot of time  
46 around Hoonah and the Hoonah road system but I can kind  
47 of tell you just my general understanding, the layout.

48

49 I believe we had a couple questions

50

0421

1     bout how developed the Forest is and another about kind  
2     of the use of the road system and such.

3  
4                     There is that road system that heads  
5     sort of south out of Hoonah proper, a lot of that  
6     crosses the, you know, private tribal lands. There is  
7     kind of another major access point all the way down at  
8     the far end of Port Frederick. There is Eight  
9     Fathombyte, Eight Fathom Cabin, there is a landing  
10    there that, you know, you can tie up a boat to and then  
11    that gives you a lot access and I don't know exactly  
12    how extensive or what connects anymore or what roads  
13    have been decommissioned but that gives you access to a  
14    lot of that west side of Port Frederick but it's also a  
15    pretty popular recreational spot since there is a  
16    public Forest Service cabin in that area. There's also  
17    sort of that northwest side of Port Frederick, a lot of  
18    that is tribal land, most of that has been clear-cut.  
19    I'm thinking most of that has been in the '70s/80s so  
20    most of that is definitely in the dog hair stage, you  
21    know, pretty thick sort of stuff so, you know,  
22    definitely difficult to access but it's just past that  
23    point where you'd want to hunt it; is my general  
24    impression.

25  
26                     Yeah, so I think a lot of the folks,  
27    maybe they're riding on the ferry from Juneau end up on  
28    that east side of Port Frederick and going down into  
29    that road system over there with some folks arriving by  
30    private boat and either using ATVs or something like  
31    that for that entire west side of Port Frederick.

32  
33                     So that's my general impression, I'm  
34    not super familiar, just to give you some idea.

35  
36                     Thanks.

37  
38                     ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
39    you, Mr. Musslewhite. I'm going to hold off on  
40    questions and ask our Council Coordinator if our  
41    Department of Interior folks are ready.

42  
43                     MS. PERRY: Not yet, Madame Chair, but  
44    I am monitoring.

45  
46                     CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: One question.

47  
48                     ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Hernandez.

49  
50

0422

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, one more  
2 question that Jake might be able to answer. That  
3 Whitewater Bay, Whitestone Harbor area, that's the site  
4 of a previous logging camp as I understand, was there  
5 some extensive private land turned over in that area?  
6 I see public testimony from people that have cabins  
7 there that live in Juneau. I'm trying to get an idea  
8 just how much.....

9  
10                   MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yes. That's correct.  
11 There is -- I don't know the exact extent but I do know  
12 that, in fact, Whitestone Harbor was essentially a  
13 community. I don't think there's much there now in  
14 terms of year-round residents but it was a logging camp  
15 type situation there and I don't know if it's Juneau  
16 folks that own places. I do know in Freshwater Bay  
17 that is a place where people -- a lot of folks from  
18 Juneau have recreational cabins that they use for  
19 hunting and such, yeah.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And they own --  
22 they own private property there?

23  
24                   MR. MUSSLEWHITE: And they own private  
25 property there, there's quite a few private cabins in  
26 the Freshwater Bay area.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

29  
30                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. And  
31 no Department of Interior so Mr. Kitka, you have a  
32 question.

33  
34                   MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair. I  
35 personally would like to see a little better map than  
36 what is private property, what belongs to the city of  
37 Angoon [sic] and what is Federal property in relation  
38 to this. Right now we have a map with numbers on it  
39 but it doesn't really show us what is State and private  
40 lands.

41  
42                   Thank you.

43  
44                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Musslewhite,  
45 is it possible at some point to maybe project that map,  
46 do you have that type of capability?

47  
48                   MR. MUSSLEWHITE: If you give us a few  
49 minutes I bet we could find something and put it up  
50

0423

1 there, certainly. Perhaps after the DOI person.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay, thank you.

4

5 MS. PERRY: Not yet.

6

7 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Or there might be one  
8 -- look on Page 187, there might be a better map is  
9 what I understand.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, I  
14 really don't want -- I mean the next step on the  
15 proposal presentation process is the State and I really  
16 don't want to interrupt the State in the middle of  
17 their presentation while we're waiting for this time  
18 certain DOI presentation so if we can just hang tight,  
19 I think that's how we're going to have to try to handle  
20 this. We'll give it a couple more minutes and then see  
21 where we're at.

22

23 (Pause)

24

25 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: So the Council  
26 Coordinator has informed me that maybe we can do the  
27 proposal process a little bit out of order and can Mr.  
28 Roberts come back up and give us a summary of the  
29 written comments -- the written public comments, which  
30 is normally at the end, but we'll go ahead and have him  
31 do that.

32

33 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you. This is Jason  
34 Roberts, Anthropologist at OSM, Madame Vice Chair.  
35 Members of the Council. We received 37 total written  
36 public comments on this proposal. One in support, 36  
37 in opposition.

38

39 The commenter in support noted that  
40 subsistence hunting and fishing are subject to  
41 disproportionate levels of regulation and scrutiny.  
42 This commenter thought that this proposal was an  
43 innovative way to not only support but to prioritize  
44 subsistence users, household needs and invest in local  
45 food security.

46

47 The 36 in opposition noted that ADF&G  
48 data shows that there are no conservation concerns  
49 regarding deer populations in this area and the level

50

0424

1 of competition for deer in the area does not warrant a  
2 closure. Many noted the primary issue impacting deer  
3 hunting recently has been the impact of warmer winter  
4 weather that has not produced as much snow particularly  
5 early in the season. This lack of snow means that deer  
6 are not being pushed down to beaches and other areas  
7 where they can be more easily harvested. They also  
8 state that this proposal would restrict the rights of  
9 long-term seasonal residents and others with local ties  
10 to the area. And the commenters also noted that the  
11 proposal does not consider the impact of other  
12 Federally-qualified users.

13

14 And that is the summary of written  
15 public comments.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for  
18 stepping up and doing that to help us fill the time.  
19 And now I'd like to call on Brian Newland with the  
20 Department of Interior who is waiting online to give a  
21 presentation, an update on the proposed move of OSM to  
22 the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Indian  
23 Affairs.

24

25 Mr. Newland, are you there, you have  
26 the floor.

27

28 MR. NEWLAND: You betcha, can you hear  
29 me okay?

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, we can hear  
32 you.

33

34 MR. NEWLAND: Okay, great. Thank you.  
35 Good morning, everyone, my name is Brian Newland. I  
36 serve as the Assistant Secretary for Bureau of Indian  
37 Affairs here at the Department of the Interior. And I  
38 wanted to take a few minutes with you today to just  
39 give you an overview of our proposal to move OSM out of  
40 the Fish and Wildlife Service as you just heard, and  
41 then answer a few questions that you might have about  
42 that.

43

44 But before I launch into that I just  
45 want to thank those of you who are serving on the RAC.  
46 Know that it's a labor of love and what you're doing is  
47 vitality important and also understand that many of  
48 you, you're bearing the cost of a lot of the work that  
49 you're doing. And, you know, I'm aware of that and I'm  
50

50

0425

1 very grateful for what you do. It's vitally important  
2 for subsistence management in Alaska.

3

4 Pardon my raspy voice today, I'm  
5 battling some seasonal allergies down here.

6

7 So you may have seen in the Presidents  
8 FY24 budget proposal to Congress we have proposed  
9 moving the Office of Subsistence Management out of the  
10 Fish and Wildlife Service and into the Office of the  
11 Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, which is the  
12 job that I now hold.

13

14 A couple of things with that, this move  
15 would not take OSM and put it inside the Bureau of  
16 Indian Affairs. A lot of folks make that assumption.  
17 But my office is, if you were to take an org chart for  
18 the Department, my office is actually housed in the  
19 Office of the Secretary of the Interior. So what we're  
20 proposing is elevating the Office of Subsistence  
21 Management from the Fish and Wildlife Service into the  
22 Department's Leadership structure. And under our  
23 current org chart we have a number of programs that  
24 report, or are directly overseen by the Assistant  
25 Secretary for Indian Affairs that are outside the BIA  
26 and OSM would simply be another part of that.

27

28 Along with this move we are not  
29 proposing to eliminate Staff or cut Staff or change  
30 Staff at OSM, or to physically move their offices out  
31 of Anchorage and out of Alaska. Those things would  
32 remain the same. Anyone who would want to come over  
33 from OSM would be able to. And we have also proposed  
34 increasing the funding for OSM and subsistence  
35 activities including for wildlife monitoring under this  
36 proposal.

37

38 So this proposal is a request to  
39 Congress through the annual budget process and so this  
40 move would, as it's currently proposed, would not  
41 happen unless and until Congress has approved this  
42 proposal.

43

44 One, you know, I know folks have asked,  
45 well, what's the reasoning behind this move and why do  
46 this now, or why propose this now. All of you know,  
47 surely much better than I do, these conversations about  
48 subsistence management have been going on in Alaska for  
49 a very long time and back in the days of Secretary  
50

50

0426

1 Salazar we engaged in a review of the structure of  
2 subsistence management here at the Department of  
3 Interior and consulted with a number of tribes in that  
4 process. And back then and again now under the  
5 President Biden's Administration with Secretary Haaland  
6 we heard consistently from tribes across Alaska that  
7 they felt the current structure was not the best way to  
8 ensure that we fulfill our trust our responsibilities  
9 to tribes and Alaska Natives while also carrying out  
10 our mission and our responsibilities under ANILCA. So  
11 based on those consultations and I think a desire to  
12 elevate the importance of the work that OSM does and  
13 subsistence management generally we have put this  
14 proposal on the table and it is really aimed at better  
15 aligning our ANILCA responsibility with our trust  
16 responsibilities to Alaska Native peoples and tribes  
17 under our government to government relationships.

18

19 So the day to day operations of OSM  
20 would not change dramatically, you know, as a result of  
21 this move. But over a long period of time we think  
22 that restructuring the department in this way would  
23 allow us to better fit and align the trust  
24 responsibility with our ANILCA responsibility.

25

26 So I think that's the most succinct way  
27 I can explain this. I do want to leave some time over  
28 the next five or six minutes and to answer any  
29 questions you might have.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
32 you, Mr. Newland. Are there any questions from  
33 Council.

34

35 Mr. Casipit.

36

37 MR. CASIPIT: Yes, thank you for your  
38 presentation Mr. Newland. I just had a quick question  
39 for you, here in Southeast, you know, the primary land  
40 manager is the U.S. Forest Service, Department of  
41 Agriculture and I'm wondering regarding this proposal  
42 has there been any coordination with USDA, USDA  
43 Secretary. You mentioned budget, changing -- you know  
44 increasing budget, has there been any conversations  
45 with USDA for increasing USDA's contribution of the  
46 Subsistence Program as far as budget goes because I  
47 know a big portion of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
48 Program is funded by USDA, so I'm just wondering what  
49 level of coordination is going on with Secretary of  
50



0427

1 Agriculture and any question -- and also my question  
2 about budgets, increasing the budgets. I think it's  
3 important to increase it for OSM but we need to be  
4 looking at USDA too because they do fund significant  
5 portions of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program,  
6 and the last -- I listened into a presentation to the  
7 Eastern Interior Council the last cycle and they had  
8 mentioned 1.5 million dollars to begin a wildlife  
9 information services program. And I just wanted to  
10 state that for 1.5 million we're not going to be able  
11 to do much for wildlife studies, we need significantly  
12 more than that.

13  
14

Anyway, that's all I had, thank you.

15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

MR. NEWLAND: Sure. So let me try to  
answer your three questions in turn. We have had -- we  
have been coordinating with folks at USDA about this  
and their subsistence management regime and policy  
generally and we have regular conversations with them.

22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

With respect to USDA's budget, I don't  
have an answer for you there. Not to be flippant, it's  
enough to manage our own budget here at the Department  
of the Interior, but we've certainly, you know, been  
emphasizing the importance of subsistence management as  
a priority of the Administration.

29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
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41  
42  
43  
44

Third. I hear you the need for budget  
and funding. Last Friday I was in Anchorage and met  
with the Federal Subsistence Board along with Secretary  
Haaland and we heard a lot about the budgetary needs of  
the Board but also the RACs and just generally for  
subsistence management. I don't want to say that I  
hear you that \$1.5 million doesn't go far but I also  
want to say it's not nothing and that we're trying to  
put our money where our mouth is here and get that  
trajectory moving in the right direction. Because this  
is important and I think as we see with all the  
management pressures, climate change and other things  
you guys have to deal with, your work only gets more  
complicated and as it does we've got to prioritize our  
response.

45  
46  
47  
48

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
you. Are there other questions from Council members  
for Mr. Newland.

49  
50

(No comments)

0428

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: If you have time  
2 I have one additional question myself then. This is --  
3 does this mean that the position -- or the Office of  
4 Subsistence Management would be under a position that  
5 is overseen by a political appointee and how -- what is  
6 the thought on how that would transition each time  
7 Administrations change in terms of the time it takes to  
8 kind of get up to speed on how subsistence is managed  
9 in the State of Alaska?

10

11                   MR. NEWLAND: So that's 'a great  
12 question. So I am a political appointee. The person  
13 who came before me, Assistant Secretary Sweeney was a  
14 political appointee and whoever does this job next will  
15 be as well. So my position is a political appointment.  
16 I will say that Sue does a fantastic job at OSM and her  
17 position is not a political appointment, which I know  
18 you understand. And so, you know, I think there are  
19 obviously things that change with different  
20 Administrations and different officials but the day to  
21 day work doesn't change too much for our team and I  
22 would expect that to continue with OSM.

23

24                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
25 you for that. Any last minute questions for Council  
26 members.

27

28                   MR. NEWLAND: Can I have just one last  
29 piece on that. The Department of the Interior is a  
30 very large State agency, it's one of the largest in the  
31 Federal government, not only with it's reach from  
32 Alaska all the way down to the Territories but also the  
33 size of the number of employees and so it's easy for  
34 agencies and programs to get lost in the shuffle and  
35 not have visibility from the Secretary and from Senior  
36 Officials here at the Department and while there may be  
37 some benefits in the long-term of insulating agencies  
38 from turnover of Administration, raising the visibility  
39 of offices and giving them direct access to  
40 policymakers tends to -- is a reflection of priority  
41 and also tends to -- visibility tends to yield itself  
42 in the budgeting process as well. Not every year and  
43 not in all cases but overall this is aimed at elevating  
44 the importance of OSM here at the Department.

45

46                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
47 you. It does not look like we have any other questions  
48 so I'd really like to thank you for your time today in  
49 calling in and giving us a little update on something

50

0429

1 that we've known about but had not heard directly from  
2 the Department of Interior about yet so thank you for  
3 that Mr. Newland.

4

5 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you guys very much.  
6 Also, again, thank you for the work you do and for  
7 allowing me an opportunity to come and share what we're  
8 doing. Take care.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. All  
11 right, just to remind everybody we are currently going  
12 through the presentation of the Proposal Wildlife 24-05  
13 regarding Hoonah area and it looks like our Federal  
14 Staff is going to be able to put up a map for us right  
15 now so we'll go ahead and continue. This is part of  
16 the proposal presentation and answers to the questions  
17 that the Council members have asked of OSM and the  
18 Forest Service.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

23

24 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: All right, thank you,  
25 Madame Chair. Again, take everything I say here with a  
26 grain of salt because I'm not super familiar with this  
27 area but I'll try to give you a quick tour of what I do  
28 know.

29

30 So here is Hoonah and so accessible  
31 right out from town so imagine you just got off the  
32 ferry from Juneau, you know, with nothing but your  
33 pickup truck. This is sort of the main line road  
34 system leads, you know, southwest from here.

35

36 Scroll.

37

38 And then head's down, you know, down  
39 into Freshwater Bay and that sort of -- in that area,  
40 and then out here, out into like Falls Bay and that  
41 sort of thing so that's -- I would imagine that that's  
42 probably one of the areas that a lot of, you know,  
43 folks from Juneau arriving are hunting in that area.

44

45 You can see the little blue blobs here,  
46 I believe that those are timber harvest units, it may  
47 be more extensive than that.

48

49 And then the other main areas that are

50

0430

1 just -- where my pointer is here, is that Eight Fathom,  
2 where I mentioned earlier, so there's a Forest Service  
3 cabin near there then a road system goes up to Neka Hot  
4 Springs and that sort of thing. So I don't know -- I  
5 know that that area can be -- you know, is awfully  
6 accessible by folks who come in by boat and could bring  
7 ATVs and that sort of thing.

8

9                   There is another road system access  
10 here at Salt Lake, I believe it's called, and then that  
11 also leads down into here, down along sort of Tenakee  
12 Inlet, almost all the way down there.

13

14                   And, again, Whitestone Harbor, you  
15 know, is here, that's where we mentioned earlier.

16

17                   Then I believe there's a fair bit  
18 amount of private land here, along this section of  
19 Freshwater Bay.

20

21                   I also have it -- it may be also  
22 helpful, is the motor vehicle use map, which shows some  
23 of these things a little bit better labeled. What it  
24 doesn't show, though, is on any of these -- since this  
25 is a Forest Service map it doesn't show it doesn't show  
26 the road system from timber harvest on tribal and  
27 private lands. Just from my personal experience, I  
28 know that this whole area here, which I see every time  
29 I drive a boat into Hoonah, has been extensively clear-  
30 cut and there's also extensive road system along there.  
31 I believe that a lot of folks maybe just, you know,  
32 take a skiff across Port Frederick and access, you  
33 know, that road system from there.

34

35                   And it sounds like Mr. Smith may also  
36 have some other personal experience there so, you know,  
37 if you have anything to add, but, yeah, so that's sort  
38 of the quick synopsis of my limited knowledge of the  
39 Hoonah road system.

40

41                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.  
42 Question, Mr. Schroeder, and then Mr. Smith, if you have  
43 a question.

44

45                   MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, while we have Jake  
46 up there, Wildlife Analysis Area 3526, which is the  
47 north side of Tenakee Inlet, Tenakee is a community, to  
48 my understanding is not connected by road to the Hoonah  
49 road system although I think you could get there if  
50

0431

1 you're an aggressive fourwheeler driver. Is that still  
2 the situation?

3

4

5 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, that's -- I  
6 think you would have to be awfully aggressive but, it  
7 sounds like Mr. Smith probably has some insight into  
8 that.

8

9

10 MR. SMITH: Yeah, when I -- when I saw  
11 the first map there's a lot of roads that I don't see  
12 that I know that are, and even looking at this map  
13 here there's roads missing just like you shared. And  
14 if you want to get to Tenakee, you can drive in your  
15 car all the way pretty darn close to that location and  
16 it only takes 20 minutes, maybe -- well, for me, take  
17 about 20 minutes, maybe others it might take longer,  
18 but you can walk right into Tenakee if you wanted to so  
19 it's not that -- but even on Westport you see Port  
20 Frederick on the -- the far side like you were saying  
21 there's actually a logging camp that was there. We  
22 called it Westport and I logged all that area and I  
23 logged a lot of the other areas that you see but  
24 there's a landing there that they can actually go on to  
25 and fourwheelers and brah, brah, brah and you can take  
26 off -- if you look at the road you can even -- I was  
27 sharing with Patricia earlier, too, you can almost get  
28 to Pelican from some of the roads. Even the -- the  
29 Forest Service road, a lot of people go down there,  
30 there's a dock that's down there and a lot of my family  
31 go down in there and they'll get their fourwheelers on  
32 there, they'll go up into the hot tub that the Forest  
33 Service -- it's beautiful, I love it up there, and I do  
34 appreciate the Forest Service and them maintaining a  
35 lot of those locations and a lot of our families use  
36 those locations, even some that they condemned, we  
37 still use those buildings that they don't maintain  
38 anymore.

38

39

40 So there's a lot of roads from the main  
41 road, you're seeing a straight line, but there's  
42 hundreds of roads that are going off of this here that,  
43 you know, they're not going to mark those apparently  
44 but most of those roads are barred off so -- and a lot  
45 of them are barred so nobody can get on to those roads,  
46 but as far as from Hoonah, when you leave Hoonah you  
47 can drive a long ways and all the side roads are all  
48 barred off so actually -- actually when they leave  
49 there and they're finished they'll rip the road out but  
50 you can still access them and drive up to the bar --

50

0432

1 and walk on to those properties and, of course, you  
2 have Hoonah Totem, you have -- I've logged for all  
3 these, Hoonah Totem, Forest Service, Sealaska has  
4 property all amongst the whole thing there so -- and  
5 many access those. If you're not Alaska Native you go  
6 on Hoonah Totem there might be -- but they have Forest  
7 Service access so they can go on there. So our  
8 families, you know, we hunt on your property, too, on  
9 the Forest Service property, you know, following the  
10 rules and the regulations.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
15 you. Mr. Howard has a question.

16

17 MR. HOWARD: Just an observation,  
18 Madame Chair. In the '90s I went back and hunted Port  
19 Frederick with my cousins and we tried to go there last  
20 year and it's all overgrown. The road to Tenakee, if  
21 you don't like your vehicle, yeah, you can drive that  
22 one but my truck just about fell apart on that road. A  
23 lot of those roads, even if they're on the map you  
24 can't drive them. They do go up to Eight Fathom with  
25 their fourwheelers, I had some friends of mine do that  
26 last year but as far as go to Pelican, I'd rather go on  
27 a boat because that's a long walk from the end of that  
28 road. So that's just my observation.

29

30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

33

34 Ms. Phillips.

35

36 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
37 So the private land, corporation land is under State  
38 management, correct?

39

40 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Member Phillips,  
41 through the Chair. That's correct, the management  
42 there would be done under State regs.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: Follow up.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Phillips.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. So the 3526  
49 would be included in this proposal and would be that

50

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1 the criteria or, you know, what we're asking would keep  
2 non-Federally-qualified out of 3526 during the time  
3 period that the Council recommends, so it would be an  
4 added benefit for Tenakee.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, Member  
9 Phillips, through the Chair. Yes. It sounds like it  
10 would be an added benefit for the community of Tenakee.  
11 I would add, however, from my personal knowledge of  
12 Tenakee there is a very strong Juneau/Tenakee tie so an  
13 awful lot of folks with I'd say very strong ties to  
14 Tenakee maybe spend all summer there but they maintain  
15 a residence in Juneau and go there for the hunting  
16 season so there would be some, you know, complicated  
17 effects there. Just saying.

18

19 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

22

23 Mr. Casipit, did you have a question.

24

25 MR. CASIPIT: (Shakes head negatively)

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Oh, sorry, I  
28 thought I saw your hand. Are there any other questions  
29 from Council members for this. Mr. Douville, was this  
30 helpful?

31

32 MR. DOUVILLE: A little bit.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. All  
35 right, thank you guys for putting that together to  
36 answer some of the questions about access to these  
37 Wildlife Analysis Units. In our next part of this  
38 proposal agency -- we're under agency comments and are  
39 there comments from the Alaska Department of Fish and  
40 Game.

41

42 MR. CHURCHWELL: Thank you, Madame Vice  
43 Chair. This is Roy Churchwell, Regional Management  
44 Coordinator for Alaska Department of Fish and Game for  
45 the Southeast region. Many of our comments are the  
46 same as what we presented to you guys last night so  
47 I'll try to focus more on the comments that are unique  
48 to this location so we don't need to go over them again  
49 and again.

50

1                   Our position is similar to the proposal  
2 from last night, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
3 opposes this proposal because there are no  
4 justifications under the Alaska National Interests  
5 Lands Conservation Act for the Federal Subsistence  
6 Board to approve this closure. As Member Casipit  
7 pointed out, I am presented opinions and ideas from  
8 many Fish and Game employees and so I am aware of the  
9 court case that Member Casipit brought up but I don't  
10 know enough about it to defend whether it should be in  
11 our comments are not. That being said I did get a  
12 response and I'll just try and read that real quick.

13  
14                   And so the response was: Alaska [sic]  
15 contends that the instant C&T determination places  
16 restrictions on non-subsistence taking because granting  
17 Chistochina residents a Federal subsistence priority to  
18 take moose throughout GMU 12 increases moose taking and  
19 thus necessitates greater conservation efforts by the  
20 State.

21  
22                   I don't know if that satisfies Member  
23 Casipit, but I'll just say that that was the response  
24 that I got.

25  
26                   So moving on.

27  
28                   The stated purpose of the proposal is  
29 to establish a meaningful preference for the  
30 continuation of subsistence use of deer however the  
31 proponents provide no substantial evidence in support  
32 of claims that the non-Federally-qualified users  
33 hunting in this area inhibit harvest by Federally-  
34 qualified subsistence users and data provided by  
35 Federally-qualified users residing in Hoonah clearly  
36 indicate that the decline in harvest by the community  
37 results from declining participation and effort by  
38 Hoonah hunters. We note that Federally-qualified users  
39 in Hoonah already enjoy several meaning preferences  
40 including an extra month of hunting opportunity in  
41 January, a liberal designated hunter program where any  
42 Federally-qualified user can hunt on behalf of another  
43 Federally-qualified user and living close to the  
44 resource which allows Federally-qualified users to hunt  
45 whenever conditions are favorable.

46  
47                   We also note that Hoonah Totem and  
48 Sealaska shareholders already have exclusive hunting  
49 opportunity on the substantial Alaska Native Claims  
50



1 Settlement Act corporation lands near Hoonah. In  
2 contrast, non-Federally-qualified users from Juneau are  
3 limited by the Alaska Marine Highway schedule and  
4 vehicle capacity of the small ferry that serves Hoonah.  
5 Non-Federally-qualified users accessing the Northeast  
6 Chichagof Controlled Use Area by boat from Juneau need  
7 to travel a minimum of 40 miles to Whitestone Bay or 60  
8 miles to Hoonah during the time of year when short days  
9 and often unfavorable weather. Non-Federally-qualified  
10 users have a more restrictive bag limit of three deer  
11 east of Port Frederick and non-resident hunters, non-  
12 Alaskan residents have a more restrictive bag limit of  
13 two bucks.

14  
15 Further, we could find no reference in  
16 Title VIII of ANILCA to the term meaningful preference  
17 nor could we find justification for limiting non-  
18 Federally-qualified users based on safety concerns,  
19 economics of Federally-qualified users or potential --  
20 or the potential of altering deer behavior due to poor  
21 non-Federally-qualified user marksmanship.

22  
23 We conclude there is no law  
24 justification for adopting this proposal and it should  
25 be rejected under Section .805(c)(1).

26  
27 Then moving on to a summary of our  
28 analysis, I'll just go over that.

29  
30 We presented ADF&G's deer abundance  
31 survey data and deer hunting effort and harvest data  
32 provided to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game by  
33 GMU 4 hunters including Hoonah residents to gage  
34 changes in measures of hunter effort and harvest, we  
35 compared the decade prior to the severe winter of  
36 2006/2007 with the decade since 2013 when the deer  
37 population was considered recovered. Those comparisons  
38 support the following conclusions.

39  
40 Deer remain abundant in the proposal  
41 area. Deer pellet group transects, area Alpine surveys  
42 and late winter mortality surveys all indicate that GMU  
43 4 deer occur at among the highest densities in the  
44 state. Consequently there is no need to restrict take  
45 by non-Federally-qualified users to either conserve the  
46 deer population or to ensure continued subsistence use  
47 of the deer population.

