

EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Pike's Landing
Fairbanks, Alaska
March 4, 2020
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sue Entsminger, Chair
Andy Bassich
Andrew Firmin
William Glanz
Timothy McManus
Donald Woodruff
Robert Wright
Charles Jagow

Regional Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/4/2020)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning. Welcome to the Eastern Interior RAC second meeting or second day meeting. I would like to have the people online -- everyone let us know who's online now.

MR. SCHAEFFER: Good morning. This is Damon Schaeffer with NANA Regional Corporation in Kotzebue.

MS. WORKER: Good morning. This is Suzanne Worker with the Office of Subsistence Management.

MR. BURCH: Morning. This is Mark Burch with the Department of Fish and Game.

MS LENART: This is Beth Lenart with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

MR. CHAKOWSKI: Nathan Chakowski with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else online.

MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Paul Williams, Jr., certified Gwich'in teacher from Cruikshank School in Beaver, Alaska. Just meeting with my student, Marcy.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could you state your name again, please.

MR. FIRMIN: Paul Williams, Jr.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh.

MR. WILLIAMS: Paul Williams, Jr. I am a Gwich'in certified.....

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh.

MR. WILLIAMS:teacher here in the

1 Yukon Flats School District, Beaver, Alaska. We're
2 listening in with my students this morning. And I have
3 a comment later.
4

5 Thank you.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Good
8 morning, Paul.
9

10 And those in the audience -- well,
11 first is there anyone else online.
12

13 (No comments)
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll move to
16 any new people in the audience, if you could introduce
17 yourself.
18

19 MR. ROWE: I am Eric Rowe from Tanana
20 Chiefs Conference.
21

22 MS. PINE: Barb Pine from the Upper
23 Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Committee.
24

25 MR. JOHN: Gerald John from Arctic
26 Village.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
29 I see Jennifer back there. I was -- I recognize
30 Jennifer Yuhas.
31

32 MS. YUHAS: I'm Jennifer Yuhas, just a
33 member of the public.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
36 right. And thank you, everyone.
37

38 Okay. Yesterday we were on proposal
39 82. And since then I've got two more blue cards. So
40 I'm going to call up Gerald John from Arctic Village.
41

42 Gerald.
43

44 And the mic's already on so have a seat
45 there by the mic. And welcome.
46

47 MR. JOHN: Yep. Good morning. Good
48 morning. Where should I start. I'm from Arctic
49 Village as everybody knows. I've been a subsistence
50

1 hunter all my life.

2

3 One thing I want to say about Red Sheep
4 Creek is that there are allotments up there, there's
5 possibly three allotments and each allotment contains
6 160 acres. I have had stories from my elders saying
7 that there are at least three people buried up there.
8 We do not know where these burial sites are, but
9 they're probably most likely grown over. One thing
10 that I don't like is that if you have like one of your
11 family members passed away and someone going over there
12 and walking all over your family's grave or, you know,
13 if you have a piece of allotment, 160 acres, and if you
14 -- and if you have it, right, and if I go there and
15 shoot an animal, I'm -- that's against the law because
16 it's -- I'm shooting an animal on your land, right.
17 That's one thing that I don't understand is if there is
18 personal land up there, allotments, I don't know --
19 understand why they want to open it.

20

21 Another thing is the burials, there's
22 three separate people that are buried up there. Again
23 we don't know where they're at, but, yeah, there's a
24 lot of traditional value up there that we still use.
25 Like a lot of our older hunters, our older guides, they
26 don't really fill out these tags. Again -- which is
27 really important because it -- you know, let's say that
28 my community shot or harvested 10 sheep and we don't
29 have nothing to show for it, you know. We could
30 harvest sheep and, you know, some of the older guys
31 they don't understand paperwork sometimes or, you know,
32 phones where -- how can I put it, they -- they never
33 done it all their lives like, you know, they never had
34 to fill out a tag just to go out and hunt on their own
35 land. But a lot of the older people, they don't really
36 do that and that's what we're really trying to push
37 them on.

38

39 But, yeah, it's kind of -- a lot of
40 traditional values up there. I hear stories from our
41 elders saying that we even built fences around entire
42 mountains just to at least get a sheep. If you could
43 picture it back in the day when there's no guns or
44 anything like that, you know, you got to feed yourself.
45 And Alaskan have went to extraordinary lengths just to
46 feed our families. There are times where I heard
47 stories where Red Sheep Creek fed a couple of villages
48 where there was no caribou or moose around. And what
49 they -- the story from what I heard from an elder was

50

1 there was no animals around and but there was sheep.
2 And what they did is they just went around this whole
3 mountain and they just generally going up and up and up
4 and there's nowhere for these sheep to go. So, yeah,
5 they just somehow got them, but if you could imagine
6 what they had to do, you know, with no guns, you know,
7 three feet of snow, four feet. But, yeah, my -- just
8 don't like it that -- what they're trying to do. But
9 we do go up there a lot, it's just that we don't, you
10 know, show it on paper.
11

12 And gas prices are ridiculous up there,
13 you know. I don't think any other, you know, people
14 from other towns would spend \$15,000 just one way just
15 to get there. As we all know some people spend up to
16 \$24,000 just to go sheep hunting and don't get nothing.
17 And that's the same case for us, you know, we're not
18 really, you know, professionals at it, you know, we all
19 have mistakes. But, yeah, I want to say that there's a
20 lot of traditional value up there and we still practice
21 it. Recently we did just build a -- couple years ago
22 we did build a fence, a demo fence up in Arctic, on the
23 outskirts of town just to do -- just to show people,
24 people that come into town, will show them that we
25 actually still, you know, practice these values. And
26 there's still a lot of values that we do practice up
27 there, a lot of tradition.
28

29 A lot of times we spend a lot of time
30 out on the land, you know. Right now it's what, 30
31 below. I guarantee you there's people out there on the
32 land right now, not just Arctic Village, but every
33 other town there are people out there on the land. And
34 it's a big part of rural Alaska is being out on the
35 land for us. Even being here in town just for, you
36 know, five, six days and, you know, I want to -- I want
37 to go out into the woods, you know, where -- where I
38 feel, you know, alive like. And that's how most people
39 feel when they -- you know, when you're going up there
40 and you see these majestic, you know, big mountains,
41 this mountain range that stretches for hundreds and
42 hundreds of miles. Yeah, I just wanted to put that out
43 there that, you know, we do have traditional values and
44 sacred places up there.
45

46 I have another story where we did
47 harvest sheep, we went by plane. And when we were
48 coming back and I'm looking down out the window and I
49 see another plane that is tipped over -- no, that -- a
50

1 plane that's not even supposed to be -- be there. You
2 know, the pilot took a chance and, you know, he tried
3 to land and he end up flipping his plane. Again Arctic
4 Village -- you know, they asked Arctic Village to come
5 up and help him, you know, tow the -- tow the airplane
6 back and -- which we did. But, yeah, you know, my
7 question is why are people landing places where there's
8 no landing strips. We all know about Super Cubs where
9 you just need 60 feet to land, you know, and to take
10 off.
11

12 Yeah, I just wanted to put that out
13 there to everybody that I have seen planes come in and
14 try to land in some of the roughest spots and end up,
15 you know, ruining their rides. There's a couple of
16 times where me and my brothers were climbing -- trying
17 to summit a mountain and a plane came by and, you know,
18 just flying around, you know, go over this way, come
19 back. And by the time the plane seen us, you know, it
20 was already too late, the ram was already running up
21 the mountain. And, you know, we were waving -- we were
22 waving at the plane and by the time the plane saw us or
23 spotted us it just took off and never came back.
24

25 You know, these are things that you
26 guys got to look into where, you know, planes just
27 totally just fly 10, maybe 50 feet over your animal.
28 And they don't know if people like me that are there.
29 I have heard stories where planes, you know, float
30 planes just come into random lakes and, you know,
31 harvest a moose and only take the antlers. I have
32 heard stories of elders, not from Arctic but from
33 downriver, where they literally just follow airplanes
34 now because they know that they won't take the whole
35 animal.
36

37 There's some stories where they just
38 killed the animal, took the horn and just left the
39 whole carcass, not even -- the skin is still on there.
40 And that just makes me wonder about, you know, what
41 they do with the sheep, you know, do they, you know,
42 just take the horns and, you know, leave the big part
43 of the carcass there. I know that we put in the plans
44 where, you know, people if they don't want meat they
45 could give it to the residents. They have to probably
46 step that up a little bit because, you know, who knows,
47 you know, they could just be out there, you know,
48 harvesting animals just for the horns. But there are
49 people here at this table that would gladly accept, you
50

1 know, a whole carcass of a sheep.

2
3 There's another story, I wanted to
4 harvest a sheep. We have Elders Nutrition Program
5 throughout every village and I donated my sheep to the
6 villages and it got split up, you know, the whole sheep
7 got split up between I think seven villages. And about
8 four years later a guy came up to me and asked me hey,
9 you're Gerald, right. And I was like, yeah, yeah, I'm
10 Gerald. And, you know, he gave me -- shook my hand and
11 gave me a hug, you know, hey, my -- my grandma never
12 ate sheep meat for almost 40 years and I want to say
13 thank you. And, you know, just that kind of respect
14 and that kind of gratitude, you know, it goes a long
15 ways for us people.

16
17 But, yeah, that's all I want to say and
18 I hope you guys make the right choice and I hope you
19 guys really think about, you know, the people that are
20 in the airplanes. So there's -- just wanted to put
21 that out there about a couple stories.

22
23 But, yeah, I just want to say thank you
24 for giving me your time.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Gerald, maybe
27 somebody has a question.

28
29 Any questions of Gerald.

30
31 MR. FIRMIN: I had one.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

34
35 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you, Gerald, for
36 your testimony. I was just going to ask you though
37 about outside of the sheep -- the Arctic Village Sheep
38 -- Red Sheep Creek, the management area there, the
39 people can go up there with a snowmachine and take
40 three sheep in the wintertime on a State permit outside
41 -- outside of the Red Sheep Creek area.

42
43 MR. JOHN: Yeah.

44
45 MR. FIRMIN: Would you be in support of
46 changing that to one sheep or doing antler destruction
47 if it's up there in the wintertime so they got to leave
48 the horns there or something like that?

49
50

1 MR. JOHN: Yeah, I would be in favor of
2 doing that.

3
4 MR. FIRMIN: Okay.

5
6 MR. JOHN: Like again there's -- if
7 you're getting three sheep and there's, you know, a
8 couple of females or ewes in there, you know, you're
9 taking away the population, you know, just like moose.
10 But, yeah, I'm in support of it.

11
12 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Robert.

15
16 MR. WRIGHT: Is that going to be the
17 one where it's only going to be one curl -- one ram for
18 every four years?

19
20 MR. FIRMIN: Well, currently the -- the
21 regulation is three sheep by permit in the remainder of
22 the 25A in the wintertime. That's the hunt where the
23 people are running up with snowmachines and running
24 them down and shooting any three sheep I believe. So
25 that was just -- another thought was to not only to not
26 -- just to change that regulation to either an antler
27 destruction or to make it only one sheep instead of any
28 three. And that would only be on the State season so
29 the Federal season for local people would be you can
30 still get any three.

31
32 MR. JOHN: Yeah, sounds good. Sounds
33 reasonable.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
36 questions.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Gerald, I
41 just wanted to tell you that I'm an avid sheep hunter
42 like you and things that you just mentioned I've seen,
43 I've been many times in my 45 years of hunting sheep
44 had -- not many, but it's happened where planes fly
45 over, even a helicopter. And that's why the State come
46 up with that probably three years ago, no surveying
47 sheep during sheep season. And I'm hoping that it's
48 helped a great deal. I don't see it as much since that
49 occurred.

50

1 And then I wanted to tell you in my
2 area my son and I are guides and we take sheep hunters
3 out. We're a very tiny operation, we take a few sheep
4 with nonresident hunters and share the meat with the
5 village. And the late Katie John loved it. She sounds
6 just like your people where she was hungry for sheep
7 meat because she actually grew up on sheep meat.
8

9 And that's the kind of thing that I
10 want to work on with this Council is we have -- there
11 was developed a program in 2011 to have a requirement
12 that people have to take this hunter ed thing and learn
13 about the people and the land status that -- where it's
14 at. Would you support that kind of thing where they
15 need to have -- the State could require that they have
16 to have this training before they can even hunt in
17 these areas?
18

19 MR. JOHN: Yes, that would -- that
20 would really help us. Another thing to look for is
21 probably trash, you know. I never experienced any
22 trash like build up, but, you know, there's probably
23 some places that are like that. So that's the one
24 thing to look out for.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, your
27 people have testified before us for many years and they
28 have said just that.
29

30 MR. JOHN: Yeah.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
33 questions of Gerald.
34

35 (No comments)
36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
38 coming.
39

40 MR. JOHN: All right. Thank you.
41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
43

44 MR. JOHN: Have a good day.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. The
47 next one is Jennifer Yuhas.
48

49 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
50

1 For the record my name is Jennifer Yuhas and I am now
2 just a member of the general public. And thank you to
3 Andy Bassich for inviting me back to come and testify
4 this morning. Yesterday I knew that the RAC was in
5 town and I used to come before you for several years
6 representing an official position and I thought well,
7 I'll just pop by and see everybody. And it was -- I
8 hadn't looked at the agenda, it was after 5:00 and lo
9 and behold everybody's talking about Red Sheep Creek
10 again.

11

12

(Laughter)

13

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I don't know how many of you like to
play board games, I like them a lot. That can be a
little annoying when we're playing them. I'm sure a
few people in the room and maybe even on the
teleconference would say it can be annoying other ways,
but I like to read the rules. So if you're playing
chess the guy with the pointy hat goes diagonal, the

1 little castle goes back and forth. And that's the way
2 you're allowed to move the piece. Well, when the issue
3 first came up when I was in an official position and it
4 had been coming up for 20 years before that, there was
5 no conservation concern and the Board and the RAC are
6 bound to the conservation concern. It seemed like
7 people wanted to have a quick fix and to say well, I
8 know we're not really supposed to do it that way, but I
9 just want to do something for the local people. And I
10 brought up several adequate ways to address that.

11
12 At the time the argument was made with
13 one of the members of the Board that we know there's
14 not a conservation concern, but the area's just really
15 special to the people so we want to close it, said
16 okay, if that's the argument and it's not conservation
17 there are methods available to you. At the time we
18 still hadn't done all of the conveyances. We heard at
19 the 2011 Federal Subsistence Board that the allotments
20 are over here and where are the sheep and where do
21 people hunt sheep, well, the sheep are all up here and
22 there could be trespass, but if this is the area that's
23 sacred that people want to keep other people out of,
24 you could petition for a swap and it would take about
25 five years. But it seemed as though people who wanted
26 a quick fix could say well, we're not really supposed
27 to do it that way, but let's just do it that way
28 because it'll make people happy for now. It doesn't
29 address what's within the purview of the RAC and the
30 Federal Subsistence Board. There are other methods to
31 keep people out if that's the goal, but it's not here
32 in this venue. Closing the area to sheep hunting for
33 the limited season doesn't keep people out as we heard
34 in 2013. There are people going through the area for
35 hiking, for other opportunities, through the area to a
36 different place where they can hunt sheep and making
37 this regulation in opposition to what is within the
38 purview of the RAC and the Board doesn't keep people
39 out. There's another place to do that.

40
41 And I know that analogies fall short,
42 but I'm going to make one. If you come into town and
43 you -- and we go to McDonald's because it's time to go
44 to dinner and you say well, I want spaghetti. And I
45 know these things can seem a little ridiculous, but it
46 really does paint the picture and they say we don't
47 serve that here. If you want to go across town to
48 Geraldo's which I recommend if you're in town, best
49 spaghetti in town, that's where you can have spaghetti.

50

1 Showing up at McDonald's every year and saying I still
2 want spaghetti and I'm going to come here until I get
3 it, somebody might pour a bunch of ketchup over some
4 fries and say here's your spaghetti, but it's not
5 spaghetti. And that's what we've been doing with this
6 issue, if we really want to make a difference and have
7 some collaboration we have to work within the bounds of
8 ANILCA, within the bounds of the creation and original
9 EIS of the Board and the RACS and what's within their
10 purview for conservation. If we want to preserve
11 culture and keep an area sacred and keep people out of
12 it, we have to work across town in a different venue.
13 And I'm sorry it is that way, we all want to do
14 something that feels good. I thought coming up with an
15 ethics and orientation class that would not be allowed
16 to issue a permit until we had worked with the local
17 people and incorporated local wisdom would do that, but
18 it wasn't adopted by the Board.

19
20 So I hope that some of that testimony
21 on the history can add to your discussion and I have
22 brought the transcripts and the original proposal to
23 add to your record.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
26 members, any questions.

27
28 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you, Jennifer. I'm
29 totally going to use that one, pouring ketchup on
30 french fries and telling them it's spaghetti.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a good
33 one.

34
35 MR. FIRMIN: And that's like I -- I
36 agree with you, that's -- that was what I was saying
37 yesterday, I'm not getting in the van until you show me
38 the candy. So.....

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. FIRMIN:you know, the class
43 has got to get made first, you know, show me the tacos
44 before I get in the truck, man. And once the class is
45 made maybe something could be -- something can be, you
46 know, changed or we can come to some conclusion here.

47
48 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go
2 ahead.
3

4 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair, the way that
5 was drafted was to pass the opening contingent on the
6 Board of Game and they did theirs. And so if it's not
7 passed to open it, then nobody's going to develop the
8 class, the written -- it has to be passed to open
9 contingent on the class so that you can hunt after
10 you've had -- just like the other examples that we gave
11 at the time there's some -- you have to take a class to
12 duck hunt in Juneau on the -- on the one Refuge, you
13 have to take a class to bear bait in some areas, and
14 until it's passed to be open with the class that's the
15 action that has to be taken. Nobody's going to start
16 working on it. Here we are a decade later and I
17 thought we would have already had some collaboration
18 with the local area, but it didn't pass so there isn't.
19

20 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
23

24 MR. BASSICH: So I'm trying to follow
25 along here. So the State passed with the contingency
26 that the course had to be developed and it did not --
27 it did not move forward through the Federal. So at
28 this point in time is it still on the records, do we
29 know is that still on the records from the State?
30

31 MS. YUHAS: (Nods affirmatively)
32

33 MR. BASSICH: Okay. With that -- with
34 that caveat. So it's a matter of going to the Federal
35 Subsistence Board at this point in time and asking them
36 to move forward and help to develop the course, is that
37 clear?
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, now I'm
40 confused.
41

42 MR. BASSICH: Allowing -- well,
43 allowing to.....
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
46 saying.....
47

48 MR. BASSICH:for that course to
49 happen.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:the
2 Federal Board -- I thought I heard you say that the
3 sheep hunting had to be open first. So now I'm
4 confused because that's not -- you're saying that the
5 hunter education.....

6
7 MS. YUHAS: (Nods affirmatively)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She's nodding
10 her head incidentally, I don't know if the court
11 reporter.....

12
13 REPORTER: I got it.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought you
16 said that the Federal Board has to pass an open season
17 to develop it. Yeah, so.....

18
19 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair. So in 2011
20 we wrote the Federal proposal to say opening it
21 contingent upon the Board of Game passing the
22 requirement for the class. And they -- they said we'll
23 wait and see if they do it. Well, they did it. So
24 they said there's a requirement for the class. So,
25 yes, opening it, but people still couldn't hunt until
26 they'd gone through the class see. So we said
27 contingent on the State -- on the Federal side
28 contingent upon the Board of Game passing the proposal
29 I wrote. Board of Game passed it. So.....

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But they
32 didn't write it.

33
34 MS. YUHAS:so they're not going
35 to until it's open to be able to have the class. It's
36 -- it's in the 2011 proposals.

37
38 MR. BASSICH: So the.....

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Okay. So the bottom line
43 on this just to try and simplify this is at this point
44 in time the action that would have to happen is the
45 Federal Board would have to have the opening which then
46 would allow for the class to be developed. And then
47 the hunts once that.....

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I

50

1 thought.

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MR. BASSICH:once a person takes that class after it's been developed then they would be able to go and hunt that area. And then it would be a matter at that point in time really of trying to decide what type of a hunt you want to have there. But -- right.....

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I.....

MR. BASSICH:whether.....

MS. YUHAS: (Nods affirmatively)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:that's how I understood it.

MR. BASSICH:we were going to do a permit or a draw hunt or whatever.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. The Federal Board isn't developing or passing to -- for a class, the State did.....

MS. YUHAS: Already did.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and then the Federal Board has to open it for a class.....

MR. BASSICH: Correct.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:because you don't need a class if nobody can hunt there.

MR. BASSICH: Correct. I'm just trying to simplify it so we know what actions need to happen and in what order if this is to move forward.

Thank you, Jennifer.

MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

MR. FIRMIN: Again and I think that was where it stalled it up again.....

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

1 MR. FIRMIN:because nobody showed
2 me the candy before they said get in the truck. And
3 that's not going to work for me and not for anybody in
4 Arctic Village. And that's kind of where it held up
5 and that was where the discussion maybe needs to shift
6 away from sheep hunters and shift to all visitors that
7 visit the sheep management area to take this course for
8 an education on trespass and, you know, customary uses
9 and respect for the people that own the property in --
10 within there and what they may encounter while they
11 pass through it.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

14
15 MR. FIRMIN: I think that's probably
16 the best avenue you can take on that.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I totally
19 agree. But and just expounding on what you said what
20 the roadblock is and I think the -- your spaghetti with
21 french fries and ketchup is not his show me the candy.
22 Because his -- his is he wants to see that class first
23 and you're saying it needs to be open at the Federal
24 side first. And see there's where I think we're having
25 a little.....

26
27 MR. FIRMIN: That's -- that's.....

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
30difficulty. And go ahead, Jennifer.

31
32 MS. YUHAS: Two points for Mr. Firmin
33 that the all visitors would be again outside the
34 purview of the RAC and the -- and the Federal
35 Subsistence Board.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

38
39 MS. YUHAS: So that would be.....

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's your
42 ketch or your spaghetti.

43
44 MS. YUHAS: Yeah, that would be -- that
45 would be somewhere else for anything that encompassed
46 all visitors. And then, yes, the idea of saying well,
47 if it's opened people say oh, gosh, then it's open.
48 Well, you still can't go without the paper so it's not
49 really open.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is why
2 the class needs to be developed because it's hard to
3 wrap your head around, you know, exactly what you want.
4 And to be personally just reaching out to Arctic
5 Village right now and working with the people and then
6 everybody begins to have an understanding, okay, this
7 is the State law, this is the Federal law, things are
8 done this way under the State, things are done this way
9 under the Federal because it's -- it's all confusing.
10 Even people that work and get paid to do stuff come up
11 here and give us mixed information.

12
13 So, yeah, would you be available to
14 help us?

15
16 MS. YUHAS: Madame Chair, I would. And
17 part of the which comes first, the cart or the horse,
18 without the area being open and we've all talked at the
19 State, Federal and local level about dwindling dollars
20 for things, right. So if it's not open nobody's going
21 to fund people going out there to develop anything,
22 right, that your agencies are going to say we don't
23 have the funds for that because it's not open.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But I think
26 -- right now I think the director of Wildlife might be
27 open to this.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: We also have somewhat of
30 a commitment from the Federal Subsistence Board to
31 develop hunter education program.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And my intent
34 of bringing this before the RAC now was let's start
35 somewhere, let's start right here and -- because it was
36 Eastern Interior that wanted to see something, it was
37 going to be just the Eastern Interior, the hunter
38 ethics thing. And here's a place to start to show that
39 we're going to work on it, maybe we can get funding
40 from the Feds to help us develop the program because no
41 one seems to be moving because of this catch 22, this
42 has to open before this is done. And I don't buy it.

43
44 MS. YUHAS: Last comment, Madame Chair,
45 I just urge the RAC and the Board to operate within
46 their authority. So there's been many times they've
47 gotten heat from the other side where they said -- they
48 meaning others have said this area is closed and they
49 can't do it. Well, you know, I've said yes, they can,
50

1 there's a conservation concern, that's exactly what 804
2 is for. When areas are closed not for a conservation
3 concern it is outside the authority of the RAC and the
4 Board. And acting outside our authority as the
5 Sturgeon case showed can only go on for so long.

6

7

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa.

8

9

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10 And, hi, Jennifer, it's so nice to see you.

11

12

And there's been a couple of times when
13 we've had these really good testimony and conversations
14 about the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area and I
15 think it is my responsibility to remind the Council
16 that the Board was very clear it was using authority in
17 ANILCA to close to the hunting of sheep by non-
18 Federally-qualified users based on the continuation of
19 subsistence uses. And that's very clear in ANILCA,
20 it's not outside ANILCA, conservation can also be a
21 consideration. And for the areas south of Cane Creek
22 that was the justification, part of the justification
23 for the area north of Cane Creek including Red Sheep
24 Creek. This primarily for the protection of the
25 continuation of subsistence uses based on these
26 conflicts and testimony.

27

28

Thank you very much.

29

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andrew
and I were talking and he said, you know, the Board of
Game process is that right now on the table we have
this to adopt so that's everything that's in it. So we
would have to amend our -- to be one -- you'll have to

1 ask the Fish and Game because.....

2

3 MR. BASSICH: No, my understanding from
4 Ms. Yuhas' testimony here is that the hunt is already
5 on the record and it's still on the record. So why do
6 we even have to write anything. What we wrote as an
7 Eastern RAC that doesn't even have to be written. And
8 it seems to me what needs to happen at this point is we
9 need to make a recommendation to the Federal
10 Subsistence Board to open up the hunt which would then
11 allow us to begin to create the hunter ethics that is
12 needed for a hunter to take before they can go out and
13 hunt the area.

14

15 Am I correct in that summary?

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: So we don't have to write
20 -- this proposal can go away, it's already on the
21 books, there's already -- there's already a hunt.....

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, there's
24 one.....

25

26 MR. BASSICH:on the books, it's
27 just not allowed to be done because you have to take a
28 course which isn't even written. So the focus of what
29 we're trying to do should be on how do we develop this
30 course in conjunction and in cooperation with the
31 people from Arctic Village and the region
32 cooperatively, that everybody's in agreement on this
33 course, has their input. Once that course is in place
34 then a hunter can take that course and then he or she
35 would be able to go and hunt in that area.

36

37 Am I correct, is that the summary -- is
38 that a correct summary?

39

40 MS YUHAS: A long summary and I don't
41 want to testify for or against the proposals that are
42 currently going through, but the simplistic answer is
43 yes, if it's -- if it's just open then the course can
44 be developed. But getting into the weeds of what would
45 go into a course during the regulatory proposal process
46 is a separate discussion for everyone, but that is the
47 -- the steps would be open it, then we can talk about a
48 course.

49

50

1 MR. BASSICH: On -- open it on.....

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If I may.....

4
5 MR. BASSICH:the Federal side.

6
7 MS. YUHAS: Uh-huh.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:if I
10 may, Andy. This proposal would take -- what she's
11 saying it has to be open. Well, that's the -- the
12 Federal Board proposal that we put -- that was before
13 us this last meeting and we voted against was to open
14 it. And we voted against it. And then to make things
15 a little simpler for us and more restrictive instead of
16 just opening it to everybody this proposal puts it in a
17 draw. Just the portion of the fall season. And that's
18 one issue in this proposal. Just the portion of the
19 fall season that would be a draw. So that's more
20 restrictive to opening it if they just pulled the
21 Federal restriction. And that was an intent to be
22 conservative and have conservation for the sheep when
23 we put this proposal in. So that part I don't want to
24 see die, that's something to very important. If it
25 were to open it's just going to be a draw.

26
27 So there's three -- there's three parts
28 to this proposal and I'm sorry that they're so bloody
29 complicated. But and it was something we didn't even
30 talk about was that -- the youth hunt. See the State
31 has a youth hunt and that had to go in there. But that
32 -- the winter season I guess is my main concern,
33 secondly to the hunter education and ethics is the
34 winter season and the three sheep limit. So, you know,
35 just saying that, no, let's not do anything is not the
36 answer in my mind, is not being sensitive to the
37 people.

38
39 MS. YUHAS: And certainly not
40 testifying against the proposal.....

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, and we're
43 -- you're here as a -- to testify and we got.....

44
45 Does anyone have anymore questions for
46 Jennifer?

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
2 Jennifer.

3
4 MS. YUHAS: Okay.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And so
7 Charlie talked to me last night and I'd like Charlie to
8 expound on his idea.

9
10 MR. JAGOW: So our discussion was about
11 the RS 595 winter hunt. Currently it is three sheep by
12 permit, this is under the State regs. And I believe
13 I'm understanding this correct that in proposal 82 it's
14 suggested that it's changed to one ram with full curl
15 horn or larger. My thoughts on that would be that we
16 could suggest changing it to one ram with antler
17 destruction required.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Horn.

20
21 MR. JAGOW: One -- yeah, horn
22 destruction required.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I think we
25 should just go through each -- like we said yesterday,
26 Charlie, just go through each one and see what we can
27 agree on and then come up with somebody -- a work
28 committee put together what the amendment would be,
29 what we agree on and it be in one motion.

30
31 Would we -- would.....

32
33 MR. WRIGHT: I didn't agree to that.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm
36 sorry.

37
38 MR. WRIGHT: That's not what I said.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You did say
41 that we should take piece to piece.....

42
43 MR. WRIGHT: Well, I said to.....

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and
46 that's what I was referring to.

47
48 MR. WRIGHT: I voted it down, I opposed
49 it. And I want it redone in the future, I don't want

50

1 to redo it today. I thought we were done with this
2 yesterday.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, we
5 weren't done with it.

6
7 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Well, that's my
8 misunderstanding. But I would like to see it
9 simplified. There's too many different directions and
10 go with -- going with the way it's put in that
11 proposal, there's too much in there.....

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. WRIGHT:for me.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would you be
18 in favor of what he just said for the winter hunt?

19
20 MR. WRIGHT: I won't change my stand.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
23 would you be in favor of pushing the State to develop
24 the hunter ethics and work with the people?

25
26 MR. WRIGHT: I would like to see the
27 people involved. That's -- that's why I am opposing
28 everything today is because people need to be involved
29 that are going to be affected. And once that --
30 because that's who we work for is the people. Once
31 they're involved and we hear their comments and their
32 wish and then I'll be happy to go along with whatever
33 they wish and comes out of that. We need to involve
34 the people and we need to consultate with them. We
35 need to -- when our meeting happens up there that would
36 be the best time to get this resolved in a -- in a fair
37 manner where everybody's involved. I think that
38 everybody that's going to be involved and affected
39 needs to be in the room or the people that represent
40 them.

41
42 And that's my bottom line, I just don't
43 want people to be left out and affected in the long
44 run. So as long as everybody involved is there and we
45 work through it I'd be happy.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I think we
48 agree on that, uh-huh.

49
50

1 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

4
5 MR. WRIGHT: Sure.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
8 We're -- the motion's on the floor. I don't have any
9 other testimony, but I know Fish and Game's online. So
10 if there's any questions of them we can ask them.

11
12 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

15
16 MR. McMANUS: Yeah, Madame Chair. For
17 the record I want to -- yeah, I'm into AC and I agree
18 with Charlie. And they oppose this too. I just want
19 to put that on the record.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I'm going
24 to ask you too, Tim, about the hunter ethics and
25 pushing to develop that?

26
27 MR. McMANUS: Yeah, I think if
28 something was wrote up in that point then it might kind
29 of deter a couple people from going there, but if they
30 really want to get out there and get it they're going
31 to do it.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You mean the
34 Department to development the program?

35
36 MR. McMANUS: Yeah.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
39 discussion on the motion?

40
41 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

44
45 MR. FIRMIN: Maybe with Andy's help we
46 could just amend this existing proposal to do away with
47 all of it except for the RS 595 part which is the
48 winter hunt and just keep that one portion of it which
49 says -- which changes from -- the existing regulation
50

1 is three sheep by permit from October 1st to April 30th
2 from the State season which would change it to one ram
3 with horn destruction. So then people can't drive up
4 there with snowmachines and shoot any three sheep in
5 the dead of winter or spring is normally when they go.
6

7 And that would be a amend -- motion to
8 amend the motion I guess.
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
11

12 MR. FIRMIN: Is that clear enough?
13

14 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair, I got a
15 question. Because you mentioned yesterday that in the
16 springtime that's when the sheep are dying or skinny
17 and there's no food and so why are they hunting them
18 then? That's my question.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know,
21 when you've been around this before it was -- there was
22 a subsistence law in Alaska like I have, they went by --
23 you know, the State was doing the -- I need someone
24 from the State, maybe they could do the history better
25 than I. I'm just going by my memory that the people in
26 the north said that they use sheep in the winter and
27 the -- and the State passed a season. And it was --
28 and they made it to where they -- no one could use an
29 airplane they thought and yet they allowed people from
30 Kaktovik, if you fly into Kaktovik you -- and they were
31 intentioned as I understand it and I might not
32 understand it properly, but this is how I remember it,
33 people from Kaktovik have to fly in there to live. So
34 they gave that exemption. So that makes people able to
35 fly in from anywhere to Kaktovik and go. But did -- we
36 could probably get more information if you wanted, but
37 it -- you know, it hap -- it's just an evolving
38 situation I think.
39

40 And I believe staff could help me out
41 here. I talked to Nathan and he said he talked to
42 Arctic Village last week, Monday and Tuesday, and they
43 don't hunt with a snowmachine in the winter. So I
44 think things have evolved, that something that they
45 might have done a long time ago they're not doing now.
46 So any -- I don't know if anybody can help me out on
47 that.
48

49 MR. HAWKALUK: Thank you, Madame Chair
50

1 and Council. My understanding is that in recent years
2 Arctic Village hasn't been doing much in the way of
3 snowmachining up in the mountains in the wintertime to
4 harvest sheep. Kaktovik residents still do that
5 traditionally. That's -- for Kaktovik residents my
6 understanding is that they like to have sheep for
7 Thanksgiving. So that's usually the first time they go
8 out by snowmachine trying to harvest sheep for
9 Thanksgiving for the village. And my understanding is
10 that they also go out periodically during the winter
11 later hunting sheep. How much -- how frequently
12 throughout the winter and how late in the season, I
13 don't know. But quite a bit, relatively speaking a lot
14 more than Arctic Village residents do.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And if I may
17 add they still would have that if this passed because
18 it's a Federal regulation that allows them to hunt
19 there?

20
21 MR. HAWKALUK: Yes.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This -- this
24 is the whole -- under the whole State everybody is
25 qualified as a subsistence user. So that -- that makes
26 it hard to wrap your head around how it's all so
27 different. As long as there's Federal land that
28 they're hunting on they can go out and harvest a sheep
29 in the winter still under Federal regs because it's a
30 Refuge.

31
32 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 I just wanted to read the State stipulation to you.

34
35 Concerning the Arctic Village Sheep
36 Management Area in unit 25A, the Alaska Department of
37 Fish and Game has used its discretion to prohibit the
38 use of aircraft for access to hunt sheep. So just in
39 unit 25A the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area. So
40 26C, it is open to aircraft, you're right. And that's
41 why the State hasn't used its discretion to prohibit in
42 26A -- in 26C.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie.

45
46 MR. JAGOW: Okay. But speaking on the
47 RS 595 permit there's no aircraft access into Kaktovik
48 as far as.....

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

2
3 MS. KENNER: Yes, that's right.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which is 26C,
6 right?

7
8 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah. Well, no, I mean,
9 it -- you can access it.

10
11 MS. LENART: Madame Chair, this is Beth
12 Lenart.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Beth, go
15 ahead.

16
17 MS. LENART: You were asking a little
18 bit about the history and I'm not sure because it was
19 -- some of that was before I got here. But if I
20 remember correctly the Federal government had
21 implemented a three sheep hunt and the State
22 implemented their hunt after that. And, you know, part
23 of it was we wanted to be sure we were providing
24 subsistence opportunity and at that time when that
25 happened, you know, hunters from particularly Kaktovik,
26 I would agree with what the Refuge manager from ANWR
27 said that Kaktovik hunters do use that hunt. And so
28 there were also -- but also from Arctic Village and we
29 were trying to accommodate, you know, subsistence
30 hunters under the State law too.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa.

33
34 MS. KENNER: Thank you. So
35 additionally so, you know, in a -- in previous times
36 people from Arctic Village were very nomadic and part
37 of that -- their movement throughout the year wasn't to
38 areas like -- particularly Red Sheep Creek, it was on
39 the route for people to go over the mountains and over
40 to the coast to trade. And people would stay and went
41 in the mountains hunting caribou and sheep. And then
42 they would meet up again with the people who'd gone
43 over the mountains to trade and move on to their next
44 site. Now of course people aren't doing that and
45 moving up into the mountains where -- moving up into
46 the mountains where sheep are available, where there's
47 a better chance of being successful in harvest, those
48 sheep are now quite a ways away from Arctic Village.

49 And what the State had done is that

50

1 because they had such restrictive harvest limits in
2 this area of unit 25A where you can -- you can harvest
3 one ram with full curl horn or larger in August to
4 September. So what we've heard from Arctic Village and
5 others is that the time to be hunting in this new
6 environment where they live, the time to be hunting in
7 that -- in those areas is now the fall. And that when
8 the State allows a subsistence opportunity of three
9 sheep after September that makes it very difficult for
10 people. So there's still in the State law local people
11 are restricted to that one ram with full curl horn
12 until after September. And so the State is allowing
13 that more liberal regulation to occur later in the
14 fall.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: In the year.

17
18 MS. KENNER: Later in the year. And so
19 what we've heard is that that's too -- that's not
20 subsistence opportunity because that's not when we can
21 get up there, it's getting too late in the year to
22 travel round trip.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom, go
25 ahead.

26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, Madame Chair.
28 The main thing is everybody -- you know, I heard the
29 discussion go back and forth between Federally-
30 qualified users and then the State users being all
31 subsistence -- you know, basically all users in the
32 State are subsistence hunters. The thing is is about
33 once that Federal regulation is passed and regulations
34 are very clear that Federal public lands are closed to
35 taking the sheep except by rural Alaskan residents of
36 Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, Kaktovik and
37 Venetie hunting under these regulations. So and then
38 again in 25 remainder and again it's rural residents
39 under the Federal program.

40 So what I'm getting at is that even if
41 the State did that those lands are all still closed
42 only to those Federally-qualified users. And so it
43 would take the Federal action at the -- on the
44 proposals that have come in relative to the Federal
45 Board's decision in April before there could be any
46 flexibility relative to State hunters. It's all --
47 it's all contingent on the Federal Board's decision
48 coming up in April.

49
50

1 So to me it's -- I mean, I kind of have
2 this -- when I see, you know, everybody going back and
3 forth I kind of look at the steps that really need to
4 be required to move anywhere. And again it doesn't
5 preclude that there shouldn't be continuing education
6 from, you know, some ways, I mean, this -- this group
7 has spent a lot of time with the hunter education
8 program on a regional basis, you know, working through
9 the Federal program. And of course there's the
10 specific one that I know there's specific interest in
11 relative to sheep -- you know, to sheep hunting, you
12 know, in the -- you know, in that particular, you know,
13 Arctic Sheep Management Area.

14
15 So I just want to kind of throw out,
16 you know, kind of the realistic aspects of this
17 relative to the legalities of it.

18
19 My last point of clarification would be
20 on -- basically on 804 of ANILCA itself and that
21 there's been decisions that were -- hasn't necessarily
22 been strictly a conservation issue. I can think of,
23 you know, unit 23 caribou. I can think of some other
24 locations as well where it's really been the argument
25 of continued opportunity for subsistence and the Board
26 has made, you know, those arguments. So if you look at
27 it it says for conservation of fish and wildlife
28 service comma, or the continued, you know, opportunity
29 for subsistence, safety and health reasons, blah, blah,
30 blah, administrative purposes.

31
32 I'm just saying there's lots of
33 reasons, there's a lot of justification other than pure
34 numbers many times when the Board is synthesizing a
35 decision on behalf of Federally-qualified users on
36 Federal public land.

37
38 And that's about it.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not sure
41 if you muddied the water. Okay. Yeah. There -- I
42 mean, I think I understand the Federal side and State
43 side and it's like -- I am like Andrew in that, you
44 know, if someday conservation says that hey, that needs
45 to be open, it should be conservative, that part I --
46 that's how I feel, but as far as the Federal or the
47 State side what you suggested earlier about any sheep --
48 any ram and -- and going on that for this proposal, I --
49 that's the State side and we're just talking about the

50

1 State side on this proposal. And then in your
2 background in your mind you have to understand that the
3 Federal side unless it's -- unless the Federal Board
4 which I predict they will not open that to non-
5 qualified subsistence users at this next Board meeting
6 because two RACs are against it. So it will be closed.
7 So the -- that's -- to me the first step is this hunter
8 education thing and to develop a working relationship
9 with the people in the area.

10

11 And then that -- that winter hunt
12 thing, I've never been in favor of it personally, I
13 think that's -- but I understand that there's a Federal
14 reg that allows it and that the people are using it
15 from Kaktovik. I'm -- that's wonderful, I appreciate
16 that. They'll always have that, even if we pass this.
17 This would just -- other users might be using it on the
18 winter hunt. They would be the ones that's limited,
19 not the people that hunt the Federal lands.

20

21 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, I just wanted to
22 second that, whatever changes we make to that RS 595
23 shouldn't have effect on Federally-qualified users,
24 it's going to have effect on the hunters coming from
25 Anchorage and elsewhere using that winter hunt and
26 taking the three sheep.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom.

29

30 MR. DOOLITTLE: But remember this would
31 be only applicable to State lands because the Federal
32 lands would be closed to all the other users because
33 it's defined.....

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Don't
36 mix it up here.

37

38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Right.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The only
41 place that it's closed is at Red Sheep and Cane Creek,
42 don't say all the other areas, that's not right,
43 Tom.....

44

45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Well.....

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:that I
48 know.

49

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. I just wanted to
2 make clarification on, you know, the land
3 jurisdictional boxes for any of the regions that we're
4 talking about.

5
6 MR. FIRMIN: But when the State season
7 opens the Federal land follows suit.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's right.

10
11 MR. FIRMIN: So it essentially would be
12 the whole place.

13
14 Andy, did you have a comment?

15
16 MR. BASSICH: No, I'm.....

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: You're done?

19
20 MR. BASSICH:I'm entertained
21 here.

22
23 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Well.....

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: (Indiscernible
26 - simultaneous speech)..... the Chair.

27
28 MR. FIRMIN:I want a motion to
29 amend our proposal 82 which is unit 25, RS 595 which is
30 open October 1st to April 30th is three sheep every
31 regulatory year be changed -- it also says East --
32 Middle Fork Chandlar River and all the word verbiage in
33 there be just -- the only thing to change would be one
34 sheep by permit with horn destruction.

35
36 Can I get a second.

37
38 MR. WRIGHT: Second.

39
40 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Now the reasoning
41 for some of that would be because there's conservation
42 concerns in the area obviously because of the lack of
43 sheep, obviously this is not really very much of a
44 sporting hunt because they're driving them up there
45 with a snowmachine and running sheep down that are beat
46 up and can barely walk anyway and it's not a very
47 ethical hunt. And the only thing I can think of why
48 people would do that as part of this epic journey is to
49 get something, but the only other reason I could think
50

1 of is because they'll harvest the head, go downtown and
2 mount it and sell it to the nearest lodge for a top
3 buck to pay for their trip. Especially.....
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's not
6 legal.
7

8 MR. FIRMIN:if you can get three
9 of them.
10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You can't
12 sell it to anyone.
13

14 MR. FIRMIN: Oh, you can sell anything.
15 Trust me.
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. You can
18 go to jail for it.
19

20 MR. FIRMIN: You can go to jail for a
21 lot of things and get away with it too. But, I mean,
22 there's not many reasons why people are decorating
23 their homes and lodges with them. I can still donate
24 it to somebody to hang in their house.....
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
27

28 MR. FIRMIN:at some fancy lodge,
29 but don't -- don't mean I'm selling it to them. I can
30 hang it -- I can hang my moose antlers in Cabela's in
31 Louisiana if I want to, it's not against the law. And
32 that's just -- it's just not an ethical hunt, it's not
33 a sporthunt, it's not a -- and there is a conservation
34 concern and that's why we'd like to see it so the
35 people that are using this hunt in the State season are
36 actually doing it for the reason that's there,
37 subsistence uses.
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. A
40 motion has been made and seconded. Any other
41 discussion on proposal 82.
42

43 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, it might -- it might
44 be wise to make that one ram with horn destruction
45 rather than just any sheep for conservation issues.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I agree.
48

49 MR. FIRMIN: The only reason I said
50

1 sheep is because that was the -- the local people were
2 saying that they didn't want only taking the largest
3 ram, if somebody was up there and maybe wanted a lamb
4 or a ewe they had the chance.
5

6 MR. JAGOW: Well, I think with the horn
7 destruction that's probably going to discourage anybody
8 from -- given that that's the idea behind destructing --
9 destruction of the horns is it's going to prevent it
10 becoming a trophy hunt at least in my mind.
11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're
13 okay with that or you want it to say ram. You -- are
14 you hanging your hat on ram?
15

16 MR. JAGOW: I'd rather see it ram.
17

18 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Friendly amendment
19 to the amendment.
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would the
22 second agree?
23

24 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
27 it's one ram with horn destruction.
28

29 Pippa.
30

31 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
32 Pippa Kenner with OSM. What area, the.....
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's the 595,
35 is it.
36

37 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.
38

39 MS. KENNER: Not just the Arctic Valley
40 Sheep Management.....
41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair.
43

44 MR. FIRMIN: Not even in the Arctic
45 Village Sheep Management Area, only the RS 595 hunt.
46

47 MS. KENNER: I understand.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So repeat
50

1 your motion, it's to amend that portion and get rid of
2 everything else.

3
4 MR. FIRMIN: Everything else in 82
5 would disappear except for the three sheep which is --
6 which I stated the three sheep in RS 595 would change
7 to one ram with antler destruction and keep all the
8 extra aircraft in Kaktovik and all that stuff would be
9 -- would still include. It's just the bag limit would
10 change from three sheep to one ram with horn
11 destruction.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
14 the only thing left in the.....

15
16 MR. FIRMIN: The whole proposal, the
17 rest of the.....

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

20
21 MR. FIRMIN:the youth hunt is
22 gone, the hunter ethics is gone, the one ram every four
23 years, the draw hunt, all that can go. We'll deal with
24 it in a different cycle.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I
27 want to ask do you want to take up the second thing
28 after we vote on this for the hunter ethics and a
29 letter to the Board of Game that it needs to go or do
30 you want.....

31
32 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, we'll address that
33 separately.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
36 other discussion.

37
38 MR. GLANZ: Question.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
41 question's been called for. All understand the motion.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

46
47 MR. FIRMIN: It's only on the
48 amendment.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it's --
2 this is only on the amendment to the motion or to the
3 first motion of 82. All in favor of the amendment to
4 the proposal on number 82 say aye.

5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
9 opposed.

10
11 (No opposing votes)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
14 we're speaking to the main motion. Any other
15 discussion as amended.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
20 ready to vote.

21
22 MR. GLANZ: I'll call the question on
23 that then.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
26 Understanding the motion, I don't need to repeat it.
27 Okay. Everyone in favor of 82 as amended say aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
32 opposed.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We got
37 through that. Next a brief discussion here on what we
38 did I think.

39
40 So does anyone want to handle the next
41 motion.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, we're --
46 just hang on a second.

47
48 MR. FIRMIN: Where did we leave off,
49 which number did we leave off.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wait. We --
2 I think there's -- are we going to handle this hunter
3 ethics right now, that we're going to ask the Board of
4 Game to develop it. You want to see the candy before
5 you get in the truck.

6
7 MR. FIRMIN: The van. The van.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, the van.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MR. FIRMIN: However you want to
14 proceed, however proposal 83 is the RS 595 hunt in 26C.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Seriously.

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: We're on C.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Since we are
21 adamant about pushing the State on this hunter ethics
22 don't you think we should just have a quick motion and
23 pass that we want to do that, we want to push the State
24 to do that for all this discussion we've had.

25
26 MR. FIRMIN: I think we could address
27 it in our annual report because I don't know if -- or
28 we can probably make a motion, but.....

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I want
31 something to go to the Board of Game because they're
32 going to make a decision.

33
34 MR. FIRMIN: They already made a
35 decision though, that's the whole point of what.....

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, at the
38 Board. You made a decision on that motion, but we --
39 there's nothing to push them to do anything about
40 hunter ethics. And I think a letter to the Board of
41 Game that whoever goes would be a good thing. We would
42 -- we think you got the cart ahead of the horse and
43 we're tired of hearing it and we want you to develop
44 this and it needs to be a letter.

45
46 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

49
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'd like to make a
2 motion that we draft a letter from the Eastern Interior
3 RAC to the State's.....
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Board of
6 Game.
7

8 MR. BASSICH:Board of Game in
9 regards to seeking their support and cooperation to
10 help us to develop a hunter ethics and education
11 program in the Eastern Interior region.
12

13 MR. WRIGHT: I'll second that.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Why aren't we
16 specific to.....
17

18 MR. BASSICH: I do. Because I -- the
19 reason I made it specific is because the Federal
20 Subsistence Board from my understanding is basically
21 not -- hasn't really given us the approval for the
22 entire State and we've talked a lot in our -- in our
23 committee meetings and everything about it that we want
24 to keep this an Interior -- Eastern Interior project
25 and develop it there and then hopefully if it's
26 successful move it on to other parts of the State. So
27 I would like to just see it kept.....
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Can I
30 ask a question.
31

32 MR. BASSICH:as an Eastern.....
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Men are from
35 Mars and women are from Venus, our brains don't work
36 the same.
37

38 MR. BASSICH: Right.
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And my brain
41 is saying that this has to be specific to what we've
42 talked about for 30 years, Arctic Village Sheep
43 Management Area. There is on the books a requirement
44 to develop that and they haven't developed it. And I
45 would love to see that as part of your motion.
46

47 MR. BASSICH: I see what you're saying.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because
50

1 that's what going before the Board and we're dropping
2 the ball if we don't put that in there. And I don't
3 want to drop the ball on this. And I'm adamant about
4 it, sorry, as your Chair.
5

6 And that's what I was looking for. And
7 I didn't -- did I hear a second to that?
8

9 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, you did.
10

11 You can withdraw the motion, Andy.
12

13 MR. BASSICH: Withdraw the motion.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Motion
16 withdrawn. Can -- can I have help from you, please,
17 help me out. Please.
18

19 Andy.
20

21 MR. BASSICH: Whip this up. Let's see.
22 Make a motion that the Eastern Interior RAC draft a
23 letter to the State Game Board to ask them to develop
24 the hunter education -- what was the title, I'm sorry,
25 hunter education and ethics.....
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here's
28 this.....
29

30 MR. BASSICH:for the Red Sheep
31 Creek.....
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That they
34 voted on November 11th.....
35

36 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:2011.
39

40 MR. BASSICH: Right. That they help us
41 -- help to -- or that they develop the hunter education
42 and ethics program to support the 2011, what's the
43 proposal number.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There was a
46 proposal number, but it's not on this thing.
47

48 MR. BASSICH: It's probably on the
49 sheet there.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is what
2 they gave me. It says proposal was submitted by
3 Eastern Interior to close hunting in this area.
4 Proposal number 178.

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Proposal 178.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 178.

9
10 MR. BASSICH: I tell you what. Let's
11 come back to this. Let me just think about it for a
12 little bit. Let's move on and we'll write something
13 that we don't have to get wrapped around the axle with
14 and we can address it a little bit later in the
15 meeting.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be
18 great.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
23 Okay.

24
25 Vince.

26
27 MR. BASSICH: I officially withdraw my
28 motion, incomplete motion.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It didn't
31 have a second.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I was going to.....

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS:that was my exact
38 point, that we could pull aside and reference the
39 current regulations in the State and et cetera. So I
40 think with a couple of staff we could pull together a
41 motion that would capture that and then you can decide
42 if you want to capture the overall goal of the hunter
43 ethics program that Eastern Interior is pursuing. But
44 that's a -- that would be once you get your draft
45 together. So I -- I'm sure that with some staff we can
46 help you with this motion.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

49
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Vince.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we'd love
4 it at lunch, maybe a couple people could get together.

5

6 MR. FIRMIN: Lunch.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I
9 heard that's what Southcentral does.

10

11 I see a hand. Did you have a card?

12

13 MS. MILLER: I didn't have a card.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

16

17 MS. MILLER: This is an unfolding
18 conversation.

19

20 REPORTER: You can't.....

21

22 MS. MILLER: I can't speak from here.

23

24 REPORTER: Not from there, you'll have
25 to come up here if you want to.

26

27 MS. MILLER: My name is Pamela A.
28 Miller. I would just like to speak on the hunter
29 ethics program.

30

31 I think the Eastern Interior is a
32 region where there are conservation concerns looking
33 into the long run on sheep. And there's a number of
34 proposals in your packet here and I believe also in the
35 Western Interior having to do with sheep. And I think
36 it would make sense for the Eastern Interior region,
37 you could focus on the Arctic Village situation, but if
38 you're going to offer, there are other places people go
39 sheep hunting and the same issues apply. They're
40 farther from Arctic Village or from the other
41 communities, even Kaktovik, but I think the course
42 would be really important for all the sheep hunters in
43 these regions to alleviate a longstanding concern. And
44 also other visitors might be interested in taking a
45 course because it's all about being out there in the
46 wild and being safe and respecting the animals and the
47 land.

48

49 So I thought the first proposal was a

50

1 pretty good one from the standpoint of reflecting a
2 region of the Board.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
7 And it's been in our annual report yearly for the
8 region and we can -- I mean, it's in there.

9
10 Did you guys look at that too. And I
11 also want you to be thinking about what's going to be
12 in that annual report as we go on.

13
14 Are you working on something, Andy,
15 that you wanted to.....

16
17 MR. BASSICH: No. No.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh.

20
21 MR. BASSICH: No just keeping me -- I'm
22 just trying to get a head start on my deadline.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's
25 keep moving.

26
27 Oh, Andrew mentioned that Paul Williams
28 had said he wanted to talk.

29
30 And, Paul, are you still online, did
31 you want to speak to anything now. And you have to
32 push star six to unmute.

33
34 MS. PITKA: Sorry. This is Rhonda
35 Pitka. I just signed in.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you
38 understand that?

39
40 REPORTER: Sue. Sue, that's Rhonda.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. Yes, go
43 ahead, Rhonda.

44
45 MS. PITKA: Oh, I had no comments. I
46 just wanted to let you know that I signed in.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
49 Thank you. All right. Okay. Well, I -- if Paul comes

50

1 on I hope that he'll interrupt us.

2

3 Okay. I do have another blue card, but
4 -- Tisha, are you representing the Delta AC or
5 yourself?

6

7 MS. KENNEL: Just myself.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And did you
10 want to speak to -- what our process is here, we
11 usually vote or make a motion to take up a proposal and
12 then you could come up to each proposal. Is that how
13 you want to do it or do you just want to come up and
14 speak to -- generally.

15

16 MS. KENNEL: I'll go proposal by
17 proposal.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
20 right. Just raise your hand because I got your card.

21

22 MS. KENNEL: Okay.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Moving
25 rapidly along. What's our next proposal.

26

27 MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adopt proposal
28 83.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.

33

34 MR. FIRMIN: Proposal 83 is to modify
35 the bag limit for sheep in RW 595 in unit 26 C which is
36 the same hunt we just mod -- talked about except it's
37 on the other side of the hill. And he has -- he
38 changes it to any three sheep to must be three-quarter
39 curl horn or smaller, including rams with both horn
40 tips broken.

41

42 My suggestion would be to support with
43 the modification that it mirrors our previous one with
44 one ram with antler horn destruction.

45

46 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You should
49 have made a motion that way you got to amend it.

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: If I get a second with Don
2 I'll just.....
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you hear
5 that, Donald?
6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: What's that.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He should
10 have made the motion that way or we got to do the
11 amendment and the -- and go through it. Do you want --
12 he said he'd withdraw, do you agree.
13
14 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And he'll
17 remake the motion.
18
19 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
22 ahead.
23
24 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. So it's a motion to
25 adopt proposal 83 with the modification to change the
26 RS 9595 hunt to match what our modifications in
27 proposal 82 which is -- and go from three sheep to one
28 ram with antler horn destruction.
29
30 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.
33 And I will clarify. That was 595.
34
35 I think you said 9595.
36
37 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. 595.
40 Go ahead.
41
42 MR. FIRMIN: This -- that way this is
43 just on 26C and it's to make the bag limit on that side
44 of the hill the same as the Arctic Village side or the
45 south side of the mountain will match the north side.
46 And the same -- same one, RS 595, then the bag limits
47 will be the same.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
50

1 discussion.

2

3

MR. WRIGHT: Question.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question's been called. All in favor of this motion as amended, 83, say aye.

7

8

9

IN UNISON: Aye.

10

11

12

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone opposed.

13

14

(No opposing votes)

15

16

17

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That passes.

18

19

20

MR. FIRMIN: Sue, have you read proposal 84?

21

22

23

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I've heard about this. This is the one that they took an hour and a half on upstairs, right, the Dalton Highway.

24

25

26

I think what it does is it -- it's very complicated. Did you guys vote on it?

27

28

29

Did -- you didn't take it up, did you, Andy or Bill.

30

31

32

(No comments)

33

34

35

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is the one that -- just to help he asked if I looked at it and I'm aware of it. I'm sure this is going to be a tough one for the Board of Game because they want to open it to rifle I think.

36

37

38

39

40

Well, the next one that I had from you guys was 86. So for us comes up to the Tok area.

41

42

43

MR. STEVENSON: That's on page 100 of your blue meeting book, Sue.

44

45

46

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You guys took it up. You want to take it up?

47

48

49

MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, make a

50

1 motion to support proposal 86, reauthorizing predator
2 control.

3
4 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I'll second that
5 one.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: All right. Yeah, the
10 Eagle AC supports this. We think it's a really
11 important tool for managers to have at their disposal
12 to help regulate caribou and moose populations. And so
13 we -- let's see, we did have a split vote on this. We
14 had three in support and I guess I have to correct
15 myself, we were tied on this at our AC. So three
16 supported and felt the need -- felt that this was an
17 important tool for managers to have and three opposed
18 generally to most forms or need for predator control in
19 the program.

20
21 So it was kind of a split decision from
22 our RAC regarding this.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Give me a
25 minute because I haven't.....

26
27 MR. BASSICH: Uh-huh.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill, did you
30 guys take it up.

31
32 MR. GLANZ: No, we have not. But we --
33 I was under the understanding it was on the books, it
34 could be activated at 2026, but I understand -- I
35 didn't know it expired in 2020.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I did get --
38 Barb Pine sent me the -- how they voted. And I don't
39 see 86, did they take it up. Well, it's not in her --
40 what she sent us.

41
42 All right. Any other discussion.

43
44 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

47
48 MR. WRIGHT: I just wanted to
49 understand a little clarification on why they would
50

1 need predator control and they have too many caribou
2 already in the area. But this is covering a lot more
3 area than just that area I guess.
4

5 MR. GLANZ: The reason why it's --
6 Robert, is that the Caribou Board gets Gross in charge
7 of this thing here and he was the one that put it on
8 it. Didn't put it on a suspension, he just said we
9 don't need it right now, but it's on the books because
10 it probably will come back to haunt us if we don't do
11 it. You know, he has no tools to operate with and so
12 this is from -- this can solidify a deal, but they got
13 it for him so he can use it if he needs it. That's the
14 main reason. But it's not being used at the present
15 time.
16

17 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, and if I could add
18 to that a little bit, Robert, if this helps you from
19 what I recall and I think Jeff's in the room.
20

21 MR. GLANZ: He's right back there.
22

23 MR. BASSICH: If this was to go away,
24 it's a very lengthy process to get it back on the books
25 and oftentimes the amount of time that it would take
26 for this to get back onto the books and the work
27 involved in doing it would maybe be too late for a
28 program that he may need at a given time. So it's just
29 -- basically it's a housekeeping, this is basically
30 just a housekeeping, it's not asking to institute
31 predator control, it's just making sure it stays in the
32 tool box for the manager.
33

34 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tisha, did
37 you -- your -- want to speak to this?
38

39 MS. KENNEL: You just covered it.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I was --
42 I wondered if you wanted to speak to it. So you need
43 to let me know if you need to speak to a proposal,
44 okay, and you should.....
45

46 MR. FIRMIN: Do we need a motion?
47

48 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, there was a motion.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a
2 motion, uh-huh. And this is discussion.

3
4 MR. FIRMIN: Okay.

5
6 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don.