48  
49 The total number of hunters and numbers  
50

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1 of hunters from each user group, Hoonah residents,  
2 other Federally-qualified users and non-Federally-  
3 qualified users hunting deer in the Northeast Chichagof  
4 Controlled Use Area has declined and data from the last  
5 few years indicate that trend is likely to continue.  
6 In recent years Federally-qualified user hunters are  
7 also expending considerably less effort so total  
8 hunting pressure in the proposal area is moderate and  
9 declining. IT is also likely that some of the non-  
10 Federally-qualified users hunting in the proposal area  
11 are former Hoonah residents who moved to Juneau for  
12 employment or other opportunities but return to hunt  
13 with and on behalf of relative and friends in Hoonah.  
14 The average number of Hoonah residents participating in  
15 deer hunting each year and the days of hunting effort  
16 by those hunters have declined. Between the two  
17 comparison periods the average number of Hoonah  
18 residents who obtain deer harvest tickets declined by  
19 19 percent. Reporting -- reported hunting declined by  
20 23 percent. And the days of hunting effort reported by  
21 Hoonah residents declined by 54 percent. That dramatic  
22 decline in hunting effort is the reason deer harvest by  
23 Hoonah residents has declined, not competition from  
24 non-Federally-qualified hunters. The days of hunting  
25 effort Hoonah hunters require to harvest one deer  
26 remains very low at 2.1 days of hunting per deer  
27 harvested. The proposal emphasizes that subsistence  
28 hunters need to be efficient and this is among the most  
29 efficient hunting anywhere in Alaska.

30

31 And that concludes my remarks.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
34 you, Mr. Churchwell.

35

36 Mr. Hernandez, you have a question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes. I believe  
39 you stated that the Department sees -- has no concerns  
40 with people of Hoonah being able to continue their  
41 subsistence uses, that they're not being affected by  
42 the non-subsistence users. How does the State assess  
43 whether or not subsistence uses are being affected?  
44

44

45 MR. CHURCHWELL: Mr. Hernandez. I  
46 guess my first thought on that is that we're looking at  
47 the data that we're seeing, the first one that comes to  
48 mind to me is the number of days to harvest a deer have  
49 not changed over this period and so it seems like  
50

50

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1 they're very effective in harvesting deer and so that's  
2 our -- at least one of our indicators that they're not  
3 being impacted.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So you focus on  
6 harvest it sounds like?

7

8 MR. CHURCHWELL: I would say that  
9 that's the first thing that comes to mind. I'm sure  
10 there's many other factors.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, yeah, we  
13 consider many other factors and I'm not sure that the  
14 State. I know we've heard testimony before about your  
15 amount necessary for subsistence that you base some of  
16 the management on, you know, those are numbers, those  
17 are harvests and we've been trying to explain that, you  
18 know, we see -- we have a completely different vision  
19 of what it means to subsist and the uses include more  
20 than just the harvest numbers. So I'm just trying to  
21 get a grasp on how the State draws their conclusions  
22 compared to how we draw our conclusions.

23

24 So I think you've answered that, thank  
25 you.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, are  
28 there other questions for Mr. -- yes, Mr. Schroeder.

29

30 MR. SCHROEDER: Yeah, Roy, thanks for  
31 sticking with us here. I think you have a somewhat  
32 difficult job but that's why you're the managing  
33 coordinator. But you can fill me in, I was trying to  
34 remember why NECCUA was formed, and I couldn't remember  
35 whether it was formed to -- with respect to brown bear  
36 management or marten and if you can fill me in on that  
37 -- that's a little bit of a sideline but I can't think  
38 of anything else for a few minutes so if you could help  
39 me that would be great.

40

41 MR. CHURCHWELL: Yeah, thanks, Member  
42 Schroeder for that question. My time here at the  
43 Department is a little sense then but I guess I'll just  
44 throw out my general impression and we might get a  
45 retort from my supervisor at some point saying I was  
46 not correct. But my understanding is that that may  
47 have been developed when they were coming up with the  
48 brown bear management plan, I think that's when that  
49 came about. I know that there are brown bear

50

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1 regulations associated with using vehicles to harvest  
2 brown bears in that area so I think that that was  
3 probably the case. I don't know of any regulations  
4 about marten harvest so I do believe it's associated  
5 with brown bears.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
8 you. Mr. Kitka, you have a question.

9

10 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair. I  
11 was more curious as to corporation lands. If the  
12 corporation (excuse me) -- if the corporation decided  
13 (excuse me) that only their shareholders could hunt on  
14 their lands, what would the State's stand be?

15

16 MR. CHURCHWELL: Yeah, Member Kitka.  
17 Once again it's just my understanding answering the  
18 question and so we'll have to take that into account,  
19 but I do believe if the folks only wanted -- if they  
20 wanted to only allow shareholders to harvest animals on  
21 those lands, that the State would agree with that and  
22 not have any issues with that. I do believe there are  
23 other places in Alaska where corporation lands are only  
24 the shareholders on those lands can harvest animals,  
25 and so I don't think that's a new thing for the State.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
28 you. Are there any other questions.

29

30 Ms. Phillips.

31

32 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
33 What percentage of hunters report harvest for this  
34 area?

35

36 MR. CHURCHWELL: Yeah, I do have some  
37 numbers on that. And I guess I'll say this is the  
38 reporting rate, it could be that they reported that  
39 they did harvest or didn't harvest but it's what they  
40 reported -- or the percentage that did report. So for  
41 Hoonah 61 percent of hunters reported. We also talked  
42 about how Gustavus is associated with this hunt and  
43 they have the highest reporting rate of 88 percent.  
44 And we don't have Tenakee-specific numbers, but that's  
45 what I have.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, Mr.  
48 Schroeder.

49

50

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1 MR. SCHROEDER: Just a follow up on  
2 that reporting, Roy. I know I keep getting reminders  
3 from Fish and Game if I forget to report, is -- what  
4 kind of follow through goes on with Hoonah hunters on  
5 that? I mean I get, you know, through my email account  
6 because that's usually the way I get deer tags or other  
7 things and Fish and Game reminds me enough until I get  
8 worried about it and then I make sure that a report  
9 goes in. Are you following up pretty closely with  
10 Hoonah hunters, not all of whom are as connected to the  
11 internet as I might be?

12  
13 MR. CHURCHWELL: Yeah, through the  
14 Chair. Mr. Schroeder. The Hoonah hunters are getting  
15 the same reminders that you are to report. As the OSM  
16 analysis suggested, we do try to get at least 60  
17 percent of folks reporting and if we don't get that we  
18 will make some phone calls and similar to what Mr.  
19 Howard had earlier this year, to try to boost that up  
20 to at least 60 percent. And so we do try to focus on  
21 that to get it up to a certain level, whether that's in  
22 Hoonah, Pelican, Angoon or any of our villages out in  
23 the area.

24  
25 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
26 you. Are there any other questions from Council  
27 members for the State at this time.

28  
29 Mr. Hernandez.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you.  
32 Our Federal Staff testified that they see a tendency in  
33 the rural communities that they have a tendency to only  
34 report their successful hunts and we've talked about  
35 this before on your reporting method, you know, your  
36 essentially post card forms that have, in my opinion,  
37 pretty limited space to actually detail, you know, your  
38 hunting activities especially in a place like Hoonah  
39 where people are probably out, you know, doing a lot of  
40 other activities associated with their hunting and  
41 trying to capture all of that on a card is difficult,  
42 whereas if you're in Juneau, chances are you might be  
43 planning a hunting trip, you go out for a week and it's  
44 -- I think your cards have like six lines on it so it's  
45 pretty easy to detail your activities. Would you agree  
46 with the Federal Staff's assessment that accurate  
47 reporting from the rural communities is less accurate?

48  
49 MR. CHURCHWELL: Through the Chair.

50

0440

1 Mr. Hernandez. I would say that that does occur. It  
2 would be difficult to quantify it probably without like  
3 a personal survey. You know my take on it is that we  
4 use these data -- well, I guess you're familiar more  
5 with our wolf count data here on POW where we get a  
6 number but it may not be the actual number of wolves on  
7 the Island but if we follow those numbers from one year  
8 to the next, especially if we get 10 years of data we  
9 can see trends in that, and I think that that would be  
10 similar of how we should look at this reporting data.  
11 I feel like if a person is likely to only report the  
12 deer harvest that they get and not necessarily the  
13 number of days they're probably going to do that from  
14 one year to the next, and so I think the patterns are  
15 fairly similar and so we should be looking more at  
16 trends than the actual number is how I would suggest we  
17 look at those data.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, last  
22 call, any other Council questions for the State Alaska  
23 Department of Fish and Game.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
28 you, Mr. Churchwell.

29

30 Next under agency comments, are there  
31 any comments from other Federal agencies.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any  
36 comments on the proposal from tribal entities.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any  
41 Advisory Group comments, other Regional Councils.

42

43 MS. PERRY: No, Madame Chair.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Fish and Game  
46 Advisory Committees.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Nope.

49

50

0441

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Or Subsistence  
2 Resource Commissions.

3  
4                   MS. PERRY: No, Madame Chair.

5  
6                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. We  
7 have already heard the summary of written public  
8 comments and so do we have any public testimony. Can  
9 our Council Coordinator please check with folks online.

10  
11                   MS. PERRY: For those folks who are  
12 participating online, if you would like to give a  
13 public comment please press star, five so that we can  
14 see that you wish to make a comment. If there's anyone  
15 in the room who would like to make a comment, if you'll  
16 fill out one of these blue cards and bring them to me  
17 so that we know that you'd like to comment, that would  
18 be great. Again, if you're on the phone, star, five.  
19 I do have two commenters, Madame Chair.

20  
21                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, we  
22 can take public testimony over the phone at this time.

23  
24                   MS. PERRY: For the person calling in  
25 whose number ends in 3-2, if you would like to press  
26 star, six to unmute your line and go ahead and give us  
27 your comment. Again, make sure you press star, six,  
28 and I see that your line is now muted [sic], please go  
29 ahead.

30  
31                   MR. ORR: I'm unmuted, you mean?

32  
33                   REPORTER: Yes, that's what she meant.

34  
35                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, go ahead.

36  
37                   MR. ORR: Okay. All right, so my name  
38 is Nicholas Orr. I'm on the Juneau/Douglas Advisory  
39 Committee although I'm not the President and I'm  
40 certainly not speaking for them in this capacity. I  
41 will note that the Juneau/Douglas Advisory Committee  
42 submitted written comments on all three of these  
43 proposals so it's a little strange to hear that there  
44 are no comments from the Committee.

45  
46                   But I will say that my main issue with  
47 this proposal, just to be clear, there is no  
48 conservation issue, is that there doesn't seem to be --  
49 non-Federally-qualified users don't seem to be  
50

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1 inhibiting the continuation of subsistence uses by  
2 Federally-qualified users. And I think Roy kind of put  
3 the -- like pinpoint, the statistics we can look at,  
4 which is hunter efficacy which is, you know, days per  
5 deer and this is second in the state for large animals  
6 so it's kind of tough to make that call that there's an  
7 inhibiting of continuation of subsistence uses.

8  
9 And I know that priority is important  
10 under ANILCA and the Federally-qualified users in this  
11 area have priority by the January season and by the  
12 Federally designated hunter program.

13  
14 So for those reasons I would urge you  
15 guys not to pass this proposal and that's the end --  
16 that's all I got to say.

17  
18 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
19 you for calling in. Were they finished?

20  
21 REPORTER: Yes.

22  
23 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, okay.  
24 DeAnna, do you have the next public comment, please.

25  
26 MS. PERRY: I do and I did want to let  
27 the last caller know that we did receive Advisory  
28 Committee comments and I believe they were put into a  
29 packet that the Council did get. I do not have them  
30 right in front of me but the Council is aware of those  
31 and I think maybe they were summarized with the written  
32 public comments that Dr. Roberts gave previously.

33  
34 Okay, one more commenter on the phone,  
35 Madame Chair. This caller's number ends in 3-7, if  
36 that is your number, please, go ahead I can see that  
37 your microphone is open.

38  
39 MR. BEASON: Thank you, very much.  
40 This is Ryan Beason, I'm with the Territorial  
41 Sportsmen. We, again, propose -- oppose this Proposal,  
42 2405. I think the biggest thing is -- and I'll give a  
43 little bit of my personal experience. This is the unit  
44 I hunt almost exclusively. The last three years I've  
45 had the most successful hunting I've ever had, whether  
46 it's in the Alpine, in November, in the woods or on the  
47 beach. During the first two weeks of November, it's  
48 some of the best hunting I've ever had.

49  
50



0443

1 REPORTER: Ryan, are you still there?

2

3 MR. BEASON: Hi, I apologize about  
4 that, it somehow muted me again.

5

6 REPORTER: Okay, no problem, go ahead.

7

8 MR. BEASON: But where I left off is  
9 I've had -- am I good to go?

10

11 REPORTER: Yes.

12

13 MR. BEASON: I apologize. But what I  
14 was saying I've had some of the best hunting I've had  
15 in the last three years in this unit.

16

17 And another thing I'll add is obviously  
18 we know how the Federal Subsistence Board ruled earlier  
19 this year on very similar proposals and I would ask the  
20 Council, how are these proposals different and how are  
21 they now allowed? I think we need to look at how the  
22 Subsistence Boar, the FSB ruled, take that into  
23 consideration and see if these comments -- or these  
24 proposals are even allowed, that's the biggest thing,  
25 is, how are these now allowed when they were voted down  
26 earlier this year.

27

28 I will also say that, you know, this is  
29 a huge area, Northern Chichagof Island, how -- or why  
30 are some of these areas even included. Before today  
31 there's been no mention of Tenakee whatsoever, why is  
32 Tenakee included in this, why are some of the western  
33 areas included in this that have very little or no  
34 roads. This is a huge area being closed down.

35

36 And I'd also like to mention, too, is I  
37 would like to look for options to improve access for  
38 Federally-qualified users while at the same time not  
39 limiting access to non-Federally-qualified users,  
40 whether that be an earlier season in July potentially  
41 like in Unit 2.

42

43 And kind of with that I would just hope  
44 that the Council opposes these proposals going forward  
45 and if you have any questions I'll do my best to answer  
46 those and thank you for your time.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
49 you for calling in and providing that testimony. Ms.

50

0444

1 Perry, are there any other public comments on the phone  
2 at this time?

3  
4 MS. PERRY: Not at this time but just  
5 as a reminder if anyone on the phone would like to  
6 comment if you'll press star, five, that will indicate  
7 on our end that you'd like to speak and, Madame Chair,  
8 we do not have any blue cards for any testimony from  
9 anyone in the room.

10  
11 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. That  
12 gets us to a point where we've had the presentation of  
13 the proposal and all of the things in our process up  
14 until the point where the Council would go into  
15 deliberations. We are at a break point right now where  
16 we can handle other agenda item real quick and then  
17 break for lunch, and I'm told that Tony Christensen is  
18 in the building and would like to address the Council,  
19 he's in the other room if somebody could grab him and  
20 ask him if he wants to come in and address the Council  
21 before lunch please.

22  
23 (Pause)

24  
25 MR. GALLEGOS: You were looking for me,  
26 or Tony Christensen, I don't know?

27  
28 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: My apologies, I  
29 thought I was told Mr. Christianson was here for the  
30 thing so I'm not exactly sure what's happening but do  
31 you need a few moments of our time before we break for  
32 lunch or did you have some kind of presentation.

33  
34 MR. GALLEGOS: I have a short  
35 presentation, we did have a presentation recorded and  
36 I'm on the schedule for reports.

37  
38 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Will you be here  
39 just after lunch?

40  
41 MR. GALLEGOS: I will.

42  
43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. Let's go  
44 ahead and break for lunch and have -- because we are in  
45 the middle of a proposal process so I was just going to  
46 allow the Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board to  
47 say a few words.....

48  
49 (Laughter)

50

0445

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM:   .....which is a  
2 little bit different than interrupting it with a  
3 presentation.

4  
5                   (Laughter)

6  
7                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM:  So how does the  
8 Council feel about being back within 50 minutes or even  
9 shorter, we're running kind of short on time.  Can we  
10 -- do you want a half an hour or do you want to be back  
11 at 1:00 -- half hour or 1:00 o'clock.

12  
13                   (Off record comments regarding lunch)

14  
15                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM:  Okay, I'm  
16 hearing mixed signals so let's go for 1:00 o'clock,  
17 we'll take the 50 minutes so that folks can get things  
18 that they need to get done, done over lunch time so  
19 we'll recess for lunch and be back at 1:00 o'clock.

20  
21                   (Off record)

22  
23                   (On record)

24  
25                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM:  If we can get  
26 all Council members into the room so that we can begin  
27 our afternoon session.

28  
29                   (Pause)

30  
31                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM:  All right, we're  
32 going to get started with this afternoon.  If the last  
33 few Council members in the hall could trickle in that'd  
34 be great.  As a reminder of where we are, we are --  
35 we've heard the presentation and comments for Wildlife  
36 Proposal 24-05 for the Hoonah area and so we will now  
37 potentially entertain a motion from the Council so we  
38 can enter deliberations regarding this proposal.

39  
40                   Mr. Hernandez.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:  Thank you.  I move  
43 to adopt Wildlife Proposal 24-05.

44  
45                   MR. SCHROEDER:  Second.

46  
47                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM:  Thank you.  It's  
48 been moved and seconded to adopt Proposal -- Wildlife  
49 Proposal 24-05 and at this time if there are any

50

0446

1 Council comments to put into the record that would  
2 address our justification.

3

4 Mr. Hernandez.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Madame  
7 Chair, Well, it may be premature but I'm thinking  
8 about offering up an amendment to this proposal as  
9 well. We did make an amendment on the previous  
10 proposal affecting the folks at Angoon and I'm thinking  
11 that maybe we should be consistent, I don't want to  
12 have different areas necessarily have different time  
13 periods of closures that could be confusing to folks  
14 and then I'm also -- we have a fair amount of  
15 discussion about the area encompassing the Northeast  
16 Chichagof Controlled Use Area and, you know, how  
17 extensively that may be used by folks in Angoon [sic]  
18 and folks elsewhere.

19

20 So maybe at this time I will offer up  
21 an amendment and see what the rest of the Council  
22 thinks.

23

24 I'm really hesitant to do this not  
25 having our Council representative from Hoonah available  
26 but hopefully there's enough local knowledge here on  
27 the Council to maybe discuss this and at least put it  
28 up for a motion.

29

30 So I'm going to move to amend Wildlife  
31 Proposal 24-05 so that it would change the closure date  
32 to November 1st to November 10th. And then I think I  
33 might also offer up the amendment to remove Wildlife  
34 Analysis Area 3526, that is the very southern end of  
35 the NECCUA and it's, as we found out in our  
36 presentation, it is not on that Hoonah road system and  
37 may not have as much conflict there, it also  
38 encompasses the community of Tenakee Springs which we  
39 really didn't have much information on in our analysis  
40 and I'm kind of hesitant to include the immediate area  
41 around that community without a lot of good  
42 information.

43

44 So I'll offer those up as amendments.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Phillips.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: Was that a motion then?

49

50

0447

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, that was a  
2 motion to amend.

3

4                   MS. PHILLIPS: So I'll second that, but  
5 I was also wondering about wet NECCUA 4222, 4252, 4253,  
6 I mean 90 percent of the harvest is in the east NECCUA,  
7 so for Hoonah residents, according to the analysis.  
8 And that means like only 10 percent occurs in the west  
9 -- or possibly the west NECCUA. I don't know if that  
10 would be appropriate, you know, it's not connected to  
11 the road system either. Like you said our Hoonah  
12 representative isn't here to ask about it.

13

14                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. So for a  
15 lack of a second on Mr. Hernandez' motion then.....

16

17                   MS. PERRY: Well, Patty did second it.

18

19                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Oh, you did  
20 second it?

21

22                   MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

23

24                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Oh, okay. So we  
25 do have an amendment on the floor that doesn't include  
26 those so maybe we can handle the current amendment,  
27 after some discussion, and then determine whether or  
28 not we need to add the additional Wildlife Analysis  
29 Areas.

30

31                   So the amendment on the floor includes  
32 -- Mr. Hernandez.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Just a quick  
35 procedural question, if Patty were to withdraw her  
36 second could I restate the motion?

37

38                   MS. PHILLIPS: Madame Chair, I'll  
39 withdraw.

40

41                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr.  
42 Hernandez.....

43

44                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is that  
45 appropriate?

46

47                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: .....I believe  
48 you made the amended motion so you have to withdraw and  
49 she has to concur.

50

0448

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.  
2 Then I would like to withdraw my amended motion with  
3 the concurrence of the second.

4  
5                   MS. PHILLIPS: Madame Chair. I concur  
6 with withdrawing the motion.

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

9  
10                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, we  
11 are back to the main motion. Mr. Hernandez, did you  
12 want to offer a new amendment?

13  
14                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, thank you,  
15 Madame Chair. So I would like to offer up an altered  
16 amendment and that amendment would be:

17  
18                   To change the time of the closure from  
19 November 1st to November 10th, different from what is  
20 stated in the existing proposal, which is November 1st  
21 to the November 15th. So change that to November 1st  
22 to November 10th. And delete Wildlife Analysis Area  
23 3526 and Wildlife Analysis Area 4222.

24  
25                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is there a  
26 second.

27  
28                  MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

29  
30                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. The  
31 amendment, is there discussion by the Council regarding  
32 the amendment to remove Wildlife Analysis Areas 4222,  
33 and 3526 and shorten the closure period from November  
34 1st to the 15th and now November 1st through the 10th.

35  
36                   Discussion.

37  
38                   Mr. Hernandez.

39  
40                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Madame  
41 Chair. Yes, I think, you know, we -- this is a  
42 proposal from the Council and I think it's fairly  
43 typical that the Council when it puts in a proposal,  
44 you know, it would include as much time and area in the  
45 speculative closure as, you know, we think might be  
46 appropriate. Then we get the analysis, we get the  
47 public comments, we get a lot more information, so I  
48 think making an amendment to the original proposal  
49 based on what we've heard I think is an appropriate  
50

0449

1 thing to do and we have had a lot of good analysis and  
2 a lot of public comment on this so, yeah, that's my  
3 reasoning for making the amendment.

4

5 And like I said I think we also want to  
6 be consistent in our closure dates with what we've done  
7 previously in the Unit 4 recommendations on previous  
8 proposals.

9

10 So that's my rationale for the  
11 amendment.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
14 Hernandez. Is there any other discussion on the  
15 amendment.

16

17 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, the  
20 question's been called so we'll have a vote on the  
21 amendment to reduce the closure time from November 1st  
22 to the 10th and remove Wildlife Analysis 4222 and 3526.  
23 Is there anybody on the phone?

24

25 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair, I could  
26 suggest if you wanted to do the motion to amend by  
27 unanimous consent and then we could do a roll call on  
28 the motion as amended.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.  
31 Perry. So if we can get this by unanimous consent, if  
32 anybody opposes the amendment please speak at this  
33 time.

34

35 (No opposition)

36

37 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, back  
38 to the main motion which is now Wildlife Proposal 24-05  
39 which will now include closing a portion of the  
40 Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area from November  
41 1st through the 10th, and it would include Wildlife  
42 Analysis Areas 4252, 4253, 3526, 3524, 3525 and 3551.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: Not 3526.....

45

46 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm sorry, which  
47 one did I forget?

48

49 MS. PHILLIPS: You included 3526 and it

50

0450

1 -- we're withdrawing that.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. So  
4 the Wildlife Analysis Areas include 4252, 4253, 3524,  
5 3523, 3525, 3551.

6

7 Is there any discussion from Council  
8 members regarding the proposal, and I will remind you  
9 that we do need to provide justification on the record  
10 that addresses the key points that we normally address  
11 when we deliberate proposals.

12

13 Mr. Bemis.

14

15 MR. BEMIS: I agree with the proposal  
16 and I think it's only right that we treat all the areas  
17 the same beings they're as close as they are, and if  
18 there was some kind of affect where there was a lack of  
19 animals or deer, that you might have a little different  
20 on this but beings that's not the case and the weather  
21 conditions are different and it wouldn't favor the  
22 subsistence user at this time to be able to have a fair  
23 hunt on it, it looks like we're kind of behind on the  
24 weather system unless it changes.

25

26 And I think that we've all made a good  
27 decision on this.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
32 Bemis. Any other comments regarding the proposal.

33

34 Mr. Hernandez.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Madame Chair. I'm  
37 going to support the proposal. I think we can  
38 acknowledge that we don't see an overall conservation  
39 concern, however, I think we do have a pretty good  
40 indication that in this area that we're talking about  
41 that there could be localized depletions. I think that  
42 was brought out in the analysis. There's a lot of  
43 heavily logged areas and stem inclusion zones that are  
44 probably not providing very much good deer habitat  
45 anymore, kind of lessens the available hunting  
46 opportunities. So for -- I'm not talking about an  
47 overall conservation concern, we are focused, once,  
48 again, on the continuation of subsistence uses as a  
49 rationale for restriction on non-Federally-qualified  
50



0451

1 users.

2

3

4 And I think in the instance of the  
5 Hoonah area, I think we have a lot of good information  
6 about user conflicts and how the -- between subsistence  
7 and non-subsistence users, competition being a factor,  
8 a lot of easy access on the ferry, people come to  
9 Hoonah from other areas, you know, creates the  
10 situation so I think we're definitely looking at a  
11 situation where needs -- people are having a difficult  
12 time meeting their needs and continuing their  
13 subsistence uses in the area due to people from non-  
14 subsistence areas coming to utilize the area.

14

15 So I think that's our main rationale  
16 for a restriction.

17

18 And I still point out that there's a  
19 very large area in Unit 4 that is still available to  
20 all hunters for the entire season. I think that's a  
21 pretty reasonable argument for our recommendation not  
22 unnecessarily restricting other users.

23

24 So I think that's my main  
25 considerations.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
28 Hernandez.

29

30 Mr. Schroeder.

31

32 MR. SCHROEDER: Just to highlight some  
33 things that came out in the Staff presentation on this  
34 proposal. Will note that the population of Hoonah has  
35 been rising somewhat, has risen quite a bit since that  
36 epic study was done by Schroeder and Kookesh in 1990,  
37 which is cited in the report, but population is up  
38 somewhat in Table 5, possibly 15 percent or so. If we  
39 look at Table 7 this indicates that in the 10 year time  
40 period for which data are available that non-Federally-  
41 qualified hunters accounted for the majority of harvest  
42 in November and, you know, so there shows that there's  
43 a significant amount of harvest by people from Juneau  
44 and other said communities.

45

46 I think we continue to be rather  
47 frustrated with the harvest ticket permit data. Every  
48 time this comes up we're frustrated with it because  
49 basically we have a system that is pretty good at

50

1 tracking big trends but isn't very accurate on a very  
2 fine scale level so it would be really great if we had  
3 better harvest data from Hoonah. In particular we did  
4 hear from the State representative that the response  
5 rate was something like 60 percent, which from a  
6 statistical point of view is somewhat iffy if you  
7 consider the general rubric for survey research, this  
8 isn't really survey research -- if you get -- you're  
9 happy if you have a 95 percent response, you're feeling  
10 okay if you have a 90 percent response and then you're  
11 kind of in the boy I'm not sure that's really right if  
12 you get below that, and there isn't any real magic  
13 there it's simply that if you have a large number of  
14 non-respondents they -- the true value may be very  
15 different from what you extrapolate from the 60 percent  
16 that you get.

17  
18                   If we look at Table 10 this is kind of  
19 a little bit difficult to unpack but, you know, this  
20 Table 10 shows -- and this is, again, based on harvest  
21 ticket data so we'll take that with a grain of salt, or  
22 a grain of something else, but, overall harvest are  
23 down from what they were in kind of the end of the big  
24 logging era which was in the 2000 to 2005 period where  
25 there was a lot of activity in Hoonah, and you also had  
26 a lot of temporary logging residents who probably  
27 hunted but if we look at bottom line things there, the  
28 Hoonah harvest by this, again, qualified data source,  
29 give a five year average of 2016 to 2020 of 230 deer  
30 for Hoonah versus 347 deer for non-Federally-qualified  
31 users, so what we have is a shift over time. If you  
32 look higher up on the chart, Hoonah, in the much  
33 earlier period 2001 to 2005 had a proportion of harvest  
34 that was Hoonah versus the non-Federally-qualified  
35 users was really different, it was 526 versus 309. So  
36 this is some numerical indication of just increased  
37 hunting in Hoonah mostly by people in Juneau.