9
10 MR. WOODRUFF: The way I understand it
11 that this is a proposal because it's in the cycle, the
12 game cycle, and it would be three years or whatever
13 before they could reintroduce it. But at the same
14 meeting they said they can introduce stuff out of
15 cycle. And so I don't see the need for this at this
16 time for the herd and if we can introduce this proposal
17 out of cycle then I don't see a need for it right now
18 personally.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jeff, can you
21 speak to that.

22
23 MR. GROSS: Madame Chair, I'm Jeff
24 Gross with Alaska Department of Fish and Game and I
25 apologize for having my hat on today.

26
27 But, yeah, I guess to give a little bit
28 of context, when we do put a predator control program --
29 when we go to put one on the books, generally there's
30 a Board of Game meeting that a proposal's put forward
31 and Board of Game -- for a Board of Game meeting. And
32 we generally go to the Board, give them a presentation,
33 give them an update on the prey populations, the
34 predator population and the potential need. And then
35 the Board will generally give us or instruct us to do a
36 feasibility assessment and come back to them. So we go
37 do a feasibility assessment which can take, you know, I
38 mean, if everything is done out of cycle, you know, we
39 could have that done for the next year and then we
40 could potentially if they -- if they conclude the
41 feasibility assessment is -- you know, it makes sense
42 then they can put it on the books and it would be the
43 year after that we'd -- we'd be able to implement it.

44
45 So it's -- it is a process and this is
46 assuming everything goes well and there's no -- I mean,
47 one thing to keep in mind, we've had a lot of
48 experience with political and social challenges with
49 getting some of these on the books. Whether the --
50

1 generally if the biology says that it's -- you know,
2 it's feasible and needed, to date it -- it's worked
3 fairly well. So anyway it would take a couple years
4 and it is definitely no small feat. I've ben here
5 since 2003 and we started working towards this control
6 program back then. And it -- it's been kind of my
7 whole career just kind of continuing to keep it going,
8 it and the harvest plan.

9
10 So anyway it is a very important tool.
11 I don't want to underemphasize it. I'm not saying that
12 we can't -- if it came off the books that we couldn't
13 get it back on the books, but it's -- I caution you
14 against assuming it would be an easy thing to do.

15
16 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

17
18 MR. GROSS: Thanks.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. You
21 know, from my perspective it -- it's not needed right
22 now, but it would cost a lot of time, money and effort
23 to the biologists and the State so why would we spend
24 all that money just to try and get it on the books
25 again when we need it. So just keep it on the books,
26 it's not going to cost anything, it's there, it's in
27 the toolbox, I have great confidence in our process
28 that it won't be used unduly. And so therefore I think
29 we should support this proposal.

30
31 Madame Chair.

32
33 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don.

36
37 MR. WOODRUFF: I wanted to ask Jeff if
38 you have to get it back on the books, is this the first
39 step you're taking or is it on the books and you're
40 just reiterating it?

41
42 MR. GROSS: Through the Chair. It's --
43 it -- it's on the books now, but it expires this June
44 30th. And so especially since we're in cycle the
45 timing is right to ask to have it put back on the
46 books.

47
48 Yeah, and I will I guess for the
49 Committee here, the predator control program is

50

1 suspended, the soonest -- we're doing -- currently
2 doing an evaluation, we're doing some research with the
3 caribou and the predator populations. And the soonest
4 that it would be reimplemented is kind of no matter
5 what is once that evaluation is finished. So once it
6 was finished the soonest we would potentially put it
7 back in play is regulatory year 2024. So the winter of
8 2025. And that would likely -- I mean, I don't have
9 total control over, you know, everything, but the way I
10 understand it that would likely only occur if we
11 started seeing a precipitous decline in the herd and we
12 wanted to be able to respond. And because we don't
13 know when something like that could occur, it's hard to
14 predict.

15
16 But anyway to give you some context,
17 it's not in place right now. There'd have to be some
18 justification to reimplement it. And as of now I don't
19 know of any justification at this time. So.....

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So to keep
22 the tool in the toolbox you'd have to do this again in
23 three years?
24

25 MR. GROSS: Yes. And this is -- doing
26 it this way is -- it's still a lot of work because we
27 have to update everything. But it's a fraction of the
28 work that it takes to get one put back on the books.
29 So anyway.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
32 questions.
33

34 MR. GLANZ: Call the question.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
37 is called for. All in favor.
38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
42 opposed.
43

44 (No opposing votes)
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just was
47 looking for the number, guys. So it doesn't get messed
48 up.
49

50

1 MR. GLANZ: 86.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 86. That was
4 proposal 86. No opposition. Okay. Next.

5

6 You guys have 88?

7

8 MR. BASSICH: We have 87.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, 87.

11 Yeah. I guess I missed that.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: So, Madame Chair, motion
14 to support proposal 87, caribou change register to draw
15 hunts.

16

17 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that one.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, this was a little
20 bit on -- a little bit confusing. We opposed this
21 unanimously. My understanding of this is this would
22 create some draw hunts which could restrict other
23 people from having an opportunity who were just local
24 people because it would be a draw hunt. So our
25 comments were we unanimously oppose, this creates an
26 undue hardship to file ahead of time to hunt. Managers
27 would likely have no limit to the draw permit anyway so
28 there's no benefit to having a draw hunt. And this
29 increases the burden and the cost to the State to
30 produce the hunt. So a draw hunt would be much more
31 expensive. And our manager of the area told us that he
32 would likely have no limit so what's the purpose of
33 having a draw hunt instead of a registration hunt. So
34 it's just kind of a meaningless proposal really, it
35 doesn't benefit anybody the way we saw it at our AC.

36

37 Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

44

45 MR. GLANZ: Also in order to get --
46 implicate this type of a program, he has to have the
47 House and the Senate and the Governor sign it. So I'd
48 say we -- I'm against it.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's true.
2 The Board.....
3
4 MR. GLANZ: It's very unlikely it would
5 ever come down to getting the House and the Senate and
6 the Governor to sign it anyway. So if they -- if it
7 would have went we would've -- we would've asked for
8 some kind of hunt like that to eliminate this confusion
9 that we have during the hunting season, they're open
10 three days before they take their thousand or 1,500
11 caribou.
12
13 MR. BASSICH: Question.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Question.
16
17 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don.
20
21 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I want to respond
22 to Bill's comment. And I think it's a scary thought if
23 the House and Senate is doing big game management. It
24 just doesn't sit right with me. I'm sorry.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If it's not
27 in the Board's purview they won't even take it up.
28
29 Okay. All in favor say aye.
30
31 (No affirmative votes)
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
34 same sign.
35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fails.
39
40 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, motion to
41 support proposal 88 which resumes predator control in
42 unit 12.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
45 second.
46
47 MR. GLANZ: I'll second it.
48
49 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion.
4 Our AC had a split decision on this one again.
5 Basically our AC whenever it comes to predator control
6 depending on our attendance that day we -- we have
7 pretty much a split vote. Same reasons as before with
8 the other one. Supporting members felt that it's a
9 good tool for managers to help control ungulates for
10 harvest and the opposing side they oppose any need for
11 predator control programs in general. So we were split
12 at Eagle.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
15 discussion.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess I'd for --
18 I was one of the supporters and I just feel -- it's the
19 same reason as we just had
20 on one of these previous proposals, keeping it on the
21 books. It's just a good thing for managers to have
22 because of the length of time that it takes for some of
23 these programs to go into effect. It delays management
24 actions when populations are in serious decline. And I
25 have a lot of faith in the system that we have for
26 predator control, for regulating predator control and
27 vetting whether it's necessary or not. So I'm in
28 support of this.

29

30 Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I see
33 it's an Upper Tanana proposal. And I'll speak to it.

34

35 I've been in the air and done that.
36 And they're -- that's dedication to be able to go get
37 them wolves. And I would be in favor of this.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Question.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
42 question's been called for. All in favor say aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm saying
47 aye this time. Anyone opposed same sign.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, support
4 proposal 89 which is a proposal to allow the retention
5 of moose and caribou tickets at the same time.

6

7 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion.
10 I have in dark bold underline under my notes here from
11 the Eagle AC that they oppose vigorously and
12 unanimously. We've had a long history of heavy
13 pressure along the Taylor Highway. One of the things
14 that was developed, I guess it was maybe back even in
15 the '90s, maybe early 2000, was to as a part of the
16 caribou harvest plan and just general hunting in the
17 area to make it to where a hunter cannot possess both a
18 moose tag and a caribou tag at the same time in the
19 area. And this was a way to try and make the area a
20 little bit less inviting and try and reduce some of the
21 heavy hunting pressure and crowding and competition
22 that goes with that, not to mention it's a safety issue
23 at times. So we feel that it has been very effective
24 to try and keep this in place where you can only carry
25 as a personal hunter a caribou tag or a moose hunt.

26

27 And people have learned to get around
28 it when they hunt in groups, we're fine with that, we
29 understand that. But we just think that with the
30 amount of people coming up especially onto the Taylor
31 Highway there and hunting that if they have both
32 caribou and moose tickets the harvest is going to go up
33 dramatically which may cause a drop in populations,
34 moose populations or possibly caribou populations,
35 below what we're intending to try and regulate. So
36 there's a potential for overharvest and unsafe hunting
37 practices. So therefore the Eagle AC vigorously and
38 unanimously oppose this proposal.

39

40 Madame Chair.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
43 discussion.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I can
48 verify that in my area the people agree with this, they
49 helped develop it.

50

1 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.
4
5 MR. GLANZ: I'd just call the question.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
8 Question's been called for. All in favor of 89 say
9 aye.
10
11 (No affirmative votes)
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
14 same sign.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fails.
19
20 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, the last
21 one that the Eagle AC took up was proposal 90. And
22 this is a -- in my notes here it's nonresidents versus
23 kindred. So this is a -- this is a proposal -- I guess
24 I need a second or did I get a second.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.
27
28 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
31
32 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Yeah, speaking to
33 the motion. This was a little bit confusing to us, but
34 basically the way we interpreted this is this is put
35 into place giving nonresidents a slightly upper hand in
36 trying to obtain hunting opportunities.....
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
39
40 MR. BASSICH:versus families.
41 And we feel like this is a bad road to go down, we
42 oppose this unanimously. And our comments, this is a
43 growing trend among guide services to try and take
44 greater portions of the Alaska hunts away from local
45 and State resident hunters, lining their pockets at the
46 loss to Alaska hunters and families. This is a bad
47 erosion of State resident first rights to our game
48 resources.
49
50

1 Madame Chair.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ditto. And
4 I'm a guide. And my son works there.
5
6 MR. FIRMIN: Maybe we better have a
7 roll call.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
10 discussion.
11
12 MR. GLANZ: Call the question.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
15 is called for. All in favor of proposal 90 say aye.
16
17 (No affirmative votes)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
20 same sign.
21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.
23
24 MR. BASSICH: That's all we had on the
25 Eagle AC.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And I
28 have Minto's next. I have yours from Minto Flats.
29
30 Does anyone have anything they'd like
31 to take up before 140. Because I got the minutes from
32 Minto and 140 is next.
33
34 I've been asked for a break. Let's
35 take a coffee break. We'll just take a 10, 15 minute
36 break.
37
38 (Off record)
39
40 (On record)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Calling the
43 Board back to whatever, order.
44
45 Andrew, you had one that you wanted to
46 do.
47
48 MR. FIRMIN: I had a motion to adopt
49 proposal 84 and 85.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wish I
2 could second it. Just to help you out it's the two
3 sheep proposals for the Dalton Highway that extends the
4 season specific for bowhunters.

5
6 MR. WOODRUFF: 84 and 85.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. They
9 both do the same thing.....

10
11 MR. WOODRUFF: Oh, okay.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
14extending the season. Do I hear a second.

15
16 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
19 Andrew.

20
21 MR. FIRMIN: Speaking to the motion.
22 This is the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area
23 which includes 25A, 24A and 26B. They're both archery
24 hunts and they want to extend the hunts that normally
25 close September 20th, they want to keep them open until
26 October 5th. And I think our RAC took no -- I mean,
27 the Yukon Flats AC took no action on them, but we did
28 have some discussion and thought that's kind of crazy.
29 And if there's conservation concerns in the area how do
30 you extend the season by what, you know, 16 days.
31 That's a two week -- two week extension of a archery
32 hunt in an area that's probably going to turn into more
33 rescues or something than anything. I don't -- I don't
34 know of anybody that wants to hunt in Atigun Pass in
35 the first week of October.

36
37 For those reasons stated in the
38 conservation concern that is a specific bowhunt only
39 special season at the end of an already what, month
40 long season. I think I'd -- personally I'm going to
41 oppose it.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
44 discussion.

45
46 MR. GLANZ: Call the question.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
49 question's been called for. The motion was support for

50

1 84 and 85. All those in favor say hi -- aye. You can
2 say hi too.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 (No affirmative votes)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All those
9 opposed same sign.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion
14 passes. Next.

15

16 MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adopt proposal
17 140.

18

19 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
22 Discussion.

23

24 MR. McMANUS: Yes, Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. McMANUS: Okay. Thank you. I just
29 want to give a little history about how this came about
30 and how we found out about this. I was in a meeting,
31 fish meeting in Galena, and wanted to thank Fish and
32 Game for allowing us -- we had a death of a young lady
33 in our village and she was from Minto and Nenana area
34 so she had two villages she went back to. When she
35 passed away the fishing was -- the kings were shut
36 down, they had an emergency order to shut down. And so
37 I called Fish and Game and asked if we could fish for
38 10 fish for a potlatch for this young lady and they
39 gave me permission to get 10 kings. So me and my buddy
40 went out and we both caught five that evening. We made
41 -- we sent them there and everything was good. We
42 thank Fish and Game for that.

43

44 And Holly Carroll was on the line and I
45 said well, thank you, that's what we do for moose also.
46 And she mentioned in that report that they give out 20
47 permits each year in the Minto Flats area, 20B and
48 after that permits are done they shut down the average
49 moose hunt. And it was brought to our attention that

50

1 even for ceremonial use at a potlatch we were not
2 allowed to get a moose in that area. And it wasn't
3 only that area, it was Minto, Manley, Nenana, Rampart,
4 Tanana, and nobody was aware of that. And so when we
5 found out about that Fish and Game said there was
6 enough moose there to do the permit on. But then once
7 that was done it was shut down for everything. And so
8 and they're trying to propose it again so that's why
9 we're opposing this one and we're still fighting them
10 on this one.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
15 discussion.

16

17 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

20

21 MR. FIRMIN: The Yukon Flats AC took
22 this up and we opposed it unanimously.

23

24 MR. WRIGHT: I did call into the
25 Rampart Tanana Valley AC over this and they opposed it
26 also.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just a quick
31 question, Tim. Did they -- they told you they have an
32 antlerless moose season on the -- or that's what's in
33 here I guess, but you couldn't even hunt any moose in
34 the area?

35

36 MR. McMANUS: When they did this and we
37 got further into it, they said we could get a bull
38 moose for potlatch moose in the wintertime, but, you
39 know, after rut season and wintertime they're pretty
40 skinny and stinky still. And that's really not a
41 option for some of the people. Then they gave us a
42 area where we could hunt, but that's up in the Saw
43 Tooth Mountains and miners don't even go up there in
44 the winter. So the options that they gave us were in
45 our minds, you know, it's -- nobody's going to do that.
46 I mean, it's -- who wants to get a skinny bull moose
47 that smells like rut and then if you go up in the
48 mountains in the wintertime, there's no moose up there.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: I'd like to say that you
4 can't always eat a bull moose. Like Tim said there's
5 times of the year when they're just not good eating.
6 And sometimes when hardship, deep snow, a cow moose is
7 something that -- all you can find. And it doesn't
8 seem to be very conservative to have a cow moose hunt,
9 permitted hunt, going in the same area if they're not
10 going to allow people to subsist in their -- in their
11 ceremonial actions. It just doesn't make sense to me.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I don't
14 want to prolong the meeting, but it doesn't make sense
15 to me either. This is a reauthorization so it's been
16 on the books for a while it sounds like.

17

18 Any other discussion.

19

20 MR. WOODRUFF: Question.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
23 question's been called for. All in favor of proposal
24 140 say aye.

25

26 (No affirmative votes)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
29 same sign.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. 141,
34 Tim.

35

36 MR. McMANUS: Yeah, proposal 141 was
37 submitted by Tanana Rampart Manley AC. They'd like to
38 eliminate the winter cow moose hunt in the Minto Flats
39 Management Area RM 785. Those opposed to winter cow
40 moose hunt and those opposed to closing ceremonial use
41 of cow moose whatever, cow moose hunts are still on the
42 books, should support proposal 141.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sounds like a
47 motion.

48

49 MR. WOODRUFF: Move to adopt 141.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2
3 MR. FIRMIN: Second.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anymore
6 discussion.

7
8 MR. McMANUS: Question.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
11 question's called.....

12
13 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

16
17 MR. FIRMIN: I just wanted to say that
18 the Yukon Flats AC took this up and we supported it
19 unanimously.

20
21 And I know we're just running through
22 the proposals here, but maybe -- I'm surprised Andy
23 hasn't reminded us yet, that some of our procedure for
24 proposals, it would be good to get on the record why we
25 support or oppose some of these even if it's just real
26 quick other than going along with what the ACs do.
27 Because some of these -- I think that the heart of it
28 is kind of an allocation issue, some of it is -- like
29 Tim was saying how can you say yes to this and no to
30 that person or user, it's kind of two sided. And then
31 on one hand they want to reauthorize antlerless hunts,
32 but, you know, they -- but it -- what's good for the
33 goose is good for the gander. It doesn't seem fair
34 that on one hand you're telling this user group no, you
35 can't get a potlatch moose, but here yet they have an
36 open season until their permits are filled. It's kind
37 of -- maybe they should allocate a specific amount of
38 permits just for potlatches or memorials.

39
40 MR. WRIGHT: They do.

41
42 MR. FIRMIN: But they're bull only.

43
44 MR. WRIGHT: No, they did authorize
45 some, but there's -- there was -- there's a limit. And
46 it's kind of conflicting, but because there's so many
47 people in this area right here from so many different
48 areas that that limit is not near enough. Because
49 there's so many -- Fairbanks is a new village. A lot

50

1 of people from the villages have moved in here and they
2 all use that ceremonial moose for potlatch where
3 they're putting their loved ones away. So I don't
4 think that number is sufficient.

5

6 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim.

9

10 MR. McMANUS: Each year they have a
11 permit and they held it in front of the community hall
12 in Nenana and three days before that -- they had that
13 draw for the permits there was people with motorhomes,
14 they had their tents set up there. And out of those
15 ones out of Nenana there was one local guy that stayed
16 there, you know, even though he lives there he -- he
17 put up a tent and did the same thing. But and then the
18 Minto area I think there wasn't anybody that got one of
19 those permits. So all the permits that they got were
20 coming either from somebody out of Anchorage or
21 Fairbanks coming to get those permits to hunt. There
22 was hardly any locals out there with permits.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
25 discussion.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I didn't read
32 anything really biologically on it, is there -- is
33 there a problem biologically why they feel like they
34 have to have the cow moose brought down in numbers, I
35 just haven't seen any data?

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
38 Don.

39

40 MR. WRIGHT: The Fish and Game say that
41 there's too many moose in the area. I've been flying
42 over that area for 30 years, directly over it, and
43 there used to be moose all over in those flats, now
44 there's only a couple groups in there. So I don't know
45 how they're justifying that there's still so many in
46 there. I fly over it all the time coming to my
47 meetings and there's not near as many moose as there
48 used to be. People in Minto are having a hard time
49 finding moose in their own back yard. So this is

50

1 becoming a very bad conservation problem.
2
3 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim.
6
7 MR. McMANUS: Yeah, we had our last AC
8 meeting in Minto so they picked us up in Nenana, we
9 flew over that area, I counted two moose from Nenana to
10 Minto. It's winter, their dark, you could see the
11 tracks, you could see where they were, but there's only
12 two that I counted. I don't know where they're getting
13 their numbers.
14
15 MR. BASSICH: Do we have -- do we have
16 what the State's position is on this?
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We should.
19
20 MR. BASSICH: I'm just curious.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Beth Lenart
23 is online.
24
25 MR. BASSICH: Because it just seems to
26 me that if there is a decline going on obviously the --
27 I would think the biologists would know about it and
28 would be recommending that this hunt be closed
29 themselves if it's getting to that point. So.....
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Beth are you
32 online?
33
34 And they can't do allocations as you
35 know.
36
37 MR. BASSICH: I know, but they -- a
38 biologist is going to be sending up some alarms if all
39 of a sudden their moose population is dying and they're
40 rutting and they're doing winter cow hunts, right.....
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
43
44 MR. BASSICH:.....I would hope anyway.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.
47 Yeah.
48
49 MR. BASSICH: I know our biologists
50

1 would do that, right, Jeff, you would do that.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He's busy
4 talking.

5

6 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

9

10 MR. GLANZ: You have to realize too
11 that that moose -- that cow moose hunt starts on top of
12 Twelvemile Summit 20 miles from Fairbanks.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Your mic.

15

16 MR. GLANZ: Oh, I thought I turned it
17 on, I turned it off. Anyway the 25B area starts on top
18 of Twelvemile Summit which is like 20 miles -- air
19 miles from my house, maybe 25. And we don't really
20 have that abundance of moose and everybody in that
21 area's complaining about it, you know. And so I'm
22 totally for getting rid of that.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and to
25 my knowledge these -- is that a -- these moose hunts
26 are -- if it's a cow moose it has to be reauthorized
27 every -- and this one is for the specific one, 785.
28 And I was -- I'm-- I was trying to look it up in the
29 book here. But.....

30

31 Vince is here to enlighten us.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, hopefully Beth would
34 be online, but I have a copy of the Alaska Department
35 of Fish and Game proposal. You know, comments on the
36 proposal in 141, paging down here, they oppose it. And
37 again it would be best if Fish and Game would -- would
38 share that.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
41 reach out. Beth, are you online, Beth Lenart.

42

43 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is Mark
44 Burch from the Department of Fish and Game. I
45 understand that Beth has signed off, but it may be
46 possible to ask her to get back online if you'd like me
47 to see if I can track her down.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be

50

1 great. In the meantime we have.....
2

3 MS. TRAINOR: Hello, Madame Chair. For
4 the record my name's Alida Trainor, I'm the subsistence
5 resource specialist for Fish and Game. I was involved
6 with preparing the Department's comments on this
7 proposal. Tony Hollis, who is the area biologist is
8 being tracked down to call in.
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we called
11 the wrong one. Sorry.
12

13 MS. TRAINOR: It's okay, Beth is
14 knowledgeable as well.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
17

18 MS. TRAINOR: So if we look through the
19 background that was provided for this proposal, there
20 are some biological concerns for moose in this area.
21 Reauthorizing this hunt would allow -- it's just like
22 Andy was saying, a tool in the toolbox for managers to
23 be able to maintain a sustainable population of moose
24 in the area.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. So this
27 is one of the toolbox ones.
28

29 MS. TRAINOR: Yes. And it's -- the
30 Department is opposed to it because it is a reduction
31 in opportunity to harvest the avail -- current
32 available surplus of moose. And so we are concerned
33 that if we eliminate this that we would not be able to
34 provide reasonable opportunity.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Surplus of
37 moose, but I'm hearing that it -- that people don't
38 believe that.
39

40 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
43

44 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess maybe that
45 goes to one of these issues that we often have, is that
46 a surplus to the whole State or is that a surplus to
47 the local people. And that is oftentimes misunderstood
48 in the wordage. So I guess I have to lean towards what
49 the locals are telling me in their area and if they're
50

1 struggling to find moose that that's setting up a
2 pretty big alarm in my book.
3

4 So I appreciate your comments and the
5 State's position on that, but I think I'm going to
6 support this proposal.
7

8 Madame Chair.
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, did you
11 want any more Fish and Game.....
12

13 MR. BASSICH: No, I was just curious if
14 they -- I mean, if they can get it to us, but.....
15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.
17

18 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I've made my
19 decision I think, Madame Chair. I would like to see
20 that information in the future for -- you know, on some
21 of these proposals, but I -- I'm going to go with the
22 guys that live there and tell me that there's an issue
23 and there's hunter conflict issues, all the things that
24 this RAC has been addressing for a couple years with
25 hunter ethics and competition and people in rural
26 communities, you know, struggling to meet their needs
27 at times. So sounds to me like Fairbanks is doing
28 great, but the people locally aren't. And I'm not
29 saying that because of allocation, but I do want to
30 protect local, Federally-qualified people as a member
31 of this RAC to their subsistence harvest opportunities.
32 It's essential to the lifestyle.
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, and I
35 might add too, past history of cow moose seasons,
36 oftentimes the regulation process is too slow when they
37 need to close it. And in that light I'm in favor of it
38 because I've seen moose populations decline, you know,
39 with data that I've read, severely because they left
40 them open too long.
41

42 Any other discussion.
43

44 MR. GLANZ: Question.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
47 question's called for. All in favor of proposal 141 to
48 eliminate the moose permit RM 785 in Minto Flats say
49 aye.
50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
4 same sign.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
9 Passes. This looks like the same thing.
10
11 MR. McMANUS: This is -- Madame Chair.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
14
15 MR. McMANUS: This is the same, it was
16 written by Dr. Anna Frank. Back in history in 1972
17 when there was a potlatch Carl Spranken shot a moose
18 and it ended up to the Supreme Court and that's how
19 today our law is that we're able to get a cow moose for
20 our hunts. And she just wanted the -- that she's been
21 there, she's seen the decline on moose, the cow moose.
22 So this is the one that she put in. She's a elder from
23 Minto.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would ask
26 agreement from -- and if I'm interpreting this
27 correctly, it's the exact same proposal as the first
28 one before, in light of the way we voted on 141 we
29 would agree that we are also opposed to this or do you
30 want to just take it up and vote.
31
32 MR. BASSICH: Probably just as quick to
33 take it up.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do it.
36
37 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, a motion to
38 support proposal 143.....
39
40 MR. GLANZ: Second.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 2.
43
44 MR. BASSICH:I'm sorry, 142
45 as.....
46
47 MR. GLANZ: 142.
48
49 MR. BASSICH:142 clarification.
50

1 MR. GLANZ: Second.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And second.
4 And.....
5
6 MR. BASSICH: And I'll just cite the
7 previous -- this is a mirror proposal to 141. So we
8 will support this as we did 141.
9
10 Madame Chair.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything
13 else.
14
15 MR. WRIGHT: Question.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
18 question's been called for. All in favor of the
19 proposal say aye.
20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed.
24
25 (No opposing votes)
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
28 one's done.
29
30 MR. McMANUS: Okay. Madame Chair.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim.
33
34 MR. McMANUS: Proposal 143, when you
35 look at it it's kind of the same, but then -- let me
36 see where I got lost. It's the ceremonial use part,
37 it's protected by Alaska's constitution. Our AC
38 supported this, I know a couple of them did. They want
39 to eliminate the permit hunt so Fish and Game has
40 better managing for priority over ceremony use.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
43 were getting some background noise. And I just got a
44 notice that Tony's on, the biologist is online right
45 now if anybody wants to ask questions.
46
47 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.
50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Move to adopt 143.

2

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MR. WOODRUFF: Move to adopt 143.

MR. FIRMIN: Second.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
Discussion -- further discussion.

MR. BASSICH: I guess I just need a little bit of clarification on this. It seems like it's kind of mirroring the other ones to a certain extent. What's the difference between the RMS 785 and just all of 20E. Is the RM 786 strictly in the area of Minto?

MR. McManus: Yes, you're correct.

MR. BASSICH: Yes.

MR. McMANUS: It's right in the middle of it pretty much.

MR. BASSICH: So 41 if I understand would then eliminate all draw permits throughout all of 20B.

MR. McMANUS: Yes.

MR. BASSICH: And so is it necessary to do that. It just seems to me that it may -- I mean, I haven't got the map in front of me, but it seems to me that that might be a tool that might be useful. If your -- if the intent behind the other two was to protect that area around Minto, to protect that local population of Federally-qualified people to help them. But unit 20B is a considerably larger area that also people from the Fairbanks area would be utilizing for these winter hunts. If the population warrants cow hunts in the winter why wouldn't we be in favor of that as long as it's not locally impacting that community.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What I'm seeing is that under this -- what's the issue you'd like the Board to address, eliminate all antlerless moose hunts in 20B except Minto Flats area. I don't know why that's that way.

Go ahead, Tim, I see you want to talk.

MR. McMANUS: On -- excuse me, on this

1 one they -- I don't have the other paper, they didn't
2 send it to me, but there is other units in there that
3 have kind of the same thing. And this is what she was
4 getting at is close everything down as for the -- Fish
5 and Game to do that and it's much of a problem for
6 everybody so that's why she just kept 20B in there.
7 Because I think it would be impossible for them to
8 close everything down. And that's just the point she
9 was trying to make out, Dr. Anna Frank.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You think
12 it's impossible, huh.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
17 Andy.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I don't think I'm
20 going to support this one just because I -- looking at
21 the area, all of 20B, that's a really large area there
22 that would serve North Pole, Eielson, Fairbanks
23 directly and I don't see any remote populations that
24 are -- you know, out in that area. You know, Minto is
25 fairly isolated out there, but this other is a very
26 large area that it may warrant. If the bio just
27 warrants that there's a need for cow hunts I don't see
28 why that should be restricted or taken from. So I'm
29 going to oppose this.

30

31 Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
34 discussion.

35

36 MR. GLANZ: Question.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I do want to
39 ask -- well, I have a card from Tisha Kennell.

40

41 Did you want to speak to that from
42 Delta?

43

44 MS. KENNEL: Not to that one.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
47 question's been called for. All in favor of proposal
48 143 that eliminates all the moose hunts, cow moose
49 hunts, in 20B say aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
4 opposed the same sign.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 MR. FIRMIN: We'll have to use our
9 hands for this one.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's
12 do it again.
13
14 MR. FIRMIN: Hand, please.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor
17 raise your hand to closing all these seasons.
18
19 One, two three,
20
21 (Three affirmative votes)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
24 same sign.
25
26 (Three opposing votes, two abstentions)
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So two of you
29 are.....
30
31 MR. WOODRUFF: Abstaining.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
34abstaining. That's a no vote.
35
36 REPORTER: So Don and Andrew are
37 abstaining.
38
39 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.
40
41 REPORTER: Okay.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next.
44
45 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, may I
46 interrupt for a moment. This is Mark Burch again.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
49 ahead.
50

1 MR. BURCH: I do understand that Tony
2 Hollis is on the phone. I also can see that you've
3 moved along. So I don't know if it would be helpful to
4 have him answer any questions at this point.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
9 members, any questions.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know
14 what, I think I voted wrong.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because I
19 voted to dump them all, right.

20
21 MR. FIRMIN: You guys voted backwards
22 or what.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we
25 did. Is anybody else confused as I was there on that
26 vote. I was -- I did not want to dump them all. I
27 think I voted wrong, right, it says to eliminate all
28 antlerless moose drawings.

29
30 MR. GLANZ: I think that's the way I
31 voted anyway, eliminate all.....

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wanted to
34 vote the other way, not against it.

35
36 MR. GLANZ: I did that yesterday and
37 I've been looking at the book. Don't feel bad.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good. I'm
40 glad you clarified that. I.....

41
42 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:don't
45 feel bad. I don't feel bad.

46
47 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
48 Pippa Kenner. So three-three fails. It failed. The
49 vote.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It was.....
2
3 MS. KENNER:the motion.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:should
6 have been three, two and two, shouldn't it.
7
8 MR. FIRMIN: Three and two.
9
10 MS. KENNER: It was.....
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, three-
13 three.....
14
15 MS. KENNER: Right.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and two.
18 Okay.
19
20 MS. KENNER: If the majority of Council
21 members agree it can be taken up again.
22
23 MR. BASSICH: So, Sue, you want to take
24 it back up.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just want
27 -- I think I'm getting senile.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Eliminate all
32 antlerless moose hunts. And to favor it I -- I was not
33 in favor of it and I should have voted against it. Can
34 I just change my vote or do you want a revote.
35
36 MR. FIRMIN: I think since they don't
37 track individual votes it's just a Council decision it
38 doesn't matter.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it failed.
41
42 MR. FIRMIN: However if you want -- it
43 failed, yeah, it didn't -- I don't know, unless
44 somebody wants their -- my track record to say I voted
45 for or against something. That's the only thing.....
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it just
48 be a little bit stronger, the failing, right.
49
50

1 REPORTER: No. No, it either is or it
2 isn't.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Forget
5 it. Let's move on.
6
7 Any questions of the biologist online?
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: When you need
12 them they're not there. You didn't want your question
13 answered right now then?
14
15 MS. PARKER McNEILL: Madame Chair.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
18 ahead.
19
20 MS. PARKER McNEILL: This is Doreen
21 Parker McNeill with the Alaska Department of Fish and
22 Game and I believe Tony Hollis, the area biologist, for
23 this area is on the line if you have questions or need
24 any of the biological information clarified.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, on
27 moose.....
28
29 MR. HOLLIS: And, yes, I -- this is
30 Tony Hollis and I am on the line.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, guys.
33
34 MR. HOLLIS: Hello.
35
36 MR. BASSICH: 20B moose.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is this 20B
39 moose you can address?
40
41 MR. HOLLIS: Yes, it is. Yep.
42
43 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. This is
44 Member Bassich. I just would like some -- you don't
45 have to go into a long detailed explanation, but what
46 is the current reason for having cow hunts in 20B and
47 if you could split it from north of Fairbanks and south
48 of Fairbanks. We're taking up some of these proposals
49 and there's some questions as to why we would be having
50

1 cow moose hunt draw permits in the Minto area when
2 locals are seeing a decline and are having difficulties
3 meeting their needs due to low moose populations in the
4 area. So if you could address that briefly I'd
5 appreciate it.
6

7 MR. HOLLIS: Absolutely. So the unit
8 20B moose population is at about 13,000 moose right now
9 and that's based on a 2017 estimate. And our objective
10 is 12,000 to 15,000 moose. So we're right in the
11 middle of our objective. And so the cow harvest in
12 unit 20B is fairly low at this time. There is no
13 drawing permits in Minto Flats. We have a registration
14 hunt that begins October 15th and currently the quota
15 for that registration hunt is only 20 cows in that
16 area. We have a drawing permit for moose right around
17 the town of Fairbanks in the Fairbanks Management Area.
18 That harvest is just to reduce road kill and trouble
19 moose right in town. That's generally about 30 cow
20 moose. That is all the cow hunts we have in 20B at
21 this time.
22

23 Fairbanks Management Area is a drawing
24 permit, there's a couple different permits, it's only
25 around Fairbanks. And then there's a registration cow
26 permit in Minto Flats for right now a quota of 20
27 moose. And that's about -- that harvest we -- is a
28 level to maintain the moose population. We're not --
29 we don't want it to grow, we still see nutritional
30 problems with moose in 20 -- in Minto Flats, they have
31 very low twinning weight rates and calf sizes.
32

33 So we're not trying to reduce moose
34 numbers, we're trying to maintain them at the current
35 level.
36

37 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy says
40 thank you.
41

42 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim.
45

46 MR. McMANUS: All right. Tony, when
47 you give out those 20 permits and they're -- they all
48 got them and you shut it down and that's when you shut
49 down the ceremonial moose harvest too for potlatches,
50

1 correct?

2

3 MR. HOLLIS: Okay. So in 2018 there
4 was -- we estimated about 30 -- a harvestable surplus
5 in Minto Flats of 30 cow moose. And what happened in
6 that particular season was there was a potlatch for a
7 prominent member of the Native community that requested
8 quite a number of moose. We estimated about -- and we
9 have poor records of harvest from ceremonial harvest,
10 but we estimated based on requests for potlatch moose,
11 ceremonial harvest moose, we estimated about 10 moose,
12 10 cow moose were taken in Minto Flats that -- in 2018.
13 The quota for the registration hunt was 30. What we
14 did was since we estimated 10 cow moose were taken by
15 potlatch, we lowered that quota to 20. Once that hunt
16 occurred and 20 moose were taken then we closed Minto
17 Flats. That happened in November, at the end of
18 November, right at the beginning of December. We
19 closed Minto Flats, no potlatch, no ceremonial harvest
20 for cow moose. That went into place until June 30.
21 Once July 1st hit it opened back up, you could take
22 moose for ceremonial harvest, cow moose.

23

24 What we did then in 2019 is we adjusted
25 the quota, there would still be -- there's still about
26 30 cow moose as a harvestable surplus in Minto Flats,
27 but we just set the hunt -- the quota for the hunt, the
28 registration hunt at 20 and we left 10 for potlatch or
29 ceremonial harvest. That way we would -- the
30 subsistence hunt wouldn't get into the moose that may
31 be taken for ceremonial harvest. That way it would not
32 be closed down like we had to the previous year.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Thank you for that
35 explanation. This is Member Bassich again. How is the
36 reporting done, it's a registration hunt so pretty much
37 anybody can register and go out there and hunt, how is
38 the harvest reported and what kind of a timely manner
39 do you have for that to.....

40

41 MR. HOLLIS: There.....

42

43 MR. BASSICH:guard against.....

44

45 MR. HOLLIS:there's a requirement
46 of three days.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

49

50

1 MR. HOLLIS: So and we track it pretty
2 close. What happens is when that hunt opens in October
3 travel conditions are poor. It's just freezing up. As
4 the Flats freeze and the snow comes access gets more
5 available. And so we track it and since it's a short
6 reporting period as it gets close to quota then we
7 issue an EO to shut the hunt down.

8

9 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

10

11 Madame Chair, we've made our vote on
12 this unless we want to bring it back up. I'd make a
13 recommendation we just keep moving through.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

16

17 MR. BASSICH:proposals.

18

19 Thank you for that information.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And to bring
22 it back up you have to be on the -- changing your vote
23 if I remember it correctly.

24

25 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Tim.

28

29 MR. McMANUS: The last one I had was
30 82, but we already did that so thank you guys so much.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, one more.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Madame Chair, we
39 have a member in the public that informed me during the
40 break that they would like us to comment on proposal 91
41 which is dealing with hunting season and bag limits of
42 small game in the Delta region.

43

44 And so I'd like to make a motion that
45 we adopt proposal 91.

46

47 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: And if we could call her

50

1 up.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Tisha.

4

5

6

MS. KENNELL: Hi, Madame Chair. I'm Tisha Kennell and I'm from Delta Junction and I'm a member of the AC there. As an AC we did propose 91 this year in reference to grouse bag limit reductions. And we've got several reasons why we're asking on this.

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50

One of the -- one of the situations that we're facing down there is that we have one of the most vast road systems in the Interior due to farming practices there. And unfortunately that's taken a big impact on our bird hunting. We just have so much access in the area that road hunting has taken a large population of these birds. We've had a couple of really bad winters, three act -- or springs, three actually consecutively. And we believe that that's kind of brought down the population of our local grouse also.

You know, unfortunately we don't have a lot of data on this because we have -- we do have a small game department, but they're fairly new and so she's working really hard to gather data on our local grouse population and we've been assisting her in doing so, but we just don't have a lot of data at -- at this time right now. So with -- having discussions with her and what we -- what we're seeing down there, we've talked about the fact that in most cases and this is all throughout the United States, they don't recommend reducing bag limits unless there's what is considered a local overharvest. And we think that that's what happening here.

And unfortunately our area has been published through social media and through publications about being one of Alaska's most prominent grouse hunting areas. So due to that we have a lot of people who travel a long ways to come and hunt this area. I've seen people -- I've seen Danish people come here to hunt our birds. And we have people that show up with five, six, seven hunting dogs. These are people who are well practiced upland hunters. They use champion dogs. I actually hosted three friends last year and we all have wonderful grouse dogs. And fortunately they had been here three years prior and they were all astounded at the population of grouse

1 that they were not seeing in that area, the same areas
2 that they had hunted three years prior.

3
4 So we're very concerned about this
5 issue and it was brought up that we're bringing this up
6 because of allocation and that's definitely not the
7 issue right now. We're just looking to extend the
8 season and to provide some conservative conservation
9 thinking here as far as these numbers with birds go.

10
11 As far as extending the season, a lot
12 of us are hunting sheep, caribou, moose through August
13 and part of September and so some of us don't really
14 even get into grouse hunting until later in the season
15 and by that time you're basically not seeing any birds
16 on the ground. Like I say we've had a couple of really
17 bad springs, we'll see a few -- we'll see a few broods
18 and then, you know, due to the weather or whatever all
19 we're seeing is your larger breeder birds that have
20 survived whatever conditions they've gone through.

21 So we're hoping that you guys will
22 support this. We do have this in and we have gotten
23 support from Tok AC also as we have some hunters that
24 come from that area and they're kind of aware of the
25 situation also.

26
27 Thank you, Madame Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.

30
31 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Madame Chair, just
36 to support this. I -- it sounds like there is a
37 conservation concern even though it's not -- maybe not
38 biologically studied through the State. Hunters are
39 oftentimes some of your best information on game
40 populations irregardless of the species. And I'm
41 hearing that through this testimony and therefore I --
42 I'm going to support proposal 91 here.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
45 questions or discussion.

46
47 MR. McMANUS: Yes, Madame Chair. Move
48 to support this. I've just got a question for.....

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. McMANUS: On average how many --
4 how many birds are you guys getting annually in your
5 community and then do you know the numbers of people
6 that's coming and fluctuating your community and how
7 many they're getting? I'm just trying to see if
8 it's.....

9

10 MS. KENNEL: We don't have any data on
11 this unfortunately. We have a system of trying to
12 collect data on this, we have wing barrels and things
13 like that, but we don't get a lot of cooperation on
14 this. Unfortunately people bag and leave and go. So
15 that doesn't leave us with much data. We're trying to
16 work with the local biologist here, she's trying to
17 implement some type of a system to where we can track
18 some numbers here because that's going to be our
19 biggest -- our biggest data that we have. We do run
20 brood counts in the summertime and all of us volunteer
21 to help her with that so we can kind of see what's out
22 there ourselves. And then she runs -- she runs counts
23 in the spring during their breeding to see where we're
24 at there.

25

26 And although as we know for these types
27 of surveys they're picking random areas and some of the
28 areas that are chosen through the computer or however
29 the means is, sometimes aren't the best areas because
30 they're protected areas where there is no hunting. So
31 sometimes that can skew -- this is private property
32 stuff where some of these -- these counts are being
33 done. So it sort of skews our numbers because there
34 may be a few more birds there that what you would
35 normally see.

36

37 And in talking about disbursement also
38 we're just -- we're not getting the disbursement that
39 she's saying that these birds will normally do. She's
40 saying that the average grouse will redisperse up to 10
41 miles and unfortunately from the center of Delta
42 Junction we're hunting at least 30 miles in either
43 direction. I can attest to that because I personally
44 hunt 30 miles in every direction. And when you get --
45 and more, even further out, you know, as far as the
46 Denali and things like that. And so when you get that
47 much hunting pressure everybody's just expanding
48 further out every year to try to, you know, get a
49 bigger bag limit. And we feel like this will just

50

1 encourage people.

2

3 Birds aren't necessarily a subsistence
4 food, they're just more of a sporting game, you know.
5 And we like to see the youth be able to hunt these
6 birds. This is a game animal that most kids start on
7 and we want to be able to have those birds around so
8 that kids can learn to hunt with these types of animals
9 too. So we're just trying to be a little bit
10 conservative on this side and allow for that population
11 to stabilize.

12

13 Again I talked to a biologist from the
14 Lower 48 and he's stating that's the only time that
15 they would really recommend reducing bag limit is when
16 you're seeing that heavy local of a harvest like we do.

17

18 MR. McMANUS: Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
21 questions.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Call the question.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I had a
26 couple.

27

28 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wondered if
31 Delta is seeing the pressure that we see on the Nabesna
32 Road and the McCarthy Road of Hmong people hunting
33 grouse and things. I mean, it's pretty amazing.

34

35 MS. KENNEL: We don't have a Hmong
36 population in Tok.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, like --
39 no, these Hmong people aren't from -- they come from
40 Anchorage and come up and hunt in -- on all these dirt
41 roads where there's a lot of grouse.

42

43 MS. KENNEL: Unfortunately for you
44 guys I think they're passing us and going to you. But
45 what we do have is a heavy population of Russian people
46 and.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

49

50

1 MS. KENNEL:coming from that
2 type of a cultural situation, a lot of this -- a lot of
3 thinking is survival and so they will basically hunt
4 and shoot everything.

5
6 Another situation we have that's very
7 difficult to address because during the season you also
8 have your large game going and so our one game warden
9 is out handling larger issues than birds.....

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

12
13 MS. KENNEL:and we have -- we see
14 a lot of poaching. And the only reason I can attest to
15 that is because I exercise my dogs every day prior to
16 season and all and I see evidence of this on the road,
17 you know, two, three weeks prior to season.

18
19 So we just have a lot of elements there
20 that are creating kind of a catastrophic event for
21 these birds.

22
23 I can tell you personally as far as
24 numbers go I think I shot four sharp-tails and I shot
25 one ruffed grouse last year and I wish I hadn't shot
26 it, I thought it was a spruce grouse. And as it turned
27 I saw what it was, it was too late. Because I'm --
28 being the sportsman that I am, I'd rather not shoot
29 them, let them recover so that my grandkids could come
30 up here and shoot them someday. But.....

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

33
34 MR. BASSICH: Question.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
37 question's been called for. All in favor of proposal
38 91 that limits grouse season.....

39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
43 opposed.

44
45 (No opposing votes)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are the.....

48
49 MS. KENNEL: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
2 Do we have any more proposals?
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, I see
7 that.....
8
9 MR. JAGOW: One more.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
12 Charlie.
13
14 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, can we bring up
15 proposal 145, page 157.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We need a
18 motion.
19
20 MR. JAGOW: So I make a motion that we
21 support proposal 145.
22
23 MR. BASSICH: Second.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
26 Charlie.
27
28 MR. JAGOW: And it is to change the
29 moose hunting bag limits for nonresidents in unit 25C
30 to one bull with 50 inch or larger antlers or four or
31 more brow tines.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
34 to speak to it?
35
36 MR. JAGOW: I think people in this area
37 are a little concerned with the lack of moose and the
38 amount of nonresident hunting pressure. And they're a
39 little bit concerned that -- it's one of the only areas
40 where a nonresident can take any bull.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
43 where they would go.
44
45 MR. JAGOW: And that's where they are
46 going.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Uh-
49 huh.
50

1 MR. JAGOW: And I do know that
2 (indiscernible) and Circle obviously saw a lot of these
3 hunters and there is plenty of nonresidents taking any
4 bull, especially somebody that doesn't want to go
5 through the worries of making antler judgments. So
6 they see this regulation and of course it's very
7 attractive.
8

9 MR. GLANZ: And we tried this with our
10 AC I don't know how many years ago and it failed. But
11 with the lack of moose we're having up there in this
12 area, Fort Yukon, Circle, Central, I myself will
13 support this proposal.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
16 discussion.
17

18 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.
21

22 MR. FIRMIN: The proponent there he
23 also applied to be on the RAC and was declined a seat,
24 one of our open seats as well.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh.
27

28 MR. FIRMIN: And I think we did get the
29 hunter liaison, we got a report from her in our book
30 from last meeting as well that would reflect some of
31 what he's saying here.
32

33 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, they stay at the
34 Slavens cabin and work with the Park Department all
35 summer long. So and they live in Circle and she's
36 Native and he's not. But a great couple.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So he put in
39 for a.....
40

41 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.
42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
44 Okay.
45

46 MR. GLANZ: Question.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
49 question's been called for. All in favor of proposal
50

1 145.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
6 opposed.
7
8 (No opposing votes)
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
11 other ones?
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you have
16 any you have a second chance after lunch.
17
18 We'll break for lunch until 1:15.
19
20 (Off record)
21
22 (On record)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm going
25 to ask the Council was there any other Board of Game
26 proposals.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So there was
31 not. And I'm going to move on to agency reports. And
32 the first one is the tribal governments and I have Eric
33 Rowe for Tanana Chiefs Conference.
34
35 Go ahead, Eric.
36
37 MR. ROWE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
38 I'm going to get this projector set up.
39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, I'll just --
41 we talked about this earlier. I -- the letter I read
42 from yesterday, I was 98 percent correct, now I'm 100
43 percent correct. It is an official public document so
44 I've copies of the letter I read concerning the
45 proposal 82. So I'll give it to your coordinator to
46 pass around.
47
48 Thank you.
49
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Vince.

2

3 MR. ROWE: Thank you, Madame Chair and
4 members of the Council. My name is Eric Rowe, I'm from
5 Tanana Chiefs Conference. I've recently been put in
6 the position of Henshaw Creek project lead. And I'm
7 going to present today on last year and the past 20
8 years of the project. We have been collecting data for
9 the past 17 years excluding three years due to flooding
10 events that stopped the weir from collecting summer
11 chum and chinook salmon run timing and escapement.

12

13 Our partners. We partner with ADF&G,
14 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kanuti National
15 Wildlife Refuge and the Allakaket Tribal Council. With
16 them -- all of them help us meet all of our goals for
17 the season.

18

19 2000 to 2008 average escapement for
20 chinook salmon was 822. From 2009 to 2017 it was
21 1,301. For 2019 it was below the historical average
22 for chinook salmon, the escapement was 441 at Henshaw
23 Creek.

24

25 For chum salmon 2000 to 2008 the
26 historical average was 71,902. For the 2009 to 2017
27 average it was 246,708. And last year, 2019, the
28 escapement was also below the historical average with
29 34,474.

30

31 For chinook run timing, the blue line
32 on the graph or the red line represents the earlier
33 years of 2008 to 2000 or 2000 to 2008 and the blue line
34 represents 2009 to 2017. And the bars are the 2019
35 season. And as you can see the bars are shifted to the
36 right. And for chinook they were about four days later
37 than the average and for chum they were about a week
38 later than average.

39

40 As for the sex composition for chinook
41 the percent female in the earlier years was 32 percent
42 and in the later years 43 percent. And from last
43 season it rose to 62 percent females passing through
44 the weir. For chum salmon it's remained pretty stable.
45 In the earlier years it was 52 percent female, 2009 to
46 2017, 57 percent and in 2019 it was 50 percent.

47

48 And for age composition most of the
49 ages for chinook salmon are one/two, one/three and

50

1 one/four age classes. And one/twos made up the
2 majority of the run for 2019 with 46 percent. And that
3 was a lot higher than the historical average of 25
4 percent to 24 percent. The one/three and one/four age
5 classes were lower than the historical average. In
6 2000 through 2008 and 2009 to 2017 they were 44
7 percent, that dropped down to 31 percent. And the
8 one/four age classes dropped from 29 percent and 31
9 percent to 20 percent in 2019.

10

11 For chum age composition ages -- oh,
12 I'd like to back up to this previous slide. I would
13 like to add that age classes two/one, two/two and
14 two/three were present, however they made up less than
15 3 percent of the total escapement.

16

17 As for the chum age composition -- age
18 classes three and four are the most predominant age.
19 And the age class three is -- in 2000 to 2008 was 64
20 percent, 2009 to 2017, 63 and 2019, 65. For age class
21 four it was about the same, it just remained relatively
22 stable over the past 20 years.

23

24 For average length at age for age
25 classes one/three for chinook male and female, age
26 classes one/three, one/four and one/five for female
27 have gone down in 2019. In 2000 to 2008 they were in
28 the 700 to higher 800 levels or lengths. And in 2019
29 the one age classes of one/three went down to 537
30 millimeters. And as for male chinook age classes
31 one/two and one/three that were present in 2019 saw a
32 little bit of growth, they became a little longer. The
33 one/threes went from 691 from 2000 to 2008, 2009 to
34 2017 to 709 millimeters and in 2019 to 713 millimeters.
35 So there's been a gradual trend of getting longer.

36

37 As for female and male chum salmon the
38 earlier age classes of two and three -- excuse me,
39 three and four have stayed relatively stable They
40 haven't changed much, staying in the mid 500
41 millimeters. As for the male chum they also have
42 remained relatively stable with 563 millimeters in 2000
43 to 2008 and then 2009 still at 559. So relatively
44 stable, not a lot of change in their length compared to
45 their age.

46

47 One of our favorite projects at Henshaw
48 Creek is the culture and science camp that we put on
49 for the local communities, the villages. We get the

50

1 elders together with -- and the children and for a week
2 long we hold classes and teach them about salmon
3 biology. It's a great way to connect the youth with
4 nature and we just highly value this because it's --
5 it's a way to get the children to learn from their
6 elders and learn traditional knowledge as well as
7 western science knowledge combined.

8
9 And we partner with the Kanuti National
10 Wildlife Refuge and the Allakaket Tribal Council. And
11 here's just some pictures from last season's science
12 camp. In these first pictures they are being taught
13 traditional fish cutting and drying and we also teach
14 them salmon biology and ecology. They got the chance
15 to set a fishing -- set net for fishing and they also
16 learn about weir sampling. And there's a lot of other
17 activities that go on that the children really enjoy.

18
19 I'd like to acknowledge our partners,
20 the Allakaket Tribal Council, the U.S. Fish and
21 Wildlife Service Fairbanks Field Office, the Kanuti
22 National Wildlife Refuge, the Alaska Department of Fish
23 and Game and the Office of Subsistence Management
24 Partners Program. Without these partners this project
25 could not be possible.

26
27 And we're in the process of conducting
28 this 20 year review and it's -- it provides great data
29 for a long term -- long term study data set, this --
30 analyzing these trends with the chinook and summer chum
31 salmon on Henshaw Creek.

32
33 And with that I would like to answer
34 any questions if you have any.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Madame Chair,
41 sorry. I apologize for being late.

42
43 Was there a handout for this
44 presentation?

45
46 MR. ROWE: No, I didn't have a handout,
47 but I can -- I'd be happy to email this presentation to
48 you.

49
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, that would be
2 great. I'll make sure you get my email. And then when
3 you complete your 20 year review of this if you come up
4 with a document I'd love to have a copy of that as
5 well.

6
7 MR. ROWE: Yes, I'll send those to you.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I also had one
10 other question. I came in a little late, I was looking
11 at your chinook data there and I didn't see one plus
12 sixes there. Did you have any seven year olds?

13
14 MR. ROWE: For the chinook, no, we
15 didn't have any seven year olds.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: No seven year olds at
18 all?

19
20 MR. ROWE: No.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: And what about if you
23 look back in history, were you -- did you have seven
24 year olds, had they been extirpated from the run?

25
26 MR. ROWE: From the 20 year for chinook
27 -- from the 20 year study that we've been doing we
28 haven't noticed any of those come through.

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Never any seven year
31 olds?

32
33 MR. ROWE: I would -- no, not the
34 information that I -- that I have.....

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

37
38 MR. ROWE:in front of me right
39 now. And from making these charts we didn't come
40 across any.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Thank you.

43
44 MR. ROWE: You're welcome.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
47 questions.

48
49 MR. WILLIAMS: Hello, I have a comment.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go
2 ahead.
3

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Hello. My name is Paul
5 Williams, Jr. I've been listening for the last two
6 days. I wanted to make a comment on what I've been
7 hearing.
8

9 First of all I want to thank each one
10 of you for really a complicated and dedicated job that
11 you're doing to manage our great land here in Alaska.
12 And a lot of the information I can use within my unit
13 in teaching our Athabascan language. And the beginning
14 of the school year when I meet up with a lot of your
15 representatives I bring back a lot of the information
16 that your organization developed with coloring books
17 and land and fish and a lot of posters on how to take
18 care of our land and what's going on in our area. So I
19 use that to develop that to also use the English part
20 and the one in Gwich'in. So a lot of the materials are
21 -- I use in my classroom. So I want to thank you for
22 that.
23

24 And it's really important to protect
25 our resources and really get our young people to be
26 part of this because we have to take care of what god
27 has given us. And it's our land, it's our role to take
28 care of it with respect. And this morning we -- I was
29 hearing stories about sheep hunting and it's really
30 important that we keep an eye on what's going on. And
31 I wanted to say my dad, Paul Williams, Sr., went sheep
32 hunting in Arctic Village mountains years ago for my
33 grandmother and elders and they were very happy that
34 they got to eat sheep. And we hold all of the moose
35 and the caribou with the king salmon and the fish with
36 deep respect because that's our main source of food.
37

38 And I just wanted to say thank you very
39 much for all of what you -- you are all doing, it is
40 very much appreciated. And as we work together with
41 could own this all for the generation that's coming up.
42

43 Thank you very much. (In Native).
44

45 MR. ROWE: Thank you.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And thank
48 you, Paul.
49
50

1 Any other questions.

2

3

4

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, just -- I'm just
7 curious. I can't see the one side of the screen there
8 which is fine for right now, but over time has the
9 three and four year old component of the run been the
10 major contributor, I'm seeing like 75 percent of the
11 run out of three and four year olds instead of four and
12 five year olds. So, you know, in the main stem on the
13 Yukon four and five year olds are the main component of
14 the run with a declining of seven year old fish in the
15 run. So I'm just kind of curious is this indicative of
16 Henshaw Creek over time or is this something that's
17 happening a little bit more recently in time?

18

19

20

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Andy and then.....

MR. BASSICH: Yeah, just -- I'm just
curious. I can't see the one side of the screen there
which is fine for right now, but over time has the
three and four year old component of the run been the
major contributor, I'm seeing like 75 percent of the
run out of three and four year olds instead of four and
five year olds. So, you know, in the main stem on the
Yukon four and five year olds are the main component of
the run with a declining of seven year old fish in the
run. So I'm just kind of curious is this indicative of
Henshaw Creek over time or is this something that's
happening a little bit more recently in time?

MR. ROWE: This has been happening over
the past 20 years. This first -- the first one is age
classes, the three year old age classes have been
getting larger most recently.

MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Gerald, go
ahead.

MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair.
Just remember you've got to add a year because they're
in the gravel. So if you're adding the numbers up add
one more year because it was in the gravel. So a 1.3
is one plus three is four plus one in the gravel.

MR. BASSICH: Okay. I thought they
were counting for that, yeah.

Thank you. That explains it.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
something to add, Zach?

MR. STEVENSON: Pardon me. Zach
Stevenson with the Office of Subsistence Management.
Through the Chair. I just wanted to thank you for your
detailed presentation, that's really helpful.

Secondly I just wanted to request a
copy of that presentation because I'm required to
retain that for our official record. If you'd email it

1 to me please and I'll make sure the Council gets that
2 as well.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. ROWE: Through the Chair. Yes,
7 Zach, I got your card here and I'll make sure you get
8 the presentation.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. STEVENSON: Thanks so much.

13

14 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I just want
19 to say I think Henshaw Creek is a great example of the
20 way they incorporate bringing young people into the
21 fisheries and getting them excited about it and
22 hopefully become future biologists or whatever. I
23 think that's a really important component of the run
24 and I know they put a lot of effort into that over the
25 years and I really applaud that. And I think --
26 actually I think that should be a part of every program
27 that takes place in the State that's State funded or
28 Federally funded myself. But I appreciate the extra
29 effort, I know it takes extra effort to do it, but it
30 really helps the future of fishermen along the river.

31

32 Appreciate that.

33

34 MR. ROWE: Thank you. Yeah, we had a
35 very successful year, science camp last year and could
36 really see the excitement in the children and kind of
37 sparking that interest in conservation and getting
38 involved with their management. It's really great.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank
45 you.

46

47 Any other questions.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2

3 MR. ROWE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And thank you
6 again.

7

8 Okay. Next is Native organizations,
9 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries. We did that. And then
10 there was the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Carrie
11 Stevens. Did she ask to be on?

12

13 MR. STEVENSON: She was invited and I
14 was told she would be here yesterday, but I haven't
15 seen her today.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. She --
18 we'll give her a chance if she comes back.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: It's more fish stuff so
21 it -- kind of build on what we just heard.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Put
24 that on record.

25

26 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I would
27 request that we get the presentation by Randy Brown. I
28 think it -- it's fisheries related and I think it's
29 appropriate to bring it on and it'll build and -- it's
30 just helpful if you're talking about fish to talk about
31 fish for a while and then not mix fish and moose and
32 caribou. Helps me anyway. Too much gray hair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Randy, Randy
35 Brown.

36

37 MR. BROWN: Do you want me to go now?

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We do. We
40 have a special request. Randy, did you have a Power
41 Point?

42

43 MR. BROWN: Yes.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince has
46 something to do while we're waiting there to get that
47 set up.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, because usually

50

1 technology doesn't always work. So I'll turn it over
2 to Andy. I drafted a motion that you discussed on
3 hunter education and I haven't had a chance to show it
4 to Andy. So I don't know if Andy wants to read it or
5 you want me to read it.

6

7

MR. BASSICH: Just go for it.