38  
39                   Anecdotally, since I'm a Juneau  
40 resident I know of quite a few people who go over and  
41 hunt in Hoonah. It's -- Southeast is kind of stormy,  
42 not everyone has a boat that they're comfortable going  
43 out and staying on and putting your truck on the blue  
44 canoe of the Alaska Marine Highway System is a pretty  
45 good option, getting off, driving up the road in  
46 Hoonah, camping someplace and possibly getting a bunch  
47 of deer. I think I had -- I think one of my sons went  
48 up there with a real expert hunter that he was with  
49 and, you know, they just went up and expected to limit  
50

0453

1 out as long as they could chase the bears away because  
2 the bears in Hoonah apparently recognize shots as being  
3 like dinner bells.

4  
5 So that's some of the stuff that's in  
6 there.

7  
8 We also would see someplace in here the  
9 overall harvest level is presented in pounds per capita  
10 based on a number of years, nothing is really current,  
11 but without looking through to find that, what that  
12 table shows is that at least based on the data source  
13 cited, that the amount of deer taken on a per capita  
14 basis either in numbers of deer or pounds of meat per  
15 household has gone way down in the time period  
16 mentioned.

17  
18 So we have these indications that there  
19 is some threat to subsistence uses and a pretty good  
20 justification for saying that action needs to be taken  
21 to protect subsistence uses, leaving aside the question  
22 of whether or not there's a real local conservation  
23 concerning, meaning a local depletion of deer, that may  
24 be the case but we don't have strong evidence for that.

25  
26 As a general justification and which  
27 should be included by reference to this proposal is our  
28 larger statement as we mentioned for the previous  
29 proposal on what our obligation is to protect  
30 subsistence uses under our charge under ANILCA, and  
31 this may very well fit that situation. And just to say  
32 again since this is will go through as a separate item  
33 before the Federal Subsistence Board, basically these  
34 sorts of things are what ANILCA envisioned in 1980 when  
35 it was signed, that there just would be increased  
36 competition for resources and that the reason for there  
37 being ANILCA protections was to make sure that as  
38 Alaska's population grew, as technical changes took  
39 place that allowed people to get to -- allowed urban  
40 people to get to rural areas quicker and easier and  
41 maybe hunt more efficiently, that these things would  
42 occur. And so what we're doing is we're addressing  
43 what ANILCA writers thought we should be doing when  
44 they crafted this Legislation 43 years ago, is that  
45 right, Patty?

46  
47 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

48  
49 MR. SCHROEDER: 43 years ago.  
50

0454

1                   So I think we're on pretty good grounds  
2 here. I'm frustrated that I haven't heard from our --  
3 directly in this meeting from our Council member from  
4 Hoonah and that's the one thing that's kind of missing  
5 in my reasoning.

6  
7                   And one other thing, I think it's  
8 completely appropriate to reduce the proposal although  
9 we already voted on that particularly eliminating the  
10 Wildlife Analysis Area that is basically Tenakee Inlet.  
11 Tenakee kind of marches to a different drummer and  
12 people in Tenakee, from my personal knowledge, don't  
13 really go across into the other part of NECCUA very  
14 much and they definitely don't want people from Hoonah  
15 and other places to use the road system to access the  
16 areas really close to Tenakee Inlet.

17  
18                   So that's what I got, I think we're in  
19 pretty good shape on this proposal.

20  
21                   Thank you.

22  
23                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Schroeder.

25  
26                   Ms. Phillips.

27  
28                   MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
29 I'll be referencing the preliminary results of the  
30 SASSI Deer Work Force Southeast Subsistence RAC  
31 prepared by Ian Johnson, Hoonah Indian Association  
32 10/24/23.

33  
34                   For Hoonah on Figure 3 is a graphical  
35 representation of primary concern rankings and in  
36 Hoonah competition was the primary reason and  
37 underneath that is Table 9, Table 7 it shows the  
38 primary -- if the respondent identified competition as  
39 a primary concern they were asked further to define  
40 what competition was doing to their hunt and it was  
41 impacting abundance, it was scaring deer making hunting  
42 more difficult, keeping them from hunting preferred  
43 areas and feeling unsafe while hunting.

44  
45                   I would also like to note that  
46 according to the Staff analysis that 90 percent of deer  
47 hunting effort and harvest by Hoonah residents occurs  
48 within the NECCUA and there's -- let's see the higher  
49 cost of -- they cannot afford to hunt outside the local  
50

0455

1 core subsistence areas, that's on Page 205, and so the  
2 core area is the NECCUA and it's important for meeting  
3 their subsistence needs. And the average for take for  
4 -- the five year average for the years 2016 to 2020 for  
5 all Federally-qualified users was 347 harvest and the  
6 harvest for non-Federally-qualified users was 347 so it  
7 was a 50/50 take for Federally-qualified versus non-  
8 Federally-qualified so it is having a substantial --  
9 the non-Federally-qualified harvest is substantial.

10

11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.  
14 Phillips. Mr. Smith, did you have comments.

15

16 MR. SMITH: Yeah, just a couple facts  
17 of it was about 1999 when we wrapped up Whitestone so  
18 back then there was a couple thousand people, you know,  
19 it was a very busy town but, you know, today I'm  
20 looking at probably between 800 and a thousand people,  
21 just to share kind of a population in that area.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
24 you. Are there any other Council comments regarding  
25 the amended Wildlife Proposal 24-05.

26

27 Mr. Schroeder.

28

29 MR. SCHROEDER: I'd simply add in one  
30 other thing concerning the change which took off -- I  
31 think it's Wildlife Analysis Area that ends in 22, is  
32 that right, no, I'm wrong. I got to find the Wildlife  
33 Analysis Area here.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: The two Wildlife  
36 Analysis Areas that we removed were 4222 and 3526.

37

38 MR. SCHROEDER: Okay, it's 4222. And  
39 that may include or if it doesn't include, it's right  
40 on the edge of Gull Cove and restricting hunting in  
41 that area would impact a lodge and business that's  
42 operated in that area for quite awhile and would  
43 probably unduly, unnecessarily reduce the lodge  
44 activity and the non-local hunters who come there  
45 without much benefit for subsistence users.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
48 Schroeder. Any other Council comments on the proposal.

49

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0456

1 (No comments)

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ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: If there's no other Council comments I'd entertain a question.

MS. PHILLIPS: Call for the question.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. The question's been called. We'll now have a roll call vote on Wildlife Proposal 24-05 as amended, which requests to close a portion of Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area to deer hunting by non-Federally-qualified users from November 1st through November 10th. Ms. Perry, can you do the roll call vote.

MS. PERRY: Yes, Madame Chair.

Albert Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Yes.

MS. PERRY: Don Hernandez.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. PERRY: Patty Phillips.

MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

MS. PERRY: Louie Wagner, Jr.

MR. WAGNER: Yes.

MS. PERRY: Harvey Kitka.

MR. KITKA: Yes.

MS. PERRY: John Smith.

MR. SMITH: Yes.

MS. PERRY: Larry Bemis.

MR. BEMIS: Yes.

MS. PERRY: Cal Casipit.

MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

0457

1 MS. PERRY: Mike Douville.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

4

5 MS. PERRY: And on the phone checking  
6 for our Council Member Frank Wright. Frank, if you're  
7 on the line press star, six to unmute your phone.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. PERRY: And I'm not seeing Frank's  
12 phone number on my list here so I don't believe he was  
13 able to join us today.

14

15 Mr. Slater, had joined us just before  
16 lunch, Mr. Slater are you with us for a vote?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MS. PERRY: Mr. Slater, if you are  
21 still online, star, six to unmute your phone.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. PERRY: I thought I just saw his or  
26 possibly Mr. -- okay, it looks like he just dropped  
27 off. All right. And Cathy Needham.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

30

31 MS. PERRY: Robert Schroeder.

32

33 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
36 This motion passes 11 to zero and two absent.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.  
39 Perry. All right, next up on the agenda we have  
40 Wildlife Proposal 24-06, Pelican area closed to non-  
41 Federally-qualified users from November 1st through the  
42 15th, Unit 4. And I have Mr. Roberts from OSM.

43

44 MR. ROBERTS: All right, thank you, Ms.  
45 Vice Chair and members of the Council. This is Jason  
46 Roberts, Anthropologist at OSM. I'll be presenting a  
47 summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 24-06.  
48 The analysis for this proposal begins on Page 222 of  
49 your meeting book.

50

1                                Proposal WP24-06 was submitted by the  
2 Southeast Council. The proponents are requesting to  
3 close a portion of Northeast Chichagof Island around  
4 Pelican to deer hunting by non-Federally-qualified  
5 users from November 1st through November 15th. The  
6 specific closure area would include Federal public  
7 lands within drainages flowing into Lisianski Inlet,  
8 Lisianski Strait and Stag Bay south of a line  
9 connecting Soapstone and Collum Points and north of a  
10 line connecting Point Theodore and Point Uray. This  
11 proposed closure area encompasses parts of Wildlife  
12 Analysis Areas 3417, 3418, 3419 and 3421. This area is  
13 approximately 218 square miles in size or roughly 11  
14 percent of Chichagof Island. You can see this proposed  
15 closure area illustrated on Figures 1 and 2 on Pages  
16 226 and 227 of your meeting book.

17  
18                                The proponents state that they  
19 submitted WP24-06 to establish a meaningful preference  
20 for the continuation of subsistence uses of deer by  
21 Federally-qualified users in the Pelican area. Pelican  
22 residents depend on deer as a key component of their  
23 subsistence lifestyles, however, the proponents assert  
24 that residents in this area have been experiencing  
25 difficulty harvesting enough deer to meet their needs  
26 because of increasing competition and user conflict  
27 with non-Federally-qualified users. The proponents  
28 explained that high fuel costs, depressed economies,  
29 small boats and inclement weather are all impacting the  
30 ability of Pelican residents to meet their needs.  
31 Pelican residents cannot afford to have unsuccessful  
32 deer hunts or travel far from the community to hunt  
33 deer. Non-Federally-qualified users exacerbate these  
34 concerns by obstructing access, competing for deer and  
35 potentially altering deer behavior all of which  
36 decrease the chances of successful subsistence hunts  
37 and hinder the continuation of subsistence uses.  
38 Subsistence livelihoods require effective and efficient  
39 harvest. The proponents note that the proposed two  
40 week closure window in early November is the most  
41 efficient time for subsistence deer hunting. The  
42 proponents assert that this two week closure would  
43 allow for the continuation of subsistence uses and  
44 provide for a meaningful subsistence preference  
45 enhancing opportunity for subsistence users in helping  
46 them meet their needs by reducing competition and  
47 improving access to hunting areas during the most  
48 important time of deer for subsistence deer hunting.



0459

1                   Additionally, the proponents note the  
2 proposed closure area is limited in scope but  
3 represents the area most hunted by Pelican residents.  
4 The proponents state that this closure will have a  
5 relatively small impact on non-Federally-qualified  
6 users who would maintain significant time and space to  
7 hunt deer in Unit 4 but that the closure would greatly  
8 benefit local subsistence users.

9  
10                   Getting into some population  
11 information.

12  
13                   There have been no recently reported  
14 deer pellet surveys conducted in the proposal area.  
15 The last deer pellet surveys conducted on Chichagof  
16 Island took place at Pavlof Bay in 2019 and Finger  
17 Mountain in 2018. The average pellet groups counted  
18 per plot for each of these surveys indicated a high  
19 density deer population. Recent pellet surveys  
20 conducted in other parts of Unit 4 have generally  
21 indicated increasing populations from prior years.  
22 However, as a long time Pelican resident cautioned,  
23 I've hunted in Game Management Unit 4 since 1993 and  
24 have been very aware of the deer population. I have  
25 always hunted the good time between October 20th and  
26 November 24th or so, around Thanksgiving and I can  
27 witness there's a significant decrease in the  
28 population in the Pelican area. In 1998 as I would  
29 walk through my three acres and the hillsides going up  
30 the hill to hunt you would frequently see multiple deer  
31 droppings, multiple areas of droppings, now as I walk  
32 through three to eight acres of the area near  
33 Sunnyside, it's hardly one dropping for every 10 feet.  
34 So there is a significant decrease in the population in  
35 the Lisianski Inlet. I am also familiar with areas  
36 outside the inlet and I've seen a larger population  
37 there before where we've seen herds of deer, seven or  
38 eight at times in the past, we're seeing two or three  
39 now. I think the deer population in Lisianski Inlet is  
40 in danger of not being able to reproduce and keep the  
41 herd up.

42  
43                   Aerial Alpine survey work began in  
44 2013. These surveys are intended to be flown each  
45 summer before the hunting season with deer seen per  
46 hour considered the standard unit of measurement. I  
47 was not able to find any reports of aerial Alpine  
48 surveys having been conducted over the proposal area.  
49 Recent surveys were flown over Southern Admiralty  
50

0460

1 Island and Northeast Chichagof Island from 2015 to  
2 2018.

3  
4 Annual harvest data estimated from  
5 harvest reports and hunter surveys can also provide  
6 another indicator of deer population status and  
7 potential change over time. The estimated average  
8 yearly harvest in the Wildlife Analysis Areas  
9 encompassed by the proposal area decreased by  
10 approximately 16 percent or 42 deer between the 2011 to  
11 '15 and the 2016 to 2020 reporting periods. However,  
12 at least some of this reduction in harvest could be  
13 attributed to a similar reduction in the average number  
14 of reported hunters and average reported hunter days  
15 witnessed between these two reporting periods. Overall  
16 there's been a substantial decline in the average  
17 reported hunters per year, average reported hunter days  
18 per year and average reported harvest per year in the  
19 Wildlife Analysis Areas encompassed by the proposal  
20 area between 2011 to 2005 [sic] that reporting period  
21 and the 2016 to 2020 reporting period and that  
22 information is displayed in more detail on Table 12 on  
23 Page 237 and Table 8 on Page 248 of your meeting book.

24  
25 Just a bit of background about Pelican.

26  
27 Pelican is located near the Northeast  
28 coast of Chichagof Island and Lisianski Inlet. Pelican  
29 began as a commercial fishing and processing town. The  
30 commercial fishing fleet was made up of mostly family  
31 boats and Pelican was a thriving fishing community  
32 until the 1990s. Unfortunately the fishing industry,  
33 like many in this area, began a significant decline in  
34 the 1990s which culminating with the closing of the  
35 fish processing plant in 2009. Though fishing is still  
36 a key aspect of the culture in this community, the  
37 commercial fishing industry is not as strong as it was  
38 previously. And the downturn in this industry has  
39 likely played a role in the decline in Pelican's  
40 population which also started in the '90s. A Pelican  
41 resident recently explained that commercial fishing  
42 opportunities such as longlining for halibut and black  
43 cod have been decreasing and that many people left the  
44 community when Pelican Seafoods shut down. This  
45 situation is similar to that being experienced in many  
46 smaller rural communities in Southeast Alaska. Deer  
47 have been a key subsistence resource utilized by  
48 Pelican residents for many years and as I've said  
49 before generally represent the most significant  
50

0461

1 terrestrial source of meat for rural residents of  
2 Southeast Alaska. Pelican residents participated in a  
3 baseline household subsistence survey documenting their  
4 harvest and use of deer and other wild resources in  
5 1987. There have been no other comprehensive  
6 subsistence studies of Pelican that I could find,  
7 however, a new one is scheduled to be conducted during  
8 the winter this year. Still, the data provided in the  
9 '87 baseline study compares favorably to subsistence  
10 studies conducted in nearby Unit 4 communities around  
11 the same time. 91 percent of Pelican households were  
12 shown to use deer and deer ranked as the second most  
13 important resource in terms of bulk contribution to  
14 subsistence, trailing only non-salmon fish at that  
15 time.

16

17 Like other Unit 4 communities, Pelican  
18 residents typically utilize three general hunting  
19 strategies. These strategies are broadly described as  
20 the Alpine hunt, the muskeg and Forest hunt and the  
21 beach hunt. However, due to the generally steep and  
22 rugged landscape in Unit 4 beach hunting is often a  
23 preferred strategy. Alpine hunts often require  
24 overnight camping and considerable hiking and boats are  
25 used extensively to facilitate deer hunting trips to  
26 destinations that are reached along the marine passages  
27 from Pelican. The cost of living is high in Pelican  
28 like that of many other communities like Pelican in  
29 Unit 4 and many residents' incomes are limited.  
30 Successful subsistence hunting and fishing is key to  
31 local livelihoods. Though the deer population appears  
32 to be healthy on a game management-wide level and close  
33 to carrying capacity in some parts of Unit 4, the  
34 proponents and other residents of Unit 4 have noted  
35 localized declines in deer populations in recent years  
36 which have exacerbated issues of competition between  
37 different user groups in these areas. Residents have  
38 also suggested that deer populations in Unit 4 may not  
39 be tracked at a fine enough scale to consistently  
40 capture these depletions in these localized areas and  
41 that hunter effort and harvest reporting data tends to  
42 underestimate the amount of hunting effort taking place  
43 and over estimate hunting success rates. As one  
44 Pelican resident noted, I've lived in Pelican coming up  
45 on 30 years, last year 2020 I shot one deer and my  
46 wife, my daughter and I live on a fixed income, we  
47 depend on our fish and our deer to eat, we have one  
48 ferry a month if we're lucky. Alaska Seaplanes charges  
49 \$1 a pound for shipping food. We can't afford to go  
50

1 and buy the expensive beef and expensive food. Lately  
2 we've been going without food. And the increased  
3 hunting pressure in this area along with the pressure  
4 of bears has just totally hindered our hunting.  
5 Likewise another resident noted this is a low income  
6 community, subsistence hunting and fishing is really  
7 not optional for many folks here. Recent food scarcity  
8 has been exacerbated by the fact that our ferry service  
9 has been intermittent and our food supply has been  
10 undependable because of that. This is causing  
11 increasing concern about getting food into the  
12 community. It's also common for planes to Pelican to  
13 be cancelled because of bad weather. One resident  
14 explains you have to put up lots of food to sustain  
15 yourself. However, residents have noted that increased  
16 hunting pressure can lead to issues of crowding, safety  
17 and reduced hunter success due to the generally steep  
18 terrain and limited drainages in and around Lisianski  
19 Inlet. As I noted before approximately 80 percent of  
20 recent annual deer harvest in Unit 4 have been made by  
21 boat-based hunters. Regarding the deer hunting  
22 situation in and around Pelican, one long time resident  
23 commented; the big problem I see is the increased  
24 competition. There are more boats hunting and more  
25 people coming in on the airlines and on the ferry and  
26 hunting local so there's more competition in the  
27 Lisianski Inlet and more competition in the outer  
28 costal areas. Large seine boats are coming up from  
29 Sitka with three or four smaller boats attached and  
30 they are hunting areas that were traditionally hunted  
31 by people who had Forest Service leased cabins so  
32 there's more pressure all the way from Sitka to here.  
33 On the outer coast there's more space and area for deer  
34 than there is in the Inlet. The Inlet is restricted by  
35 limited drainages. A resident noted that commenting on  
36 the impact of increased hunting competition, she noted,  
37 I'm also the Chairman of the Food Bank in Pelican and  
38 in the last year we distributed over 2,000 pounds of  
39 food to residents of Pelican because of shortage of  
40 food and because of limited ferry service so I think  
41 it's important to know the degree to which people in  
42 this area depend on wild game and fish.

43  
44 Pelican residents have noted that deer  
45 harvest tend to vary somewhat from year to year based  
46 on numerous environmental factors. One area resident  
47 explained the recent winters have been less severe with  
48 less snow which can impact whether the deer are being  
49 driven to the beach fringe or not. Fewer deer  
50

0463

1 sightings may have been because the snow level was well  
2 above the beach fringe. Similarly, other Federally-  
3 qualified and non-Federally-qualified users have  
4 suggested that deer hunting issues currently being  
5 experienced by residents of places like Pelican stem  
6 from local preferences for beach hunting. They note  
7 that the perception of localized declines in Unit 4 may  
8 be due to recent mild winters which resulted in deer  
9 being spread out through Forests rather than  
10 concentrated and easily observable on the beaches.  
11 Still, other Pelican residents who hunted in areas  
12 beyond the beaches also found it difficult to harvest  
13 enough deer to meet their needs in 2020. For example,  
14 one resident explained I've hunted off the lower part  
15 of the hills and I haven't had any luck this year.  
16 Another resident commented, I've been out in the hills  
17 hunting and there's a definite lack of deer. Some  
18 Pelican residents note that they have the resources to  
19 go out to the outer coast to seek deer and have been  
20 more successful while others must stay closer to  
21 Pelican because they lack the appropriate boats or  
22 money for fuel to require to travel further away. As  
23 researchers and residents have noted, most rural  
24 Alaskans now rely upon gasoline and motorized transport  
25 to hunt and harvest subsistence resources. In a recent  
26 study of eight rural Alaskan communities quantified the  
27 impacts of rising fuel costs and depressed local  
28 economies as I discussed before.

29  
30                   Recent reductions in deer hunter days  
31 and harvest reported by Pelican residents could be  
32 related to the impact of rising fuel prices in the area  
33 coupled with the declining -- impact of declining  
34 commercial fisheries, employment and income earning  
35 opportunities. Reductions in the number and distance  
36 of trips that Pelican residents can afford to take to  
37 harvest subsistence resources would certainly  
38 contribute to issues of user conflict and competition  
39 in the proposal area.

40  
41                   Turning to the available harvest data  
42 that we have.

43  
44                   Recognizing that harvest data does have  
45 limitations we've discussed before, looking at it from  
46 2000 to 2021, proximity to Pelican appears to be a key  
47 factor like all the other communities we've discussed  
48 for residents when selecting deer hunting locations.  
49 According to the available data about 71 percent of  
50

1 Pelican residents reported deer harvests and 66 percent  
2 of their hunting days took place in the WAAs  
3 encompassed by the proposal area. Yakobi Island and  
4 Upper Lisianski Inlet accounted for roughly half of  
5 these harvests and hunting days while a smaller  
6 percentage of Pelican hunting days and deer harvest  
7 took place within the west coast Chichagof and Port  
8 Althorp area. Pelican residents reported relatively  
9 minimal hunting occurring in Wildlife Analysis Areas  
10 located outside the proposal area. Based on the  
11 reported data an average of about 147 users hunted for  
12 535 days harvesting a total of 248 deer within these  
13 Wildlife Analysis Areas. Of course this varied from  
14 year to year. In most years Federally-qualified users  
15 harvested more deer from this area due to the larger  
16 number of hunters. On average, roughly 57 percent of  
17 all hunters utilizing the proposal area each year were  
18 Federally-qualified users. However, over half of those  
19 Federally-qualified users that reported hunting in this  
20 area came from outside Pelican. The data also shows a  
21 decreasing proportion of Federally-qualified users in  
22 the proposal area over time coupled with an increasing  
23 proportion of non-Federally-qualified users. This  
24 change corresponds with the declining population  
25 witnessed in Pelican and other nearby rural communities  
26 during this period. The largest portion of non-  
27 Federally-qualified users hunting in the area came from  
28 Juneau.

29  
30 The estimated yearly data on harvest in  
31 this area shows similar trends. On average Pelican  
32 residents were responsible for about 18 percent of  
33 harvest taken while other Federally-qualified users  
34 were responsible for about 41 percent. Non-Federally-  
35 qualified users were responsible for about 41 percent  
36 as well.

37  
38 The reported data on hunter days in  
39 this area exhibits a bit of a different trend. Non-  
40 Federally-qualified users reported spending more days  
41 hunting in the area during 15 of the 22 years in this  
42 period, however, the overall average difference was  
43 relatively small. On average non-Federally-qualified  
44 users were responsible for about 51 percent of hunter  
45 days. Pelican residents were responsible for about 12  
46 percent and then other Federally-qualified users 36  
47 percent.

48  
49 Overall, each user group in this area  
50

0465

1 has reported declines and average yearly hunters,  
2 hunter days and harvest in the Wildlife Analysis Areas  
3 encompassed by the proposal area between the 2001 to  
4 2005 reporting period and the 2016 to 2020 reporting  
5 periods. Among the different user groups Pelican  
6 hunters reported the greatest percent declines and  
7 average yearly hunters, hunter days and harvests.  
8 Thought non-Federally-qualified users composed a  
9 significant portion of the hunters utilizing this area,  
10 the proposal area accounted for a relatively small  
11 amount of their overall hunting efforts and harvest in  
12 Unit 4 as a whole.

13

14                   Somewhere, about four percent of all  
15 non-Federally-qualified users reported hunting in this  
16 area between 2000 to 2021 and roughly six percent of  
17 non-Federally-qualified harvest in Unit 4 came from  
18 this area.

19

20                   Once, again, this is a very preliminary  
21 conclusion as I stated before, the OSM conclusion is to  
22 oppose WP24-06 at this time for the same reason, we're  
23 not sure right now that the level of competition being  
24 experienced in this area justifies a closure to non-  
25 Federally-qualified users. Based on the reported data,  
26 west coast Chichagof appears to be the portion of the  
27 proposal area most heavily utilized by non-Federally-  
28 qualified users accounting for roughly half of all the  
29 reporting hunting efforts and harvests in the proposal  
30 area between 2000 and 2021. Only relatively a small  
31 portion of this area would be closed under the current  
32 proposal and it's not clear whether this portion of WAA  
33 is a significant hunting location for non-Federally-  
34 qualified users.

35

36                   Then, of course, the interpretations  
37 again of this information are complicated by a number  
38 of inter-related issues such as the recent mild winters  
39 that many people have discussed.

40

41                   And overall OSM would like to hear more  
42 information to determine whether a closure in this area  
43 is necessary and we hope to receive this information,  
44 through this meeting, additional meetings of the  
45 Southeast Council and the Unit 4 deer working group.

46

47                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are  
48 there questions from the Council members regarding the  
49 OSM presentation of the proposal.

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0466

1 Mr. Hernandez.

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Mr. Hernandez.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I have a general question on your presentation. You cited a lot of interviews or excerpts of interviews, and I don't think we've heard much of before in Federal analysis, did you go out and do interviews or did you get those from other sources?

MR. ROBERTS: These are not -- through the Chair, sorry, Madame Chair. Those are not interviews, they're taken from transcripts of Council meetings. That's just me going back and searching the transcripts.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, transcripts. Transcripts, okay, that -- thank you, yeah, that makes sense. A lot of what I got from those comments and, yeah, I guess those are impressions I got hearing folks at our meetings was, you know, these proposals came before us about two years ago and in my opinion it seems like they were really prompted by the pandemic and the panic that kind of went through our rural communities when food sources were really jeopardized, outside food sources, not subsistence food sources and that, to me, kind of indicates that all of sudden there was a real increase in the needs for subsistence uses, subsistence resources, and I think that's kind of prompted, you know, these proposals that, you know, really, we're seeing an increase in the needs that are difficult to meet. If you need more, it becomes more difficult and, you know, maybe things were kind of cruising along okay for awhile but then this panic happened and, yeah, it hasn't subsided yet I don't think. Because everything is like really expensive and we've heard all that testimony too and, yeah, these are non-subsistence food sources are just becoming more difficult given the whole economy of gas prices and all that so I think we really are seeing an increase in the need here that's driving this.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there questions for Mr. Roberts. Is it a question, all right, Mr. Smith.

MR. SMITH: Yeah, I know I -- I heard you talking about the bear issues and I'm real curious, you know, when I was a young man, I never saw many bears but recently, you know, and when back when I was



0467

1 a young man they were talking five bear per square  
2 mile. And I know it's different there. There are many  
3 different bear attacks that happened in Hoonah, Ms.  
4 Oliver, one of my educators, Cody Mills, I was there  
5 just recently where a gentleman that works for  
6 PointsSafia was sharing about bears where he's  
7 protecting the community when they're going out to walk  
8 out in the viewing site, as he's talking to me he's --  
9 he's a big man, strong man, very -- and he was shaking  
10 when he was telling me. So I really worry about that,  
11 so I just share -- I think I've said this before in  
12 other events where you go back to the 1800s almost  
13 every ethnicity harvested brown bear and black bear and  
14 they are good eating because I love -- I love eating  
15 that meat.