8

9

MR. MATHEWS: Well, okay.

10

11

MR. BASSICH: It's a draft.

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MR. MATHEWS: Now hold on. I'm not the
best with computers. So -- okay. I already shared it
with Sue and I shared it with the coordinator, it's a
draft.

The motion addresses your hunter
education orientation requirement for sheep in the Red
Sheep/Cane Creek area of 25A. The motion that I
drafted would be the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
Council submit a letter to the Alaska Board of Game to
request to go forward with developing a hunter
education and orientation program. I need to pause
there because that is what is in regulation, it's not
hunter ethics. So maybe that'll save a little time
there. I'm pulling directly from the State
regulations. Anyway developing a hunter education and
orientation program for sheep hunting in Red Sheep
Creek and Cane Creek within the Arctic Village Sheep
Management Area within unit 25A, 5 AAC 92.003.
Currently the State of Alaska regulations has a
requirement for this hunter education and orientation
program established in 2011 for this area. The
regulation requires a person must possess proof of
completion of the program to hunt sheep in the area.

Justification. One, developing the Red
Sheep and Cane Creek area hunter education program
would be the first step to address this Council's
desire to have a workable solution to an historically
contentious issue and build mutual respect between
village hunters and other parties. The program would
be a joint effort with all parties involved.

Second justification would be
development of this hunter education program would be
an excellent example of the Eastern Interior Regional
Advisory Council's hunter ethics program to build

1 mutual respect and understanding between user groups
2 within the Eastern Interior region.
3

4 That is the whole motion and I -- since
5 I got the mic on the next phase of this would be the
6 letter.
7

8 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Vince, for
9 getting the detailed information in there. So if you
10 could maybe give that to me so I could actually read
11 the motion part of it so that we can take action on it.
12

13 And thank you again for filling in some
14 of the justifications of it which we'll be able to use
15 in the letter to the Board.
16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Vince, I
20 deeply appreciate that. I was wondering how it was
21 going to get done.
22

23 MR. BASSICH: It's a long motion. Let
24 me see if I can -- okay.
25

26 The motion, Madame Chair. The Eastern
27 RAC submit a letter to the Alaska Board of Game to
28 request to go forward with developing a hunter
29 education and orientation program for sheep hunting in
30 Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek within the Arctic
31 Village Sheep Management Area, unit 25A.
32

33 And I'm just going to stop there
34 because from that point on it begins to go into some of
35 the justification and reasoning behind it. So with
36 that motion that's what we're asking them to do.
37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
39

40 MR. BASSICH: Okay. And then I would
41 suggest, Madame Chair, that we use the -- some of
42 information here as a building block and that we assign
43 a couple people from the Council to work with our
44 coordinator, draft the letter. I don't think we need
45 to draft the entire letter right now to the Board.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It goes to
48 the Board of Game and it would be nice to talk about
49 it.....
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Okay.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:when --
4 whoever goes.
5
6 MR. BASSICH: Right. But I'm saying
7 the final draft. Maybe what we need to do is have some
8 discussion at the Council right now as to some of the
9 components of the letter that are important to include
10 in the letter, right.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
13
14 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
17
18 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
19 This is a question for clarification for Andy. Is the
20 intent to submit this letter to the Board of Game who
21 will be meeting tomorrow?
22
23 MR. BASSICH: Yes.
24
25 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. Then if I
26 understand correctly we'll have that letter composed
27 now or at least draft -- in draft format prepared now.
28
29 MR. BASSICH: Up to the Chair.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
32
33 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The answer is
36 yes.
37
38 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you for the
39 clarification.
40
41 MR. BASSICH: Let me -- can I ask one
42 thing about the procedural aspect of the Board of Game.
43 They meet for a week so does all materials have to be
44 in by the start of that meeting?
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The other
47 part of our discussion on this is who's going to go for
48 the RAC.
49
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Andrew
4 and I spoke about that and he would rather someone else
5 go. And I'm in town, I could stay an extra two days,
6 not that I want to, but I contacted Nissa and she said
7 she would sign me up right away and a RAC person can do
8 that unless an AC wants to go first. So you could ask
9 her to go first, you want to get out of here too. But
10 an AC would trump a RAC. So.....

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:somebody
15 would go.....

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and then
20 they'd present it.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Madame Chair, for
23 some of the justification there's basically three
24 bullet points that I can pull out of this. After that
25 motion Vince has here, currently the State of Alaska
26 regulations has a requirement for hunter education and
27 orientation programs established in 2011 for this area.
28 The regulation requires a person must possess proof of
29 completion of the program to hunt sheep in the area.
30 So that's one bullet point of the letter.

31

32 A second point would be developing a
33 Red Sheep and Cane Creek area hunter education program
34 would be a first step to address the Eastern Interior
35 Regional Advisory Committee's desire to find a workable
36 solution to a historically contentious issue and build
37 mutual respect between village hunters and other
38 parties. That would be the second component of it.

39

40 The -- a subcomponent of that would be
41 the program should be a joint effort with all parties
42 involved meaning RAC, the people from the area, any
43 other -- I would imagine the Sheep Hunters Association,
44 all the people that would be interested in contributing
45 to.....

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you got to
48 name.....

49

50

1 MR. BASSICH:an educational
2 program.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and the
5 Refuge.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: Right.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: And the Refuge.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But that was
14 not.....

15
16 MR. BASSICH: That's not identified.
17 Maybe that's something that we want to include as I
18 begin to identify as an example and then put some of
19 those entities in there. Okay. That would be a
20 subpoint of this.

21
22 And then the final bullet point is
23 development of a hunter education program would be an
24 excellent example of the Eastern RAC's hunter ethics
25 program to build mutual respect and understanding
26 between user groups within the Eastern Interior region.

27
28
29 So that would kind of cover my initial
30 motion that I withdrew which is more focused on our
31 region, developing hunter ethics and education.

32
33 So that -- that's what we have to work
34 with. I guess I would ask is there other areas that we
35 need to add to this, are there other concerns from
36 Council members or other aspects that they'd like to
37 see included in a letter.

38
39 MR. FIRMIN: I would like to see
40 something just maybe a -- like so it's to all user
41 groups like you mentioned and not just direct.....

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Say what.

44
45 MR. FIRMIN: So it's not just directed
46 at sheep hunters and sheep in the Red Sheep Creek area.
47 So it's like sheep hunters in unit 25. There's more
48 Native allotments and property that's owned and -- you
49 know, than just that area. So if it was directed on a
50

1 broader scale and to more user groups than just sheep
2 hunters in the Red Sheep Creek area.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I think -- Vince,
5 do you still have my original piece of paper I gave
6 you?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: No.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: No. To draft this?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, somewhere.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So.....

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Because I had something
17 kind of like in there as a -- the final paragraph was
18 this program could be used -- talking off the top of my
19 head, this program could be used by sheep hunters
20 regionally and statewide as a guideline for hunter
21 ethics and education on sheep hunting. It was
22 something along those lines.

23

24 Yeah, this course would be available
25 regionally and statewide for sheep hunters.

26

27 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, that kind of covers
28 it I think in a broad way.

29

30 MR. WRIGHT: Should be required.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: That would require a
33 whole different -- opening up a whole different thing.
34 I think let's start would be available.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a
37 different spaghetti.

38

39 MR. BASSICH:or be -- how about
40 recommended, use the word recommended, right, the
41 course would be recommended to be available to regional
42 and statewide hunters for sheep.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And did I
45 understand that you wanted to see other users, not --
46 and other hunters?

47

48 MR. FIRMIN: Well, there's more than
49 just one user group using the Arctic Village Sheep

50

1 Management Area is what.....
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
4
5 MR. FIRMIN:I was getting at.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This could be
8 used for other users. I -- maybe you said it in that
9 sense, but just to make sure.
10
11 MR. MATHEWS: The only comment I have
12 on that is we're focusing heavily on the State regs
13 that exist so recommend is the right word instead of
14 requiring, et cetera. Anyways that's my only comment
15 on that is the audience you have when they see that 5
16 AAC 90 whatever, whatever, that's what they're going to
17 focus on.
18
19 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. So I have here the
20 course should be recommended and be available
21 regionally and to regional and statewide sheep hunters.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks for
24 doing that, Vince, really. That's awesome.
25
26 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thanks for cleaning
27 up, it helps a lot. The team is really happy.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 MR. MATHEWS: I will email that to the
32 three of you and then to be honest I didn't capture all
33 your comments so I believe Zach captured your
34 additional comments.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's on paper
37 too, right, oh, isn't it. Did we capture everything
38 that you read.
39
40 MR. BASSICH: Yes.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
43
44 MR. BASSICH: So between what Vince has
45 in text here we can just add what I just read out to
46 you as the final bullet point.....
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
49
50

1 MR. BASSICH:in the letter.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we often
4 do this on the record like this and vote on it and then
5 we just approve it, make sure it's all in there.

6

7 So is there anything else, any
8 other.....

9

10 You're asking Charlie, they're over
11 there whispering. You should put it on the record.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You don't
16 have to be shy, Charlie. Just pretend you're talking
17 to us.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: I was going to -- I was
20 going to give him the pen so he could cross a few
21 things out.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So any other
26 discussion.

27

28 MR. GLANZ: I'll call the question
29 then.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
32 question's been called for. All in favor of the motion
33 to send this to the Board of Game say aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
38 opposed.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
43 you very much all of you.

44

45 How's the set up going back there?

46

47 MS. KENNER: Really well. We'll get
48 it.

49

50

1 MR. BROWN: Madame Chair, members of
2 the Council. My name is Randy Brown and I work with
3 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service here in Fairbanks as
4 a fish biologist. And for the last 25 years or so I've
5 been working along the Yukon and elsewhere in northern
6 Alaska mostly studying fish migrations.
7

8 And the -- our office has been running
9 two weirs for the last 25 years or so, since 1994. And
10 recently myself and some of my colleagues, Catherine
11 Bradley and Jeff Melegari, have looked at the whole --
12 well, about a 23 year span of our weir data and looked
13 at trends over time for chinook salmon and summer chum
14 salmon during this period. And we think there's some
15 interesting things. While it's outside of the Eastern
16 Interior regional area I think the chinook salmon
17 anyway have -- there's some patterns that I think are
18 probably happening with chinook salmon that spawn in
19 the upper reaches of the drainage as well. And so I
20 think you'll be interested in some of these.
21

22 It's a little bit awkward, but Pippa's
23 going to be tabbing this on to the next slide when I
24 say.
25

26 That's the Gisasa River weir right
27 there. These weirs are really amazing structures, you
28 know, they really do close off the river and the fish
29 have to go through the trap.
30

31 Next slide, please.
32

33 And just to give you some geographic
34 idea of these two weirs, the Andreaafsky River is in the
35 lower Yukon and it flows from the north down into the
36 Yukon about 175 kilometers from the sea. The Gisasa
37 River is about 900 kilometers upstream from the sea and
38 is a trib of the Lower Koyukuk River. And I have Pilot
39 Station included there because we use some of their
40 data and it's an important component of the whole
41 picture here.
42

43 Next slide.
44

45 So these weirs, you have a trap there
46 and you count the fish through and you can close the
47 front door of it and fish of whatever species you're
48 interested in will come in and you close the back door
49 and then you can go down and sample these fish.
50

1 Next slide.

2
3 And you can -- you sample the big fish
4 and the small fish, all of them, it's not a selective
5 sample. One of the things we were interested in is
6 whether when there's a big run in the Yukon which we're
7 looking at Pilot Station as kind of looking at the
8 whole run coming through. And I -- granted Andreafsky
9 River's downstream from that, but essentially if we
10 have a big run in the whole river do we also have all
11 of the spawning areas doing well. And with chinook
12 salmon our data suggests that's not true at all. There
13 seems to be no relationship between a big run at Pilot
14 Station and the run size in east fork Andreafsky or
15 Gisasa River. The summer chum salmon though do seem to
16 have -- be highly correlated both with Pilot Station
17 and with each other.

18
19 And what we think is going on there is
20 a life history difference between the two where chinook
21 salmon rear for a year after they hatch in their natal
22 stream. There's actually some that leave their natal
23 streams, but mostly we think they rear in a natal
24 stream and they're subject to all the different
25 environmental influences on that stream, whether it's a
26 giant flood that might reduce the growth rate or cause
27 additional mortality or really low water where the heat
28 might cause the fish to leave or go into cooler tribs,
29 whatever, but each one of these streams is going to
30 have it's own specific survival dynamics for a given
31 summer.

32
33 And summer chum salmon however they
34 leave their streams shortly after they hatch and go to
35 the sea. So they're seeing a common environment in the
36 river, in the Yukon River and also in the Bering Sea
37 very soon in life. And so they tend to have high
38 survival, if it's good for one population it's good for
39 all of them. So they kind of operate much more in
40 synchrony as this lower plot shows.

41
42 These are called correlation plots and
43 the one for Pilot Station and Gisasa River in the
44 middle is really kind of the best example of this, they
45 have the closest correlation of the grid. But all of
46 them have a positive relationship.

47
48 Next slide.

49
50

1 So another thing we were looking at is
2 the possibility that we were going to see earlier run
3 timing over the course of this 23 year span because
4 we're getting such dramatic warmer periods out in the
5 Bering Sea, reduced ice coverage, earlier breakups on
6 average and things like that. And we did not see this
7 happen for either population of chinook salmon. The
8 Gisasa River are the lighter bars. What these are --
9 the midpoints are the circles and then the bars cover
10 from the first quartile to the second. So it's the
11 central half of each one of these runs going through
12 the weirs.

13
14 And Gisasa River weir they tend to
15 migrate in there about three and a half to four days
16 later on average than the Andraefsky. And because it's
17 about 700 and some kilometers farther upriver, it takes
18 them about 18 days extra to make that migration at the
19 speeds that they swim down there. And so what this
20 means is the Gisasa River fish are coming in a couple
21 of weeks before the Andraefsky fish which is kind of an
22 interesting dynamic.

23
24 Next slide, please.

25
26 We also didn't see any trend for the
27 summer chum salmon. They also come in a little bit --
28 well, they come in the river earlier for Gisasa River,
29 but they come through the weir about five days later
30 than those in the east fork Andraefsky, but we saw no
31 trend over time. There was a variation, a week this
32 way or that way off of the average for both the chinook
33 and the summer chum, but no trend, they're not coming
34 in earlier.

35
36 And we think what this -- what's
37 happening here, it's a phenomena they call the match,
38 mismatch hypothesis about some of these salmon spawning
39 times in that the temperature in the gravel really has
40 a strong influence on hatching time, the incubation
41 time and subsequent hatching of the juveniles. And
42 what you don't want is for juveniles to hatch and there
43 be no food available to them. So that's the match,
44 mismatch. If they hatch and there's no food they die.
45 If they hatch and there's food they live. And so the
46 real driver of spawning timing is what the juveniles
47 see when they hatch on the other end of this.

48
49 And so the fact that the ice might be
50

1 going away in the Bering Sea and the Yukon breaking up
2 earlier really doesn't appear to have anything to do
3 with the timing of these spawning migrations.
4

5 Next slide.
6

7 So one of the things that we thought
8 would be really interesting is to look at the average
9 age, average annual age of the spawning escapements for
10 chinook salmon given that during this period of time we
11 have really high exploitation early on, it averaged
12 about 33 percent for the chinook -- for the east fork
13 Andreafsky and about 40 percent for the Gisasa. That
14 means that 33 out of a hundred fish are being harvested
15 out of Andreafsky, downstream from the Andreafsky.
16

17 In the first seven years or so of the
18 -- of our time period we had the 2000 kind of a crash
19 that made everybody pretty nervous and harvest rates
20 were somewhat less after that, somewhere around 15 to
21 20 percent for a little while in the mid 2000s and then
22 it dropped down to pretty much no harvest, it was down
23 below 5 percent all the way to the end. And we thought
24 since the fishery was mostly a large mesh gill net
25 fishery and those meshes do catch -- they tend to catch
26 older fish and they tend to catch bigger fish. So we
27 thought that with this trend in reduced exploitation,
28 we should see an increase in the average age.
29

30 At the same time however what was
31 happening is the Bering Sea was warmer and there have
32 been a number of papers showing that when juveniles are
33 rearing in warmer temperatures they grow faster and one
34 of the triggers for initiating spawning is to reach
35 some threshold size where all of a sudden a fish that
36 maybe in a cool year might come back as a six year old
37 might in a warm year come back as a five year old. And
38 these results suggest that that environmental factor is
39 having a much stronger influence on the age at maturity
40 for these fish than the fishery which definitely takes
41 many of the older and bigger fish out of it.
42

43 So that I -- we thought was really
44 interesting. We didn't know how those two would play
45 out, but they were both happening at the same time and
46 the environment seems to be a stronger influence there.
47

48 Next slide.
49
50

1 The chum salmon, you know, there isn't
2 really a selected fishery on chum salmon. They don't
3 cover the same range of sizes. The primary age classes
4 are fours and fives for chum salmon. And they often
5 alternate strongly, you'll have, you know, 75 or 80
6 percent of the run being four year olds, the next year
7 it'll be five year olds. So it's the same brood class,
8 you know, so you'll have a real strong brood class and
9 it will supply two years of adequate escapements, the
10 first year as age fours, the second year as age fives.
11 And so what you have is sometimes the -- a brood year
12 will go out to sea and it will be a disaster for them
13 and very few survive so you'll get small escapements
14 from that brood year, but it'll be made up for by a
15 strong one the next year or the year before that fill
16 in the gaps.

17
18 And we did not see -- there is a slight
19 trend down to its lower ages, but it's not significant.
20 And so they're not facing the same sort of issues that
21 chinook salmon are.

22
23 Next slide.

24
25 So this was a length at age plot for
26 chinook salmon in the two spawning grounds and for the
27 two sexes. And what we saw was a little bit of a
28 slight decline in age fives, not really much of any --
29 nothing significant for age sixes or fours.

30
31 Next slide.

32
33 And this is the chum salmon slide. Now
34 they -- it was -- this was really interesting. Again
35 the sixes are a very small component, usually 95
36 percent or more of the runs are age fours and fives,
37 but we have enough sixes to do a little bit of a trend
38 and it was just slightly up, but not by much, it wasn't
39 significant. The others, the fours and the fives for
40 both populations and both sexes had a curved
41 relationship with a high point around 2002. And we
42 don't really understand what's causing that, but it was
43 an interesting thing.

44
45 The other interesting thing about the
46 chum salmon population is Gisasa River was
47 significantly bigger size for every age class for both
48 sexes. And we suspect that's an adaptation for the
49 increased distance they migrate.

50

1 Next slide.

2

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Now we did some production work.

Production work always has a few caveats to it because what you have to do is estimate what fraction of harvest downstream from a particular spine stream should be allocated to it and what the age structure of that harvest is in order to create the full run. Because your production is not just the ones that make it through the weirs, but all of those that return to the river. It's a difficult -- it's a difficult thing to do, it's much easier in the lower river where you have much more control and understanding over the harvest because almost all the harvest for the chinook salmon is commercial or it's certainly the dominant harvest in the lower river. And so those are tallied up really well, they're allocated to lower river, middle river, upper river as far as age structure. And there's a tally of them in the commercial fishery.

So we felt pretty comfortable with these and what we see with the chinook salmon is that the Gisasa River is not doing very well. It averages one recruit per spawner, many years have less than one. And not only that, but we've been seeing a declining abundance in the Gisasa River. It is losing about 4 and a half percent a year over our time period. I mean, annually it varies a little bit up or down, but over the trend line over that period of time is on the decline. And the production supports that assessment.

The Andraefsky is averaging 1.36 recruits per spawner over that period with a high year in 2000. The 2000 brood year for both of them was the high one. So but it was still only a little less than five recruits per spawner on that year. And that's really kind of the -- that's not unusual for chinook salmon.

Next slide.

So chum salmon it's a little bit wilder. They definitely produce more when they're on a high production schedule and not many at all when they're on the low.

The -- on the Gisasa River we had one year, this is -- 2001 was the high year for them. And in the Gisasa that one year was a little over 23

1 recruits per spawner. And we looked at that and said
2 no, this can't be. And we looked through all the data,
3 it's a solid number. And we don't know how to explain
4 it, but they had enormous recruitment that year. And
5 it was interesting because 2001 for chum salmon is the
6 year that -- so they were spawned in 2000 and went to
7 sea in the spring of 2000 -- no, no, no. They were
8 going to sea at the same year as the big year for
9 chinook salmon, right. So chinook salmon it was the
10 2000 brood year going to sea in -- it was the '99 brood
11 year going to sea in 2001 and the chums were going to
12 -- it was the 2000 brood year going to sea in 2001.
13 And so what you see is that that strong brood year for
14 both chinooks and chums, they were entering the ocean
15 at the same time on the same year and had really high
16 recruitment.

17
18 But the chums are -- they're not
19 trending in escapement level down or up, but they vary --
20 they swing really dramatically from year to year.

21
22 Next slide.

23
24 I'm going to end with this slide. This
25 is the stock recruitment curve, the Ricker stock
26 recruitment curve which is how many people try and set
27 escapement goals. And in the Andreafsky River with the
28 chinook salmon it fit a Ricker curve well, the Gisasa
29 did not. And what this is is the escapement, the
30 number of spawners through the weir are on the X axis
31 and that's a real solid number because we count them
32 through the weir. And the recruits is not quite as
33 solid a number because we have to estimate the harvest,
34 but from Andreafsky I think we do -- it's a pretty
35 simple calculation for that. And what we come up with
36 is a -- what they call the number of spawners at the
37 maximum sustainable yield at about -- almost 1,700 fish
38 which is just slightly less than what Fish and Game
39 came to in a -- they used a percentile method they call
40 it, it's a different way to approach that problem. But
41 their range of escapement for the Andreafsky was just
42 slightly higher, you know, 2,100 to almost 5,000. But
43 what you can see looking at that plot is that there's
44 high escapements and low escapements in that whole band
45 from 2,000 to 4,000 or more. And those seem like
46 appropriate escapement goals for there.

47
48 The diagonal line. One of the ways to
49 look at that diagonal line is that as you move a goal
50

1 say or a perspective goal if you increase it along
2 there what you have is a probability that you will not
3 open a fishery because if you're trying to get that you
4 need to have at least that many recruits come in in
5 order to have any what they call surplus fish or fish
6 beyond your escapement goal. And you can see that
7 during -- you know, somewhere around, you know, 2,000
8 to 4,000 fish or a little more we'll get -- our data
9 shows that we get recruits higher than that one to one
10 line. And so that's an important consideration in
11 this. The fact that they really couldn't manage a
12 fishery to get that into the Andraefsky River
13 specifically because you can't manage for the
14 tributaries very well at all, but it certainly seems to
15 be an appropriate goal range that they have set aside
16 for that system.

17
18 And I can take questions if anybody's
19 got any questions on anything, if I haven't made
20 something clear or something.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Questions.

23
24 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

27
28 MR. BASSICH: I guess maybe -- that's a
29 lot of technical talk for a lot of people that don't
30 follow fisheries a lot and so maybe a simple summary of
31 this, I'm going to make an attempt at it and maybe you
32 can correct me if I'm wrong.

33
34 So the simple takeaway from this is
35 that there are declining numbers at both of these two
36 weirs for chinook salmon over time and that they're
37 returning at a younger age over time. There's a steady
38 trend of fish returning at a younger age over time at
39 both of these two weir sites; is that correct?

40
41 MR. BROWN: The population is not
42 declining in Andraefsky, but it is in Gisasa. And,
43 yes, they are trending significantly younger in age
44 over this time period.

45
46 MR. BASSICH: Right. And then the
47 other point you brought up is that this may be affected
48 more -- there may be more of an influence on that by
49 the conditions that they're actually reared in and the

50

1 stream temperature when they're -- let's call it born,
2 spawned or hatched rather than out in the ocean or
3 conditions out in the ocean contributing to that. Is
4 that a fair assumption too?
5

6 MR. BROWN: The -- what we're saying is
7 that the experiment that looked at growth rates, you
8 know, increased growth rates reaching a threshold size
9 earlier in life and maturing a year earlier than they
10 would normally mature in a cooler environment, that's
11 happening out in the sea.
12

13 MR. BASSICH: Okay.
14

15 MR. BROWN: They are exposed --
16 individual populations are exposed to different natural
17 forces that might improve survival or reduce survival
18 within each stream which is why they don't correlate,
19 they don't all have a good year versus all have a bad
20 year like the chum salmon appear to.
21

22 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Thank you.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
25 questions.
26

27 (No comments)
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
30 Thank you, Randy.
31

32 MR. BROWN: Madame Chair. So I should
33 let you know this, we have produced a manuscript that
34 is out for review at the Journal of Fish and Wildlife
35 Management and we'll make sure you get copies when it
36 is published.
37

38 Thank you.
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You're
41 welcome. All right.
42

43 Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, this is Vince
46 Mathews. I do work for Yukon Flats National Wildlife
47 Refuge. Nothing has really changed from our summary
48 from 2019 in October, but I have copies that you may
49 want an additional one.
50

1 The other thing I wanted to share --
2 two things. We have a real good cooperative working
3 relationship with Council of Athabascan Tribal
4 Governments. I was just reviewing some of the
5 documents. So part of that to keep you informed since
6 Henshaw Creek talked about their cultural camp, the
7 Flats Refuge supports a cultural camp for CATG and
8 additional programs like that. And we work with the
9 villages of the Flats through CATG on the moose
10 management issues.

11
12 So those are that and then I'll wait to
13 see if there's any additional questions on that.

14
15 There is another one I forgot. I work
16 for three Refuges so the -- my mind has to spin right
17 and left so I got to spin left now.

18
19 The new Refuge manager for the Yukon
20 Flats Refuge, I'm not sure if he was at your last
21 meeting, is Jimmy Fox. Our position as deputy Refuge
22 manager is empty, but yesterday, I don't know if he
23 introduced himself, but Bill Hedman is on a leadership
24 at -- program with BLM, Bureau of Land Management, so
25 he's on a detail to fill the deputy position. And
26 that's really exciting because we have a lot of similar
27 issues and knowledge and a whole bunch of other things
28 that we can benefit from with a direct connection with
29 BLM.

30
31 So then I'll stop and ask if there's
32 any questions on the Refuge for Yukon Flats and then I
33 wanted to talk to you about a youth program.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
36 questions.

37
38 MR. FIRMIN: Madam Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

41
42 MR. FIRMIN: When are we going to get
43 some more cool pictures of the lynx studies?

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Right now the lead
46 biologist, Mark Bertram, is out there on that lynx
47 project. So is that what you're indicating?

48
49 MR. FIRMIN: That one and I know you

50

1 guys' trail camera, your remote cameras. I guess we'll
2 wait for our fall meeting to see probably.....
3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I'll bring that
5 back. That would be Bryce Lake who made a presentation
6 on that and that is still ongoing. So I will mention
7 that maybe an update on the lynx which is broader than
8 just Yukon Flats and then also the trail cam. Because
9 I think Bryce is looking at how that would be used to
10 help with population counts.
11

12 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, that's all, Vince.
13 Thank you.
14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'll go on to the
16 youth thing. Some of you have heard my little speech
17 on this so I appreciate your patience. But the Fish
18 and Wildlife Service as well as with National Park
19 Service, NASA, who am I leaving out. Oh, there's a
20 whole bunch of agencies, Bureau -- how could I forget,
21 Bureau of Indian Affairs sponsored a week long Native
22 youth congress, it has a longer title, but for time
23 we'll just call it the Native youth congress and it is
24 for mature junior high school students, but we prefer
25 high school, you know, seniors. It's a week long and
26 it's at the National Conservation Training Center.
27 It's an opportunity for the youth to become better
28 environmental leaders, build friendships and networks
29 with -- boy, I was working with students from Samoa and
30 Guam. It was just phenomenal to meet these upcoming
31 leaders from across the nation. And in addition the
32 youth would get more knowledge and awareness of
33 environmental careers and they get to float the Potomac
34 River with me. So.....
35

36 (Laughter)
37

38 MR. MATHEWS:anyway it -- no,
39 it's a great opportunity so I'll share with the
40 coordinator the flyer that you can pass out. And for
41 those that are actually working with youth, we created
42 kind of a help sheet or a cheat sheet on how to apply
43 because once the student starts to apply online they
44 have to complete it nonstop. And if you remember back
45 when you were in high school and you get these global
46 questions that you need to answer on sometimes you say
47 I'll get back to it. Well, then you would have to
48 start all over again.
49
50

1 So I'll provide that to your
2 coordinator and that's all I have.

3
4 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

7
8 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Madame
9 Chair. Through the Chair. Vince, what is the deadline
10 for submitting applications, my first question. My
11 second question was if folks might be interested in
12 applying, but have questions whom should they contact.

13
14 Thank you, Madame Chair.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's a good
17 question. It closes on March 31st, but most likely
18 it'll be extended. I am going to push to extend it.
19 We have 229 tribes in Alaska, 550 plus in the nation.
20 So you would think we would have a lot more students
21 involved in this. The four -- three years I've been
22 involved with it we've had as low as two and as high as
23 eight. So I'm hoping that we'll be able to extend that
24 application period to March, but that's not in my
25 control though that'll be my push.

26
27 Last week I checked on the applications
28 and we have one from Alaska. It's free, there's no
29 cost.

30
31 So Charlie's done an excellent job
32 getting the word out and that, it's just someone's got
33 to sit down with these high school students. I mean,
34 it -- I wouldn't have sat down when I was a high school
35 student in senior year to fill out an application to be
36 honest with you. So it needs to have some other people
37 that say hey, jump on this. Yes, it's during fishing
38 season, I understand that. The committee I'm on, we're
39 exploring a change in those dates for future ones, but
40 I don't know if that's going to happen, but this year
41 it is July 27th -- I mean, excuse me, June 27 through
42 July 2nd.

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Thanks so much, Vince.
45 And if folks had questions who should they contact?