16

17 So just sharing a perspective of seeing  
18 what that number is of if there's any data on that but  
19 actually opening it up and dropping the numbers down  
20 and opening it up to all.

21

22 Just a thought.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

25 Questions only please.

26

27 Mr. Schroeder.

28

29 MR. SCHROEDER: I don't have yes and no  
30 questions but I do have observations. Just looking at  
31 it, it was interesting, thank you for citing the 1987  
32 data, which came up with an incredible 316 deer  
33 harvested in Pelican at that time when the population  
34 was 239, which is 1.3 deer per person. And if that  
35 same harvest level held today instead of it being the  
36 last year of record is 32 deer per -- for Pelican, 83  
37 people living in Pelican should have harvested 107.9  
38 deer rounding it off to 108 deer. Pelicans had like a  
39 real population decline. The economy has been really  
40 iffy to say the least. Ferry service is rather spotty.  
41 And so I can see how there would be a particular  
42 interest in maintaining subsistence uses for deer.

43

44 I guess I'm supposed to ask a question,  
45 do you agree?

46

47 MR. ROBERTS: Yes, that makes sense to  
48 me.

49

50

0468

1 MR. SCHROEDER: Okay, that was a  
2 question.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Just  
7 to remind the Council we are -- we still have a lot of  
8 business to do and very little time to do it in, and so  
9 please, comments and observations about data and  
10 things, if we could leave that for deliberation that  
11 would be really helpful and to keep things moving along  
12 so questions only please.

13  
14 Ms. Phillips.

15  
16 MS. PHILLIPS: (Shakes head negatively)

17  
18 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. Are you  
19 sure? I don't want to discourage questions, I think  
20 questions are important but the rest of it could be  
21 handled during deliberations so Ms. Phillips.

22  
23 MS. PHILLIPS: How do you update your  
24 social data for a community like Pelican, because we  
25 now have a fish processor in Pelican that's custom  
26 processing, you know, hook and line fish?

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 MR. ROBERTS: That's a good question.  
31 We depend on readily available sources of data so  
32 unfortunately OSM doesn't really get to do their own  
33 research so we depend on other sources, other written  
34 sources of information.

35  
36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Any  
37 other questions from the Council for Mr. Roberts.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. I  
42 have one question. You've -- on all of these proposals  
43 you've called it an OSM preliminary conclusion and I'm  
44 just curious if OSM changes their potential conclusion  
45 after the Council meets and you gather input from these  
46 meetings and things like Ian Johnson's data, does that  
47 get reincorporated and do you have the leeway to change  
48 your conclusion before the Federal Board meeting?

49  
50

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1 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. And I can tell you  
2 that I've done it before for a different Council based  
3 on their input to something that I was -- came to  
4 learn, I was very far off base on. So, yes, I've done  
5 it before and we do have leeway and that's why we call  
6 it the preliminary conclusion because we can change it.

7  
8 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
9 you. All right, now we have up next -- since we don't  
10 have Board consultation with tribes we have agency  
11 comments so Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

12  
13 MR. CHURCHWELL: Thank you, Vice Chair  
14 Needham. Once, again, for the record this is Roy  
15 Churchwell, Southeast Regional Management Coordinator  
16 here with Fish and Game comments. So I will try to  
17 limit this to comments that are particular to this  
18 proposal versus the other ones. As I've mentioned  
19 before we do have a multitude of comments that are the  
20 same for all three proposals and I think you guys are  
21 pretty aware of those.

22  
23 But our position for this proposal  
24 WP24-06 is the same as the previous two, the Alaska  
25 Department of Fish and Game opposes this proposal  
26 because there are no justifications under the Alaska  
27 National Interests Lands Conservation Act for the  
28 Federal Subsistence Board to approve this closure.

29  
30 The stated purpose of this proposal is  
31 to establish a meaningful preference for the  
32 continuation of subsistence use of deer, however, the  
33 proponents provide no substantial evidence in support  
34 of claims that the few non-Federally-qualified users  
35 hunting in this area inhibit harvest by Federally-  
36 qualified users and data provided by Federally-  
37 qualified users residing in Pelican clearly indicate  
38 that the decline in harvest by that community results  
39 from declining participation and effort by Pelican  
40 hunters.

41  
42 We note that Federally-qualified users  
43 in Pelican already enjoy several meaningful  
44 preferences, including an extra month of hunting  
45 opportunity in January, a liberal designated hunter  
46 program where any Federally-qualified user can hunt on  
47 behalf of another Federally-qualified user and living  
48 close to the resource which allows Federally-qualified  
49 users to hunt whenever conditions are favorable. In  
50

1 contrast to reach Pelican, non-Federally-qualified  
2 hunters from Juneau need to plan days or weeks ahead  
3 and travel over 100 miles by a personal boat or  
4 aircraft at a time of year when days are short and  
5 inclimate weather is common. The very few non-resident  
6 hunters in this area are limited by a more restrictive  
7 bag limit of two bucks.

8

9

10 Further, we find no reference in Title  
11 VIII of ANILCA to the term meaningful preference, nor  
12 could we find justification for limiting non-Federally-  
13 qualified users hunting based on safety concerns,  
14 economics of Federally-qualified users or the potential  
15 for altering deer behavior due to poor non-Federally-  
16 qualified user marksmanship. We conclude there is no  
17 lawful justification for adopting this proposal and it  
18 should be rejected under Section .805(c)(1).

18

19

20 And if I could just go through our  
21 summary from our analysis we presented.

21

22

23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game's  
24 deer abundance survey data and deer hunting effort and  
25 harvest data provided to Alaska Department of Fish and  
26 Game by GMU 4 hunters including Pelican residents. To  
27 gage measures of hunting effort and harvest we compared  
28 the decade prior to the severe winter of 2006/2007 with  
29 the decade since 2013 when the deer population was  
30 considered recovered. Those comparisons support the  
31 following conclusions.

31

32

33 Deer remained abundant in the proposal  
34 area, deer pellet group transects, aerial Alpine  
35 surveys and late winter mortality surveys all indicate  
36 that GMU 4 deer occur at among the highest densities in  
37 the state, consequently there is no need to restrict  
38 take by non-Federally-qualified users to either  
39 conserve the deer population or to ensure continued  
40 subsistence use of the deer population.

40

41

42 Although the number of non-Federally-  
43 qualified users hunting deer in the analysis area has  
44 increased slightly about 7 percent, that increase is  
45 small and offset by a declining use of this area by  
46 hunters from other Federally-qualified communities.  
47 Total hunting pressure in the area is light. In the  
48 last decade Federally-qualified users are spending  
49 considerably less effort so total hunting pressure in  
50 the proposal area is declining. It is also likely that

50

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1 some of the non-Federally-qualified users hunting in  
2 the proposal area are former Pelican residents who  
3 moved to Juneau for employment or other opportunities  
4 but return to hunt with and on behalf of relatives and  
5 friends in Pelican. The average number of Pelican  
6 residents participating in deer hunting each year in  
7 the period -- the average number of Pelican residents  
8 who have -- sorry. The average number of Pelican  
9 residents participating in deer hunting each year and  
10 the days of hunting effort by those hunters have  
11 declined. Between the two comparison periods the  
12 average number of Pelican residents who obtain deer  
13 harvest tickets declined by 30 percent. Reported  
14 hunting declined by 35 percent. And the days of  
15 hunting effort reported by Pelican residents declined  
16 by 53 percent. That dramatic decline in hunting effort  
17 is the reason deer harvest by Pelican residents has  
18 declined not competition from non-Federally-qualified  
19 user hunters. The days of hunting effort Pelican  
20 hunters require to harvest one day -- one deer remains  
21 very low at 1.2 days of hunting per deer harvested.  
22 The proposal emphasizes that subsistence hunters need  
23 to be efficient and this is among the most efficient  
24 hunting anywhere in Alaska.

25

26 I will also say that since it's been  
27 asked for the other two proposals, the reporting rate  
28 for Pelican was 84 percent so that was our second  
29 highest reporting rate next to Gustavus.

30

31 With that that concludes my remarks.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
34 Churchwell. Are there questions from Council members  
35 for Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I have one  
40 question if there are no other questions from the  
41 Council and that is can you -- how easy is it for  
42 Pelican residents to obtain deer harvest tickets?

43

44 MR. CHURCHWELL: I guess it depends on  
45 if they have internet access. If they do have internet  
46 access it's quite easy, anyone can get deer harvest  
47 tickets on the internet. If they don't have that  
48 available, I guess I would defer to Member Phillips, if  
49 there are deer harvest tickets available in town. I

50

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1 personally don't know the answer to that.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

4

5 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

6 And thank you for the question. Yes there is a person

7 who lives outside of Pelican, one of the -- at

8 Phonograph who, when they come in you can get deer

9 harvest tickets from but you can also get them online,

10 we have a library where you could print them up if you

11 wanted.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank

14 you. Are there any other questions for Mr. Churchwell

15 at this time.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank

20 you. Are there any agency comments from other Federal

21 agencies.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Comments from

26 tribal entities.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Advisory group

31 comments from other Regional Councils.

32

33 MS. PERRY: No, Madame Chair, this is

34 just pertinent to Southeast. Thank you.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any

37 comments from Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

38

39 MS. PERRY: Yes, Madame Chair. I would

40 like to reference the comments that was mentioned

41 earlier from the Juneau/Douglas Advisory Committee.

42 They did submit a comment for all three deer proposals.

43 It was included in the summary given by Dr. Roberts

44 earlier, but I will highlight a few comments within

45 that letter. The Juneau/Douglas Advisory Committee

46 understands that the proposal's authors wish to ensure

47 a significant and meaningful priority to be afforded to

48 all Federally-qualified users but do not feel that

49 these proposals address this concern. Instead, they

50

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1 feel it creates a significant loss of opportunity for  
2 non-Federally-qualified users when they do not appear  
3 to be conservation or Federally-qualified user hunter  
4 success concerns. They urge the Board to not follow  
5 suit and support these proposals. Further, they  
6 believe that we need to support rules and regulations  
7 that create equitable and sustainable fishing hunting  
8 opportunities. And, finally, they worry the proposals  
9 could, instead, amplify tensions between Federally-  
10 qualified and non-Federally-qualified hunters straining  
11 cultural and family ties between communities in  
12 Southeast Alaska.

13

14                                 Again, the Council does have the entire  
15 comment in its packet and just wanted to let folks know  
16 that this does apply to the three deer proposals we've  
17 been discussing.

18

19                                 Thank you, Madame Chair.

20

21                                 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
22 you. Are there any comments from Subsistence Resource  
23 Commissions.

24

25                                 MS. PERRY: No, Madame Chair.

26

27                                 MS. PERRY: Thank you. All right, at  
28 this time can we get a summary of written public  
29 comments.

30

31                                 MR. ROBERTS: Ms. Vice Chair. Members  
32 of the Council. Jason Roberts, again, OSM. We've  
33 received this time 46 written public comments on this  
34 proposal all in opposition.

35

36                                 The commenters noted that ADF&G data  
37 shows that there are no conservation concerns regarding  
38 deer populations in the area and the level of  
39 competition for deer in the area does not warrant a  
40 closure. The primary issue impacting deer hunting  
41 recently has been the impact of warmer weather and this  
42 lack of snow means that deer are not being pushed down  
43 to the beaches where they can be more easily harvested.  
44 They also state that this proposal would restrict the  
45 rights of long-term seasonal residents and others with  
46 local ties to the area to hunt deer.

47

48                                 The commentators [sic] also note that  
49 this proposal does not consider the impact of other  
50

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1 Federally-qualified users.

2

3

4 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
5 you. Now, we'll move into public testimony. Are there  
6 any blue cards for the room for public testimony on  
7 this proposal.

8

9 MS. PERRY: No, Madame Chair. And for  
10 those who are sitting in the audience, again, if you  
11 would like to make a comment there are blue sheets by  
12 the sign in table. I do not see any public that wishes  
13 to do so, Madame Chair.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
18 you. And then, online, it sounds like we have at least  
19 one person who would like to provide public comment  
20 online, so Ms. Perry can you address that person.

21

22 MS. PERRY: I would be happy to. We  
23 have a caller whose phone number ends in 3-2, I believe  
24 that might be Mr. Orr, if you would press star, six to  
25 open your line that will unmute you. Star, six. And I  
26 do see you are unmuted at this time, please go ahead  
27 with your comment.

28

29 MR. ORR: This is Nicholas Orr again.  
30 I think the same issues with -- sorry, as in the Hoonah  
31 and the Angoon proposals is obviously there is not a  
32 conservation concern. The criteria in ANILCA states  
33 that you need to demonstrate that non-Federally-  
34 qualified users are creating an impediment --  
35 impediment -- impediment to the continuation of  
36 subsistence uses and I don't think it's clear here.  
37 The data seems to indicate that Pelican has the highest  
38 success ratio in the state for big game measured by  
39 days per hunter animal -- hunter days per animal, so  
40 the hunter efficacy is the highest in the state. I  
41 think that's the way you measure this. It's not  
42 necessarily whether things are expensive or it's  
43 difficult to get around, it's hunter efficacy.

44

45 So all right, thank you.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. And  
48 do we have another public comment.

49

50 MS. PERRY: Yes, Madame Chair. We have



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1 someone's number that ends in 3-7, I believe that might  
2 be Ryan Beason and that caller's line is open so you  
3 can go ahead with your comment.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. BEASON: Thank you. Yes, Ryan  
8 Beason here again. I'll just keep this brief. Just  
9 the same thing the Territorial Sportsmen opposes this  
10 proposal as well based on all the previous facts on  
11 data, facts that the Fish and Game has stated and I'll  
12 leave it at that so thank you for your time.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Do  
15 we have any other public comments by phone at this  
16 time.

17

18 MS. PERRY: No, Madame Chair.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, that  
21 concludes the introduction and comment period for the  
22 proposal and now it's time for the Council to make a  
23 recommendation and I'd entertain a motion.

24

25 Mr. Hernandez.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. I move  
28 to adopt Wildlife Proposal 24-06.

29

30 MR. CASIPIT: Second.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
33 you. A motion is now on the table for Wildlife  
34 Proposal 24-06. Is there any Council discussion  
35 regarding the proposal and also a reminder that we need  
36 to enter a justification into the record.

37

38 Mr. Hernandez.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Madame  
41 Chair. I think I would also like to make a motion to  
42 amend the proposal. I think we should remain  
43 consistent with these Unit 4 proposals on the closure  
44 dates so I would make the motion that we amend the  
45 proposal so that the closure date runs for non-  
46 Federally-qualified users, runs from November 1st  
47 through November 10th.

48

49 MR. CASIPIT: Second.

50

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1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. We  
2 now have an amendment to the proposal on the floor, is  
3 there any discussion.

4  
5                   MS. PHILLIPS: Question.

6  
7                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: The question has  
8 been called so we are now voting on the amendment to  
9 the proposal to modify the closure dates to November  
10 1st through the 10th. And I would like to get a  
11 unanimous consent so if there's anyone in opposition.

12  
13                   (No opposition)

14  
15                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. The  
16 proposal's been amended and we're back to the main  
17 motion for Wildlife Proposal 24-06. Is there any  
18 discussion from Council.

19  
20                   Ms. Phillips.

21  
22                   MS. PHILLIPS: Madame Chair. So this  
23 topic of closure for the Lisianski Inlet area began in  
24 March 17th, 2021 and there were several qualified rural  
25 residents of Pelican who called in to the Southeast  
26 RAC's winter meeting and their primary concern which  
27 was indicated in the analysis, thank you OSM you did a  
28 good job, is that deer is the main source of meat and  
29 there's outside pressure affecting their ability to  
30 meet their subsistence needs and the effects of the  
31 high cost of fuel has shortened the amount of trips  
32 they can go out to do their harvest and that elders are  
33 now hunting the beach fringe because they don't have  
34 the ability to go up into the -- you know, up into the  
35 Alpine. If they're not able to get a deer then there's  
36 some residents who have anemia because of -- they have  
37 a lack of iron if they're not getting the meat that  
38 they need for their health.

39  
40                   One thing I didn't say when I was  
41 introducing myself is that I'm the Mayor for the city  
42 of Pelican. I've served as Mayor and Council member  
43 for a lot of years. 12 years Mayor. Sometimes as an  
44 elected or an appointed representative of a community I  
45 live in I have to make decision in the best interest of  
46 the community, sometimes that means setting aside some  
47 of my own opinions to meet the best needs of the  
48 community. Previously I have indicated that I was  
49 concerned about, you know, this issue of family members  
50

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1 no longer residing in Pelican and residing in non-rural  
2 communities, but since then I've realized that my  
3 charge as a Southeast RAC member is for the  
4 continuation of subsistence resources and how can I  
5 best do that so I have to represent that voice that  
6 came to this RAC saying that their subsistence needs  
7 aren't being met.

8  
9                   Also I would like to reference, again,  
10 the preliminary results of the SASSI deer work for  
11 Southeast Subsistence RAC prepared by Ian Johnson,  
12 Hoonah Indian Association, 10/24/23, the section for  
13 Pelican says the greatest concern that the community  
14 members that were interviewed have that -- the concern  
15 they have is abundance. And so -- and he also had some  
16 interview statements that the traditional ways of  
17 knowing, being -- aren't being passed on and we need  
18 more of our traditional Tlingit ways of being and  
19 knowing being taught to our community in use, and fact  
20 of the matter is most hunters equals more -- more  
21 hunters equal more spooked deer than having to relocate  
22 as a hunter and dealing with a population of deer that  
23 are more weary so hunting trips I take usually go out  
24 further where most go to avoid these scenarios and one  
25 person said a local -- would prefer a localized  
26 preference for local hunters.

27  
28                   In the analysis on Page 234, so it  
29 talks about the deer pellet surveys and it also stated  
30 that there haven't been current deer pellet surveys in  
31 the Lisianski area and that the deer pellet surveys  
32 were conducted at Finger Mountain, which is between  
33 Hoonah Sound and Tenakee Inlet and at Pavlof, which is  
34 at Freshwater Bay east side of Chichagof Island, about  
35 8.5 miles east of Tenakee. I brought this to the  
36 attention of the RAC before but the Lisianski Inlet  
37 area has its own micro-climate, we have Brady Glacier  
38 on the other side of Cross Sound that's sending down a  
39 lot of cold air, the Lisianski Straits area acts as a  
40 refrigerator where this cold air gets blocked in so we  
41 get higher levels of snow and snow that stays longer,  
42 which impacts the survivability of deer populations.  
43 And in the transcripts from the March 17th, 2021 it  
44 talks -- one of the trappers talks about when he was  
45 running his trapline he would find the mortality of  
46 deer was like every 50 yards.

47  
48                   So -- also that there are limited small  
49 boat anchorages and there's greater fragmentation of  
50

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1 the landscape from landslide, wind blow downs and just  
2 from, you know, just the topography of the area, a lot  
3 of like cliffs and hard to -- it's impossible to  
4 traverse across those locations so where you have  
5 alluvial fans you'll find, likely find deer  
6 populations. So the deer population surveys are not  
7 specific to the conditions in Lisianski Inlet.

8

9                   So, you know, we as residents of the  
10 Pelican area are familiar, you know, that's our local  
11 knowledge that they brought forth to this Regional  
12 Advisory Council.

13

14                   And let's see, I -- the community -- I  
15 have to listen to the voice of the community and we did  
16 hold a community meeting after that first proposal and  
17 it was, as OSM indicated, there was a lot of stress and  
18 tension and people don't really want to sit in on those  
19 kind of meetings and so why should they be involved if  
20 -- that they're wary of their life is going to be torn  
21 up or, you know, hard feelings are going to be, you  
22 know, as a result of those sort of types of meetings.  
23 And as the Chairperson of the local Fish and Game  
24 Advisory Committee it was a very uncomfortable meeting  
25 and I was distraught after it that I had to put my  
26 community through that sort of a -- trying to find  
27 consensus, you know, it's either one way or the other.

28

29                   So I applaud the Regional Advisory  
30 Council for, you know, sticking to their authority, to  
31 their call to arms on protecting the continuation of  
32 subsistence rights by, you know, resubmitting another  
33 proposal. This proposal, you know, it was a October,  
34 November, December closure for non-Federally-qualified  
35 and now this proposal that we're talking is a 10 day  
36 proposal, so I think we listened to the voice of the  
37 non-Federally-qualified hunters and if you look at the  
38 data in the book it talks about the number of hunters.  
39 Well, the overall harvest from the Lisianski Strait  
40 area is 4 percent of the Unit 4 harvest, so it's 4  
41 percent and then the number of hunters is -- there's a  
42 significant amount of non-Federally-qualified and so  
43 this perception that there is competition is real and  
44 the amount of deer that they take is what -- you know,  
45 the abundance that we see is real because the amount of  
46 deer -- winter mortality is greater than the amount of  
47 deer mortality for other areas of Southeast Alaska due  
48 to the heavy snowfall events and, yeah, so I guess I'll  
49 leave it at that.

50

0479

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.

4 Phillips. Are there other Council comments or

5 deliberation on this proposal.

6

7 Mr. Douville.

8

9 MR. DOUVILLE: I drove my boat up and  
10 down Lisianski, I used to fish there back in the day  
11 and there's not a lot of good beaches for deer there,  
12 it's steep ground. So most of the deer here according  
13 to this are taken during the month of November and  
14 there is significant competition from outside as well.  
15 Just looking at the percentages. And this proposal is  
16 only asking for a small window in that November, which,  
17 to me, leaves adequate time for any non-rural users to  
18 hunt. But it does provide a rural priority and that's  
19 our job. We're not saying there's a conservation  
20 concern, there's a competition concern. And I think  
21 this would address it and perhaps give that opportunity  
22 to rural users.

23

24 I intend to support this proposal.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.

27 Douville. Other Council comments.

28

29 Mr. Bemis.

30

31 MR. BEMIS: Madame Chair. Yes, I agree  
32 with the amendment based on the area and if we're going  
33 to stay consistent it would be breaking up and possibly  
34 look at favoring one user group versus another. And if  
35 we keep this consistent along with the consistent  
36 information they have given it looks like the non  
37 oppose -- I mean the opposers outweigh the actual  
38 users. So it's kind of a Catch 22, darn if you do,  
39 darn if you don't so I am agreeing that we hold  
40 consistency and we go with what we agreed upon.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.

45 Bemis. Any other Council.

46

47 Mr. Schroeder.

48

49 MR. SCHROEDER: I just -- I think the

50

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1 rationale for this proposal is very much like the  
2 rationale for the last two with respect to our  
3 responsibility to ensure the continuation of  
4 subsistence uses so I'd simply reference our main  
5 statement that we're making in this cycle. I think, if  
6 anything, our record, public record on this proposal is  
7 particularly strong because of the major input from  
8 Pelican residents at previous meetings, which Council  
9 members have heard and are incorporating into the  
10 evaluation of this proposal.

11

12 So I'll be voting in favor of this  
13 proposal and I think it, again, follows this Council's  
14 desire to ensure the continuation of subsistence uses  
15 while having the least affect possible on non-  
16 Federally-qualified hunters.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Schroeder.

22

23 Mr. Douville.

24

25 MR. DOUVILLE: I would like to thank  
26 Patty for her TEK in this area pointing out that it is  
27 an ice box. There are some places like that. We have  
28 them here even though they're smaller based, and  
29 they're just cold. They don't warm up for whatever  
30 reason. I mean the groundwater for ice fog is in there  
31 and it's warm everywhere else. It's an interesting  
32 observation that it holds more snow and it keeps it  
33 longer. And barring that they haven't done any real  
34 scientific research even as far as deer pellets in  
35 there. But thanks, Patty, for pointing that out.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
38 Douville.

39

40 Ms. Phillips.

41

42 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
43 So Page 248, Table 8, the five year average for  
44 Federally-qualified hunters from 2016 to 2020 is 87 and  
45 the non-Federally-qualified is 62 and then for 2021  
46 which is the heavy snow year it -- the number of  
47 Federally-qualified -- total number of Federally-  
48 qualified hunters was 124 and non-Federally-qualified  
49 was 63 so besides, you know, the Pelican hunter you  
50

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1 also have the other Federally-qualified hunters which  
2 use this area but it also -- it isn't -- this table  
3 isn't limited to only the proposal area because the  
4 outside of Yakobi is -- their harvest and number of  
5 hunters is included in these numbers, which there's  
6 quite a bit of hunters that go to the outside of  
7 Yakobi for their hunting and they can still do that  
8 because we're not closing that area off.

9

10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.  
13 Phillips. Are there any other Council comments.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Anyone ready to  
18 call for the question.

19

20 MR. KITKA: Call for the question.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville.

23

24 MR. DOUVILLE: I guess my question  
25 would be did we cover the criteria in the  
26 recommendation unnecessarily restrict other uses. I  
27 think it's a necessary restriction and it's a small  
28 restriction overall. And I think it is necessary. It  
29 isn't unnecessary, I believe it is necessary. And it  
30 will be beneficial to subsistence needs of Pelican  
31 rural users, they depend on it, they have to have it,  
32 they don't have a lot of resource, or airplanes, ferry  
33 occasionally, and those are really valuable. And I  
34 believe that biologic and traditional ecological  
35 knowledge plays a part here. So there is no  
36 conservation concern.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for  
39 that.

40

41 MR. KITKA: Question.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: The question's  
44 been called. So now we will have a roll call vote  
45 regarding Wildlife Proposal 24-06 which requests to  
46 close Federal public lands and that closure would be  
47 from November 1st through the 10th.

48

49 Ms. Perry.

50

0482

1 MS. PERRY: And as a reminder this is  
2 on the motion as amended just stated by the Chair.

3  
4 Larry Bemis.

5  
6 MR. BEMIS: Yes.

7  
8 MS. PERRY: Cal Casipit.

9  
10 MR. CASIPIT: Yes.

11  
12 MS. PERRY: Mike Douville.

13  
14 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes.

15  
16 MS. PERRY: Albert Howard.

17  
18 MR. HOWARD: Yes.

19  
20 MS. PERRY: Louie Wagner, Jr.

21  
22 MR. WAGNER: Yes.

23  
24 MS. PERRY: Harvey Kitka.

25  
26 MR. KITKA: Yes.

27  
28 MS. PERRY: John Smith, III.

29  
30 MR. SMITH: Yes.

31  
32 MS. PERRY: Robert Schroeder.

33  
34 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes.

35  
36 MS. PERRY: Patricia Phillips.

37  
38 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

39  
40 MS. PERRY: Donald Hernandez.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

43  
44 MS. PERRY: Cathy Needham.

45  
46 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

47  
48 MS. PERRY: And just checking on the  
49 phone for our other two Council members, Frank Wright,  
50



0483

1 if you are on the phone press star, six and open your  
2 line.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MS. PERRY: Frank Wright.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. PERRY: And Member Jim Slater, are  
11 you on the line to vote?

12

13 MR. SLATER: Yes, I am. I vote yes.

14

15 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Slater.  
16 Madame Chair. The vote passes 12 to zero, one absent.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.  
19 Perry. At this time I'd also like to acknowledge that  
20 during the deliberation of this proposal there was  
21 somebody who raised their hand to provide public  
22 comment, unfortunately because there was a proposal on  
23 the floor and we were in deliberations we could not  
24 take it at that time but that person also submitted  
25 written comments to us which the Council does consider  
26 in its decisionmaking process and if you are still on  
27 the line we encourage you to continue to put your  
28 public comment forth, you'll have another opportunity  
29 at the Federal Subsistence Board meeting as well as we  
30 do have your written comment.

31

32 Next up on our agenda we have statewide  
33 wildlife proposal that it is at this Council's  
34 discretion if they would like to hear this proposal.  
35 An option is also to take no action on the proposal.  
36 So on the agenda is Wildlife Proposal 24-01 to allow  
37 the sale of brown bear hides and I'd like to know what  
38 the Council would like to do about this, if we take no  
39 action then we don't necessarily need to go through the  
40 presentation process. So are there any thoughts -- are  
41 there any Council members that would like to go through  
42 the entire process for Wildlife Proposal 24-01.

43

44 Mr. Casipit.

45

46 MR. CASIPIT: I guess before I can make  
47 a decision like that I just wanted to know from Staff  
48 if there are any places in Southeast where under our  
49 regs we allow two bears every regulatory year in

50

0484

1 Southeast.

2

3

MR. VICKERS: Not that I know of.

4

5

6

MR. CASIPIT: Then I -- yeah, okay,  
that answers my question.

7

8

MR. VICKERS: But.....

9

10

11

REPORTER: Brent, if you're going to  
talk turn the mic on.

12

13

MR. CASIPIT: Follow up.

14

15

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Casipit.

16

17

18

MR. CASIPIT: You had a but there, I  
want to hear the but part.

19

20

21

22

23

MR. VICKERS: No, you're correct, from  
what I see in the regulations there's no area within  
this region that has a two bear limit. The proposal is  
for the sale of brown bear hides, that's all.

24

25

26

MR. CASIPIT: But, again, in places  
where there's a two bear limit?

27

28

29

MR. VICKERS: That's not the propo --  
that's not the -- what's written by the proponent.

30

31

32

MR. CASIPIT: That's your modification,  
that's the OSM modification?

33

34

MR. VICKERS: (Nods affirmatively)

35

36

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Wagner.

37

38

39

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42

MR. WAGNER: If I can, would I be  
allowed to ask, who would be able to sell these bear  
hides, I mean besides the hunter, is that every brown  
bear tag that's given out, they can sell the bear hide?

43

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46

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ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, I  
think since there are questions by the Council what we  
probably should do is go through the process of having  
the proposal presented to us and then we can decide  
after the public testimony portion whether or not we  
want to take action on it and deliberate the proposal.  
So I'm assuming Mr. Brent Vickers is up here to present

0485

1 the proposal, if you could do so at this time that'd be  
2 great?

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MR. VICKERS: Thank you, Madame Vice Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Brent Vickers of the Office of Subsistence Management. The analysis of Proposal 24-01 begins on Page 266 of your Council books. It was submitted by Caleb Rowland of McCarthy, Alaska and there's a request to allow the sale of brown bear hides.

The proponent states that subsistence users in many areas of Alaska must salvage the hides of brown bears, however, hides must not be sold. The proponent continues that the hides of many other legally harvested big game species may be sold and brown bears should be added to this list.

First of all the Federal Regulatory Handbook produced for the public that describes legal uses of brown bears is incorrect. It implies it is legal to sell brown bear hides but it is illegal. The Code of Federal Regulations regarding the utilization of brown bears are correctly reflected in the appendix in the analysis of your meeting book.

It is also important to note that selling the hide of legally harvested brown bear is legal under State regulations including most of Federal public lands, except for lands designated National Park or Monument, which are only open to hunting under Federal subsistence regulations.

So for the proponent, who lives in McCarthy, which is within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, the primary effect of adopting this proposal would be to allow the sale of hides, brown bear hides harvested from the lands within that National Park. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park is also -- has lands within Unit 5 of this region but as was brought up there's another factor that weighs into the potential impacts of this particular section of the Park in Unit 5 where there is a one bear brown bag limit. Under State regulations a hide of a legally harvested brown bear may only be sold if it is taken in an area with a two or more brown bear limit, therefore, brown bear hides under State regulations cannot be sold from this region.

1                   This proposal requests the sale of any  
2 brown bear hide harvested from Federal lands under  
3 Federal regulations, this means that for this region  
4 the primary effect of adopting this proposal will be to  
5 allow for the sale of hide of any brown bear taken on  
6 Federal public lands and under Federal regulations and,  
7 therefore, Federally-qualified subsistence users from  
8 this region could sell brown bear hides harvested in  
9 this region.

10  
11                   This is a statewide proposal that will  
12 be reviewed by all 10 Regional Advisory Councils. Each  
13 Council can inform the Federal Subsistence Board  
14 whether the regulation is culturally appropriate for  
15 their region.

16  
17                   If this proposal is adopted the edible  
18 meat of a brown bear must still be salvaged and the  
19 hide -- and the hide must have the claws attached and  
20 the hide must be sealed by ADF&G according to already  
21 existing Federal regulations.

22  
23                   The OSM preliminary conclusion begins  
24 on Page 279 of your Council book.

25  
26                   Our conclusion is to support with  
27 modification to allow for the sale of brown bear hides  
28 in areas where Federal harvest limit is two bears every  
29 regulatory year and after first obtaining a permit to  
30 sell brown grizzly bear hide and skull available at the  
31 time of sealing from an ADF&G sealing officer. This  
32 modification to the proposal puts limits on the sale of  
33 brown bear hides, the sale of brown bear hides could  
34 only occur from brown bears shown to be legally  
35 harvested in the areas where there's a two brown limit,  
36 which doesn't include this region.

37  
38                   A consideration that -- basically the  
39 reason for this modification is because the Convention  
40 of International Trade and Endangered Species of Wild  
41 Fauna or Flora, or CITES which provides for commercial  
42 trade of hides of legally harvested brown bears only if  
43 the State of experts [sic] issues permits reporting  
44 that the trade will not be detrimental to the survival  
45 of the species in the wild. Therefore, a permit from  
46 ADF&G is required. ADF&G issues this type of permit  
47 before the hide of the brown bear [sic] but only in  
48 areas where there is a two brown bear limit. Allowing  
49 for the sale of hide of any brown bear harvested from  
50

0487

1 areas below two brown bear limit would require  
2 negotiations with the State over the use of its  
3 permitting system.

4

5 In terms of regulating harvest, tools  
6 exist for the Board to use if harvest were to rise  
7 above sustainable yields in an area. Those tools  
8 include reducing seasons on the harvest limits, placing  
9 monetary caps on the sale on a region by region basis  
10 and requiring permits for the -- for and reporting  
11 sales.

12

13 Again, this is a statewide proposal and  
14 will be reviewed by all 10 Regional Advisory Councils.  
15 Each Council can inform the Board whether the  
16 regulation is culturally appropriate for their region.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Vickers. Are there any questions regarding the  
22 presentation of the proposal.

23

24 Mr. Hernandez.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Madame  
27 Chair. It kind of sounds like maybe you're kind of  
28 preliminary just kind of looking for input from the  
29 Council on whether or not you think it's culturally  
30 appropriate, which may not necessarily require any kind  
31 of vote or action but maybe just want to hear some  
32 comments from the Council on that, is that where you're  
33 going at before there?

34

35 MR. VICKERS: No, that -- I think that  
36 -- I didn't write that part and quite frankly I kind of  
37 wish I didn't say it that way but I think it's because  
38 in a lot of regions of the state where there are a lot  
39 more taboo on bears, who the analyst who wrote that  
40 sentence included that. That might not be the case for  
41 here, I don't know. Really, we're just seeing  
42 basically if you find a comment -- recommend the way  
43 you want, we want a recommendation.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Any other  
48 comments from Council members -- or questions from  
49 Council members.

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0488

1 (No comments)

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ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank you, Mr. Vickers. Next up we will have agency comments, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

MR. CHURCHWELL: Thank you, Madame Chair. This is Roy Churchwell with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The position for the Department -- Alaska Department of Fish and Game is they support this proposal if it is modified to only allow the sale of brown bear hides with claws attached in areas where the Federal harvest limit is two bears every regulatory year and after first obtaining a permit available at the time of sealing from an Alaska Department of Fish and Game sealing officer.

The State allows the sale of brown bear hides in certain units where the bag limit is two brown bears per regulatory year. There is a harvest limit of two or more brown bears per regulatory year in 2023 State regulations for all portions of Unit 16, 17, 19A, 19D, 19E, 20E, 21, 22A, 22B, 22D, 22E, Unit 23, 24B, 25D and 26A.

I will also say that the Department feels that impacts on subsistence users, so Federally-qualified users, can sell handicraft articles made from the hide of a brown bear under Federal regulations. If this proposal is adopted there will be fewer conditions or regulations that come into effect.

Impacts on other users, if adopted, there would be little anticipated effect on non-Federally-qualified users. If, however, this change results in increased brown bear harvest, especially in coastal areas then guided bear hunting and associated economic impacts could be affected negatively.

And that concludes my remarks.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank you Mr. Churchwell. Are there any questions for Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Mr. Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Madame Chair. Okay, you need a permit to do this obviously, you have

0489

1 to have the claws attached to the hide. My question  
2 is, okay, I bought a bear from Mr. Schroeder so how far  
3 does that apply? If I'm the second person to own it,  
4 can I pluck the claws off and sell one to Cal here  
5 because they're worth some money?

6  
7 MR. CHURCHWELL: Through the Chair.  
8 Mr. Douville. My impression based on my personal  
9 knowledge of what we're talking about today is that you  
10 wouldn't be able to do that.

11  
12 MR. DOUVILLE: Would not?

13  
14 MR. CHURCHWELL: You would not be able  
15 to do that.

16  
17 MR. DOUVILLE: But the second person  
18 doesn't have to have a permit so I don't see any  
19 criteria that says that permit follows the bear in  
20 perpetuity.

21  
22 MR. CHURCHWELL: Through the Chair.  
23 Mr. Douville. I have to admit that I don't have enough  
24 background in this topic to be able to answer your  
25 question. I can get back to you.

26  
27 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you.

28  
29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. It  
30 sounds like a loophole from the get-go.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any  
35 other questions for the Alaska Department of Fish and  
36 Game.

37  
38 Mr. Kitka.

39  
40 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair. I  
41 heard the word subsistence come in there and realizing  
42 subsistence and the State of Alaska requires that we  
43 utilize everything within the bear. You know our  
44 people never utilized anything in the brown bear. They  
45 did in the black bear but not in the brown bear. Part  
46 of it's culture and part of it's the taste of brown  
47 bear is not that great. But I don't understand the  
48 reason for that. I know that sport hunters don't  
49 really have to utilize everything, I don't understand  
50

0490

1 why there's such a discrepancy. And then -- but I -- I  
2 can't see the reasoning for any sale of any bear hides  
3 at this point, thank you.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, any  
6 other questions for the Alaska Department of Fish and  
7 Game.

8

9 MR. HOWARD: Just a comment.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard.

12

13 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
14 Having spent all this time with my dad hunting and  
15 fishing and everything I seen him eat some pretty  
16 questionable stuff and he wouldn't even touch a brown  
17 bear so I'm not sure -- yeah, that doesn't make sense  
18 why we're required to save any of it. I have no reason  
19 to shoot a brown bear unless he's coming, charging at  
20 me and then that's kind of the only reason I'd ever --  
21 you know, to protect myself or, you know, like the law  
22 says, life and property. But having done that once or  
23 twice in Angoon, we had to skin it and then send it  
24 out, but, yeah. I'm trying to figure out what they  
25 mean by edible meat on a bear. If my dad wouldn't even  
26 eat a brown bear, he'd eat a black bear but not a brown  
27 bear.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, Mr.  
30 Churchwell.

31

32 MR. CHURCHWELL: Yeah, through the  
33 Chair to Mr. Howard and Mr. Kitka. It's my  
34 understanding that under State regulations you wouldn't  
35 have to salvage the meat but those are regulations  
36 under the Federal system so they would be the ones that  
37 are creating that regulation.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
40 Churchwell.

41

42 Ms. Phillips.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. So as it's  
45 written now, State regulations are more liberal than  
46 Federal regulations, is that correct?

47

48 MR. CHURCHWELL: Through the Chair.  
49 Member Phillips. At least in my interpretation of

50



0491

1 salvage that would be the case.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Any other  
4 questions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
9 Churchwell. Are there any agency comments from other  
10 Federal agencies.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Tribal entities.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Advisory group  
19 comments. Are there any comments from other Regional  
20 Advisory Councils.

21

22 MS. PERRY: I believe Mr. Vickers has  
23 those.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Vickers.

26

27 MR. VICKERS: This is Brent Vickers,  
28 Office of Subsistence Management. I have  
29 recommendations from 7 Councils that have met at this  
30 point. I'll go through them.

31

32 Kodiak/Aleutians Council supported the  
33 proposal as written. It would allow the subsistence  
34 users to make fuller use of the animal in keeping with  
35 basic principles of subsistence. It would also allow  
36 subsistence users to make some money to support their  
37 livelihoods in places where the cost of living is  
38 always high.

39

40 Southcentral Alaska Advisory Council  
41 supported the proposal as written. OSM modification  
42 would not have allowed the sale of brown bears in the  
43 Southcentral region because the limits are mostly one  
44 brown bear per regulatory year.

45

46 Eastern Interior supported the proposal  
47 with modification. The modification to allow the sale  
48 of hides of brown bears as well as -- oh, sorry, they  
49 -- sorry, this was written poorly. They modified it to

50

0492

1 allow the sale of black bears as well as brown bears.  
2 That was their -- Alaska Interior [sic] supported their  
3 modification to allow the sale of black bears as long  
4 -- as well as brown bears.

5

6 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta opposed the  
7 proposal. The Council found that while bear  
8 populations in their region is increasing as the moose  
9 population increases and people are seeing bears in  
10 different areas than they were before, it is still hard  
11 to estimate the overall statewide bear population and  
12 bears are slow to reproduce. They also raised concerns  
13 related to illegal harvest, particularly for the  
14 illegal sale of gall bladders.

15

16 The Northwest Arctic Council supported  
17 the proposal as written. The change will better align  
18 State and Federal regulations with the understanding  
19 that there will be administrative hurdles. The change  
20 will also increase the capacities of subsistence users  
21 to sell brown bears from their region.

22

23 Bristol Bay Council supported the  
24 proposal as written.

25

26 And the Western Interior Council  
27 supported the proposal with the OSM modification.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
32 Vickers. Are there Advisory Group comments from Fish  
33 and Game Advisory Committees.

34

35 MS. PERRY: I would have to defer to  
36 Office of Subsistence Management for Fish and Game  
37 Advisory.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Subsistence  
42 Resource Commissions.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Vickers, can  
47 we get a summary of written public comments.

48

49 MR. VICKERS: There were none.

50

0493

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: There were none,  
2 all right. Is there any public testimony regarding the  
3 proposal in the room with blue cards.

4  
5                   MS. PERRY: No, Madame Chair.

6  
7                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Is there anyone  
8 on the telephone that wishes to provide public comment  
9 on the proposal.

10  
11                   MS. PERRY: I'll go to the phones and,  
12 again, let folks know if you'd like to provide a  
13 comment by phone, first raise your hand, that feature  
14 can be engaged on your phone by hitting asterisk five,  
15 that's star, and the number 5, and that will let us  
16 know that you want to comment.

17  
18                   I am looking right now and don't see  
19 anything but perhaps we could wait just a moment or  
20 two, Madame Chair, to make sure that we don't miss  
21 anyone.

22  
23                   (Pause)

24  
25                   MS. PERRY: I am not seeing any  
26 indication, Madame Chair.

27  
28                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.  
29 Perry. All right, what is the wish of the Council  
30 regarding Wildlife Proposal 24-01.

31  
32                   Mr. Douville.

33  
34                   MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
35 I move to take no action on YP23-01 [sic].

36  
37                   MR. CASIPIT: Second.

38  
39                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

40  
41                   Mr. Douville.

42  
43                   MR. DOUVILLE: I made that motion  
44 because we do not have a two bear limit here other than  
45 black bear and I believe we can sell a black bear  
46 should we choose and we don't understand the traditions  
47 and we're far removed so it -- it's something that I  
48 believe that those affected regions should be able to  
49 address.

50

0494

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Any  
2 other Council comments.

3  
4                   Ms. Phillips.

5  
6                   MS. PHILLIPS: I will support the  
7 motion but I also would support the sale of brown bear  
8 hide as originally written.

9  
10                  Thank you, Madame Chair.

11  
12                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Smith.

13  
14                  MR. SMITH: Yeah, I'm an artist and my  
15 wife and a lot of my family and I really believe that,  
16 you know, us being able to sell it. And, you know,  
17 truthfully, you know, listening to people not eating  
18 brown bear, there's a lot of families that eat the  
19 brown bear and use lots of the parts and maybe we need  
20 to get them on the table. But, you know, earlier  
21 talking about the population and there's -- and, of  
22 course, I want to hear the number of what that is  
23 because I know it's outrageous, it would also cut down  
24 a lot of the incidences with the bear but it also would  
25 support our deer and our other population with other  
26 animals. So make note that it wasn't just the Alaska  
27 Native and American Native people that were hunting the  
28 bear it was all cultures that were hunting the bear for  
29 the food. If you didn't have a bear up on your, you  
30 know, it was kind of a sign of healthy living and it's  
31 good meat. Trichinosis, making sure that you cook it  
32 well was the issue. I know that a certain time people  
33 stopped eating it because of the warning of that.

34  
35                  Anyhow.

36  
37                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
38 Smith. Any other Council comments.

39  
40                  Mr. Wagner.

41  
42                  MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
43 Could you read the motion again, please.

44  
45                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: The motion was  
46 to take no action on Wildlife Proposal 24-01.

47  
48                  Mr. Wagner.

49  
50

0495

1 MR. WAGNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
2 I agree with the motion. I do not agree with selling  
3 the hides. With the charter industry in here and from  
4 the amount of bears I've seen throughout my life  
5 hunting on the river for deer and fishing shrimp  
6 throughout Southeast and up in Beam Canal in 2020 and  
7 2011 my crew and I, we were enjoying watching this,  
8 about six brown bears come down every evening and  
9 morning they would feed on the flats. Well, the day we  
10 were going into town to sell the shrimp here comes a  
11 yacht, he comes in there, I came back up two days  
12 later, those bears never seen them again, they were  
13 gone, they had to have taken all six of them. And we  
14 don't have that many brown bears in lower Southeast.

15  
16 So thank you, Madame Chair.

17  
18 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
19 Wagner. Any other Council comments.

20  
21 Mr. Kitka.

22  
23 MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, thank you. I  
24 have more of a comment than anything. Years ago when  
25 my dad was a young man there was a bounty on the noses  
26 of brown bears and bears in particular whereas they  
27 pretty near wiped them down to where we almost didn't  
28 see any bears. And during that time they found out the  
29 reason why there were bears within our areas, the bears  
30 are very essential in keeping the fish moving in the  
31 streams so they don't get contaminated, they keep the  
32 fish moving, if the fish didn't keep moving they'd  
33 cause a disease within that area. Like a lot of  
34 things, part of the cycle of what we live by, the bears  
35 are very important to our streams and our fishery.

36  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
40 Kitka.

41  
42 Mr. Bemis.

43  
44 MR. BEMIS: Yes, thank you, Mrs. Chair.  
45 I can say that you wouldn't believe the amount of brown  
46 bears that we've got in Yakutat and in the area, I mean  
47 there has to be at least a couple every square mile, I  
48 mean they're everywhere. When they don't have a fish  
49 on and the water conditions are low those bears come  
50

0496

1 down out of the mountains, down the streams, into the  
2 city, into the camps. We had 16 break ins in one fall  
3 time of camps and they just kept ravaging once they  
4 figured out -- and I had a bear go into my trailer that  
5 I had at camp and he didn't go in to eat anything, he  
6 was trying to get to the rodents in the insulation.  
7 Same with my cabin across the street. Ripped it apart  
8 to get the rodents out of the insulation.

9  
10 What I'm getting at, I've had them --  
11 put garbage in the back of my truck right in the city  
12 and I ran in to grab more, I bring it from camp, I ran  
13 out to bring more and the bag was gone and here's  
14 prints in broad daylight in my truck. But like the  
15 fishing's good, the bears are are -- and I would say  
16 that if you started selling hides that place would be  
17 the first place people would go because it isn't very  
18 hard to run across bear there.

19  
20 I'm going to be a neutral on this until  
21 there's more information and also I would like to see  
22 what the northern people are doing, you know, and get a  
23 feeling for this. I don't think we have enough  
24 information and enough support from all the different  
25 regions to make a decision on it.

26  
27 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
28 Bemis.

29  
30 Mr. Howard and then Mr. Smith.

31  
32 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
33 Is there any instances of illegal sales of hides that  
34 you're aware of?

35  
36 MR. CHURCHWELL: Through the Chair.  
37 Mr. Howard. I guess I would say that I am aware of a  
38 few. Occasionally you do see -- we usually see them on  
39 Facebook, folks pop up and try to sell a bear hide  
40 occasionally.

41  
42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Follow up, Mr.  
43 Howard.

44  
45 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair. So that's  
46 the only thing I have a problem with, is someone might  
47 abuse the privilege of doing this, you know, they sell  
48 one legally and then they get a taste of it. Does this  
49 fall under the criteria of you're only allowed to make  
50

0497

1 \$300 off your subsistence or do they actually sell them  
2 for more than that?

3

4 MR. CHURCHWELL: Through the Chair. Mr.  
5 Howard. I guess the prices that I've seen have been  
6 more than \$300.

7

8 MR. HOWARD: Thank you. So Madame  
9 Chair I mentioned mountain goat hides and encouraging  
10 hunters to bring the hides back down for the weavers  
11 and I'm not going to say how much a weaver was willing  
12 to pay for a hide just because of the \$300 threshold I  
13 seem to keep it back in the mind somewhere from  
14 somewhere but -- thank you, Madame Chair. I'm going to  
15 have to -- this is a hard one for me because I could  
16 see this -- once you allow the sale of this, someone's  
17 going to assume you don't need a permit and you don't  
18 -- yeah, this could just get really bad.

19

20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. I  
23 also want to remind the Council that the motion on the  
24 floor is to take no action on this proposal. We are  
25 discussing support and opposition in our deliberations,  
26 which is probably fine for the record but when it comes  
27 down to the vote at this point the motion on the floor  
28 is take no action.

29

30 Mr. Smith.

31

32 MR. SMITH: I just want to echo the,  
33 you know, the -- what Larry was sharing. You know when  
34 I'm in Hoonah, there was -- like I said they had a  
35 gentleman coming to keep the community safe and even  
36 through years of being in Hoonah when the bears came in  
37 Mr. (Indiscernible) was a bear guide and a lot of times  
38 the cops -- then they would go through the Fish and  
39 Game and they would actually harvest that bear just for  
40 safety reasons. But like what Albert was saying, I  
41 think he's right, even though if we do be able to sell  
42 the hide I think we still should keep the -- you know,  
43 that way we're keeping track of who's out in the field  
44 and what they're doing and the reporting.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: Call for the question.

49

50

0498

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, the  
2 question's been called. Do we need a roll call -- I  
3 don't know that we need a roll call vote. So the  
4 motion on the floor is to take no action on Wildlife  
5 Proposal 24-01 all in favor signify by saying yah.

6  
7                   IN UNISON: Yah.

8  
9                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Anyone opposed  
10 to taking no action say nay.

11  
12                   (No nay votes)

13  
14                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Motion carries.  
15 All right, that concludes our proposal work, however,  
16 I'd like to remind the Council that we still have a  
17 number of action items and so given that it's getting  
18 late in the afternoon we are going to go through the  
19 agenda and address action items next and first, before  
20 we go to non-action items.

21  
22                   So the next agenda item is topics for  
23 the annual report.

24  
25                   MR. SCHROEDER: We have to put  
26 something on the record for our comments on  
27 aquaculture.

28  
29                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, Mr.  
30 Schroeder, that's on the list. Do you need me to let  
31 you know -- annual reports is the next action item,  
32 aquaculture is down there a ways as an action item.

33  
34                   Mr. Douville.

35  
36                   MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
37 The -- T&H was asking for our support for their efforts  
38 on co-management of sea otter and blood quantum.

39  
40                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
41 you, Mr. Douville. Are there other items that we want  
42 to put on the annual report. We have talked about at  
43 this meeting:

44  
45                   Green crab.

46  
47                   Support for T&H's co-management.

48  
49                   Mr. Hernandez did -- well, actually

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0499

1 we'll get to that -- sorry. But there will be an  
2 annual report item regarding the section we removed out  
3 of the position letter. The position letter for  
4 meaningful priority and continuation of subsistence  
5 uses. There was a page that was deleted out of that.  
6 We'll talk about that subsequently but the idea was to  
7 put that in our annual report rather than leave it into  
8 a letter so we're just taking topics for the annual  
9 report.

10

11 Mr. Howard.

12

13 MR. HOWARD: Are we taking topics now,  
14 Madame Chair.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes.

17

18 MR. HOWARD: Can we add the self-guided  
19 boats that have pretty much taken over -- I've seen  
20 them -- they're basically taking over Chatham -- not  
21 Chatham Strait but Icy Strait, I mean you could see  
22 them from Point Augusta all the way over to Mud Bay,  
23 they're on both sides. They're allowed to take and I  
24 know we've discussed this before, as well, is the bag  
25 limit. You know you get six cohos a day and you're  
26 here for six days that's 36 cohos for one person. So  
27 that's, you know, if you look at the numbers and the  
28 permits we have, that's pretty close to what we're  
29 allowed to take for the whole year as residents of  
30 Alaska, which is interesting. I think we should remain  
31 concerned with that and try to lower the bag limit.

32

33 I -- my memory is not what it used to  
34 be so that must indicate my age is getting up there but  
35 I recall in the beginning of this meeting that the bag  
36 limit started at six in an area, six or four, then it  
37 went to six and then it went to nine just because there  
38 was so much fish in the area that they kept raising the  
39 bag limit. It'd be interesting if they could do that  
40 for us in Basket Bay or Sitkoh Bay but apparently  
41 there's two different standards for that. But -- so  
42 maybe -- I'd like to see the self-guided fleet be a  
43 part of our annual report and our concerns with it  
44 because I kind of have a feeling there's going to be a  
45 fleet in Angoon just because that sounds like what the  
46 plan is of the gentleman that bought property in Hood  
47 Bay, is he wants to start his own self-guided fleet.

48

49 So I'm sure I had more but that's all I

50

0500

1 have for now.

2

3

Thank you, Madame Chair.

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6

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Howard. Are there other topics that we need to include in our annual report.

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8

9

(No comments)

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ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Perry, would you be able to give us a list of all the topics thus far because we may have identified some at our last meeting, correct -- no?

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MS. PERRY: Not to my knowledge, but during this meeting there was talk in the annual report to address the Department of Commerce being part of the conversation, not being responsive to concerns, and possibly a letter from us through the Board to the Secretary. Anyway, I just thought I'd put that on your radar, that was talked about today -- or, I'm sorry, this meeting, not today.

24

25

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ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: It feels like today.

28

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ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I think we did discuss that and I think it's a great annual report topic myself.

33

34

35

36

Do you need more discussion or justification on any annual report topic on the record?

37

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MS. PERRY: That would be helpful however I can comb the transcripts and capture some of that information and I believe the meaningful priority letter is self-explanatory. We have the testimony regarding blood quantum and sea otters for T&H co-management and then Mr. Howard just mentioned the unguided fisherman bag limit and gave some details.

44

45

46

47

Those are the four items that I have so far so if there are details to add that would help build our annual report.

48

49

50

Thank you.

0501

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
2 you. Are there other report topics.

3  
4                   Ms. Phillips.

5  
6                   MS. PHILLIPS: So were we going to add  
7 the letter to the Secretary of Commerce, I mean I heard  
8 her mention that? Because of the bycatch issue that  
9 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council has not  
10 been responsive.

11  
12                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, I  
13 think.....

14  
15                   MS. PHILLIPS: Okay, thank you.

16  
17                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I, personally,  
18 said I would like to see it added to the annual report.  
19 Other Council members.