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the best one --
48 they can contact me because I'll walk them through it,
49 but there's also in the flyer they can go to the

50

1 website, that's to start out. Most of these students
2 are real comfortable on websites, I'm not one of those.
3 And from there they can explore and then if they have
4 additional questions would be myself or JoAnne Brant
5 who was here yesterday or they can contact, this is
6 coordinated through New Mexico Wildlife Federation in
7 New Mexico and that -- that website is on this handout.
8

9 MR. STEVENSON: Thanks, Vince. If you
10 can email me that -- those materials I'd be happy to
11 get those out to folks as well.
12

13 Thank you.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
16 Vince. Any questions.
17

18 (No comments)
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I forwarded
21 your email to -- we got one right here, Tim.
22

23 MR. McMANUS: Oh.
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To our school
26 district.
27

28 MR. McMANUS: Yeah, Vince, thank you.
29 Last time me and you got together we talked a little
30 bit, you gave me a calendar that the youth submitted to
31 Fish and Game, it was like a drawing contest and it's
32 migratory birds.
33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I think you're
35 talking about and others can help me on this because
36 I'm not directly involved in it, I think you're talking
37 about the migratory bird calendar art contest.
38

39 MR. McMANUS: Yes.
40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Is that it?
42

43 MR. McMANUS: That's it.
44

45 MR. MATHEWS: And you would like one?
46

47 MR. McMANUS: No, I got one and I
48 brought it to the -- our elementary school in Nenana.
49 And I -- the information was on there, I just wanted to
50

1 see if you'd speak out more about that.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Because I don't
4 know when that closes. It may have closed already for
5 art to be submitted, I'm not tracking that.

6

7 MR. McMANUS: I was trying to get more
8 information out to everybody else so they could submit
9 something in for the future. That's all I was after.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'll make a note
12 of that. And there's other staff that work closer with
13 it, within Fairbanks and elsewhere that can get that
14 information out.

15

16 MR. McMANUS: Thank you.

17

18 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Zach.

21

22 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Madame
23 Chair. To the question from Mr. McManus, the Alaska
24 Migratory -- I'm looking at their website right now.
25 The Alaska Migratory Bird Calendar Contest 2020 theme
26 was hunt for the future. The deadline was February
27 7th. And the students, public, private or
28 homeschooled, residing in or adjacent to the North
29 Slope Borough and the following National Wildlife
30 Refuges including Alaska Maritime, Alaska Peninsula,
31 Becharof, Arctic, Innoko, Izembek, Kodiak, Selawik,
32 Togiak, Yukon Delta, Yukon Flats and Tetlin were
33 eligible to apply.

34

35 Thank you, Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

38

39 MR. McMANUS: Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: National Park
42 Service is next for -- the first one on the agenda was
43 Denali National Park update.

44

45 You'll have to forgive us because our
46 agenda was missing some people. So for Fish and
47 Wildlife Service I have on here it says Yukon Flats,
48 Nathan, but you're here.

49

50

1 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Madame
2 Chair. For the record, Steve Berendzen, Refuge
3 manager, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And, yeah,
4 I'll be reporting on or providing an update on Arctic
5 Refuge. And what I've got is actually just an update
6 of our summary of activities that we provided last
7 fall. And I'm just going to hit the changes or updates
8 that have occurred since then to keep this relatively
9 brief.

10
11 So for caribou in the last one we had
12 projected a meeting for the International Porcupine
13 Caribou Board to happen last fall. It just happened
14 last week actually, February 25th through 27th in
15 Whitehorse. I didn't really get much in the way of
16 results of that meeting and my understanding is there
17 may not have actually been that much in the way of
18 results, but it was an opportunity for the Canadian
19 members and the Alaska members to get together and
20 discuss status. And I think some of the issues that
21 were discussed were the development of oil and gas in
22 the coastal plain that the Canadian members would be
23 potentially impacting to the caribou herd.

24
25 So if no questions on that I'll move to
26 the next topic that I have an update on.

27
28 For moose we had a request and we
29 mentioned this last year that Kaktovik had made a
30 request to extend their season. And they not only
31 requested an extension of the season, which we granted
32 from October to April, but they also wanted to have
33 permits issued to 10 residents, retain the three bull
34 moose harvest, but provide that opportunity to 10
35 residents who could have tags because it's more
36 opportunistic moose hunting when they happen to see a
37 bull moose they would harvest it and they would cut off
38 the hunt when three -- three bulls had been -- have
39 been harvested. At this time -- last updates was
40 yesterday and they still had not harvested any moose.
41 So they typically do harvest them in the spring, March
42 is the time frame they generally have enough light to
43 get out and search for moose and so we're expecting
44 they'll be trying to do that here in the near future.

45
46 The other topic I've got an update on
47 is sheep and we've discussed the Arctic Village Sheep
48 Management Area and because of the interest in that
49 we're prioritizing a survey of that area this year

50

1 instead of doing one of our otherwise typically
2 scheduled surveys that would include a third of the
3 Refuge. So we're going to forego the standard survey
4 and just do the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area
5 which is a smaller area to survey, but our funds are
6 diminishing and so actually that's helping us out
7 because we didn't -- we were struggling to come up with
8 funding to survey what we normally would have anyway.
9 And the reason for that is we're putting a lot more
10 effort into doing monitoring, baseline monitoring and
11 studies on the coastal plain in anticipation of
12 upcoming oil and gas development. So that's what we're
13 doing with sheep there.

14
15 One other thing that is related to
16 sheep is we have -- have interest in precluding
17 domestic pack animals that would include goats, sheep,
18 alpacas and lamas from going into the Brooks Range to
19 potentially transmit infectious diseases to dall sheep.
20 So we have a proposal into the Federal hunting and
21 fishing regulations package that's being submitted
22 through headquarters promoting or proposing a
23 regulation change to preclude any use of those domestic
24 pack animals, those four species in Arctic Refuge. And
25 it's not just for the purpose of hunting or fishing and
26 not just for specific areas, it would be a blanket
27 exclusion for the entire Refuge. So we don't know how
28 that's going to proceed or if it will get shortstopped
29 at some point. We are anticipating some opposition
30 from the Lama and Alpaca Owners Association, but we're
31 hoping we can get that through and make that regulatory
32 change. And it was something we proposed in our
33 comprehensive conservation plan that was completed in
34 2015.

35
36 So that's all I've got. If there are
37 any questions I'll be happy to try to answer those.

38
39 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

42
43 MR. WOODRUFF: The Kaktovik moose hunt,
44 is that any moose?

45
46 MR. BERENDZEN: Bull moose only.

47
48 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

49
50

1 MR. BERENDZEN: Yes.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
4 questions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

9

10 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
13 All right. I got to make sure I cover everybody here.

14

15 Tetlin's next.

16

17 Did you have a question of him?

18

19 MR. FIRMIN: I know Vince and them
20 covered the Yukon Flats and I thought maybe Jimmy Fox
21 or Nathan Hawkaluk would be here today, but I just had
22 the question that I brought up at our AC meeting, I
23 just wanted to pose to you guys was that I was hoping
24 for more information. But like Doyon and Hilcorp were
25 going to do some -- a bunch of aerial surveys they've
26 got scheduled for like the entire Yukon Flats this
27 summer. But and they've got a permit from the Refuge
28 to fly these surveys with I don't know, lidar or some
29 type of -- they wouldn't tell us what they're going to
30 do. They said we're going to fly at 500 feet and fly
31 this grid over the whole entire Yukon Flats with a DC-3
32 and they were going to do -- scan for -- basically
33 looking for oil and gas development.

34

35 But I was just wanted to -- well, what
36 are they going to do, how big is the plane, what are
37 they going to -- what are the hours that they're going
38 to fly, what times, what dates and what technology, if
39 they're being -- I don't know, they wouldn't tell us
40 what technology they're using which I want to see a
41 scientific study saying it's not going to harm the
42 animals. Is it going to -- is it going to kill all the
43 bees, I mean, where have they used it before. And the
44 guy from Hilcorp and Doyon said I don't know, we can't
45 tell you it's good, but we got a permit to do it and
46 we're doing it this summer. Have a nice day. And it
47 was like well, I just wanted more info or, you know, a
48 third-party from the -- you know, from the Refuge or
49 somebody to at least assure us that it's a safe

50

1 practice. I mean, are they going to be doing it during
2 moose season, are they going to be doing it during bird
3 hunting season when, you know, all the birds are
4 flying. I just wanted more information basically.
5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
7 Vince.
8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Council member
10 Andrew, yes, that was passed on to Jimmy. Jimmy's
11 still in dialogue with the contract and all the aspect
12 of the -- because I -- he was -- he's -- it's not ready
13 to reply directly to all that's gong on I suppose is
14 the best answer. But he is aware of it and is
15 addressing the questions you had. And then from there
16 I think the agreement was that whatever summary of that
17 would be shared with the AC members. If this Council
18 wants that also then that's possible, but it's -- it
19 didn't get lost is what I want to tell you. It just --
20 it's not there. Maybe Steve has additional.....
21

22 MR. BERENDZEN: Madame Chair, I do have
23 additional information because the same proposal was
24 proposed last year for the coastal plain of Arctic
25 Refuge. And what they -- actually we don't issue a
26 permit, as long as they don't set foot on Refuge lands
27 we can't -- we have no authority to prohibit them from
28 flying over Refuge lands. So they -- my understanding
29 is they would not be requesting a permit, they -- there
30 are no restrictions on them -- against them from doing
31 that.
32

33 And what they proposed for Arctic
34 Refuge was middle of the summer timing for their -- the
35 flights. I have no idea how long that would take on
36 Yukon Flats, that's a huge area and it could go for
37 several weeks I'm sure. And it is low overflight, I
38 think it was like 500 feet. And they fly transects,
39 they're pretty tightly spaced. So will there be
40 disturbance, I don't know, but a DC-3 is a pretty big
41 plane and flying low that certainly could have some
42 disturbance.
43

44 That's what information I have. I
45 don't know if you have any other specific questions.
46

47 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I know like the
48 military and the Refuge has a surface ceiling for when
49 they're playing war games, they're not rocketing the --
50

1 you know, breaking the sound barrier at 500 feet over
2 Fort Yukon. I mean, I don't see why you guys don't
3 have a service ceiling or at least more info on what
4 are they going to be scanning with, you know. I mean,
5 the last time they had some type of huge MRI torpedo
6 they were flying around with underneath a helicopter,
7 you couldn't watch TV all summer because it screwed up --
8 cable TV still ain't right in Fort Yukon after that.
9 And, no, every time the thing took off and left, you
10 know, it would -- you'd -- you know, you could hear it
11 and I don't know, what is that, I don't know.

12
13 But so, I mean, how is that going to
14 affect the animals, is there any scientific study or
15 data to backup that it doesn't bother the animals or is
16 it going to throw off migration patterns for -- you
17 know, like I said is it going to kill all the
18 bumblebees or something, what -- who knows. And they
19 just said I don't know. They didn't know either.
20 So.....

21
22 MR. BERENDZEN: Yeah.

23
24 MR. FIRMIN:that was kind of
25 interesting that if they were coming up and I believe
26 they mentioned that they got a special use permit or
27 something I thought was the way they presented to us
28 from the Refuge. Or they were -- they were in talks
29 with -- I guess with Jimmy Fox was.....

30
31 MR. BERENDZEN: Okay. Well, I'm not
32 aware that they were applying for a permit, maybe they
33 have. And if they are I expect it will be issued. But
34 my understanding is they weren't going to need one for
35 Arctic Refuge so I would expect they wouldn't need one
36 for Yukon Flats. But it's possible.

37
38 As far as a ceiling, we don't have a
39 ceiling, we just have a recommendation through the FAA
40 so we -- it really doesn't have much in the way of
41 teeth to enforce -- there's no enforcement authority.
42 So we make that recommendation for 500 feet, but can't
43 do an enforcement if people fly lower than that. And
44 as far as affecting wildlife or bumblebees or any
45 insects, whatever, our understanding is no, this should
46 not have any impact on them. But again I can't speak
47 for the folks who are doing that.

48
49 MR. GLANZ: When I used to fly a lot

50

1 and we got -- and it went I believe to the Supreme
2 Court and we got a ruling that nobody owns the air
3 rights. So, you know, like somebody says -- was
4 telling me they were going to -- they wanted to take
5 some equipment down the road and I got to take -- well,
6 can I charge them. I said no. Why is that. Because
7 nobody owns the air rights, you got to move your power
8 lines out of the way, let them go through and put them
9 back together. So I don't even know if they need to
10 even get permission to fly over a Refuge as long as you
11 stay 500 feet from people, you know, you fly the
12 contour. Anyhow that's all I know about some of the
13 overhead rights.

14

15 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Zach.

18

19 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
20 Responding to Andy's point a moment ago. I'm aware
21 that the Native Village of Kotzebue and the Northwest
22 Arctic Borough have developed into code requirements
23 which outsiders must follow to brief the tribe on any
24 future research that would affect tribal members in
25 their area. That includes identifying potential
26 impacts to subsistence resources and any potential
27 impacts of that research on their members. And I would
28 be happy to provide through the Chair a copy of those
29 documents if that would be helpful to address Andy's
30 point.

31

32 Thank you, Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

35

36 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, I just wanted to let
37 other Council members know that. I just thought that
38 was kind of invasive. I don't know, I guess flying
39 isn't the same as hovering, but if somebody hovered
40 over your house at 500 feet in a helicopter you'd get
41 ticked off and say something about it, you know. And
42 basically if they're going to be flying, I think they
43 said eight to 10 weeks like you said all summer long
44 and who knows where they're going to be basing and
45 getting fuel out of. So I think the tribe requested
46 that they do it out of Fort Yukon so at least we can
47 see them come and go all day, but -- instead of just
48 having this strange airplane flying around all summer
49 long for two and a half months straight or whatever.

50

1 And then that's going to be -- so that's going to be
2 all the fishing season, right up to moose season. So
3 with all the other air traffic going on and what if --
4 you know, fire season and everything else, it's going
5 to make it -- it's going to be kind of awkward, you
6 know.

7
8 So I just was curious as to what -- if
9 they've come up with anything new or the Refuge had
10 anything different to say. Maybe I got my permit
11 misconstrued up with the.....

12
13 MR. GLANZ: The only thing they can
14 make -- TSA out of it where -- like we used to do with
15 fire, tell all other aircrafts stay out because we had
16 excessive helicopter movements and so forth. And so
17 that may be what they got the permit from somebody that
18 if something comes in they have to stop flying
19 immediately. So we'll see.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sounds
22 dangerous to be in the air during that time, especially
23 a Super Cub. Okay.

24
25 MR. FIRMIN: Well, my point is if
26 they're going to be zapping something to see what's
27 under the ground, 3,000 feet down, what's that do to me
28 standing there looking up at it. Should I wear glasses
29 or cover my eyes.....

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I was
32 going to mention that, what.....

33
34 MR. FIRMIN:put my tinfoil hat or
35 something. I don't know.

36
37 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I believe that they
38 -- they -- if they didn't say anything about a megatron
39 [sic], you've seen them flying them over to -- with
40 helicopters and I don't think a aircraft can do them,
41 do megatrons hanging underneath them. I don't know,
42 but I'm saying no. I don't think they can go fast like
43 that.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, maybe, Andrew, you
46 should ask them to put their first born child out there
47 on the ground.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: And if they're willing to
4 do that then it's probably okay.

5

6 MR. FIRMIN: Well, the funny thing is
7 they wouldn't tell me and they didn't even -- they were
8 -- you know, that was kind of the running joke is
9 because Hilcorp is privately owned they couldn't -- the
10 guy didn't even know who he worked for, his boss. Oh,
11 they don't tell me that. I was like well, you can't
12 tell me that, how would I believe you this is safe.
13 You can't tell me who you work for. It was kind of --
14 it was a comical conversation with the geologist there.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew needs
17 to know more about that.

18

19 Okay. Tetlin's next. I'm pretty sure.

20

21 MR. GLANZ: Anyway, Madame Chair, I
22 didn't mean TSA, I meant TFR, flight restrictions.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh.

25

26 MR. GLANZ: TSA's the ones I really
27 like.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. GLANZ: But anyway I want to tell
32 you something that happened. We was going on vacation,
33 my wife had all her meds in the bag. Only a blood
34 pressure and arthritis med. We go through the TSA in
35 Fairbanks, I get to Chicago and my wife -- we get to my
36 daughter's house, my wife says half my meds are gone.
37 They stole -- TSA stole them. So I wrote a letter to
38 TSA and they said well, send a picture of the pack. I
39 said it's a red fire pack, you've probably seen -- and
40 this guy's in Fairbanks. And then that didn't work so
41 they said well, send me a -- we'll send you this, you
42 fill it out and we'll reimburse you. I said I don't
43 want my money reimbursed, I want that dude fired or
44 whoever's going through the bags because they stole
45 half her meds and never heard no more about it. So
46 even the people we trust to protect us are trying to
47 steal from us.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2
3 MR. BAYLESS: Madame Chair.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

6
7 MR. BAYLESS: Shawn Bayless, Tetlin
8 Refuge manager. It's been a while since I've been
9 here, good to be back. I'm going to let Tim do all the
10 heavy lifting, I'm just going to give you a quick,
11 brief on our staffing status, things have changed since
12 last time I was here talking to you folks.

13
14 First of all Mr. Lorenzini also known
15 as the Italian Stallion was selected as our visitor
16 services manager. So we're very happy about that. We
17 didn't get any more employees, he just shifted jobs.
18 He's evolved into the manager so he's now the -- in
19 charge of all the visitor services obligations of the
20 Refuge. So he's been doing that for three years so it
21 only makes sense that he gets paid now to do so. So
22 we're happy to have him.

23
24 Secondly we lost our last biologist in
25 December so we're without a biological program right
26 now. We're doing the best we can. We did fly a survey
27 this year, the moose survey, Tim's going to talk about
28 that. We're still doing the lynx project, he's going
29 to talk about that. We're still banding ducks, he's
30 going to talk about that. So we're doing the best we
31 can with what we have. I was able to pick up two term
32 biotechs which is good, we'll be able to continue what
33 we've been doing, maybe not to the degree as we hope
34 so, but I'm hopeful that we'll be able to fill both
35 biologist positions soon, but the current challenges we
36 face in hiring in the Federal government makes it very,
37 very difficult. So we're doing the best we can.

38
39 And unless you have questions of me
40 directly I'll just turn it over to Tim.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
43 questions.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

48
49 MR. LORENZINI: Good afternoon. My

50

1 name's Tim Lorenzini. As Shawn pointed out I'm going
2 to go through an update here, it helps me to have
3 pictures. And just stop me as I go. I'm used to being
4 able to click myself so I'm a little awkward when I
5 can't see what's going to be up there. So I apologize
6 for that.

7
8 So in 2017 we did a moose survey and we
9 noticed an unusual drop in a bull/cow ratio. And it
10 was kind of concerning for us if that was going to be a
11 trend. So we decided to resurvey as soon as we could.
12 2018 we didn't have the right conditions, but we did
13 this last fall.

14
15 So if you could go to the next slide.

16
17 And so we went back up about the range
18 that it has been, you know, roughly since 1990 when
19 surveys began. So it's right in that same ratio which
20 took away that concern we were going to have in 2017.
21 So that was good news for moose hunting and subsistence
22 users of the area.

23
24 Next slide.

25
26 So, yeah, it jumped back up from 2017.
27 Why it was down, you know, I talked to the Fish and
28 Game, you know, Jeff Wells and Jeff Gross, could have
29 just been that survey year. Adjacent survey areas also
30 saw a drop that year and then a slight bounce back up
31 by 2019. So it kind of fit in with some of those other
32 units nearby. We did restratify some of the units too
33 which might have adjusted our numbers a little bit too.

34
35 So just a recommendation is to
36 resurvey, normally it's every four years. So this one
37 was sooner than the four year period because of that
38 bull/cow ratio concern which is no longer a concern.

39
40 Next slide.

41
42 Our moose season just closed. We have
43 a Federal moose season that closes in the end of
44 February for one antlered bull. It gets fairly low
45 participation. We don't have all our harvest reports
46 back yet, they're due in the next few days so they'll
47 start streaming in here in the next couple weeks. But
48 I don't expect to see too many more harvested bulls,
49 it'll probably be did not hunt or was not successful.

50

1 But it might be one or two more moose would be my
2 presumption based on previous years. But that's --
3 only one of those bulls was taken after the September
4 season. So the winter season sees fairly low
5 participation and fairly low success as well.

6

7

Next slide.

8

9

10 So the caribou hunt, we're talking
11 Nelchina caribou. There has been a little bit more
12 success this year than the last few years. They --
13 there's small groups kind of hanging around the Refuge
14 and folks have been more successful with caribou in the
15 last couple years.

16

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We have been monitoring the Park Service also with Glennallen Fish and Game put out GPS enabled collars on the Mentasta herd and so instead of flying to try to listen for where the collars were, with telemetry now we can be more accurate in locations where those Mentasta caribou are. And generally they're not spending a whole lot of time on the Refuge. There's some that barely moved at all, they're sticking down at Wrangell-St. Elias, unit 11, others are over by Dawson. So they -- they travel through the Refuge, but they're not -- at least this year very few are spending any kind of significant time on the Refuge and the ones that are are fairly difficult to access. So we haven't had any cause of concern to close down this caribou hunt that's targeted toward Nelchina because Mentastas haven't been at risk according to where the collar locations are.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Before you
move on.....

MR. BASSICH: A quick question.

MR. LORENZINI: Yes.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You probably
have the same question as me.

Go ahead, Andy.

MR. BASSICH: No, I doubt it. I'm just
curious, how do you calculate your CPU?

MR. LORENZINI: It -- so that -- I

1 probably should have taken that off and I intended to.
2 It's skewed right now because we don't have all the
3 reports back for this year because the season's open
4 until April 30th. And it's computed on the subsistence
5 permit website. I do not do that, that's a number they
6 do.

7
8 MR. BASSICH: But I guess I'm just
9 curious. Is it something where you take the -- when
10 the report comes in it says how many days hunting and
11 then whether there's.....

12
13 MR. LORENZINI: Correct.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

16
17 MR. LORENZINI: Yeah. So they --
18 that's why they ask for how many days you hunt even if
19 you did hunt and were not successful they ask for how
20 many days so they can use that as part of that
21 calculation. As far as what the equation is, I'm an
22 outreach guy, I'm not a biologist.

23
24 MR. BASSICH: And do you see that
25 number going up or down in there?

26
27 MR. LORENZINI: You know, it's fairly
28 stable because I got -- I just took a chunk of that
29 Excel file that you see there, but it's fairly stable
30 over the years. And, you know, when the -- the
31 Nelchina herd is kind of finicky on where they're going
32 to winter. And I looked back at old reports going back
33 into the '90s when this hunt started. It used to be
34 bulls only for the early part of it and over time
35 changed to any caribou. In some years the Nelchina
36 herd are very accessible, they're hanging around in
37 areas where people can access them, other times they
38 stick in unit 11 or in unit 12 off the Nabesna Road
39 where people can hunt them or they shoot through into
40 20E or Yukon territory where again they're either very
41 unaccessible in that 20E hunt or they're in the other
42 country. So can't hunt them over there.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: Thanks. So I guess maybe
45 to clarify for me, is that an average of 24.2 days for
46 a harvest?

47
48 MR. LORENZINI: I don't know.

49
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Okay. That's what I'm --
2 I'm trying to figure out what the correlation is there,
3 what that number really means.

4
5 MR. BAYLESS: I told -- I told him to
6 take that off, but he didn't.....

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. BAYLESS:he didn't listen to
11 me.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: I think it's
14 actually.....

15
16 MR. BAYLESS: Now.....

17
18 MR. BASSICH:very interesting. I
19 mean, I think it's.....

20
21 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah, it is.

22
23 MR. BASSICH:it's interesting to
24 track over time how much -- how much harder people have
25 to work to harvest. I think it's interesting, I just
26 don't understand how it's calculated and what the
27 meaning of it is. But I think it's an interesting stat
28 to keep track of.

29
30 MR. LORENZINI: Here's what -- here's
31 what I can tell you about it. That it -- it's right
32 now when it -- when it's green like that, that means
33 it's higher than previous years. But I caution to rely
34 on that right now because there might have been people
35 who hunted 10 days in December, won't hunt again and
36 that will drop that down. And it could also go way up
37 if people go out for one day in April and come home,
38 you know, with a caribou there. So right now that
39 number -- it's going to change between now and June
40 when we finally get our reports back.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

43
44 MR. BAYLESS: It's pure magic how
45 that.....

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Keep it in there. It
48 gives me a chance to ask you more questions later.

49
50

1 MR. LORENZINI: Yes. You see the
2 average down there and that's averaging since the
3 beginning of the hunt. You know, I just kept like I
4 said the 2019 year in there. And some of those years
5 the hunt had been closed, like some years like I said
6 was bull only and a lower harvest those years. And so
7 the average -- some years there's much more harvest
8 than others, but even on the greatest year I think it
9 was 75 caribou. Yeah, so it's.....

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That
12 average's the whole time the hunt's existed?

13
14 MR. LORENZINI: Correct. Since 1994.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, Pippa,
17 could you move your ruff.....

18
19 MS. KENNER: I'm -- oh, yeah.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a
24 corner there and there's a figure I want to see. Oh.
25 Uh-huh. Okay.

26
27 MR. LORENZINI: If we go to the next
28 slide, please.

29
30 And so there's -- if Randy's still here
31 he could probably speak about this much more eloquently
32 and intelligently than I could. But we worked with
33 Randy as well as TCC this year and we hired a couple of
34 local folks for the Humpback Whitefish Project.

35
36 And if you could go to the next slide.

37
38 Collected a bunch of samples here. I
39 like pictures, I think they're -- they help explain
40 what's going on here. If you look in the newsletter I
41 wrote a small article about this, that they're up on
42 the table there.

43
44 Go to next slide.

45
46 Bandy who is probably going to talk at
47 some point, Brandy Baker from Fish and Game, took these
48 pictures here which I just thought was interesting,
49 documenting grizzly bear and wolf on the spawning

50

1 grounds of humpback whitefish. This is kind of during
2 freeze up time. And they're definitely pulling those
3 whitefish out and eating them and kind of the ripples
4 where they're spawning, in between the spawning
5 grounds, kind of like they do with salmon. And most
6 places in Alaska we don't have anything significant
7 that we know about salmon runs in the Upper Tanana so
8 it looks like the fish eaters are still taking
9 advantage of what's there. It was kind of interesting
10 this last fall.

11

12

Next slide.

13

14

15 So again the findings here were kind of
16 interesting that, you know, we heard from local folks
17 that the fish were smaller and they were concerned and
18 the data backed that up. And to summarize it, they're
19 actually living longer than they were 20 years ago.
20 And that could be for a number of reasons, but when
21 they -- they're growing slower than the were 20 years
22 ago. And that could be because there's fewer of them
23 being caught and they're becoming density dependent.
24 Basically there's enough fish to compete for food that
25 they're growing slower than they were 20 years ago.

26

27

And I think I have some charts if you
go to the next slide.

28

29

Next slide, please.

30

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So you can see how those crosses, they

1 used to be getting older versus the blue circles.

2

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Yes.

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MR. BASSICH: Do you have much information on the harvest patterns 20 years ago and I guess what I'm asking is were the people in the area much more dependent upon that population of fish for subsistence 20 years ago than they are now.

MR. BAYLESS: That's a good question for Randy 20 years ago when he did this study. And I don't know what he saw as far as people out with set nets and things like that, but very few people today on the Refuge do that. I mean, they're -- a few do, but not many. And maybe Randy can weigh in back in 2000, 1999.

Did you see a difference?

MR. BROWN: Madame Chair and Council. So most of the information we have from -- is from subsistence documents that have documented the harvest back in the -- I think it was '80s and '90s. And then recently there was another done. And it was substantially less harvest was estimated more recently. Not quite down to half as much, maybe 60 percent as much now appears to be being used than it was. So I think the harvest is definitely down now than it was earlier.

MR. BASSICH: And just a follow-up.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

MR. BASSICH: So just to follow that line of thought then, it's not really a question, I'm just trying to get it on the record. So basically following that line of thought the density dependency could be a factor of just less harvest in the area from local communities or subsistence activity which might be able -- might be creating this density dependence decline and growth at age.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, I think that's true. So these fish live beyond spawning, they're not like salmon that die.

MR. BASSICH: Right.

1 MR. BROWN: And a lot of these fish are
2 in their 20s. And so if they are not harvested then
3 they just -- they keep building up. And these are --
4 this is really a terminal population so the juveniles,
5 you know, hatch and go downstream and rear somewhere
6 else. It's almost exclusively adults in the Upper
7 Tanana. But what we found from the radio telemetry
8 study 20 years ago is that they migrate up and then
9 they stay. They feed in the wetland system, winter in
10 the river, spawn in a couple areas there. And that's --
11 and so they would just get to be -- there would get to
12 be more and more of them. And we think there's a high
13 likelihood that it's a density issue that is -- because
14 their survival is great.....

15
16 MR. BASSICH: Uh-huh.

17
18 MR. BROWN:but they're just not
19 quite getting as much to eat now as they did before and
20 so they don't grow quite as big.

21
22 MR. BAYLESS: I have to say this
23 project came about about four years ago. We were asked
24 by Northway to look into this. And right away we
25 started talking to Randy and I think the following year
26 we did the first sampling on the Nabesna River in the
27 fall. Last year we did it on the Chisana River. So
28 we're good for three or four years, we might resample
29 it again, but it was a great cooperative effort and we
30 sure do appreciate all the help we got from the locals
31 and Randy. And it was really kind of a fun project
32 with good results, useful results.

33
34 MR. BASSICH: Uh-huh.

35
36 MR LORENZINI: Next slide.

37
38 I took some of these recommendations
39 out of the report which I assume will be published
40 sometime soon. I think it's in its final editing
41 stages. But other than that no fishing restrictions
42 because it -- they don't seem to -- they're living long
43 enough and that's actually causing some of density
44 dependence.

45
46 Next slide.

47
48 So I'm going to talk about the lynx
49 project, Mr. Firmin. I think I might have some of
50

1 those lynx stuff -- some lynx stuff that you might have
2 asked for the last time.

3
4 So this is just this year, we have our
5 crews moving from Tetlin Refuge over to Kanuti Refuge.
6 Right now in that part of the state there's a lot fewer
7 lynx than the year before. They have nine collared,
8 nine new ones and that didn't say so it's supposed to
9 be nine out there. And of the females that they had
10 collared they didn't have -- they didn't have any
11 denning activity and I'll have a slide here in a little
12 bit that will show how they kind of figure out when
13 they're denning, just -- there's a bunch of dots moving
14 around and when they stop -- when they keep going back
15 to the same place they assume it's a den. And then
16 they've proven that by several times they've gone to
17 these dens and actually put ear tags in kittens and
18 they're able to track some movements just from those
19 few day old kittens from that.

20
21 And we've had several mortalities,
22 natural mortalities. And there's actually been some
23 trapper/hunter mortalities. A lot of them down in the
24 Copper River. And I don't know that all of those are
25 ours yet, we haven't got the collars back. Some of
26 them are not, some of them may be. So we don't know
27 where those cats are coming from. They could be from
28 Kluane, there's been a couple of Canadian collared lynx
29 that have been this way the last few years and looks
30 like maybe there might be more.

31
32 Next slide, please.

33
34 So why are we doing this. This began
35 kind of asking the question of, you know, do lynx die
36 out when the hares die out or do they follow their prey
37 as that hare cycle falls and rises in different parts
38 of the boreal forest. Simultaneously you're going to
39 learn about some of the basic things that we know
40 already about caribou and moose, name your big game
41 species that have been studied in depth for the last
42 hundred years that haven't been done and haven't been
43 able to be done until this new technology, GPS collars,
44 have been available. You know, for this project
45 they've had to kind of redesign GPS collars to fit a
46 lynx with a battery that would last long enough to
47 provide enough data. So this is new information for a
48 species that should help us in the future manage the
49 species in a way that keeps it around.

50

1 Next slide, please.

2

3 So this is just to kind of show you the
4 different study areas. I'll talk more about partners
5 in a little bit, but you can kind of see where some of
6 them are making really big movements, some of them
7 don't go any -- hardly anywhere at all. And so you'll
8 see more of that in a little bit.

9

10 Go to the next slide.

11

12 And some of them going all the way down
13 to British Columbia, Northwest Territories, places like
14 that.

15

16 Next slide. All right. If you could
17 hit play.

18

19 So this kitten, the blue dot here, this
20 is in March of 2018, she was ear tagged when she was
21 just a few days old. This is on Tetlin Refuge. And so
22 she's following around mom and this is in March. And
23 that male, that green -- you're going to see him kind
24 of follow them around a little bit. It's kind of
25 mesmerizing. And right there was a breeding event, you
26 just saw it for a second there.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 Okay. Next slide, please.

31

32 So that kitten's going to stick with
33 mom for a little longer, but she's becoming a little
34 more independent. So she's kind of following her
35 around, but she's not right next to her as often, but
36 sticking in the same area.

37

38 And that male, you can kind of ignore
39 that green dot because he's not important to the rest
40 of the story.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: He's had his moment.

43

44 MR. LORENZINI: Yeah, he's not
45 interesting anymore. But just remember this kitten,
46 it's a pretty interesting individual. So we're getting
47 into.....

48

49 MR. BASSICH: Denning season, right.

50

1 MR. LORENZINI: Yeah, it's end of May
2 and suddenly.....

3
4 MR. BASSICH: She stops.

5
6 MR. LORENZINI:she's not going
7 very far, right. And so what the biologists back at
8 the office, all of a sudden they're looking at that and
9 then they're talking to Shawn, hey, we need to get
10 flown out here because they want to go put ear tags out
11 on those kittens. You know, you only have so long.

12
13 Next slide, please.

14
15 So same kind of general area. And we
16 see her going back and forth. Now she's -- and she's
17 actually going to move that den eventually for whatever
18 reason. But she's just kind of going back and forth
19 feeding those kittens. And that kitten that's now a
20 year old, you know, she's kind of just wandering around
21 at this point. That's that second denning site there.
22 And I think they're getting a signal every four to six
23 hours, something about there.

24
25 And we got I think two more slides of
26 this kitten here. So now we're at the end of June in
27 2018.

28
29 Next slide, please.

30
31 So this is kind of the whole Refuge.
32 So now that kitten is quite a bit north of mom and
33 she's just kind of -- you're going to see a sudden
34 movement and then she's going to come right back.
35 We're in October. She's going to go up to Northway
36 Airport, come right back. I don't know why. I don't
37 think she did either. But here's what's interesting
38 about that, we're getting to the end of October.

39
40 Next slide, please.

41
42 So this is that same kitten and go
43 ahead and hit play. So this is 2019, March of 2019.
44 And all of a sudden now she's up by Northway, now she's
45 getting -- she's in Eagle now.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: I saw her.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. LORENZINI: You know, so now we're
2 in May, 2019. Now she's on Arctic Refuge up there.
3 And she -- we're in June, 2019. And she's almost to
4 the coast and she turns around and on the 24th the
5 collar died so we don't know what happens to her.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MR. LORENZINI: Yeah, so a kind of
10 anticlimactic ending there. And this is just an
11 interesting story and it doesn't -- this is -- by
12 itself it doesn't mean anything significant
13 biologically, but I -- this was put together by the
14 biometrician that's working with us. And it's -- you
15 can -- if you get a lot of these stories you can then
16 begin to learn something significant. If this is a one
17 off, never happens again, well, then it's just kind of
18 a cool story. But if you can put it all together in
19 several places across the State and Canada then it can
20 mean a lot more.

21
22 Next slide, please. And if you click
23 it it should make a bunch of movement. Just click the
24 screen. Oh, no. Never mind. Well, no, no, if you
25 would have hit the next slide it all would have gone at
26 the same time.

27
28 Anyway what this slide's showing is
29 that there's a synchrony of denning activity throughout
30 Alaska about at the same time. So that's again adding
31 to some of that basic knowledge that we already know
32 about, that we typically understand with moose and
33 caribou and a lot of other species of breeding
34 behaviors, but just hasn't been done on a larger scale
35 with this species.

36
37 Next slide, please.

38
39 So here's another interesting one.
40 This one was collared out of Galena, Brad Scott and the
41 biologist out there. So it's just north of Galena
42 there, around the flats it looks like. And he's got a
43 home range. This is a male and he's just kind of
44 hanging out there. And here we are in June, 2018. Now
45 it's July in south Allakaket. Now it's August and he's
46 up in Arctic Village. Now it's September, he's back at
47 Allakaket already. And by September he's right back in
48 his original home range. And he kind of followed the
49 same route. Again I don't know why he did that, maybe
50

1 he just wanted to see Arctic Village. I don't know,
2 but he did it.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 All right. Next slide. Go ahead and
7 click and it should start showing the different sites.

8

9 We start a little bit earlier than some
10 of the other Refuges so you see ours turn out. So
11 Wiseman and Yukon Flats and Kanuti and then you have
12 Galena. And so now in April -- it's going to show
13 throughout this year here they're starting to move
14 east. And that's one of the things they're trying to
15 get with this study to get enough data to see do they
16 all move east at the same time or is there a certain
17 percentage that move east. And I don't have an answer
18 yet to those questions, I'm just proposing some of
19 those.

20

21 MR. FIRMIN: Looks like an inchworm.

22

23 MR. BAYLESS: And we're in the decline
24 phase of the hare right now so keep that in mind.

25

26 MR. LORENZINI: That one that shot to
27 Fairbanks I think was dead, that one didn't fly to
28 Fairbanks. So.....

29

30 MR. FIRMIN: That little yellow one's
31 in Charlie's front yard.

32

33 MR. BAYLESS: So there's November of
34 '18, that's when the hare started declining.

35

36 MR. LORENZINI: So we got the next one
37 is 2019. I think this one's more interesting. So you
38 have these collars that are already online, I think
39 more will probably be added at some point in here.
40 There's last winter when we were collaring.

41

42 It's going to look like a -- someone
43 hit a pool ball and suddenly a bunch of them just
44 scattered out. See that. Watch that red one on the
45 north there, it's going to go hit the coast, it's going
46 to go over to Point Hope. See the one from Flats
47 heading over to the Yukon Territory.

48

49 MR. FIRMIN: Mosquitos driving them

50

1 nuts.

2

3

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9

10 said -- as I started and at least another year or two.
11 And they're trying to get enough data to make it
12 significant -- to have enough data to make significant
13 conclusions. And that's for biometricians with a lot
14 more education and intelligence than I have. But they
15 need a certain amount of data points before they can
16 start to make assertions about what all this means.

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MR. LORENZINI: It's middle of summer
right now. So now that one's by Barrow. And now it's
on the Haul Road. One of the Yukon Flats' one's down
there by Bethel. I didn't know about that one.

And so that's November of 2019.

So this project's still ongoing. As I
said -- as I started and at least another year or two.
And they're trying to get enough data to make it
significant -- to have enough data to make significant
conclusions. And that's for biometricians with a lot
more education and intelligence than I have. But they
need a certain amount of data points before they can
start to make assertions about what all this means.

MR. BAYLESS: And we have a doctorate
student who's going to put it all together and will
probably come up with a manuscript in the next two or
three years. So that's Derek Arnold.

It's interesting to note the 11
mortalities, about half of the mortalities that we had
this year, those 11, they were all on the Refuge. And
we were able to go out and find those mortalities.
Most of them were whole animals, they hadn't been
bothered, they hadn't been killed by anything other
than probably starvation and cold. So, you know, they --
two of them were right around a dead caribou calf so
they were subsisting on the caribou calf and they
basically just perished in place. Very interesting.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So they were
skinny, they -- I mean.....

MR. BAYLESS: We sent them off for a
necropsy, we don't have the results back, Madame Chair.
But they -- yeah, they weren't in good shape. Yeah.
They got to have that snowshoe hare resource, we've
known that all along. But now just seeing it actually
happen, it's just fascinating.

MR. LORENZINI: Next slide, please.

So these are some of our partners
there. As he mentioned, you know, Derek Arnold is a
UAF student who has been a biotech for us and a
volunteer beginning in 2015, 2016. He's been around

1 for a while and he'll eventually have a Ph.D. and he'll
2 be able to hopefully answer some of these questions I
3 proposed in the future to this -- to this Board.

4

5 Next slide, please.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
8 quick question.

9

10 MR. LORENZINI: Oh, go ahead.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The -- how
13 much do those collars weigh?

14

15 MR. LORENZINI: I don't know the weight
16 exactly, but it's -- they have -- it's -- they have a --
17 it can only be so much of the weight of the lynx. And
18 so one thing they did to -- was they actually developed
19 a kitten collar because they were catching a lot of
20 these, you know, nine month old kittens in March and
21 they would have to just let them go, you know, without
22 a collar and then they developed a new collar with a
23 smaller battery that could -- that wouldn't be a burden
24 to the animal.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And how long
27 does the battery last normally?

28

29 MR. LORENZINI: About two years, around
30 two.....

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Two.

33

34 MR. LORENZINI:years.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. So
37 is it transmitting any waves that could kill them?

38

39 MR. LORENZINI: I don't think so. It
40 wouldn't be anything that your phone in your pocket
41 isn't emitting as far as a GPS signal. So if it is I
42 think we're all in trouble.

43

44 Next slide, please.

45

46 We've been -- we've banded some ducks
47 and, you know, we have quite a few returns this year
48 which was kind of surprising. A couple were local,
49 but.....

50

1 Go to the next slide.

2

3 We'll get a map and I'll have some
4 closer up images of this Google Earth snapshot I took
5 here.

6

7 If you'd go to the next slide.

8

9 A lot of the birds that are using
10 Tetlin Refuge are ending up in the Pacific Northwest.
11 A lot of the mallards and some pintails there.

12

13 Go to the next slide.

14

15 One of our pintails -- some were
16 reported back from Mexico which was kind of exciting.
17 And green-winged teal are ending up in East Texas,
18 Louisiana. So if you're wondering where these birds
19 are coming from and we'll be seeing them hopefully in
20 the next couple of months if spring ever comes. They
21 were -- that's where they spent their winter.

22

23 Next slide.

24

25 MR. BAYLESS: There's a current push --
26 two years ago we got the request to start banding more
27 birds. We used to do a lot of banding in Alaska to
28 inform managers -- waterfowl managers our season
29 setting processes and we just -- we were -- we dropped
30 the ball, we weren't providing enough banded birds in
31 Alaska, that are produced in Alaska basically in a
32 nutshell. So we kind of ramped up and we're going to
33 be doing that annually from now on.

34

35 MR. LORENZINI: So visitors services,
36 now I'm talking about something I know about. This is
37 my job. I'm a one man show there as far as outreach
38 goes as far as year round. But as far as hunter
39 education I've been hearing talk about that. I run the
40 -- I run a lot of the local classes for the basic
41 hunter education. I also have a bowhunter education
42 occasionally. But I found it to be a pretty big
43 accomplishment, I've been to every school and every
44 middle and high school right now has at least had the
45 opportunity and most have actually taken the class.
46 And they have their basic hunter education card.

47

48 And then in Tok I usually offer them to
49 the public as well. For those folks hunting in unit 20

50

1 which are a lot of folks, if you're a few years younger
2 than I am you have to have your hunter education card.
3 So I offer it to the public a couple times in Tok every
4 year.
5

6 And the last piece here as a Refuge and
7 also with several partners including the Tok Chamber,
8 National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, we've
9 been working on an MOU to work together to provide
10 visitor services in Tok itself. So there's the Tok
11 Chamber of Commerce has ran a visitor center in town
12 for 25 years, a little more and we're looking to make a
13 partnership. And it hasn't been finalized yet, but
14 we've met a lot about it and we are I believe close to
15 finalizing that partnership and providing visitor
16 services to the traveling public in the summer months
17 primarily in Tok.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you'd do
20 that in the Civic Center, in that.....
21

22 MR. BAYLESS: The Visitors Center.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
25 Visitors.....
26

27 MR. BAYLESS: It's called the Visitors
28 Center.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. We had
31 Civic up once. But the one where the Tok Chamber is.
32

33 MR. BAYLESS: Yes, ma'am
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
36

37 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, if you -- if you do
38 get that up and running I think some of these videos
39 that you sent would be great public outreach. I think
40 anybody would be fascinated by what we just saw with
41 the lynx movements and some of the banded ducks. And
42 that's really great work, it's really cool to see it
43 expanded to such a large area. You know, oftentimes
44 we're always locked into these small areas and the -- I
45 think it's really enlightening to see that these
46 animals move just like humans do all over the place.
47

48 So, yeah, the ducks kind of remind me
49 of Alaskans, you know, we're -- a lot of Alaska is made
50 up from people all around the Lower 48 and Mexico and

1 everything else, right. Yeah.

2

3

Thank you. Good presentation.

4

5

6 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah, I stress the
7 Visitor Center project's been ongoing for two, two and
8 a half years. I see Greg's here. So Yukon-Charley,
9 Wrangell-St. Elias, Tetlin Refuge, the Fortymile Wild
10 and Scenic Corridor, State lands, it's going to be a
11 true multiagency, interagency visitor center. So we're
12 excited about it. It's mandated under ANILCA by the
13 way specifically for Tok. It just never has happened,
14 so we're making that happen hopefully. Knock on wood.

14

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would say
that it was called the APLIC Center in the past and
they did have stuff going on there with public lands,
yeah.

MR. BAYLESS: Yeah, and they defunded --
the State defunded that position, pulled it all back.
So they actually abdicated their responsibility to our
partnership. So we're going to -- still going to
provide the same services, even APLIC information to
the traveling public in addition to the other
conservation unit specific areas.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the
Chamber's going to be involved?

MR. BAYLESS: Yes, ma'am.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's great.
Glad to hear it.

Any other questions.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you guys very much.

MR. McMANUS: Good job. Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I knew you'd
like that lynx one. They showed it at the Upper
Tanana.

MR. BASSICH: Travel more than I do.

(Laughter)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. All
2 right. That's Fish and Wildlife Service. Next is --
3 we don't have any. You want to take a break, a short
4 break. Okay. Let's go for.....
5

6 MR. BASSICH: Five minute break.
7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which turns
9 to 10. Short break.
10

11 (Off record)
12

13 (On record)
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:could
16 put her next.
17

18 MS. BAKER: Sure.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it's just
21 a quick report so for a quick report we can allow her
22 to speak so she can get home to Delta today.
23

24 MS. BAKER: Madame Chair and Council
25 members, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you
26 today. My name is Brandy Baker and I'm with the Alaska
27 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sportfish.
28

29 I have the project number 18-250 which
30 is one of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program's.
31 It sort of mirrors YRDFA and TCC's project in the Upper
32 Yukon Flats documenting the anadromous waters catalog
33 and verifying new spawning or rearing grounds for
34 salmon. So in this project we focus on the Upper
35 Tanana River drainage. So although the projects are
36 separate and funded separately we've been mirroring
37 their techniques and coordinating. So I've been
38 talking to Brian McKenna with TCC and then I work with
39 the Division of Subsistence, they're a cooperater on
40 this project as well. And they have been working with
41 Catherine Moncrieff with YRDFA. So the projects are
42 separate, but they're also similar. And it's kind of
43 interesting to be able to work together in this aspect.
44 So I thank you for coming up with that priority
45 information need a couple years ago and allowing us to
46 put this project in.
47

48 I just wanted to give you a quick
49 update. We're in the last phase of this project.
50

1 We'll be looking for some chum salmon juveniles out-
2 migrating this spring. So it's been interesting, in
3 the fall I see from your report that you have priority
4 information needs on habitat changes. And through the
5 TK component of this and talking to the locals, there
6 is definitely some habitat changes that have been
7 occurring in the Upper Tanana. And areas where we
8 already have streams documented for chum salmon
9 spawning for whatever reason I have not in the last two
10 fall seasons been able to find them or document them.
11 I did recently have reports in 2017 of coho salmon in
12 the area, but coho are kind of sporadic. In the last
13 two years we seem to have some low coho runs. As a
14 manager on the Tanana River drainage for Sportfish I
15 monitor the Delta-Clearwater River which is the only or
16 the biggest spawning escapement for Coho salmon on the
17 Yukon. And so we've had limited numbers coming back to
18 that drainage which then therefore means there's
19 probably not a surplus going back to some of these
20 Upper Tanana drainages.

21
22 But it's been interesting because in
23 working with the Refuge and working with the community
24 of Northway our first question is, you know, they know
25 we're up there looking for salmon and their first
26 response is that there's no salmon. And I understand
27 what they mean because they don't specifically fish for
28 salmon. They wouldn't fish on spawning fish. But
29 their -- they have caught salmon in the past with their
30 whitefish nets. And so we've also found that like with
31 the component of Randy Brown's whitefish project that
32 he did with the Refuge that their harvest patterns have
33 changed. It seems like a lot of the people we talk to,
34 there's very few people who fish there anymore and then
35 the ones that do fish were kind of reluctant to talk to
36 us too for whatever reason. There seems to be some
37 disconnect within the community over time. But it was
38 pretty interesting some of the stuff that we have found
39 as far as finding other juvenile fish, finding the
40 whitefish spawning grounds where grizzly bears and
41 wolves -- I mean, it looked like the Tok Flats spawning
42 grounds for bears, they were eating those whitefish
43 just like they would eat salmon. So it was kind of
44 interesting. You're -- I'm getting a lot more
45 information and hopefully we'll document some juvenile
46 chums out-migrating this spring and I'll have a full
47 report for you probably next spring after everything is
48 written up.

49

50

1 So thank you for the opportunity to
2 talk and I really appreciate you guys' time and I know
3 it takes a lot from you to come in here and be away
4 from your families. So appreciate it and good to see
5 all of you again.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
8 questions.

9
10 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Robert.

13
14 MR. WRIGHT: I got one for you. I
15 lived at the mouth of the Tanana River for a lot of
16 years and there is a lot of juveniles at the mouth of
17 that river in the spring. We put in the seining net
18 for the small whitefish right when the river opens and
19 they'll be a hundred in the 20 foot net, there could be
20 up to like 10 -- 10 fish in every small section of it.
21 You just pick it up and it's plumb full. So there's a
22 lot of them down there if you -- if you look -- I don't
23 know where you're looking at them on the river or want
24 them from, but if you need them you let me know, I can
25 help you catch them.

26
27 MS. BAKER: Thank you for that. Yeah,
28 unfortunately this is in the upper, upper section. So
29 I'm sure a lot of those down towards the mouth are
30 coming from some of the bigger Delta spawning grounds
31 that we have in the area around Delta Junction.

32
33 MR. WRIGHT: But they're very thick and
34 there's a lot of them in that river. Holy cow, it's
35 unbelievable.

36
37 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim.

40
41 MR. McMANUS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 Do you think that the bears and stuff are just eating
43 those because that's all there is out there to eat,
44 there's no salmon?

45
46 MS. BAKER: That's kind of what it
47 appeared to be because in all of the aerial survey work
48 and foot survey work I've done on salmon streams, I was
49 -- as soon as I saw blood spots on the snow which this
50

1 fall was different than last fall, so fall of 2019
2 there was snow on the ground and 2018 there was no snow
3 on the ground for a long time. And so I was able to
4 see that this year which last year I may have missed,
5 but this year it's evident that there was just blood
6 spots all over the snow and these beat down trails. I
7 mean, like they were -- they were walking them every
8 night and they were fresh, fresh trails.
9

10 But then what cued me in was like I --
11 I didn't know exactly where the spawning grounds were
12 from Randy Brown's work, I knew -- had kind of an idea,
13 but it wasn't -- I didn't have a pinpointed location.
14 So when I stopped and saw the blood spots I was like
15 well, this is weird because normally the bears will
16 leave like a head or the tails or spine, you know, so
17 there should be some evidence and as soon as I could
18 find any evidence it was these scales, these big
19 scales. I was like well, these aren't salmon, these
20 are -- these are whitefish scales. And so I think
21 they've just adapted or evolved. Whether they used to
22 eat salmon in some of those same areas a long time ago,
23 there is historical reports of salmon being up in that
24 area, but nowadays it's not -- they're not as
25 consistent.
26

27 And so the best data we have is from
28 the Commercial Fish Division does a subsistence sur --
29 not survey, permit. So they have a permit and we just
30 aren't seeing that many people from Northway who get
31 the subsistence salmon permit anymore or just a
32 subsistence permit really for that region. So the
33 numbers I can see are just incidental harvest of chum
34 or coho salmon in their nets from like the '80s and
35 '90s, but lately we haven't had that permits come back,
36 to have any information. And so I think it's part
37 just, you know, a lot of the old timers that I was
38 speaking with were saying that, you know, they catch
39 them a while ago, but they haven't seen some since.
40 And I saw visual pictures, you know, they had pike,
41 they had whitefish, they had burbot and then a chum and
42 a coho salmon spawning colors. So where these salmon
43 were going we don't know because they intercepted them
44 before their spawning grounds.
45

46 The Chisana and the Nabesna are just
47 like the glacier rivers that are the Tanana basically,
48 they clear up in the winter and you have great
49 visibility through the water when you would have coho
50

1 and chum spawning, but unfortunately they're just not
2 there right now. And there's beautiful upwelling areas
3 in some of these documented for chum salmon spawning up
4 near Sheep Creek by the mountains and on the Chisana.
5 And, I mean, I was expecting to find something there
6 and it's just not there. It looks exactly like the
7 pristine Delta-Clearwater and just nothing right now.
8 So whether these were a fluke, whether these are a
9 relic of old historical bigger runs, time will tell,
10 but, yeah, there's definitely some changes.

11

12 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

15

16 MR. McMANUS: Okay. Now I got another
17 question. They did some -- Tanana Chiefs came to
18 Nenana and they were doing spawning creeks up the
19 Nenana River and they noticed a couple of the clear
20 creeks that the salmon were spawning got breached by
21 the muddy waters so the mouth of that creek that the
22 salmon were going up is now full of mud and gravel and
23 stuff. And then she noticed that there was a -- more
24 fish were going into other creeks to spawn because of
25 that. Did you -- are you guys seeing the same thing?

26

27 MS. BAKER: So unfortunately I'm not
28 familiar with what Tanana Chiefs is doing, but they're --
29 salmon will choose areas where -- you know, they have
30 delayed spawning time frames so like you notice in most
31 of our rivers that we'll look at they'll come in kind
32 of a varied cycle, they -- they have a peak and then
33 they have the front part of the run and the back part
34 of the run. And that's probably due to some of those
35 effects where, you know, say a habitat issue occurs and
36 you can have some spawning still be viable. But I
37 don't know if -- you know, coho are known to kind of
38 search out some of these other areas and so if that was
39 a coho species I guess it would depend on which ones
40 they were looking at. I could say that they might
41 have, you know, found them in another spot that had an
42 upwelling that was similar to the one they were at
43 because it's not straying very far from where they were
44 originally.

45

46 MR. McMANUS: Thank you.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Hi. Has there been any
4 discussion given that there were runs reportedly from
5 people in the past of trying to reintroduce or do some
6 outplanning in any of these streams?

7

8 MS. BAKER: Mr. Bassich, through the
9 Chair. No, there hasn't been. They actually were
10 hoping we don't find salmon kind of in the area. And
11 so there hasn't been any talk of like hatch
12 reproduction and then relocating any eggs. I know that
13 the -- there's a rumor of the Tok River drainage having
14 done that a long time ago through the Salmon in the
15 Classroom Program, they'd done some incubation of eggs
16 in that stream and that's why there's a run there, but
17 I haven't been able to find valid proof of that.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Can you elaborate why you
20 would not want to see salmon there?

21

22 MS. BAKER: Not necessarily. Thank
23 you.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: I'll catch you in the
26 hallway.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
29 questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
34 you, Brandy. Have a safe drive home.

35

36 All right. Pat, you're patiently
37 waiting.

38

39 MS. OWEN: Madame Chair, the Council.
40 Good afternoon. My name is Pat Owen, I'm a wildlife
41 biologist at Denali National Park and I have a bit of a
42 wildlife update to give to you in addition to just a
43 little bit of an update on a couple of projects from
44 the Denali SRC that Amy Craver asked me to pass on to
45 you as well.

46

47 The handout that I gave you is very
48 similar to what I provided last October and it has
49 pretty the same projects on it. What I did with this

50

1 is there's a number of projects that there is some
2 updated information, those are the ones that I'll be
3 talking about. The rest of them on here are marked as
4 such that there are not updates. Basically the
5 information there is the same as what I had provided
6 previously.
7

8 So to start out talking about bear
9 monitoring. We've had a grizzly bear movement study in
10 the northeast corner of the Park since about 2010. The
11 funding for that project ran out last year. So we
12 still got a handful of collars in the field and we're
13 waiting for the next two years for those collars to
14 continue to collect data and then they will release,
15 the last one by September of 2022. After we get the
16 rest of those collars back we'll finalize that project
17 and get all of the data together.
18

19 But we have started looking at some of
20 the data. Right now we've got movement data from 42
21 bears. Of those 42 bears 23 of those went outside of
22 the Park at some time during the monitoring. Some
23 really interesting movements, some things that we
24 weren't really expecting to see. Eight of those bears
25 had what we considered minimal locations outside the
26 Park. It means they either didn't go very far out or
27 they didn't spend very much time outside the Park
28 boundary. But 15 of those bears made some pretty
29 extensive forays out the north boundary of the Park and
30 spent some of them a considerable amount of time. A
31 lot of -- a couple of them with some really long forays
32 out and back, a couple of them just went outside the
33 Park just a little ways, but spent a fair amount of
34 time out there.
35

36 The one thing that is not reflected in
37 here that was a bit of a surprise to us because in my
38 career of working with bears for almost 30 years, you
39 know, we sort of talk about bears as having a home
40 range and that's where we're going to be expecting to
41 find them. And we had two male bears that did some
42 really interesting movements. They both stayed within
43 the Park, but they made what looked like and we're sort
44 of dubbing it right now a migratory movement, where
45 they actually went west in the Park over the course of
46 the season, got to a point out west and then made their
47 way right back to what we would have considered to be
48 like their starting point by the end of the season, by
49 denning time. Something that we just weren't used to
50

1 seeing. We know that male bears tend to do a lot of
2 forays, but this was not a number of little spikes out
3 and back, it was one long trip, kind of in a big loop
4 and coming back from where they started. So it was a
5 little bit of a surprise for us there. So hopefully
6 we'll get the rest of the data from the last few bears
7 there and then have a whole lot more to say after we
8 are able to analyze the rest of those.

9
10 The bear DNA citizen science study, I
11 talked about this one a little bit last October. We
12 were able to have 106 samples from 2018 analyzed for
13 DNA. Of those 106 samples, 32 individual bears were
14 identified. And now we'll take those individual
15 identifications and link those to the location
16 information that we have for where those samples were
17 collected and we'll start to get a little bit more
18 robust sample.

19
20 In 2019 the number of samples that we
21 collected went way up, 272 samples collected. Out of
22 that 235 of those were deemed to be good samples for
23 analysis. We'll be sending those samples off here
24 probably in the next couple of weeks for analysis.

25
26 We've got one more year of data
27 collection so we'll continue to have folks in the
28 backcountry collecting scat samples for us. By this
29 time next year we'll be analyzing the 2020 samples and
30 then after that we'll be able to relate all of those to
31 the location data that we have and hopefully have
32 something to say about the number of bears that we're
33 seeing out there and where they're at and what they're
34 doing.

35
36 Bear management. As you're probably
37 well aware being in a National Park one of our biggest
38 challenges I think certainly from where I sit is
39 educating people about how to live, work and recreate
40 safely where bears exist. And we have a pretty robust
41 bear management -- actually I'll broaden it, a wildlife
42 safety management program and a wildlife safety
43 education program. We do a lot of outreach with our
44 visitors, also with our own staff, basically anybody
45 that asks for wildlife safety information we're there
46 to provide that.

47
48 We do keep track of interactions
49 between bears and people with something called our BHIM
50

1 system, it's a bear human incident management system
2 and it's a form that folks can fill out pretty easy,
3 it's a bunch of check boxes and some really short
4 narratives about what their interaction with a bear in
5 the field might have been like. And that helps us to
6 track patterns in bear behavior out on the landscape
7 and kind of gives us a clue when we need to be really
8 paying attention to where things might be happening.
9

10 The one thing that I will say about
11 this is there's -- in terms of the reporting that we've
12 been getting, nothing really stands out a lot except
13 for the fact that we're starting to see or I shouldn't
14 say starting, we have been over the past few years
15 seeing what we're calling tolerant behavior by bears
16 more and more in the backcountry which could be
17 concerning, we're kind of keeping an eye on things.
18 And again with the BHIMS reporting we're able to track
19 that pretty well.
20

21 The one thing that I will mention about
22 our bear management program is that we have -- you
23 know, we have a lot of tools in our toolbox when it
24 comes to managing wildlife in a Park and in a situation
25 where a lot of people exist. And one of the brand new
26 tools that we just added to our toolbox this last fall
27 is the acquisition of a Karelian bear dog. One of my
28 staff members just acquired a puppy, he's now six
29 months old. We expect that in the next couple of years
30 we'll get that dog trained up and we think that that
31 dog's going to be a really great asset for us, not just
32 in terms of the actual management of bears, but just in
33 terms of the ability to do outreach, you know, you walk
34 around with a lot of folks in the Park and people see
35 you with a dog and everybody wants to know about the
36 dog. And so it gives us a really great opportunity to
37 talk to a lot of our visitors and explain why we have
38 the dog and what the dog is for.
39

40 The other thing that I will say is in
41 addition to bear management one of the biggest
42 challenges and I might have mentioned this last
43 October, one of the biggest challenges that we have
44 recently is with moose and we're now calling them
45 nuisance moose. I just completed a nuisance moose
46 management program or plan, I'm sorry, and last winter
47 we did have an opportunity to test out an older dog,
48 Karelian bear dog from here in Fairbanks, with trying
49 to move moose out of an area where there's a lot of
50

1 people. It was in the headquarters area where our own
2 dog kennels are, the Denali Park kennels. The moose
3 was a bit more than a nuisance, it had actually caused
4 a couple of injuries, had gotten mixed up with the
5 kennel dogs. We wanted to get that moose out of the
6 area and I will tell you that from experience with
7 moose recently every single tool that we have ever
8 tried with bears has absolutely no affect on moose.
9 But the dog -- the dogs were really pretty effective.
10 We're not sure of what the long term effect would be
11 with dogs, but we do know that the immediate effect was
12 very promising. So having this dog on our staff I
13 think is going to be a real boon for us.