20  
21                   (Council nods affirmatively)

22  
23                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, Mr.  
24 Casipit, yes. Okay. Is there any other annual report  
25 topics from Council members.

26  
27                   (No comments)

28  
29                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I believe this  
30 is probably our last time. Normally we would have our  
31 spring meeting to tighten things up a little bit more  
32 but it's going to be an All Council meeting and I'm not  
33 sure how that is going to work in terms of the amount  
34 of work that individual Councils will have so we should  
35 probably try to be as inclusive as possible at this  
36 meeting to have a thorough annual report.

37  
38                   Ms. Perry.

39  
40                   MS. PERRY: Yes, Madame Chair. I just  
41 wanted to confirm that there is a change during this  
42 cycle for the annual report. We'll be able to put  
43 together a list at this meeting, however, at the winter  
44 meeting we will not be able to add any items, only  
45 approve the drafted annual report and it's because of  
46 the All Council meeting, which you mentioned.

47  
48                   Thank you.

49  
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0502

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.  
2 Perry.

3  
4                   Mr. Kitka.

5  
6                   MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
7 Probably I think the first meeting I really listened to  
8 about where we tackled not a conservation concern but  
9 communities that needed assistance and their needs not  
10 being met, and a meaningful opportunities to subsist  
11 for their food and I think we need to kind of make note  
12 of that to the Board that we need to look at this  
13 closer and they need to look at it from our point of  
14 view. Because sometimes they look at it just from a  
15 conservation concern and not really whether it was a  
16 conservation for our people.

17  
18                   Thank you.

19  
20                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Kitka. And I think to add to that, this Council -- the  
22 next agenda item is a letter that we wrote as a Council  
23 that addresses that and I'm not saying that we  
24 shouldn't have it in our annual report as well because  
25 I think if we can provide it as -- I think it's an  
26 important topic and I think providing it in most places  
27 but I just wanted to let you know that on the first day  
28 when you weren't here we did go over a letter that the  
29 work group of this Council wrote regarding that topic  
30 and we're going to handle that as the next agenda item  
31 as well. So I think we have lots of justification and  
32 information on that, that it could be included in our  
33 annual report as well if the Council wishes.

34  
35                   (Council nods affirmatively)

36  
37                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: It looks like  
38 I'm getting nods of affirmation. Are there other  
39 topics.

40  
41                   Mr. Casipit, did you have one.

42  
43                   MR. CASIPIT: Well, it's -- this is  
44 more for the letter to the Commerce Secretary and my  
45 mind's foggy, it's so full of stuff, but I remember  
46 looking at some data stuff when I was working on that  
47 testimony on unguided to the North Pacific Fisheries  
48 Management Council, I was looking at some of that  
49 bycatch information and for king salmon, the bycatch of  
50

0503

1 king salmon in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fisheries  
2 exceeds the sportharvest of chinook salmon in Southeast  
3 and that's where we get our subsistence chinook.  
4 Because we're not allowed to get kings for subsistence.  
5 IF we want to eat kings we got to take it out of our  
6 sport catch. So I just think that that should be a  
7 pretty major point to that letter for Commerce. And  
8 I'm probably getting down into the weeds, and I'm  
9 sorry.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Bemis.

12

13 MR. BEMIS: I totally agree with him.  
14 And you know what I'm really impressed that we are, as  
15 a Council, or even a Federal entity is going up against  
16 the raiding of the ocean and intercepting Federal fish  
17 that are going to Federal waters and for subsistence  
18 users. This is the first time an intercepting type  
19 situation's been addressed. They're very powerful,  
20 nobody wants to go up against them and I think once we  
21 get this rolling, it might take awhile, but we need to  
22 tone them down, they seem to just keep going. They  
23 kind of remind me of a tour ship, they just keep  
24 touring so that's all I have.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
27 Bemis. Just as a reminder, for the annual report it is  
28 our opportunity to summarize our work and bring issues  
29 that have been presented to us up to the Federal  
30 Subsistence Board level.

31

32 So -- Ms. Perry.

33

34 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair. I know you  
35 mentioned the European green crab invasive species, but  
36 I'm not sure I was clear that we were indeed going to  
37 add that to the annual report, could you please clarify  
38 or confirm.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes. I wrote it  
41 on the list that I had going for running topics and we  
42 received testimony during our -- the first day  
43 regarding the invasion of the green crab and the  
44 impacts that it's having starting in Metlakatla but  
45 will probably be migrating as climate change kind of  
46 exacerbates that issue and I think it's something to  
47 bring up because it's starting in our region and it  
48 could be working north, it could be impacting Prince of  
49 Wales residents and Ketchikan residents next as it's

50

0504

1 not that much further and the reason why green crabs  
2 are able to live in these waters is because they're now  
3 becoming adapted and it's getting warmer for doing that  
4 and I think that it's a concern. I think this Council  
5 would consider it a concern because of the impacts that  
6 green crab have on subsistence resources and the foods  
7 that they eat.

8

9 Other Council members can add to that  
10 if they feel like this is also a continued important  
11 issue or something that we want to bring to them. I'm  
12 not sure if there's anything that we can ask the  
13 Federal Subsistence Board to do at this time but it is  
14 for awareness that we know this is an emerging issue  
15 within our region.

16

17 Are there any other topics for the  
18 annual report.

19

20 Mr. Kitka.

21

22 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair. I  
23 don't know if you guys heard the latest from the North  
24 Pacific Fisheries, the bycatch for herring from the  
25 North Pacific, they have an unlimited amount that they  
26 consider as bycatch. So one of the major forage fish  
27 in the ocean is they have no limit on how many they can  
28 kill. That just came out recently.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
31 Kitka.

32

33 Mr. Casipit.

34

35 MR. CASIPIT: I think Mr. Kitka's point  
36 is really good and it probably should be included in  
37 that letter to the Secretary of Commerce. That's just  
38 another issue of bycatch getting out of hand.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

41

42 Ms. Phillips.

43

44 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
45 I think wildlife corridors should be a high priority in  
46 landscape management, especially as we're -- the Forest  
47 Supervisor said it's -- the Forest Plan is going to go  
48 into some sort of revision and these corridors are so  
49 essential for subsistence.

50

0505

1 Thank you.

2

3

4 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms.  
5 Phillips. And I'd like to add to that since you did  
6 bring up the Forest Plan Revision. I think that's  
7 something we could elevate to the Federal Subsistence  
8 Board, to let them know that this process is going to  
9 be starting and we've asked for a little bit more  
10 engagement from the Forest Service on that since we do  
11 have input into the subsistence resources section and I  
12 think it's good for the Federal Subsistence Board that  
13 we're probably going to be spending a significant  
14 amount of time addressing the Forest Plan Revision in  
15 the future.

15

16

Other topics for the annual report.

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(No comments)

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ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Perry, can  
we just get a bullet point list, could you just read  
through the list of the topics that we have to make  
sure we didn't exclude anything at this time.

MS. PERRY: Madame Chair. For the  
annual report I have items regarding -- usually I have  
a for your information section which doesn't require  
the Board, because the purpose of the annual report is  
kind of twofold, one, we're asking the Board for action  
and then, two, hey, this is coming down the pike, so  
it's not in any particular order or section.

But there is verbiage from our  
meaningful priority letter, the last page talking about  
some items of interest to this Council and a head's up  
that we probably will be sending letters and bringing  
those items to the Board's attention. We'll have that  
as one item.

Letting the Board know that this  
Council intends on sending a letter of support for  
Tlingit -- Central Council Tlingit & Haida Co-  
management, specifically regarding sea otters, and also  
the issue of blood quantum.

Unguided fishermen bag limit. Talking  
about the increase and the impact on resources.

Communities affected and the need to

0506

1 provide meaningful priority, perhaps we can have an  
2 intro paragraph and reiterate to the Board that we are  
3 sending a meaningful priority/continued subsistence use  
4 position statement from this Council, which I believe  
5 will cover all of Mr. Kitka's issues that he mentioned.

6  
7 A bullet mentioning to the Board that  
8 we will be sending a letter, probably through the  
9 Board, to go to the Secretaries regarding the  
10 unresponsiveness from the Department of Commerce, this  
11 is regarding the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
12 Council and the bycatch issue. Will have things in  
13 there such as king salmon and herring, which was just  
14 mentioned by Member Casipit and Member Kitka.

15  
16 Wildlife corridors will probably be a  
17 bullet maybe under the Forest Plan Revision, that we  
18 are going to be advising the Board that this Council  
19 expects to spend significant time providing input.

20  
21 Those are the ones -- oh, sorry, and  
22 the European green crab invasive species and impacts.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
27 you. Last call for annual report topics for 2023.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, Ms.  
32 Perry, do we need to do any kind of action on that or  
33 is that agenda item done?

34  
35 MS. PERRY: Yes, Madame Chair, we do  
36 need a vote on that to accept that list. You could do  
37 it by unanimous consent if you'd like to save time.

38  
39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. I'd  
40 like to by unanimous consent, so if there.....

41  
42 REPORTER: You need the motion first.

43  
44 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Oh, we do need a  
45 motion, sorry.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I'm just moving  
50



0507

1 fast.

2

3 Ms. Phillips.

4

5 MS. PHILLIPS: Move to approve the list  
6 for the annual report as stated by Ms. Perry.

7

8 MR. HOWARD: Second.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Any  
11 discussion.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right,  
18 question's been called. I'd like to do this by  
19 unanimous consent. IF there's any opposition please  
20 state so.

21

22 (No opposition)

23

24 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
25 you. The next action item on our agenda might need a  
26 few minutes for some cue ups, so I'm going to suggest a  
27 five minute or less bio break.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 (Off record)

32

33 (On record)

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, if we  
36 could take a seat.

37

38 (Pause)

39

40 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, the  
41 next action item that we need to cover is to go over  
42 the work group's work on the meaningful priority  
43 statement for the Council. This is an action item that  
44 we'll need to vote on. Previously in the meeting there  
45 was this -- the statement was presented to the Council,  
46 it starts on Page 61 of our meeting books. There was  
47 good discussion. There were some changes that were  
48 recommended so the work group met at lunch yesterday to  
49 make the overall changes. I'll go over those in

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0508

1 summary.

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To call your attention, up on the screen is the difference between what is in our Council book that starts on Page 61 and what the final formatting looks like. As Mr. Hernandez pointed out earlier there were no substantial, or any real changes to any of the wording, it was mostly a formatting exercise so I'll let you know what we did now.

On the first page we did -- on the one, two, three, fourth and fifth paragraphs, we decided those were repetitive of one another and we kept the fourth paragraph and we did add Section .805 and Title 101 to the list on that one.

Then the letter stays kind of as-is -- we struck that last paragraph and then we left it as-is through the Council's review of pertinent regulatory history. We kept in all of those that was bulleted Item No. 1 through 11. All of that remains the same with the exception of, on Page 64 we have No. 5, there were some bullet items under there and we talked about but it doesn't reflect on the end of taking out the population estimates and making that a footnote. So that might just be a final formatting thing. So that 5C only just reads notes that the increasing human population of Alaska threatens subsistence uses and then the population data will just be a note for that.

Then after Item 11, the formatting of the letter basically then became paragraphs and we moved what you see in the book on Page 67 of Item No. 12, we decided that was really the crux of what the Council is doing. This is our position statement, No. 12. So -- and we decided that the position statement of No. 12 was better suited to be at the end of the letter so that we wrap up the letter with our concluding statement.

So Page 68 is just paragraphs, those stayed as-is.

We deleted Page 69, possible future position policy statements because we felt that that detracted from the actual position that we were trying to take and we decided to move the possible future position policy statements into the annual report because those were things that we want to comment on in

0509

1 the future and we wanted to keep the letter to just  
2 have the position statement.

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So then on Page 70 of your book you can see the letter pretty much ends with what we decided was the position statement which was previously known as Item No.12, but now is just the final paragraph in the letter.

That's a summary of the changes that we made. It looks like we're doing a quick switch on the computer.

Mr. Bemis, did you have a question.

MR. BEMIS: On Page 65 down at the bottom, I got it circled. We were thinking about taking that out on Page 65, bottom of the page on 9(a), it was a little overwhelming about the use of a urban residence coming with -- I don't know, all I know is I got it circled and we discussed something about removing that or something, or was that -- I don't know.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: We left it in. I think I had made a comment that fourwheelers.....

MR. BEMIS: Okay.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: .....that fit on drop bow boats was confusing to me and wasn't sure what we wanted to do and then I had an epiphany in our workshop that drop bow boats were actually like landing crafts and once I understand that that was the case it did seem very pertinent so.....

MR. BEMIS: Okay. Okay. I just had it circled.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for catching that. All right, up on the screen our Council Coordinator has put the new letter up -- the formatting of the new letter up for us. Maybe you can show sort of how Item No. 11 it drops off from bulleting and now becomes part of the letter again, that's kind of the substantial formatting change that we made. There's the -- oh, wait -- there's the formatting now with the population data as a footnote rather than being embedded in a bullet point. Again, it's still the same

0510

1 information just in a different format.

2

3 The overview of the regulatory review  
4 ends after bullet Item 11.

5

6 And we go into paragraph form with the  
7 exception of that No.12 becomes our position statement  
8 which is now at the end of the document.

9

10 Mr. Hernandez.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think it  
13 might be worthwhile to read that paragraph 12 again  
14 just so the rest of the Council is pretty familiar with  
15 what we thought was the crux of this whole issue.  
16 Maybe we could just maybe make sure that's clear to the  
17 Council what the work group thought was really the most  
18 important paragraph in the letter.

19

20 So should I go ahead and do that.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I nominate you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So the  
25 conclusion states:

26

27 This Council believes that ANILCA  
28 requires the Federal Subsistence Program to address and  
29 ameliorate all conditions that limit or eliminate the  
30 ability of subsistence users to meet community  
31 subsistence uses and needs. Not surprisingly since the  
32 Federal Subsistence Program regulatory actions set  
33 harvest regulations for subsistence harvest and  
34 establishes meaningful priorities for subsistence  
35 harvest, regulatory actions tend to focus on the  
36 harvest rather than the uses. The Council believes  
37 that this understandable focus on subsistence harvest,  
38 rather than on subsistence uses has deviated from  
39 Congressional intent and is in error. Operationally  
40 harvest regulations are clearly necessary, however, the  
41 objective of harvest regulations under ANILCA  
42 directions must be to ensure that community subsistence  
43 uses and community needs are met. The objectives  
44 should not be a matter of satisfying individual  
45 harvesting opportunities. Protecting communities  
46 subsistence uses and providing a meaningful priority  
47 for subsistence uses may require restrictions on non-  
48 subsistence uses even when there may not be a serious  
49 conservation concern, a low harvestable surplus or a  
50

0511

1 population decline in a fish and wildlife population.

2

3 That was kind of the crux right there  
4 stated.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Hernandez.

8

9 Mr. Smith.

10

11 MR. SMITH: Yeah, can we put some  
12 wording in there just in the beginning of that,  
13 therefore, this Council believes because it's the end  
14 of our -- just a thought.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are you  
17 suggesting that goes in after the bolded section that  
18 says focus on harvest rather than uses?

19

20 MR. SMITH: Just starting in the  
21 beginning of the 12 that we're putting at the end and  
22 he went right in, this Council believes that ANILCA,  
23 but changing it, putting; therefore this Council  
24 believes that ANILCA -- does that make sense -- no?

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, it makes  
27 sense, thank you for that clarification.

28

29 MS. PERRY: I didn't catch that.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Adding -- do you  
32 see where it is up on the screen right now.

33

34 MS. PERRY: Yep.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Adding,  
37 therefore, this Council believes that ANILCA  
38 requires....

39

40 MS. PERRY: Okay.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. I  
43 was not a part of the original working group on this  
44 but I think that they did a very thorough job and we  
45 did get a good presentation about what they put in when  
46 Mr. Schroeder read the sort of overall justification  
47 and where the working group was coming from and so at  
48 this point we have this draft letter that has had  
49 mainly formatting changes done to it so now we're at  
50

0512

1 the point where the Council needs to decide if they  
2 want to adopt this letter and submit it to the those  
3 that are listed in the letter on Page 61.

4  
5 So we could probably do that by motion.

6  
7 Mr. Howard.

8  
9 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair. I move to  
10 adopt the letter.

11  
12 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

13  
14 MR. SMITH: Second.

15  
16 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, it's  
17 been moved and adopted to accept this letter and  
18 submit. Are there any other Council members that would  
19 like to add anything.

20  
21 Mr. Bemis.

22  
23 MR. BEMIS: Yes. I've got another  
24 excerpt here. It's -- let's see it's Page 63, No. 2,  
25 the Congress record and deliberations leads up to --  
26 and I've got 101(c), were we going to put that in there  
27 as some kind of a passage of what we were directing on?  
28 That's what I had in there, I don't know if we did that  
29 or not?

30  
31 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, I believe  
32 we did that.....

33  
34 MR. BEMIS: Okay.

35  
36 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: .....on the one,  
37 two, three, fourth paragraph of the letter.

38  
39 MR. BEMIS: All right, thank you.

40  
41 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

42  
43 Mr. Casipit.

44  
45 MR. CASIPIT: Call for the question.

46  
47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, the  
48 question's been called. The motion is to adopt and  
49 submit the letter regarding our meaningful priority  
50

0513

1 statement.

2

3 All in favor say aye.

4

5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Any opposed  
8 signify by saying nay.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Motion carries.  
13 The next item on our agenda is to hear from the working  
14 group for the aquaculture. I believe Mr. Schroeder was  
15 going to bring that back to the Council.

16

17 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes. Let me just cue  
18 that up here. The idea is that I'll be giving the  
19 working group stuff to DeAnna and she'll do the final  
20 formatting.

21

22 Basically we met Wednesday, the 25th,  
23 in the evening, John, Albert, Larry and me. And our  
24 key points in rough order are:

25

26 We thank NOAA for giving us the  
27 opportunity to comment on the types of information  
28 needed to responsibly develop aquaculture in Southeast  
29 Alaska.

30

31 I'll just read through this, that'll be  
32 the quickest because I can read fast.

33

34 The Council believes that appropriate  
35 development could benefit rural communities and support  
36 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife. The Council is  
37 aware of some local successes with existing aquaculture  
38 projects as well as conflicts with some planned and  
39 constructed aquaculture plans.

40

41 The Council believes that all of the  
42 shore and intertidal areas of Southeast Alaska are part  
43 of traditional and clan and kwaan territories and may  
44 have subsistence uses. The starting point should be  
45 assuming that all shore and intertidal areas are used  
46 for subsistence uses. Projects or plans to develop  
47 aquaculture in specific areas will need to be cleared  
48 with people who may use these areas. A broad brush  
49 approach identifying AOA areas is not appropriate.

50

0514

1                   The Council suggests and prefers that  
2 the economic benefit of developing aquaculture in  
3 Southeast Alaska should go to local tribes and  
4 communities and be a benefit to subsistence users.

5  
6                   The Council believes that information  
7 gathering needs to work through recognized  
8 representative organizations. Comments by individuals  
9 are important but the many existing organizations that  
10 focus on subsistence, fish and wildlife use and  
11 conservation should be the main sources of information.  
12 These are the groups that have the authority and  
13 responsibility to speak for their constituents. These  
14 include tribal councils, including Tlingit Haida, city  
15 councils, other organizations dealing with resource  
16 management, the Southeast Regional Advisory Committee,  
17 conservation organizations such as SEAC Sitka  
18 Conservation Society and other conservation  
19 organizations, Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and  
20 of course Fish and Game would be doing its own thing.

21  
22                   And we also mention that permitting  
23 aquaculture operations creates an almost defacto  
24 property right for common property resources. The  
25 Council notes that aquaculture locations are likely to  
26 be unavailable for subsistence uses.

27  
28                   And those are our main points and then  
29 we do something that says thank you for the opportunity  
30 to provide these comments.

31  
32                   So that's what we've got. So if we  
33 could get Council approval on that then the final  
34 wording would be up to Don and DeAnna after I give the  
35 submission.

36  
37                   Thank you.

38  
39                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
40 you.

41  
42                   Mr. Hernandez.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Madame  
45 Chair. I move to adopt the work of the aquaculture  
46 working committee as a letter from the Council to NOAA.

47  
48                   MR. SMITH: Second.

49  
50



0515

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
2 you. Is there any discussion, questions from the  
3 Council.

4  
5                   Mr. Douville.

6  
7                   MR. DOUVILLE: Yes, I appreciate this  
8 approach. It seems like these mariculture projects  
9 want to go in kind of sheltered waters and places that  
10 are well used for subsistence, the exception was the  
11 company from the Netherlands that actually wanted to --  
12 I know we don't have much time but, anyway, they wanted  
13 to put a farm between Cape Addington and Granite Point,  
14 which is a high king salmon trolling, seining and I  
15 said how are you going to keep it in one place, you  
16 know, we have 30 foot seas here in the winter and they  
17 said, oh, well, that's not a problem we'll just design  
18 it that way. It was pretty interesting. But they were  
19 not growing kelp to eat, like Seagrove is, sugar kelp  
20 and things like that, they were growing macrocytic kelp  
21 and the -- anyway they did get a permit for Sea Otter  
22 but there is different kinds of -- but even though they  
23 aren't a high subsistence area they still need to be  
24 kept on a conflict of established commercial fisheries,  
25 you know, so there's two things here. It's not just  
26 subsistence but it's ocean type things that are being  
27 looked at also.

28  
29                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
30 Douville.

31  
32                   Mr. Howard.

33  
34                   MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
35 I'm hoping this doesn't turn into something like the  
36 real good idea of transplanting sea otters here.

37  
38                   (Laughter)

39  
40                   MR. HOWARD: That's kind of been on my  
41 mind that way. Because I could see this happening.  
42 You have these type of things down in California  
43 already and in Oregon. This year was a good example of  
44 no market. At some point you're going to create so  
45 many of these things that there isn't going to be a  
46 market for it and human nature is you're just going to  
47 abandon it and then we get stuck with it as residents  
48 of Alaska. So I'm hoping this doesn't turn into the  
49 sea otter idea.  
50

0516

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

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.

4 Howard.

5

6 Mr. Smith.

7

8 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I really believe this  
9 is a good chance to, you know, be looking at the carbon  
10 issue that we're having in the world and the more of  
11 these, you know, make note that the ocean makes like  
12 75, 80 percent of oxygen for the world but also knowing  
13 that, that these plants are absorbing carbon and I  
14 believe that the more of these bull kelp farms and  
15 other growing of this is really going to help our  
16 environment. So I really encourage a lot of this.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.

21 Smith.

22

23 Mr. Howard.

24

25 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
26 It seems like nature has a way of taking care of  
27 itself. If there's so much pollution in the area and  
28 you need to get rid of carbons or whatever, this is  
29 kind of your whole department, I try not to get too  
30 involved in carbons or, but it seems like kelp would  
31 start growing more if it needs to. I sit here and I  
32 watch the whole -- the whole thing about wolves and  
33 everything else, and endangered species, it's  
34 interesting to watch all of this. But I remember being  
35 on the Yukon River with my former father-in-law he  
36 said there's a lot of rabbits around so there's going  
37 to be a lot of cats around -- I forget what they're  
38 called, they're not cats, they're -- but he said it's  
39 just nature. You get a lot of rabbits, you get a lot  
40 of predators around, all the rabbits go away, the  
41 predators starve but they don't go completely away. If  
42 we start supporting something like this that someone  
43 tries to tell us it's going to fix nature or it's a  
44 good idea, you're never going to see me eat kelp, I've  
45 had -- I'll eat seaweed but I won't eat the bulb kelp.  
46 I've had clients on my boat pull bulb kelp out of the  
47 water and eat it even though they had a perfectly good  
48 sandwich in the boat.

49

50

0517

1 (Laughter)

2

3

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MR. HOWARD: So I think we need to approach this with caution. It could end up being an environmental disaster. And, Madame Chair, I teach my sons, if there's kelp there there's probably a rock under it. You start putting these things all over the place, you know, I just -- I'm not buying it.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Howard. Are there -- Mr. Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: I speak in favor. I believe that they need to consult with affected people before they put these in, and as far as nature taking care of things, we didn't have kelp in a lot of these places we had urchins, we had all kinds of -- the otter turned that upside down and not only global warming, we have kelp where we never saw kelp before. And with the new charting they do overflights and some of the kelp, it could be three, four fathoms there and some other charting is hitting that kelp that is so dense that they're marking it down as rock and there's no rock there. So, you know, it's kind of interesting how things turn out. But the one advantage that I was thinking is that they wanted to put one out in the Gulf Iscubell\* and it was pretty significant, it would make a huge kelp patch and I thought this might be a good place to hunt otter, you know.

(Laughter)

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank you. Are there other Council comments.

Mr. Bemis.

MR. BEMIS: Thank you, Mrs. Chair. I'm thinking that our corporation just bought one kind of from keeping it out of hand. I mean \$30,000 for a permit and everything to do, 14 acres, I think is what they were talking and it's pretty significant in size but in a square it's not that big, but I commented because I was on a teleconference yesterday around 1:00 -- or 1:30 or somewhere in there, that if it was a private entity on the lease and it was impeding the right-of-way or the subsistence user or the troller and

0518

1 they're members of the tribe and we had first option on  
2 it and then we turned it down and somebody else came in  
3 and they enforced the privacy zone of the lease, that  
4 maybe the members would come back on us and say, well,  
5 why didn't you just buy it, it was only \$30,000. I  
6 mean -- so I kind of let the Council know, you know,  
7 darn if you do and darn if you don't. And it's a price  
8 that will keep something out of the water and if you  
9 want to venture into it and spend more money at it then  
10 you can go ahead and put it in the water and build it  
11 and use it the proper way.

12

13                   But I'm thinking as far as this  
14 Council goes, is that we should just -- we're not  
15 totally embracing it but we're not totally against it  
16 but the main thing and the focus, I think, that we need  
17 to really emphasize on is we don't want to take away  
18 from our normal usage, passage, food, subsistence, our  
19 way of doing whatever. In other words, if somebody  
20 comes in to some place that we're using it's just going  
21 to be a problem and then it's going to be a bigger  
22 problem and then pretty soon it's -- I don't think we  
23 want to be involved in that, but if it's properly done,  
24 out of the way, something like that because I don't see  
25 us stopping it, we're weighing in on this, you know,  
26 we're not going to stop this from happening but what we  
27 can do is give them -- we're very much wanting to make  
28 sure this thing is well thought and well dealt with  
29 before anybody votes in on it.

30

31                   And we kind of need to tell NOAA that  
32 and we need to tell anybody else, the Fish and Game,  
33 whoever's involved in this, that it's very important  
34 for the size of the lease for privacy that we make sure  
35 we went over everything before we allow it. And I know  
36 we're not going to be the ones that weigh in on whether  
37 you can or cannot have that permit but at least we can  
38 put the criteria in there for the subsistence user and  
39 the community and all the proper channels to do  
40 something about it.

41

42                   Thank you.

43

44                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great, thank you  
45 for that Mr. Bemis.

46

47                   Mr. Smith.

48

49                   MR. SMITH: Just a thought. I looked  
50

0519

1 at some of the diagrams of how they were setting that  
2 up and, of course, the way they were setting up it  
3 takes a lot of square footage, a lot of area you see  
4 the photo over there, you can do a grow just like only  
5 going maybe a couple fathoms on the top line, you would  
6 put all your seed and it would just be on one line so  
7 then everybody can go around it and not worry about it.  
8 Just thinking of different ways of growing it that it's  
9 not getting in the way of -- and taking room in our  
10 Federal subsistence areas.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Howard.

15

16 MR. HOWARD: Madame Chair. There's two  
17 instances here. One, they didn't even know it was  
18 happening until they showed up. And then the other,  
19 they weighed in on it but they still did it anyway. If  
20 that doesn't 'concern anybody we just open the door  
21 widen open for people to do whatever they want, it  
22 doesn't matter whose backyard they're in. And I was  
23 trying to figure out how we can put those concerns in  
24 writing.

25

26 I figured out why DeAnna put me here  
27 because she can tap on the table if I'm going in the  
28 wrong direction so now it has me wondering how to  
29 properly word things without.....

30

31 MS. PERRY: I'm just (indiscernible)  
32 that's what it's about.

33

34 MR. HOWARD: But I think we need to  
35 mention the fact that they've already allowed one even  
36 though the community members weighed in on it and  
37 didn't want it in that area, they did it anyway. I  
38 could see this -- I don't know, if you do enough of  
39 these you're going to have buoys all over Southeast  
40 Alaska and we're going to look like just one great big  
41 farm and, you know, the cruise ships, so pristine  
42 Alaska, all of a sudden you have all these farms around  
43 and it's not pristine anymore.

44

45 But I think in the letter, maybe,  
46 Madame Chair, you can do it because you seem to be good  
47 with words, better than I am, but I think we need to  
48 mention the fact that we recognize that they've done  
49 two of these already, one without any local input at  
50

0520

1 all and the other with local input and still did it  
2 anyway.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

7

8 Mr. Schroeder.

9

10 MR. SCHROEDER: Yeah, just real quick.  
11 You know, kind of -- I think this is exactly what one  
12 of the things that's good about our Council, we not  
13 only get through our proposals but we take on work that  
14 no one said we had to do but is really beneficial for  
15 people. And you know we'll be following this, there'll  
16 be something next round on this because their planning  
17 process is set to go on for a long time and, you know,  
18 we'll hit them again and pay attention to this. So  
19 it's another piece of work that we took on and I'm kind  
20 of proud of the Council for doing those things.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

23

24 Mr. Hernandez.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Call for the  
27 question.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. I guess I  
30 had a question before we end that. Is it safe to say  
31 that, you know, the working group provided this -- it  
32 wasn't really a draft letter, it was like the key  
33 points and then some of these key points that were  
34 brought up during the discussion can be added to that  
35 and that's what we're voting on and we don't need any  
36 kind of amendment to what we're doing?

37

38 MS. PERRY: Madame Chair. I think what  
39 we heard around the table was just to provide details  
40 and examples of those points already articulated by the  
41 working group.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
44 you. The question's been called. So the motion was to  
45 the working group letter on aquaculture, request for  
46 information to be submitted to NOAA.

47

48 All in favor signify by saying aye.

49

50

0521

1 IN UNISON: Any opposed signify by  
2 saying nay.

3  
4 (No opposing votes)

5  
6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Motion carries.  
7 All right, next up on our agenda, it might not have an  
8 asterisk requiring a vote but it does require Council  
9 input and that would be the Fisheries Resource  
10 Monitoring Program, the 2024 one, and so I'd like to  
11 call Rob and/or his designees up to present that.

12  
13 MS. MORROW: Hello, Madame Chair.  
14 Members of the Council. My name is Christine Morrow.  
15 I am with the Anthropology Division at the Office of  
16 Subsistence Management. Today I will providing some  
17 updates on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.  
18 I know it's been a really long meeting and we're short  
19 on time so I will try to move pretty quickly. This is  
20 not an action item but we are going to be asking for  
21 Council comments on the fisheries projects that are  
22 proposed for your region for the upcoming cycle.

23  
24 So the material for this information  
25 starts on Page 296 of your meeting book. There's a lot  
26 of information on this topic but I'll highlight just a  
27 few key points.

28  
29 So as a bit of background information  
30 the Office of Subsistence Management provides funding  
31 for fisheries research and monitoring on Federal public  
32 lands. Projects that are funded by OSM are selected  
33 every two years and projects that are selected can  
34 receive funding for up to four years. The process of  
35 selecting projects for funding begins with first  
36 developing a list of priority information needs for  
37 each region. A list of priority information needs for  
38 your region was reviewed and approved at the fall 2022  
39 meeting and that list can be found on Page 305 of your  
40 meeting book. These priority information needs were  
41 included in the announcement requesting proposals to be  
42 submitted to OSM for consideration for funding and the  
43 proposals for the current funding cycle were received  
44 in February 2023.

45  
46 After these proposals are received by  
47 OSM, they're first reviewed by a Technical Review  
48 Committee, which is a panel of expert scientists.  
49 These reviewers evaluate the submitted proposals based  
50

0522

1 on five criteria which are listed on Page 299 of your  
2 meeting book. These criteria include:

3

4 First, strategic priority or the  
5 ability of that project to address one of the priority  
6 information needs.

7

8 Two. The technical scientific merit of  
9 a project so essentially how rigorous scientifically is  
10 that project.

11

12 Third. The investigators ability and  
13 resources, or feasibility to meet project goals.

14

15 Fourth. Partnership capacity building,  
16 or the projects must have significant support from  
17 local organizations and provide for meaningful  
18 participation by local organizations or individuals.

19

20 Five. Is the cost benefit to the cost  
21 of a proposed project must be reasonable for the amount  
22 of work that's going to be accomplished and the  
23 potential benefits that can be obtained from that  
24 project.

25

26 Based on these five criteria the  
27 Technical Review Committee evaluates projects and  
28 offers a justification that summarizes their evaluation  
29 of the projects merits and feasibility and after the  
30 Technical Review Committee has written these  
31 justifications the proposals are brought forward to the  
32 Council, like we're doing at the meeting today, for  
33 Councils to have the opportunity to provide input on  
34 comments -- or on proposals for projects for their  
35 region. Comments from the Council are included along  
36 with the Technical Review Committee justification in a  
37 draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, which is  
38 presented to the InterAgency Staff Committee. This  
39 draft plan includes the Technical Review Committee's  
40 justification and Council comments and then the ISC, or  
41 the InterAgency Staff Committee adds their  
42 recommendation on which projects to fund for the  
43 upcoming cycle. The final selection of projects is  
44 determined by the Assistant Regional Director for OSM  
45 based on this cumulative input from the Technical  
46 Review Committee, from the Regional Advisory Councils,  
47 and from the InterAgency Staff Committee as well as  
48 based on the funding that is available.

49

50



0523

1                                 Projects that are selected for funding  
2 for this current cycle will start in the spring or  
3 summer of 2024.

4  
5                                 Today we're asking the Council to  
6 provide comments about the projects proposed for your  
7 region so it is not an action item but we would like to  
8 know if the Council has any specific concerns or  
9 comments about the proposals provided for your region.  
10 These comments that you provide today will be included  
11 in information that is sent along in the rest of the  
12 review process for these proposals.

13  
14                                 This year two proposals were submitted  
15 for the Southeast region and one proposal was  
16 submitted, which covers multiple regions including in  
17 the Southeast. In your meeting book you can find an  
18 executive summary of each project and the Technical  
19 Review Committee justification for these proposed  
20 project. I understand that you may not have had time  
21 to read through all this material so if it's okay with  
22 you I can provide a brief summary of each of these  
23 three projects and pause after each summary so that  
24 there's opportunity for comment.

25  
26                                 Does that sound okay?

27  
28                                 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: (Nods  
29 affirmatively)

30  
31                                 MS. MORROW: Okay, thank you. So the  
32 first project is Project 24-600 titled Unuk River  
33 Eulachon Population Assessment. Information for this  
34 project begins on Page 306 of your meeting book. This  
35 project was submitted by the U.S. Forest Service and  
36 the proposal is for four years of funding to continue  
37 monitoring eulachon populations in Unit 1. The  
38 objectives of this project are to document the run  
39 timing and spawning locations and estimate biomass of  
40 eulachon in the Unuk River, Chickaman, Kluhini, Wilson,  
41 Blossom Rivers and in the Carroll Inlet and Carroll  
42 Creek to estimate the age, sex, length, distribution of  
43 the eulachon escapement, to document harvest methods,  
44 harvest levels and run timing by on site observations  
45 and to expand the capacity of the Ketchikan Indian  
46 Community to conduct future eulachon monitoring.  
47 Again, more information about this project is on Page  
48 306 of your meeting book.

49  
50

0524

1                   Are there any comments from the Council  
2 about this particular proposed project.

3  
4                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Hernandez.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, I think this  
7 was a pretty high priority with the Council and I think  
8 the Council would also be pretty pleased to hear that  
9 you want to work with the Ketchikan Indian Community on  
10 this building capacity so I think that's a pretty  
11 worthwhile project.

12  
13                   MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Hernandez.

14  
15                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any  
16 other comments regarding this project that we want to  
17 provide at this time.

18  
19                   Mr. Casipit.

20  
21                   MR. CASIPIT: Just echo what Chairman  
22 Hernandez said. This is something that this Council  
23 has been struggling with since the year 2000 and even  
24 before then so this is good information, and it's  
25 needed and I think the Council supports this work and I  
26 do too. And like I said, we've been at it for awhile.

27  
28                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. You  
29 want to tackle the next one.

30  
31                   MS. MORROW: Sure. Yes. The next  
32 project is Project 24-650 titled Documenting Salmon and  
33 Non-Salmon Fish Harvest and Use Patterns in Four  
34 Central Prince of Wales Island Communities.  
35 Information for this project begins on Page 308 of your  
36 meeting book and it was submitted by the Alaska  
37 Department of Fish and Game. There are three  
38 objectives to this project. The first is to produce  
39 reliable estimates of the harvest and uses of salmon  
40 and non-salmon fish for the 2024 year by the residents  
41 of Thorne Bay, Hollis, Coffman Cove and Naukati Bay.  
42 The second is to record the geographic extent of search  
43 and harvest areas for wild resources by residents of  
44 these communities. And the third is to document  
45 observations of subsistence harvesting practices,  
46 harvest trends, resource abundance and characteristics  
47 and areas used for subsistence fishing activities over  
48 time.

49  
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0525

1                   Are there any comments about this  
2 proposed projects.

3  
4                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Questions or  
5 comments regarding this project.

6  
7                   I have one if -- oh, go ahead, Mr.....

8  
9  
10                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead, no  
11 you first.

12  
13                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I was curious  
14 what the -- is there a tribal government or tribal  
15 entity in this project?

16  
17                  MS. MORROW: Thank you, Madame Chair,  
18 for that question. I would have to check the details  
19 of this particular project. I'm not sure if any of my  
20 colleagues are aware.

21  
22                  MR. CROSS: Yeah, Madame Chair. For  
23 the record my name is Rob Cross, the Tongass  
24 Subsistence Program Manager. Yeah, I think the details  
25 of this are in the meeting book. I actually believe  
26 one of the proponents is here and could probably speak  
27 more thoroughly to this than I ever could so I don't  
28 know if you want to call Lauren Sill.

29  
30                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: If she's  
31 willing, I would be interested in knowing kind of  
32 actually how the project came about, like why it was a  
33 priority for the Fish and Game to propose it and then  
34 whether or not there were any attempts to partner with,  
35 I guess, local communities and tribal governments.

36  
37                  MS. SILL: Sure. For the record my  
38 name is Lauren Sill, I'm with Department of Fish and  
39 Game, Division of Subsistence. How this project came  
40 about for us is that we don't have a lot of -- I mean  
41 most places in Southeast we don't have a lot of updated  
42 data and we're trying to fix that and so Prince of  
43 Wales is an area that we're interested in working on,  
44 ideally for more than just fish, but since this  
45 opportunity is available for fish we were looking  
46 there. We haven't done a survey in Naukati Bay since  
47 1987, Coffman and Thorne Bay and Hollis, I think, have  
48 been since the mid-90s so they were outdated and due.  
49 You know to try to get more information in those areas.

50

1                   In terms of working with communities,  
2 yes, we are trying. I've called all of them and we've  
3 spoke with -- I don't think I ever found somebody in  
4 Naukati Bay to talk to but we're attempting to, and if  
5 this goes through then we'll make more efforts and  
6 actually be able to go down to Prince of Wales and --  
7 we'll come down here and travel physically to the  
8 communities and be able to talk to people that way. So  
9 we are attempting to but as of right now we don't have  
10 any -- I don't think we were able to include any  
11 letters of support on this one. And for all of our  
12 projects, when we go, we do hire local people to train  
13 so there will be that component of it.

14  
15                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for  
16 answering that. All right, I guess another question  
17 would be, these are the only two proposals that were  
18 submitted?

19  
20                   MS. MORROW: These are the two  
21 proposals specific to the Southeast. There's one  
22 additional proposal that covers multiple regions  
23 including the Southeast and there were -- as far as I  
24 understand no other projects proposed for the Southeast  
25 region.

26  
27                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay. I was --  
28 I mean the reason why I asked the question, too, you  
29 know, we put together priority information needs and I  
30 just don't remember this being necessarily high on that  
31 but that's just -- but I think it's the off cycle of --  
32 now we're on this two year cycle, right, for doing  
33 proposals and a lot of the projects that address the  
34 priority information needs are kind of the sockeye fish  
35 projects which are on a different cycle -- different  
36 proposal cycle now, so I was just wanting to make sure  
37 that none of those projects were getting preempted  
38 necessarily for this priority. But that was my only  
39 comment.

40  
41                   Mr. Cross.

42  
43                   MR. CROSS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
44 Yeah, so for the priority information needs, the  
45 Technical Review Committee doesn't really see them as a  
46 ranked list. I think that that's something that I  
47 think these comments are very useful for because we are  
48 generally looking at less funding than what these  
49 projects are requesting. So I think that that's all  
50

0527

1 really useful information but, yeah, we don't  
2 necessarily look at it as a ranked list of priority  
3 information needs.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. I  
6 would like to follow up, that I am supportive of this  
7 project. I think that's important to say I just wanted  
8 to question sort of how that kind of works for my  
9 understanding but I think whenever we can update  
10 information from communities about use and harvest and  
11 things like this that it's information we need at this  
12 table for decisionmaking so that would be my comment on  
13 it.

14

15 Mr. Smith.

16

17 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I might be out of  
18 order but I remember when we were in Ketchikan, my  
19 first adventure, we realized that a lot of data wasn't  
20 on the table and I think we made a lot of requests and  
21 I don't know if that's in our records of what we  
22 requested but I do remember one of those requests and I  
23 wrote it down, I could share it later, but maybe we  
24 could find that, I don't know if we did or not, or we  
25 were just voicing that. I'm not sure.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Did you want to  
28 answer that Mr. Cross.

29

30 MR. CROSS: Yeah. Madame Chair. I was  
31 just scrolling through the notes that I have but I'm  
32 pretty certain the priority information needs are in  
33 the book.

34

35 MS. PHILLIPS: 305.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Are  
38 there other Council comments regarding either one of  
39 these proposals for the FRMP project.

40

41 Mr. Kitka.

42

43 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair. I  
44 really like the idea of the Fisheries Monitoring  
45 Program. Several years back we asked how much longer  
46 were we going to have to do the monitoring, you guys,  
47 overall there's streams that have been low and continue  
48 to be low for a long period of time. Realizing some of  
49 it had to do with the commercial industry, but some of  
50

0528

1 it didn't, you got some streams that for one reason or  
2 another had something happen that the recovery was  
3 going to take almost a long, long time because of  
4 whatever happened during the spawn and whatever  
5 happened during the raising of the little ones that  
6 lived in the stream for a year, realizing they found a  
7 way to cure some of that at Redoubt and the population  
8 has kind of exploded the last few years. So I was  
9 wondering just how long you're going to monitor some of  
10 these returns on some of these streams and look at the  
11 habitat?

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. CROSS: Yeah, through the Chair.  
16 Member Kitka. I'm not sure that there's any plan to  
17 stop the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. It's a  
18 very powerful tool and in some cases I'm pretty sure I  
19 know at least one of the streams that you're referring  
20 to and I think in some cases where, in particular where  
21 we have a tribal entity that we're either partnering  
22 with or taken lead on these projects they're able to  
23 use the data that they're collecting to inform in-  
24 season management and work with the State in sometimes  
25 ways that we're not able to and try to effect change  
26 through that. So it always comes down to funding. You  
27 know, in particular, for these projects that are up  
28 right now, as everyone's aware we're operating under a  
29 continuing resolution so there's a little bit of a TBD  
30 on what funding we'll have to -- to enact these  
31 projects. But yes this is recognized as a very  
32 powerful tool that we have to inform in-season  
33 management. So, yeah, I think as long as there's the  
34 desire there from partners and we're doing outreach  
35 properly for these projects and working with, in  
36 particular, tribal entities to try to put together  
37 these application packages, I think that this program  
38 will continue.

39

40 And so I can't necessarily -- I know  
41 I'm being long-winded, but I can't necessarily say how  
42 long each entity will be interested in monitoring these  
43 systems but it seems like there's a handful that seem  
44 to have the desire to continue for the foreseeable  
45 future.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

48

49 Mr. Howard.

50

0529

1 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
2 That's twice he mentioned funding and I understand that  
3 part of it and I'm sure we all do because the cost of  
4 living's going up, the cost of everything is going up.  
5 I don't know if this is something we can address or ask  
6 for for more funding, especially when you have someone  
7 like me that's trying to add on to their plate by  
8 asking for stream aging and water quality standards or  
9 samples to get a clearer picture of what's happening in  
10 the stream. I'm kind of excited that if the market  
11 stays the way it is for salmon, I'm going to have a fun  
12 next couple years, but is that something we can  
13 address, the funding part of that. Because they're  
14 having to work with the same amount of money while the  
15 cost of materials and everything is going up. Now, I  
16 don't know if we can address that or not.

17  
18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19  
20 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Howard. We're going to have to get back to that. If  
22 we can address it -- it might be too late to put it in  
23 the annual report as an item.

24  
25 Mr. Cross.

26  
27 MR. CROSS: Yeah, through the Chair.  
28 Member Howard. I can also say that I wouldn't let the  
29 ambiguity of potential funding stop you from putting in  
30 proposals. I think that one very important way that we  
31 can judge the need for funding is by how many projects  
32 are being put in. So if we can show that there's a  
33 large amount of projects that are deemed valid and  
34 important, that we're not able to fund then that's  
35 something that we can move forward with. So I would  
36 not deter anybody from putting in a project and going  
37 through this process.

38  
39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great, thanks.

40  
41 Mr. Douville and then Ms. Phillips.

42  
43 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. These  
44 communities, it sort of indicates you're thinking that  
45 halibut is taking over where salmon is not so much, but  
46 according to second hand data, is that, rental boats  
47 and self-guided rigs take more pounds of halibut than  
48 all the charters combined in the state. The charters  
49 take more numbers, but not more pounds. So some of  
50

0530

1 these operate out of places like Coffman, would that be  
2 included or are you just looking at -- like some of  
3 these come here and they have a primary, what they say  
4 is a residence here, which gives them the opportunity  
5 to fish as a resident and they live somewhere else, but  
6 they do have a residence. There some effort to change  
7 that to where you must be -- where you not collect the  
8 Permanent Fund but to qualify for it to say you are a  
9 resident, and I don't know if this RAC could address  
10 that. I think we've talked about it several times.  
11 But in any case, I guess this study would include some  
12 of that so you could get a window into what is really  
13 going on?

14  
15 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair. Member  
16 Douville. So to be clear, what we're doing is  
17 presenting the proposals that were submitted to OSM for  
18 funding so this isn't a project that we've put in.  
19 That being said, I think it's a great opportunity that  
20 you have the primary investigator right there in the  
21 room so I think that these are really valid comments  
22 that I would think that Lauren would consider.

23  
24 MS. MORROW: For the record this is  
25 Christine Morrow. On Page 310 of your meeting book  
26 there are -- there's a little bit of information,  
27 summary of the methods proposed for this project and it  
28 does note that they ideally will be working with long-  
29 term residents of each study community.

30  
31 MR. DOUVILLE: What was that?

32  
33 MS. MORROW: Long-term residents, so  
34 residents that have lived in those communities for long  
35 periods of time. It does not that the sample size, you  
36 know, estimating goal of 28 households in Hollis, for  
37 instance; 69 households in Coffman Cove, so there are  
38 some additional details in the meeting book about that.  
39 But like Mr. Cross mentioned, you could maybe take  
40 advantage of having one of the researchers here with us  
41 to answer these questions.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, it  
46 sounds like maybe if you have specific questions about  
47 the project, maybe after the meeting you could ask the  
48 PI for the proposal, like your concerns regarding that.

49  
50



0531

1 Are there other comments regarding the  
2 proposals that were submitted.

3

4 Mr. Bemis.

5

6 I'm sorry, I did acknowledge Ms.  
7 Phillips and then Mr. Bemis.

8

9 MS. PHILLIPS: I appreciate the review  
10 that's gone through these proposals and I support both  
11 of them. Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

14

15 Mr. Bemis.

16

17 MR. BEMIS: Yes, thank you Ms. Chair.  
18 I would like to say I agree with your proposal for the  
19 funding. And the one thing that I would like to see  
20 more of is I'd like to see matching partners as much as  
21 you can. I mean usually like in my community, we're  
22 more than glad to step up to the plate and help fund a  
23 combined -- out of Yakutat. And I think that, you  
24 know, with the times being what they are, budgets and  
25 everything, and maybe a change in the Administration  
26 and what not, the more that we can get partners  
27 involved in this, I'm thinking would be a lot more  
28 strength in it to get the help to back it up because if  
29 you've got a long-term project going on it's hard to  
30 fund because we don't know where the next budget of  
31 money is coming from but if you got a project that's  
32 already backed up by something it seems to me that the  
33 funding goes a little easier.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Are  
38 there any other comments.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, I  
43 think that concludes the -- oh, you have something  
44 else?

45

46 MS. MORROW: For the record this is  
47 Christine Morrow. I do apologize there is one more  
48 proposed project that is a multi-region project  
49 including the Southeast if you would like me to

50

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1 summarize that briefly.

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ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay, sounds good.

MS. MORROW: Thank you, Madame Chair. Project 24-750 titled Evaluating Ecosystem Change on Traditional Salmon Subsistence Practices and Community Food Security in Three Coastal Alaska Communities begins on Page 316 of your meeting book. The objectives of this proposed project are to document, characterize and quantify salmon harvesting and processing and changes thereto and Akutan, Nanwalek and Hoonah to better understand impacts of ecosystem change on community subsistence practices and food security. The second objective is to estimate subsistence salmon harvest amounts and locations for these three coastal communities for the study year of 2025 and to record the geographic extent of harvest in use areas of salmon by residents of these communities during the study year and to compare these areas used for salmon with harvest activities over time. More details about this project are on Page 316 of your meeting book.

Are there any comments about this proposed project.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there comments on this project by Council members.

MS. PHILLIPS: Madame Chair.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Phillips.

MS. PHILLIPS: It doesn't say here -- it says characterized, so I would characterize that there's a lot of sharing in the harvest of salmon harvest for subsistence and I hope that that is part of the study that the sharing component -- the sharing from harvesters to non-harvesters in the communities.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Any other comments on this project.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right -- oh,

0533

1 Mr. Hernandez.

2

3

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. It also seems like a worthwhile project and I see they plan on partnering with the Hoonah Indian Association on this one so I think we'll be glad to see that as well.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, any  
10 other Council comments.

11

12

(No comments)

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Did you have something else?

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MS. MORROW: Thank you, Madame Chair. OSM had planned to provide a brief update on the Fisheries regulatory cycle and the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, if you would like me to give those updates.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yeah, I did just see that, and the Council Coordinator reminded me that that wasn't on my list, so if you can do that briefly that would be great.

MS. MORROW: I can be very brief, thank you. For the fisheries regulatory cycle, we have just some brief notes to share, that the Federal Subsistence Board took action on all fisheries proposals and closure reviews at their January 2023 fisheries regulatory meeting. The new regulations have not yet been published in the Federal Register, we do expect them to be published very soon. Information about how the Board voted in comparison to the Council's recommendations can be found in the Section .805(c) report which begins on Page 17 of your meeting books. Our next call for fisheries regulatory proposals will occur during your winter 2024 meeting and you may submit proposals to change Federal fish and shellfish

0534

1 regulations at that time.

2

3 That concludes the brief update on the  
4 fisheries regulatory cycle. And I can now provide a  
5 brief update on the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring  
6 Program.

7

8 We refer to this as the Partners  
9 Program. So through the Partners Program, OSM tries to  
10 strengthen Alaska Native and rural involvement in the  
11 Federal Subsistence Management Program by providing  
12 funding to organizations so that they can hire a  
13 professional biologist, social scientists or educator.  
14 This program also provides funds for science and  
15 culture camps and paid student internships for Native  
16 and rural organizations. Last fall the Office of  
17 Subsistence Management announced a notice of funding  
18 opportunity for the next cycle of the Partners Program  
19 funding and a proposal review panel chose seven  
20 successful proposals. Our new and continuing partners  
21 include the Bristol Bay Native Bay Association, the  
22 Hoonah Indian Association, the Native Village of Eyak,  
23 the Native Village of Napiamute -- I do apologize if I  
24 am mispronouncing anything -- the Orutsaramiut Native  
25 Council and the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska and the  
26 Yakutat Tlingit Tribe.

27

28 That concludes my brief update on the  
29 Partners Program.

30

31 Thank you, very much.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
34 you. Any questions.

35

36 Mr. Smith.

37

38 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I found a site here  
39 NOAA on here, and there was Alaska regions funding  
40 opportunities that you might want to check out and I  
41 just think a great partnership right there, I mean, you  
42 know, NOAA facility in Juneau is amazing, they're doing  
43 genetics and all that. I've done a lot of adventures  
44 with the kids in there but there's quite a few  
45 different grants, maybe you might want to kind of  
46 stroll through and see if that makes any sense to you,  
47 any of those -- but just sharing.

48

49 Thanks.

50

0535

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Phillips,  
2 and then Mr. Douville.

3  
4                   MS. PHILLIPS: Is there like a website  
5 or something about the one you just talked about, you  
6 know, with the villages that you're providing funding  
7 for?

8  
9                   MS. MORROW: Through the Chair. Thank  
10 you, Ms. Phillips. I believe there's information on  
11 the OSM website about our Partners Program. I do not  
12 believe there is a specific individual website  
13 dedicated to this program.

14  
15                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Douville.

16  
17                   MR. DOUVILLE: Just a question, not  
18 about this, but we do get a Federal report of the  
19 monitoring, how many sockeyes went through whatever  
20 stream, are we only counting sockeyes or is there more  
21 information available as to how many cohos, humpies and  
22 so on or are we not keeping track of those, it's just  
23 I'd like to look and see.

24  
25                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Cross.

26  
27                   MR. CROSS: Yeah, through the Chair.  
28 Member Douville. Most of these projects they are  
29 primarily focused on sockeye but we are also counting  
30 other species. So if there's one in particular that  
31 you would like the report on I can get that to you or,  
32 yeah, we generally report on sockeye because that seems  
33 to be the one that most folks are concerned with. But,  
34 while we have personnel at the weir, they're counting  
35 all species of fish.

36  
37                   MR. DOUVILLE: Right. My interest is  
38 not only sockeyes but the general health of the other  
39 species that use those systems so, you know, that, to  
40 me gives me some insight of the temperature.

41  
42                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Any  
43 other questions from Council.

44  
45                   (No comments)

46  
47                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Was that the  
48 final thing?

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0536

1 MS. MORROW: Yes, it was.

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MS. MORROW: Yes, it was.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank you for that. We do have a few things that I think we can do relatively quickly. We have one more action item that sometimes takes us a little bit longer so maybe we should do the action item for sure and that's our meeting dates.

For fall 2024, on our agenda, future meeting date for fall 2024 can be found on Page 325 of our meeting book. It looks like we have previously identified the week of October 22nd through the 24th in Ketchikan. We need to decide if we are going to confirm that.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Anyone on the Council want to make a motion that we keep those dates or have a discussion that we need to make any changes.

Mr. Hernandez.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I move that we keep those dates. I believe that will be the time when we'll be asked to weigh in on the Ketchikan rural determination so Ketchikan will probably be a good place to be, if we can take the heat.

MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Is there any discussion.

(No comments)

MR. DOUVILLE: Call for the question.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Question's been called. It's been moved to -- the motion on the floor is to hold the Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council meeting October 22nd, 23rd, 24th, of 2024 in Ketchikan. All in favor signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All opposed, say nay.

0537

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Motion carries.

4 And there I said that was going to take us a long time  
5 and it didn't, it's the fastest thing we did.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Vickers, you  
10 have a question.

11

12 MR. VICKERS: Speaking of the non-rural  
13 determination, we brought up that we were going to have  
14 a third public hearing for it, time to be determined.  
15 Originally we had planned to do that, we were  
16 considering the week of Thanksgiving, probably that  
17 Monday or Tuesday, it was brought -- the proponents  
18 from KIC came to me and suggested that we hold it  
19 instead give some people some time to let it kind of  
20 stew and hold it sometime between January and March.  
21 We're looking for some input from you on what you, if  
22 anything, would prefer, what you think subsistence  
23 users in that area would prefer. We're holding it  
24 virtually, or by phone, however you want to say it, so  
25 that not only for people who were able to miss these  
26 in-person meetings but to try to reach out to the  
27 larger region for people with input from the region as  
28 a whole, so if you guys have input on it, if you think  
29 it's a good idea to wait to the start of the New Year,  
30 or if you think it's better to keep it just while the  
31 iron's hot and go for a November date or if there's  
32 something else you think is even better, let me know  
33 and we can try and schedule that.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Any  
36 initial thoughts. You want to think on that a minute  
37 while we do some other agenda items and if anybody has  
38 a burning input to put back.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, it  
43 doesn't sound like anybody's overwhelmingly interested in  
44 providing input at this time.

45

46 MR. VICKERS: Okay, thank you for that.  
47 It's still undetermined so if anyone has a thought you  
48 can share it at any time.

49

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0538

1 Thank you.

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Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yep, thank you Mr. Vickers. The next thing on our agenda is the fall 2023 Council application nomination open season. DeAnna.

MS. PERRY: I can make this real quick, Madame Chair. This is DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator for the Southeast Subsistence Council for the record. I would like to inform everyone that the 2023 Council application period opened on September 13th and we are currently accepting applications for the Regional Advisory Council membership. We're encouraging all the Council members to spread the word in their communities. For the next cycle there will be four vacancies on our Council. For those on the phone the application packets are available on our website, and, again, that's [www.doi.gov/subsistence](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence).....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

MS. PERRY: ...../regions, click on the regions tab on the blue bar at the top and you'll kind of hover over that, it doesn't actually appear as a drop down option, you need to hover over the regions tab. We also have a number of application packets here at the meeting for those who are present and may be interested, and the application period is open to February 21st, 2024 and this will be for those incumbents whose term expires December 2nd of next year, 2024.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you, Ms. Perry. Next up on the agenda -- I actually have a question, do we need to confirm the winter All Council meeting, that seems like it's a.....

MS. PERRY: No, it's pretty set.

(Laughter)

ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: It's just under the asterisk.

(Laughter)



0539

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great. Then on  
2 that topic, winter 2024 All Council meeting proposed  
3 topics of discussion.

4  
5                   MS. PERRY: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
6 DeAnna Perry, Council Coordinator again.

7  
8                   The last All Council meeting was held  
9 back in 2016, it was very well received by all  
10 Councils. There was a lot of positive feedback.  
11 Council members were eager to learn about subsistence  
12 issues in other regions and discuss issues of interest  
13 to all or multiple regions. OSM is planning to hold  
14 another All Council meeting, which it has been  
15 scheduled, we're pretty much set in stone for March 5th  
16 through the 8th for a total of four full days in  
17 downtown Anchorage. During this time there will be at  
18 least one day session where all Councils will meet  
19 together. This session will contain a variety of  
20 topics of interest to all Councils. Then after that  
21 the Councils will break into individual meetings that  
22 will run at least a half a day to a full day depending  
23 on Council business. There will also be several  
24 parallel sessions, lectures, seminars, workshops,  
25 talking circles, on a variety of subsistence related  
26 topics. While there will be some sessions that will be  
27 standard, such as one on Roberts Rules of Order and  
28 another one on ANILCA Title VIII, others can be non-  
29 standard topics.

30  
31                   So today we're asking for your input.  
32 We want all sessions to be as engaging and interactive  
33 as possible so OSM is looking to each Council to  
34 suggest topics of interest for these other session.  
35 While OSM is not able to fulfill all Councils requests  
36 we do our best to fit in as many as reasonable.

37  
38                   While this is not an action item,  
39 please let me know your thoughts and suggestions so  
40 that I can relay them back to the All Council Planning  
41 Team. And I thought maybe I could kick this off with  
42 just giving a few of the 2016 informational sessions  
43 that were offered. We've got several new folks on the  
44 Council that might not be aware of that.

45  
46                   But in 2016 Federal Indian Law  
47  
48                   Cross cultural communication

49  
50

0540

1 Customary and traditional use  
2 determinations and the Section .804 prioritization  
3 process

4  
5 Council member roles and  
6 responsibilities

7  
8 Understanding dual management

9  
10 FRMP and Partners Program

11  
12 Were all offered. And there were also  
13 some panel discussions held on public advisory groups  
14 for fish and wildlife management, tribal consultation,  
15 holistic management and challenges in outreach.

16  
17 So, Madame Chair, if you'd like to lead  
18 the Council in making any suggestions I'd be happy to  
19 capture those and, again, forward them on to the  
20 planning committee.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, thank  
25 you, DeAnna. Are there any suggestions from Council  
26 members of topics that could be presented to OSM.

27  
28 Ms. Phillips.

29  
30 MS. PHILLIPS: Meaningful preference.

31  
32 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great. Any  
33 others.

34  
35 Mr. Casipit.

36  
37 MR. CASIPIT: Maybe this is just me but  
38 I'd really like to hear an update from the Federal  
39 attorneys on some of this outstanding litigation that's  
40 going on between the Board and State, you know, there's  
41 that Kuskokwim River lawsuit, there's the lawsuit over  
42 providing for Kake -- providing moose and deer for Kake  
43 during the Covid pandemic thing. I know there's some  
44 litigation going on -- oh -- sorry.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 MR. VICKERS: This is Brent Vickers,  
49 OSM. I do have updates on ongoing lawsuits if you would  
50

0541

1 like to hear them. If you would like to hear them now  
2 let me know.

3  
4 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I think we'd  
5 like to finish out making the suggestions and then if  
6 we'd like to hear.....

7  
8 MR. CASIPIT: You can just email me  
9 that if you want.

10  
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Us.

12  
13 MR. CASIPIT: Us.

14  
15 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Yes, us, through  
16 our Coordinator, please.

17  
18 Any other topics.

19  
20 Mr. Bemis.

21  
22 MR. BEMIS: Yes. I would like to just  
23 stay on top of that high seas interception thing and  
24 how we're going about it because this thing seems like  
25 it's going to drag out, even though we get a letter  
26 with this, I just see this going as long as -- long  
27 past, so I would like to have that as one of our action  
28 items to stay very in touch with what the high seas  
29 thing is because if it is taking the king salmon from  
30 Southeast and taking the king salmon from the Kuskokwim  
31 and Kenai and Kodiak, and everywhere -- for that  
32 amount of fish being taken out of the water and we're  
33 all suffering, that is not good.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Mr. Hernandez.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: How about  
40 subsistence opportunities for urban tribal members.

41  
42 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Others.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Now  
47 we are going into agency reports, I believe we have two  
48 that we can do. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

49  
50

0542

1 MS. SILL: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
2 Members of the Council. For the record my name is  
3 Lauren Sill. I'm with the Department of Fish and  
4 Game's, Division of Subsistence. I realize it's after  
5 5:00 so I will try to keep this quite brief. I did  
6 submit like a one page update that you guys should have  
7 in your Council books so I will kind of just briefly  
8 touch on some of those things that are in there.

9  
10 One thing is that we just hired a new  
11 lead researcher for Southeast. Her name is Emily Dahl  
12 (ph) so you should be seeing her at these meetings in  
13 the future. We're excited to have her.

14  
15 In terms of projects that we're doing  
16 in Southeast right now we have Klawock in-season  
17 sockeye salmon harvest surveys that we have been doing.  
18 The project originally was for a three year data  
19 collection. We did the first year, it's a project that  
20 was in cooperation with Klawock\*Keenya and Cathy helped  
21 out with our training of surveys. Last year we ended  
22 up having some staffing capacity problems so at the  
23 moment we're looking for a new partner to help out with  
24 that project. But it should continue data collection  
25 next summer and then the following summer.

26  
27 We also are part of the KeKwaan\*  
28 Community Forest Partnership and our part in that  
29 project was to do comprehensive harvest surveys in  
30 Kake, which we completed this spring and so now we have  
31 -- we're just getting the data back from those, we're  
32 going to do an internal data review within the  
33 Department and then we'll head back to Kake to present  
34 all the data that we collected so that we can get  
35 feedback from community members before we write a  
36 report that will be published next year sometime.

37  
38 We have upcoming surveys happening in  
39 Pelican and Tenakee and Gustavus, that will go this  
40 spring. I was just talking to Cal and hopefully I'll  
41 get with Patty as well to talk about community  
42 meetings. Before the surveys start we like to go to --  
43 we have support from the communities to go but we like  
44 to do a meeting beforehand to kind of explain why we're  
45 there, what kind of data we're collecting, how the data  
46 gets used, to hear any concerns we might be able to  
47 incorporate into our survey. Certainly the  
48 conversations you guys have had during this meeting,  
49 we're looking at ways to incorporate questions or  
50

0543

1 additional parts of the projects that we could provide  
2 data in the future to these sort of topics.

3  
4                   There's a new project that I'm a  
5 partner in -- I'm not particularly involved in it but  
6 it's with the U.S. Forest Service, it's called Food  
7 From the Forest, Alaska National Forest Contributions  
8 to Wild Food Systems. It's this collaborative project  
9 that's being led by Ryan Bellmore who's a fish  
10 biologist at Pacific Northwest Research Station and  
11 Marie Gutschesel who is an doc fellow and they're  
12 basically using long-term data of wild food harvest  
13 that's been collected by the Department over the last  
14 40 years to estimate Forest contributions to wild food  
15 systems. They're using this food web modeling approach  
16 to ask three questions. What proportion of wild food  
17 harvest is directly and indirectly supported by  
18 National Forests in Alaska. How does harvest vary  
19 between communities and through time. And how  
20 resilient are wild food systems to changing Forests and  
21 watershed conditions. So that project has just got  
22 started. Marie has only started working this month but  
23 we hope you guys will be hearing more about the project  
24 as it moves forward.

25  
26                   And then the last thing I wanted to  
27 talk about was the Alaska Salmon Task Force, which is a  
28 task force created by an Act of Congress in response to  
29 recent unprecedented shifts in salmon abundance in  
30 Alaska. The purpose is to compile science and  
31 traditional knowledge to identify what is known about  
32 salmon in Alaska, data gaps and needed research. This  
33 will be used to develop a coordinated research strategy  
34 for sustainable salmon management in Alaska. There is  
35 an upcoming two day public meeting November 14 and 15th  
36 and the afternoon of those meetings are dedicated to  
37 public testimony. Traditional knowledge is a large  
38 component of the task force's efforts but it definitely  
39 relies partly on people sharing this information. So I  
40 just want to put out there that this meeting is  
41 happening. I can send the announcement to your Council  
42 Coordinator if you guys would like to see it and it  
43 would be great to have lots of people call in and  
44 provide testimony to the task force.

45  
46                   And I think that's all I had for my  
47 update so thank you for the time and if there are any  
48 questions I'm happy to take them.

49  
50

0544

1                   ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, are  
2 there any questions for Ms. Sill.

3  
4                   Mr. Hernandez.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, Lauren, do  
7 you routinely provide the results of your survey  
8 information to the Council or do we need to request to  
9 see them or do they show up in analysis or like I say,  
10 do we get all the results from your surveys?

11  
12                  MS. SILL: I don't think that you do.  
13 I'm not 100 percent positive. I -- I don't think that  
14 we've given the full list of our -- of the whole  
15 overview of our data. I believe that in the past when  
16 we publish a report that I'll bring it up that it's  
17 been published, but I don't believe that sharing all  
18 the data has been traditionally something that we've  
19 done but certainly can.

20  
21                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. I just  
22 hear a lot of worthwhile projects there that would be  
23 of a lot of interest to the Council and I just -- yeah,  
24 now that we know about them, I don't know if we need to  
25 request the results or we're going to automatically see  
26 them so I guess we'll just keep that in mind. So  
27 personal preference is when you do some community  
28 surveys like that, that you would just kind of  
29 routinely provide them to the Council, I think would be  
30 great. So I'll make that comment.

31  
32                  ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.

33  
34                  Ms. Phillips.

35  
36                  MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
37 Is it okay to share this like No. 2 blurb, like, you  
38 know, post something in the community to give them a  
39 head's up that this will be happening?

40  
41                  MS. SILL: Through the Chair. Member  
42 Phillips. Absolutely. And usually once we actually  
43 start planning and -- planning a community meeting I'll  
44 do a whole flier about the surveys and we'll be looking  
45 to hire residents to train and survey, administration  
46 and so usually there's usually a flier about that too,  
47 about what we're doing and pay and all that kind of  
48 stuff, which -- yeah.

49  
50

0545

1                           ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right.  
2 Other questions for Ms. Sill.

3  
4                           (No comments)

5  
6                           ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Great, thank  
7 you.

8  
9                           MS. SILL: Thank you.

10  
11                          MR. SMITH: Well, just.....

12  
13                          ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Okay, we have  
14 one more report, do you want to -- okay.

15  
16                          MR. SMITH: Well, just to remember my  
17 first meeting that Mr. Jackson from Kake, because it  
18 just came to me about the issue with the crab, and I  
19 don't know if that's ever come up or if there was any  
20 response or did anybody go to support Kake in that  
21 issue. I know there was testimony and he chatted with  
22 us. But, yeah, I just -- when she talked about that I  
23 just remembered about that piece.

24  
25                          ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, hold  
26 on to that. We are under agency reports and we do  
27 still have the Forest Service report to go through.

28  
29                          MR. CROSS: All right, thank you,  
30 Madame Chair. For the record my name is Robert Cross.  
31 I'm the Subsistence Program Manager for the Tongass and  
32 I have whittled this down to all the good stuff so I  
33 will try to make it go fast.

34  
35                          Okay.

36  
37                          So for this year we've entered into  
38 seven Fisheries Resource Monitoring partner agreements  
39 that have totalled roughly \$878,000 in partner funding.  
40 So that provided funds for six local tribal  
41 organizations as well as agency partners like ADF&G and  
42 contributed to funding of roughly 36 jobs. I think  
43 that's a pretty low estimate, because I just talked to  
44 the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and they said that they had  
45 hired on and off about 14 people to work the Klag Bay  
46 project so I think it's contributing to a lot more  
47 seasonal positions. And then we're also partnering  
48 with KIC. I know they were going to give a  
49 presentation but I just want to give them a shout out  
50

0546

1 for the work that they've been doing on the Unuk River  
2 Monitoring project for eulachon and they're also  
3 performing water equality and eDNA work and that's a  
4 partnership between KIC and the Forest Service.

5

6 So the next one is in response to some  
7 concerns that I've heard from the Council since I've  
8 taken this position about access to data, you know,  
9 specifically Member Douville's recent comment as well,  
10 we're working with our GIS shop because I am not a GIS  
11 nerd by any means and they're creating an interactive  
12 web map so it will be a website and it'll have  
13 basically a Google Earth of the Tongass and you can  
14 click on any of our FRMP sites and be able to see both  
15 the current year escapement for species and then  
16 historic escapement for those systems as well. So  
17 that's something that is going through the chain of  
18 approval right now and then we'll test it out with some  
19 of our tribal partners, like Sitka Tribe of Alaska and  
20 then we'll also have our biologists Ashley Bolwerk and  
21 some other folks look at it to make sure that it meets  
22 their needs and then we'll be presenting that at one of  
23 the future Council meetings.

24

25 Also we partnered with the Sitka  
26 Conservation Society to continue the youth engagement  
27 course in the Federal Subsistence Program. So as part  
28 of that we've been able to bring several students to  
29 the fall RAC, the last Board meeting, and then as you  
30 saw to this meeting. I'm super happy to announce that  
31 we've secured some more funding for that as well so  
32 we're going to be expanding that program and Heather  
33 can talk to you guys out in the hallway about that but  
34 we're super excited about it.

35

36 We've also been serving on the Unit 4  
37 working group and that's in the hopes of increasing  
38 sort of the breadth of information we have from  
39 traditional, ecological knowledge and just information  
40 from the rural communities.

41

42 Also Jake Musslewhite and Ashley  
43 Bolwerk participated in a super cool event, it's the  
44 Angoon's Youth Steward's Youth Sockeye Harvest Event,  
45 it's kind of a mouthful but they worked with AYS and  
46 went out with some of the local youth from Angoon and  
47 they harvested sockeye out in Basket Bay and learned to  
48 process the fish from their elders and then what is  
49 super cool -- we have a slide show about it but there's  
50



0547

1 some photos of the youth handing out the sockeye to  
2 their community. And I just want to be very specific  
3 about this, we were really honored to be invited to  
4 that community and play a very small part. It was in  
5 no way us teaching folks from Angoon how to subsist but  
6 we were able -- you know, we had the gas in the boats  
7 and, yeah, so it was very cool to be invited out there  
8 and we're looking into other opportunities in other  
9 communities.

10

11 So if anybody has any ideas on that,  
12 again, we have the equipment and so we're happy to just  
13 kind of shuttle folks back and forth and be a part of  
14 that community harvest event.

15

16 And then pretty much last on the list,  
17 we've also been working with the Sitka Conservation  
18 Society to provide Federal subsistence outreach  
19 workshops in rural communities around the Southeast.  
20 So we've done eight of these so far. I know some of  
21 you have gone to them and, yeah, this is also in  
22 response to some concerns that I heard when I first  
23 started in this position as far as public engagement  
24 and folks, you know, knowing how this process works and  
25 being able to be a part of it. So, you know, I pretty  
26 much -- we hired Ashley and I just said, you know, you  
27 interviewed really well so here's a giant project to  
28 work on and she took it and ran with it and she's been  
29 doing potlucks and I don't want to leave Heather  
30 Bauscher out either, so that pair, they've been living  
31 out of suitcases for a couple months, and just really  
32 working with the communities and being invited into the  
33 communities to try to offer the information that they  
34 have.

35

36 So, again, that was to specifically  
37 address some of the concerns that the Council had as  
38 far as folks engaging, you know, whether or not they  
39 knew how the process worked.

40

41 So for anybody who went through it, I  
42 know Harvey Kitka was in the one in Sitka and they go  
43 through everything from how to testify to how the  
44 Federal Subsistence Board process works, how the  
45 Councils, who the Council members are, I mean it's -- I  
46 learned stuff in there, so it was really good. So,  
47 yeah, so far they've been to Sitka, Petersburg,  
48 Wrangell, Kake, Angoon, Gustavus, Tenakee, Pelican and  
49 Hoonah, and I'm sorry if I'm leaving any of those out,  
50

0548

1 but the plan is to continue those in the late spring --  
2 or I guess late winter, early spring so we'll be going  
3 to POW, Yakutat so they'll be reaching out to Council  
4 members. I will just add that I would implore you to  
5 please, you know, shake the bushes and drag people into  
6 this, it's really meaningful and the folks that have  
7 gone have really had great comments about it and have  
8 learned a lot of information. So, yeah, I would just  
9 ask that the RAC members, if they see that it's coming  
10 to their town, I'm sure that Ashley and Heather are  
11 going to be reaching out to you and working with you  
12 but I'd really just ask that you help them and get as  
13 many people there as possible. So we've had between a  
14 full room of folks, standing room only to one person in  
15 attendance. So it's kind of hit or miss but there's  
16 always good food. Ashley makes, you know, pickled kelp  
17 and herring egg casserole, and all kinds of good stuff  
18 and the folks from the community do as well.

19

20 So that's it, that's all I got time for  
21 so I'll take any questions at this time.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you for  
24 that. At least your range of attendance wasn't zero  
25 to.....

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: .....so that's  
30 great.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Are there any  
35 questions or comments on the Forest Service report.

36

37 MS. PHILLIPS: Madame Chair.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Phillips.

40

41 MS. PHILLIPS: I would just like to  
42 thank the Forest Service Tongass Region for a yeoman's  
43 job of, you know, trying to get more engagement in the  
44 work that you do in the communities.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. It  
49 sounds like you summarized all the Forest Service

50

0549

1 reports because you're the fastest talker, right.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right, I'm  
6 getting signals that maybe.....

7

8 MS. PERRY: Well, Jake.....

9

10 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: I mean at the  
11 pleasure of the Council, I know Ashley has a great  
12 presentation and a lot of great photos, and also a  
13 fisheries summary presentation so if the Council wishes  
14 we've got it all wound up and could go through it  
15 quickly.

16

17 (Off record comments regarding  
18 presentation)

19

20 MS. PERRY: Could you turn one a  
21 microphone.

22

23 REPORTER: Someone needs to turn a  
24 microphone on.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: It sounds like  
27 there's an offer to forward the presentation that  
28 Ashley has put together regarding some of the youth and  
29 community engagement, I'm assuming stuff, and so she  
30 can forward that to the Council. We are getting pretty  
31 pressed on time. We'd love to hear those things but we  
32 had a lot of business at this meeting.

33

34 So with that are there any other  
35 questions regarding the agency report that Rob Cross  
36 gave us.

37

38 (Off record comments regarding  
39 presentation)

40

41 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: What's the wish  
42 of the Council, are you ready to keep going or do you  
43 want to conclude our agency reports.

44

45 MS. BAUSCHER: We can do it at the next  
46 meeting.

47

48 MS. PERRY: I just feel bad that  
49 because of the blizzard in March we skipped the agency  
50

0550

1 reports then and we're going to have an All Council  
2 meeting in the spring and probably won't have -- so the  
3 Forest Service Staff is just offering if this Council  
4 would like to hear it so.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: I do understand  
7 that. It's been a long meeting, though. I mean I hate  
8 to skip the agency reports but when we deliberate so  
9 long at the table and we run into 5:30 on our last day  
10 I don't know that I'm absorbing any information at this  
11 point, that's just my personal opinion.

12

13 Mr. Cross.

14

15 MR. CROSS: Yeah, Madame Chair. So  
16 I'll just add that this project, these workshops are  
17 still ongoing, there is still funding for it, so we're  
18 happy to -- although it's an amazing presentation, I  
19 love the photos I think that we can offer it maybe at  
20 the conclusion of the project or whenever possible.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Ms. Phillips.

23

24 MS. PHILLIPS: It can be a presentation  
25 at the All Council meeting, the work that they're  
26 doing.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: As an agenda  
29 item rather than an agency report.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: All right. Any  
34 other questions for Mr. Cross while he's here.

35

36 Mr. Bemis.

37

38 MR. BEMIS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
39 Thank you for your presentation and the struggle for  
40 funding and keep things going. I know my community  
41 steps up to the plate and helps out as much as it can  
42 so if you do come to Yakutat let us know ahead of time.  
43 I'm on the Council and we'll definitely get you an  
44 audience. Havelah is there working but, you know, if  
45 you were to address the Council and kind of tell what  
46 you're doing and they get a little better feeling for  
47 it because we usually wind up just having annual three  
48 month meetings with Havelah because she's always out in  
49 the field or doing something. So if you come to

50

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1 Yakutat just get us a short meeting if you could and  
2 give us an update and that way we stay on top of this  
3 and help you out as much as we can.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you.

8  
9 Ms. Phillips.

10  
11 MS. PHILLIPS: Madame Chair. I feel  
12 similar to you that, you know, after three days after  
13 very intense meeting my brain is like, you know, not  
14 really functioning very well right now.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you. Any  
19 other questions for Mr. Cross.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 ACTING CHAIR NEEDHAM: Thank you so  
24 much for coming up and providing this brief report to  
25 keep us informed of what's been going on.

26  
27 I think we are finished with agency  
28 reports so I would like to hand the Chair back over to  
29 Mr. Hernandez so he can close out our meeting.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So, Madame Chair,  
32 I think we covered all topics, I guess that's why  
33 you're handing me back the gavel. So the only final  
34 thing on the agenda is closing comments if any of the  
35 Council members would like to make any closing comments  
36 this is an opportunity to do that now.

37  
38 Cal, go ahead.

39  
40 MR. CASIPIT: I just wanted to go on  
41 the record and thank Staff for the really well prepared  
42 Staff analysis that we have in our book. They were  
43 just excellent and the presentations by Staff, again,  
44 was excellent. And I also wanted to thank Mr.  
45 Churchwell for hanging with us the whole time, that's  
46 really cool, doesn't happen a lot for us.

47  
48 Thank you.

49  
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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy.

2

3 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 I'd like to add to that. Again, thank you to Staff and  
5 agency personnel but also to all of the folks that are  
6 still here with us in the room that aren't our Staff or  
7 agency helping us through these proposals but have been  
8 listening attentively and smiling and nodding from the  
9 back of the room, of course, our great program with  
10 youth and I see a former Council member that's been  
11 with us the whole time and so we really appreciate you  
12 guys in attendance.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Larry, and then  
15 Albert.

16

17 MR. BEMIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
18 like to say thank you to the Staff and everybody that  
19 has come here and participated and I am glad to be back  
20 on the Council. And hopefully get back up to speed and  
21 be a little more involved in the decisions that are  
22 being sent to us and thank DeAnna for all the hard work  
23 she does in sending that and keeping us abreast, that's  
24 a full-time year-round job. Good to see you all.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Albert, did you  
27 want to say something.

28

29 MR. HOWARD: No, thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody  
32 else.

33

34 Mike.

35

36 MR. DOUVILLE: Yes, thanks to DeAnna  
37 and Staff. It's nice to have Staff here. There have  
38 been several meetings where we didn't have that support  
39 and it makes it much more difficult. The only other  
40 thing I would say is that the tribe had some monies and  
41 they bought some fish, sockeyes -- ocean sockeyes from  
42 the local boys and distributed 20 per household for the  
43 Craig Tribe, which was really nice and well received.  
44 My only concern is in the Sarkar System, we don't have  
45 -- we have one brown shirt here, I guess, and can't  
46 enforce the whole island. Perhaps some Federal help  
47 could come about because there's lots of snagging going  
48 on above the bridge which is illegal and people are  
49 getting their limits there and it's not okay, we gave  
50

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1 them sockeye as a free ride when they hit freshwater,  
2 no nets or anything else. I don't care if they  
3 sportfish there but it's all -- and it's not okay.

4

5 That's all I have to say.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.

10 Anybody else.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'd just like to  
15 thank, you know, all the organization that went into  
16 this meeting to allow us to come to Klawock. I was  
17 really glad we could come to Klawock this time, we  
18 heard a lot of good public testimony here from local  
19 folks and they took good care of us with food and  
20 transportation and, yeah, it was a really good meeting,  
21 so appreciate all the work that went into it.

22

23 John, go ahead.

24

25 MR. SMITH: (In Tlingit)

26

27 It's good to see your faces today my  
28 friends and a lot of positive and good things and good  
29 relationships going on.

30

31 (In Tlingit)

32

33 In our culture we don't say goodbye,  
34 there's no words for it so I can't wait to see you guys  
35 again. My term's coming up. It's real shocking how  
36 quick that was, it just seemed like just the other day.  
37 So I'm hoping the Team can encourage me to hang around.  
38 I surely would like to sit at the table.

39

40 Hoorah.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, John.

43 Like they say, time flies when you're having fun.

44

45 Okay, anybody else.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think we can

50

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1 call the meeting adjourned.

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3

(Applause)

4

5

(Off record)

6

7

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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