14
15 Let's see. The next thing on this list
16 is moose monitoring. The data that's presented here is
17 from our Cantwell survey. The Cantwell survey on the
18 south side of the Park is one that we do with
19 subsistence funding. And that survey was again the
20 same one that I reported on last year. We are on
21 schedule this year to get funding for a full north side
22 survey. We'll see whether or not that happens, but
23 that's the plan as of today.

24
25 Caribou monitoring. Lane Adams who's a
26 USGS biologist who has run our caribou monitoring
27 program for many years is stepping away from that
28 project and the Park is now assuming that project in
29 total. We're just about there. Lane has agreed that
30 he will still help us with a little bit of the
31 fieldwork, he gets to do the fun stuff. He's turned
32 over all the rest of it to us. But he's going to
33 continue with us through this year and then it'll --
34 he'll probably be done with it. But he did provide me
35 with some of the numbers from this past year's
36 monitoring. The herd -- estimate of the herd size is
37 down slightly, looks like that's because of reduced
38 female survival and a bit of a drop in calf
39 recruitment. I won't go through all of the numbers on
40 this, basically things look to be a little lower than
41 average, but we'll see how that shapes up in the next
42 couple of years.

43
44 Sheep surveys. Again nothing new on
45 the sheep surveys from what I reported last time except
46 that we did get this nice color summary of our sheep
47 survey that I did attach in there. This was not
48 available last October when I spoke to you so I've
49 included that there.

50

1 Wolf monitoring. One thing that I will
2 say is if you read this first paragraph on wolf
3 monitoring, the fourth sentence in there that starts
4 out with in 2019 staff captured, would you please just
5 delete that entire sentence. We just switched over to
6 the new version of Word, this new Outlook 365, and what
7 we're finding is that we're all having serious
8 difficulty with editing documents. And things that we
9 either thought we put in or thought we took out of
10 documents are doing things we weren't expecting. So
11 that sentence shouldn't be in there, it's kind of
12 repetitious and doesn't make any sense. So other than
13 that wolf numbers are -- you know, no big changes
14 there. Fourteen wolf packs monitored in 2019. We had
15 evidence that six of those packs denned, it looks like
16 five of those packs recruited somewhere around 19 pups.
17 So that work will continue. There is also a website if
18 you want the latest and greatest about wolves in
19 Denali.

20
21 The Alpine Wildlife Project will
22 continue this summer. That is a project mainly looking
23 at pica, ground squirrels, hoary marmots, dall sheep
24 and ptarmigan in the alpine reaches of the Park. That
25 project will continue to collect data and they will
26 continue to collect data and they will implement their
27 citizen science component of that project this year,
28 probably with figuring out a way of getting people in
29 the Park, visitors to the Park, to help out with
30 collecting data.

31
32 Arctic ground squirrel project is the
33 fieldwork anyway on that one is finished up and there's
34 really not any update on that as with the collared pica
35 surveys, no updates on that since I spoke to you last.

36
37 There's a very long section in here
38 that summarizes some of the bird related projects
39 coming up for 2020. And just one thing in particular,
40 I'm not going to go through every one of these because
41 the list is rather extensive, but the one project or
42 the one thing that I would like to point out to you
43 because it's a good segue into something else that I
44 just want to mention is if you look under the list of
45 bird related projects the second bullet right there
46 that talks about quantifying annual cycle movements of
47 golden eagles in Denali, it talks about how we detected
48 recently a mortality in January due to lead toxicosis.
49 And, you know, we know that lead poisoning in eagles in
50

1 particular and in a lot of other wildlife species
2 throughout the country is a big deal.
3

4 And I will mention that these three
5 little pamphlets, there are some on the back table, the
6 Park Service has for some number of years been working
7 on a campaign to try to encourage folks to move away
8 from lead ammunition. And these give information about
9 why that's a really good thing and what some of the
10 alternatives are. This has been sort of the brainchild
11 of one of our staff in Fort Collins, Colorado, David
12 Trevino. And I've been talking with him. He's been
13 really encouraging about the possibility of providing
14 our SRC members, actually providing them with non-lead
15 ammo to try it out, to test it, to see how they like
16 it, to get used to using it because it does -- it does
17 function a little differently than -- or I should say
18 perform a little differently than lead ammunition. But
19 just in an effort to try to encourage moving away from
20 lead ammo we've got some information about that.
21

22 Let's see, what else. There's a number
23 of other bird related projects. I guess the other big
24 one for us is under the list of new projects here.
25 Carol McIntye, who is our avian biologist, talks in
26 here about the continuation of trumpeter swan surveys.
27 We'll be doing those again in 2020. And then this
28 nesting ecology of shred nesting passerines is going to
29 be another big project for us. We're going to have a
30 lot of folks in the field looking at some common
31 passerines like white crowned and American tree
32 sparrows, trying to quantify the role of nest predation
33 on nesting success of a number of different species.
34 And there's a lot of cooperators on that project.
35

36 No updates on the information I
37 provided about fish. And I think for the wildlife
38 update, that is the entire list there if anybody has
39 any questions about that. Otherwise I will move into
40 the couple of things that Amy asked if I would just
41 cover on the SRC.
42

43 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim.
46

47 MR. McMANUS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 When I was down at Denali Commission one of the
49 gentlemen from the Park Service gave a report on the
50

1 red breast robins when they put bands on them and then
2 they were able to put a little microchip inside
3 them.....
4

5 MS. OWEN: Uh-huh.
6

7 MR. McMANUS:on their back. And
8 I was pretty amazed to where they migrated to.
9

10 MS. OWEN: Yes. And I'm wondering if --
11 I'm trying to remember if that's even.....
12

13 MR. McMANUS: Still amazed.
14

15 MS. OWEN: Yeah. And I don't remember
16 off the top of my head.....
17

18 MR. McMANUS: I do.
19

20 MS. OWEN:the data from that.
21 Yeah. And, you know, if -- we could certainly ask
22 Carol to come and present that again if that's
23 something that.....
24

25 MR. McMANUS: Well, it just stuck with
26 me because of where they went.
27

28 MS. OWEN: Yeah.
29

30 MR. McMANUS: Just for you guys'
31 information, they did a survey, they had some houses up
32 there and they -- they had a project where they did
33 band them, they put a microchip in the.....
34

35 MS. OWEN: Yeah.
36

37 MR. McMANUS:red breast robins
38 and when they flew off a pair came back again and
39 nested in that same house. But they follow them, they
40 went to Brazil.
41

42 MS. OWEN: Yeah. Yeah.
43

44 MR. McMANUS: I said, man, that's a
45 place to go for the winter.....
46

47 MS. OWEN: Yeah.
48

49 MR. McMANUS:to Brazil, man.
50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. McMANUS: Birds got smarts. So I
4 just wanted to throw that out there. I was -- I was
5 amazed by that. I mean.....
6
7 MS. OWEN: It is, it's pretty
8 incredible where some of these things are headed to,
9 yeah.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You wonder
12 how long it takes them.
13
14 MR. WRIGHT: All winter.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
17
18 MS. OWEN: Yeah. Yeah.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To turn
21 around and come back.
22
23 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
26
27 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, just maybe a quick
28 comment. You know, your comments about the Karelian
29 bear dogs, very effective dogs, very cool dogs. But,
30 you know, traditionally living out in the Bush sled
31 dogs do exactly the same thing, it can be done -- can
32 be trained to do exactly the same thing as Karelian
33 bear dogs. And they have been in existence and used in
34 Alaska in the remote areas for centuries. So and I do
35 know that the Park does have larger does now than they
36 used to.
37
38 MS. OWEN: Yeah.
39
40 MR. BASSICH: And actually a lot of
41 them are from my line of dog originally and they are
42 excellent bear dogs and are very, very trainable with
43 the disposition that they have.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And they're
46 for sale.
47
48 MR. BASSICH: No.
49
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. BASSICH: They already have their
4 own.

5

6 MS. OWEN: Yeah. Actually I don't
7 doubt that at all. The one thing that I will say is
8 that in our experience anyway, I'm not quite sure why,
9 but the moose that we tend to have issue with around
10 headquarters at least when those dogs are chained at
11 the kennels, are not in the least bit deterred about
12 getting in among those dogs. Now I'm sure that if we
13 pulled individuals out of there and trained them as
14 moose dogs.....

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

17

18 MS. OWEN:so to speak.....

19

20 MR. BASSICH: That -- that's what.....

21

22 MS. OWEN:they probably -- yeah,
23 they'd probably be.....

24

25 MR. BASSICH:that's what it
26 takes, both with bears.....

27

28 MS. OWEN: Right.

29

30 MR. BASSICH:and with the.....

31

32 MS. OWEN: Right. Absolutely.

33

34 MR. BASSICH:with the moose.

35

36 MS. OWEN: Absolutely.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: They're extremely
39 trainable.

40

41 MS. OWEN: Yeah. The one thing that I
42 will say is that I would imagine that our kennel
43 manager would not be real keen on the idea, but you
44 never know.

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Well, if the Park Service
47 is trying to emulate to a certain extent the cultural
48 practices that take place in remote Alaska over the
49 centuries like what has happened in, you know, oh,
50

1 what's the area at the end of the Park.....
2
3 MS. OWEN: In Kantishna.
4
5 MR. BASSICH:in Kantishna.
6
7 MS. OWEN: Yeah.
8
9 MR. BASSICH: Those practices I
10 guarantee you were in place.....
11
12 MS. OWEN: Uh-huh.
13
14 MR. BASSICH:back then. So.....
15
16 MS. OWEN: Oh, sure.
17
18 MR. BASSICH:just kind of an
19 interesting observation. I'm not putting down the
20 Karelian bear dogs because I've been around them,
21 they're really cool.....
22
23 MS. OWEN: Yeah.
24
25 MR. BASSICH:but the sled dogs do
26 exactly the same thing.
27
28 MS. OWEN: Yeah.
29
30 MR. BASSICH: And then the other
31 comment I had was did you know that hairy marmots make
32 really good banjo skins?
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MS. OWEN: I did not know that.
37
38 MR. BASSICH: They do. I just wanted
39 to share that just to kind of -- I know it's getting
40 late in the evening, but the very first banjo I ever
41 made, I tried to go to a humane shelter where they put
42 away cats because that was recommended.....
43
44 MS. OWEN: Oh, yeah. Yeah.
45
46 MR. BASSICH:and when I went in
47 to get a cat the woman asked me why I wanted a dead cat
48 and I told her I needed a banjo skin and she threw me
49 out of there. And so I.....
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3

MS. OWEN: I can see that.

4

5

6

MR. BASSICH:I went up and I found a hairy marmot and I dispatched him and skinned him and dehaired him and believe me it made a really beautiful sounding banjo. It's just one.....

7

8

9

10

(Laughter)

11

12

13

MR. BASSICH:one of those things that when you're out in the Bush and you're in a survival mode.....

14

15

16

MS. OWEN: Uh-huh.

17

18

19

MR. BASSICH:you need to know these types of things.

20

21

(Laughter)

22

23

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would think more for my hat.

24

25

26

(Laughter)

27

28

MR. STEVENSON: The record will reflect those recommendations.

29

30

31

MS. OWEN: Oh, goodness. Okay. All right. Well, then moving on for just a couple minutes. A couple of projects that Amy Craver had asked me to just describe to you from the recent or the last Denali Subsistence Resource Commission meeting.

32

33

34

35

36

37

Let's see, in partnership with Ahtna, Alaska Geographic and Denali organized a lecture on Ahtna history for the communities of Healy, McKinley Village and Cantwell and the Park staff and the Denali SRC. This happened at our last SRC meeting. The lecture was given by anthropologist, Bill Simone and Ahtna president and CEO, Michelle Anderson in Cantwell after the SRC -- the last SRC meeting that we had, traditional subsistence practices and transference of knowledge to younger generations. This is a project that focused on the upper Kuskokwim and Dena'ina Athabascan peoples of Denali National Park and Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, helping to understand

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1 the environment around them. During the first year of
2 this project our focus included preparation and
3 planning including identifying what our needs were for
4 the forthcoming year. There was a review and
5 discussion and documentation of current methods, goals
6 and challenges as researchers working with rural
7 communities on subsistence and cultural related topics.
8

9 The second year of the project the team
10 conducted fieldwork in Nondalton and in Nikolai. And
11 to date they've conducted and transcribed 24 interviews
12 and are working on developing a draft booklet as the
13 result of those interviews.
14

15 And then the third project is the
16 subsistence place names and oral tradition,
17 translations of tribal narratives into the Alaska
18 Range, the Upper Kuskokwim River people. This project
19 returns ancient knowledge of the people of the Upper
20 Kuskokwim back to modern day people of the Upper
21 Kuskokwim. Subsistence stories, travel narratives and
22 additional place names tell the importance of places in
23 a yearly cycle as well as show how they have been
24 accessed in the past. Ten elders have been interviewed
25 and their traditional subsistence stories were
26 transcribed and given to the Park. Our place names
27 inventory has grown from little more than 300 to over
28 800 place names. Audio recording were uncovered during
29 this process that were previously unknown. Five or six
30 of those recordings are detailed travel narratives from
31 the 1920s and 1930s. And so far four of those have
32 been translated. The fifth one is in progress. And
33 FY20 will take us into creating a final product of
34 those travel narratives.
35

36 So three projects that are all related
37 to the Denali SRC. And that's everything I have.
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
40 questions.
41

42 (No comments)
43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
45 Pat.
46

47 MS. OWEN: And thank you. And if
48 anyone is interested in any of these pamphlets there
49 are some on the back table. I'll leave a handful of
50

1 each one of them back there if you want to take a look.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

6

7

MR. BASSICH: And hairy marmots taste

8

good too.

9

10

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I'm

11

aware. It's really good if you burn the hair off and
12 then roast it over a fire. I learned from my Native
13 friends.

14

15

Next is Yukon-Charley.

16

17

Marcy. Oh, it says Marcy, but we got

18

the superintendent also.

19

20

MS. OKADA: Good afternoon, Madame

21

Chair, Council members. My name's Marcy Okada. I'm
22 the subsistence coordinator for Yukon-Charley Rivers
23 National Preserve. I'm just going to provide a quick
24 update, handouts were passed around.

25

26

We recently met with the Eagle

27

Subsistence Working Group on February 24th in Eagle and
28 we shared information about the compendium for Yukon-
29 Charley and then we also had a discussion on cabin use
30 permits within the Preserve unit. We talked about a
31 17B easement and provided updates on staffing and
32 hiring and then also updated folks about wildlife
33 projects and surveys, including the next two that I'm
34 going to share with you. Unfortunately our biologists
35 couldn't be here today, they're getting ready to go out
36 in the field tomorrow.

37

38

So our long awaited moose survey was

39

conducted this past November. Biologists completed the
40 eighth annual moose survey for the Preserve. In
41 addition to the regular survey they were also able to
42 complete an aerial stratification survey in which they
43 first flew the entire study area prior to their moose
44 survey and then classified all survey units as either
45 high or low density moose habitat. Due to both the
46 addition of the aerial stratification and consistently
47 inclement weather this was the longest moose survey on
48 record for the Preserve. The 2019 fall estimate for
49 Yukon-Charley area is 873 moose with a 90 percent

50

1 confidence interval and a density of .28 moose per
2 square mile. The extra work to fly an aerial
3 stratification appears to have paid off as the estimate
4 was the most precise of any survey to date. The
5 results suggest that the moose population in this area
6 appears to be fairly stable over the last 10 years and
7 a technical report will be forthcoming.

8

9

Any questions?

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

MR. BASSICH: When you surveyed, I know
in the past you've given presentations from Park
Service on -- they have different areas that they
survey at various times of the year. Which area did
they survey this year or was it the entire Preserve, it
was just one area, wasn't it?

18

19

20

21

22

MS. OKADA: It was the entire Preserve
and it came out of the stratification work they did.
So they were primarily focusing on areas that had good
moose habitat, but it was mostly the entire Preserve.

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

MR. BASSICH: Just for the record .28's
not that great of a moose density. That's got to be
one of the lowest in the State or close to it I would
think, isn't it, it's pretty low. I mean, I understand
what you're saying, it's stable, but it's pretty poor
density for the area. Is that because of the habitat?

30

31

32

33

34

MS. OKADA: So historically it's never
been good moose habitat and so it's -- it's a stable
population in comparison to previous surveys, but
overall the moose habitat isn't the greatest.

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

So I'll move right along to wolf
studies that are being conducted. The Park Service is
currently monitoring six packs. Five packs
successfully denned and raised pups this past fall,
with one pack successfully raising 12 pups as of last
October. Pack ranges or pack sizes range from two to
18 wolves. The fall pack count averaged nine wolves
which is higher than the long term average of 7.7
wolves.

45

46

47

48

49

50

Park Service is working on studies
evaluating how wolf death in the pack affect pack
structure and productivity, how prevalent disease is,
how wolves use the landscape and what their winter diet
consists of. Additionally we are quantifying wolf

1 population dynamics, so survival, reproduction,
2 immigration after cessation of lethal wolf control
3 activities over 10,000 square miles in the Upper Yukon
4 River basin. This is a five year study so funded for
5 2019 through 2024. And it's a collaborative effort
6 between ADF&G and the Park Service.
7

8 So currently our biologists are getting
9 ready to get -- go out into the field and it's to
10 conduct more wolf radio collar work and to track the
11 wolves that are currently radio collared. And then
12 also to capture moose and to do some radio collar work
13 on moose. So they want to maintain 30 moose in the
14 Preserve as collared. And then that's going to collect
15 data on demographics, reproduction and survivability of
16 moose within the Preserve.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
19 questions.
20

21 (No comments)
22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Maybe the
24 wolves are eating the moose.
25

26 MR. BASSICH: Certainly a little more
27 caribou.....
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: More of them.
30

31 (Laughter)
32

33 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.
36

37 MR. GLANZ: I was just wanting to
38 comment on your moose survey, you got to realize how
39 much territory, you know, Yukon-Charley is
40 uninhabitable by moose. I mean, with mountain ranges
41 and the Hannah Creek area and all -- there's no moose
42 that can live up in those hills I don't think. There's
43 nothing to eat and it's pretty steep country to crawl
44 in and out of.
45

46 And then I went over the top of Charley
47 and down the Goodpaster and another trip down the
48 Chisana, there's not good moose habitat until about a
49 third of the way down from both them rivers. There's
50

1 nothing in there, it's just all -- and in the winter
2 it's all ice and so there's not much growing going on
3 there from what I can observe.

4

5 But it's still a good job, guys.

6 Thanks.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
9 questions.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
14 Marcy. Anything else.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. Okay.
19 Next is Wrangell-St. Elias.

20

21 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
22 Chair, Council members. For the record I'm Barbara
23 Cellarius, I'm the subsistence coordinator and cultural
24 anthropologist for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
25 Preserve. And I'm going to be tag teaming this report
26 with Caroline Ketron who can introduce herself a little
27 more when we get to her part of the report. She'll do
28 the wildlife report and I will do the other topics in
29 the handout. But we'll do them in order because that's
30 probably the easiest thing for you to follow along
31 with.

32

33 The first report is from our -- Mark
34 Miller, he's our team lead for research, stewardship
35 and science. Does everybody have it, it's got a logo
36 with -- on the front, mine's in color, but it's a logo
37 with a drum, a piece of DNA and a salmon.

38

39 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
40 There were handouts provided to each member which you
41 should have at your work -- in front of you.

42

43 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, that one.

44

45 MR. STEVENSON: There are two of them.
46 That's -- the one that Tim -- Mr. McManus is holding up
47 right now is the first.

48

49 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: That's the one, yes?

2
3 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes. Yes. So it has
4 the Park logo, but then it also has the logo for the
5 Copper River Basin Symposium. And so Karen actually
6 talked about this, this was an event that we had two
7 weeks ago. The Park hosted it at the Park visitor
8 center, but it involved Copper River Watershed Project,
9 Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, the
10 Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission and the Alaska
11 Department of Fish and Game. And so Karen talked about
12 it so I will move on unless there are questions about
13 that.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 The Park is looking for some natural
18 resource funding to do a couple of subsistence related
19 projects. The Natural Resource Advisory Committee is
20 actually meeting in Anchorage this week so we might
21 know more soon about a project to apply genetic
22 analysis of Copper River sockeye salmon stocks to
23 inform in-season decision-making. And then there's a
24 second project they're looking for that would quantify
25 river ice conditions to inform decisions about winter
26 access to subsistence resources.

27
28 So Karen talked about this a little
29 bit. The fact that it had -- it's a topic that has
30 come up in discussions with our Subsistence Resource
31 Commission. The Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
32 is -- their staff and their anthropologist, Jim Simon,
33 are working at a project to do local and traditional
34 knowledge interviews about how snow and ice conditions
35 are affecting winter access.

36
37 I am working -- I have -- I currently
38 have funding to work with the -- Dana Brown and Todd
39 Brinkman at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to use
40 remote sensing data to also look at sort of
41 historically at river ice conditions and then also sort
42 of try to take a closer look with more recent, higher
43 quality, higher resolution data sort of at different
44 spots on the river. And then this would -- this
45 project that we're seeking funding for is sort of the
46 third year of that project to collect additional
47 information on that topic.

48
49 And then the next report is the

50

1 fisheries report. And I will just draw your attention
2 to the fisheries report. So most of the fisheries
3 report has to do with the Copper River, but we do --
4 the Park has funding from the Fisheries Resource
5 Monitoring Program to -- for a project that's designed
6 to gather baseline data of burbot populations in lakes
7 of the Upper Tanana, Upper Yukon drainages. In 2019
8 they went to Black Hill Lake in the Upper Beaver
9 drainage, they did some fieldwork in June and put in a
10 bunch of hoop traps for 48 hours and did not catch any
11 burbot or anything else. They did some hook and line
12 sampling and confirmed the presence of Arctic grayling.

13
14
15 There is one more year of fieldwork
16 planned for this study. They're looking at potentially
17 Ptarmigan Lake or one of the Welsey Lakes in Tetlin
18 National Wildlife Refuge. And then they might also go
19 out to Rock Lake and do some basic assessments.

20
21 And once this project is done Dave is
22 going to -- plans to come to an Eastern Interior RAC
23 meeting and give you a presentation on the project.

24
25 So that's all I'm going to tell you
26 about the fisheries report unless you have questions
27 about what's going on in the Copper River. And if not
28 I am going to turn it over to Caroline who's going to
29 give you the wildlife report.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
32 questions.

33
34 MR. McMANUS: I got another one.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
37 Tim.

38
39 MR. McMANUS: All right. Thank you.
40 My question is when did you guys start dropping your
41 mesh size from -- because I know I've heard things that
42 you used to have eight inch mesh on the Copper River
43 and now it's down to six inch. Do you have any data on
44 that and how long you been doing it and what's the
45 return size on the fish?

46
47 MS. CELLARIUS: So the mesh size would
48 apply to the commercial fishery that's at the mouth of
49 the river, outside the mouth of the river. And I don't

50

1 have -- that would be something that Fish and Game
2 would have information on. I don't have specific
3 information. Once you get inside the -- into the river
4 people are using dipnets, rod and reel and fish wheels
5 to harvest salmon.

6

7

MR. McMANUS: Thank you.

8

9

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

10

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19

MR. BASSICH: I think Tim brings up an
interesting point. It might be really interesting next
year or if you have some to pull some information
together just to look at if there's been any studies in
declining size of salmon on the Copper River.

20

21

22

23

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29

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you can
get that from her.

30

31

32

33

MR. BASSICH: I think you'll find that
it is, but, I mean, it's always good to look back over
time and it would be really interesting to know what
some of the data sets are, how long they are and I'm
sure the commercial fisheries has it going way, way
back. It's just in-river might be a little bit more
difficult to tease that information out. But that
might be pretty interesting information to get a report
on.

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MS. CELLARIUS: There are projects
going on, I wrote it down and I'll check with our
biologist.

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MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Very
good. Thank you.

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96

Okay. Go ahead.

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MS. KETRON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
For the record I'm Caroline Ketron, I'm a biologist
technician at Wrangell-St. Elias and I'm giving our
spring wildlife report on behalf of Judy Putera who I
believe is at the Southcentral RAC. I have updates on
the Chisana caribou herd, dall sheep surveys, brown
bear surveys and moose surveys.

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Table one in the handout which is in

1 the wildlife section of the whole big packet summarizes
2 Chisana caribou data from survey work done in
3 collaboration with Fish and Game and with the Yukon
4 Department of Environment. We completed October sex
5 and age composition counts for the Chisana herd and the
6 combined calf ratio for the whole herd on both the
7 Alaska and Yukon sides of the border was pretty good,
8 17 calves per 100 cows. This is above the desired
9 threshold for the Chisana Caribou Herd Management Plan
10 to allow continued subsistence harvest based on that
11 metric. For bulls per 100 cows, the decision threshold
12 is 35 per 100. And on both sides of the border the
13 bull to cow ratio was well above that. So those are
14 both good.

15
16 The next section, a dall sheep survey
17 project over the past few years has covered multiple
18 National Park Service units including Gates of the
19 Arctic, Denali, Western Arctic and also Wrangell-St.
20 Elias. The objective is to understand why dall sheep
21 productivity is different in different Parks. This
22 year's survey in Wrangell-St. Elias only covered a
23 couple of survey units, units 3 and 4. So they don't
24 necessarily represent the entire Park and Preserve.

25
26 For table two Judy summarized these
27 data specifically to Wrangell-St. Elias from 2016 to
28 2019 and then compared them to a 2010 sheep survey that
29 used the same distance sampling technique. The 2010
30 survey did cover the entire Park and Preserve, but in
31 order to compare these data she parsed out those same
32 survey units. So from just this -- these sample areas
33 the sheep population or excuse me, dall sheep
34 productivity in the Park has been relatively stable
35 over time, but again this applies just to that -- just
36 to that section.

37
38 We also received funding for a one time
39 survey project to study brown bear densities in the
40 Park. The method used multiple observers in aircraft
41 flying over a sample of the survey grid which is figure
42 two in your packet. Many of the sample units were
43 surveyed -- surveyed twice. The second time by a
44 different pilot and observer team to determine
45 sightability of bears. So whether or not bears are
46 there and we're just not seeing them or whether they
47 are really visible and to use that to estimate bear
48 population density.

49
50

1 The table shows two different models
2 estimating density using different assumptions about
3 the sightability of bears. The results are similar
4 between the two different models and they are within
5 the range of bear densities that have been documented
6 elsewhere. So that's our preliminary result using this
7 method.

8
9 We had moose surveys scheduled last
10 fall and we plan to use the GSPE, the geospacial
11 population estimate method which is commonly used by
12 Fish and Game and Federal agencies. This method relies
13 on snow cover for sightability of moose, so being able
14 to spot brown moose on white snow and before the bull
15 moose antlers drop. Conditions were too patchy in
16 Wrangell-St. Elias so we canceled that survey. Instead
17 we did a minimum count survey in the Upper Cooper River
18 area. So table four is the result of that.

19
20 It's a single survey area. The calf to
21 cow ratio is very low, it's only 3.8 to a hundred
22 compared to previous surveys, but it's essentially a
23 sample size of one. So it doesn't account for
24 variability in moose density over the large spacial
25 area we have in the Park. So I don't -- I don't know
26 that we're taking much from that until we have more
27 data.

28
29 So are there any questions for me, I'll
30 try to answer them and probably I will defer them to
31 Judy, but I can at least note them down.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just have
34 one. 2018 on the sheep.....

35
36 MS. KETRON: Uh-huh.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:the
39 lambs, 2018 was 131 and then 620 before and 727 after.
40 Is there any explanation to that, is it bad surveys
41 or.....

42
43 MS. KETRON: I would.....

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
46conditions.

47
48 MS. KETRON:I would suspect it
49 has to do with the areas they were able to survey, but
50

1 I will note that and make sure Judy gets back to you.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
4 you.
5
6 Anything else.
7
8 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
11 Don.
12
13 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 I'm curious if you in your moose surveys are looking at
15 the twinning rate at all because Fish and Game is doing
16 that in 20E south.
17
18 MS. KETRON: I don't know, but I will
19 ask that and.....
20
21 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay.
22
23 MS. KETRON:get you the answer.
24
25 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.
26
27 MR. FIRMIN: It's interesting that you
28 guys didn't catch any of the burbot in any of those
29 projects too. It's just -- I guess if there were none
30 there historically or the migration or, you know.....
31
32 MS. CELLARIUS: And that was just that
33 one lake that we went to. There were other lakes that
34 were surveyed in other years where burbot were found.
35 And so when Dave comes and gives you the presentation
36 he'll -- this -- he just provided the data for this
37 last.....
38
39 MR. FIRMIN: Okay.
40
41 MS. CELLARIUS:the last summer.
42 So there were other years he visited other lakes and
43 did found burbot -- find burbot. So we'll get the
44 combined total for that project when he comes and does
45 a presentation.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara, was
48 that the lake -- was it Grizzly -- no, what was the
49 name of that lake that -- no, I'm asking a question
50

1 about remember the -- where people had snowmachined in
2 and took a lot of burbot all at once, a big group of
3 people. Is that the same lake that was surveyed?
4

5 MS. CELLARIUS: No, this is a -- this
6 is a totally different.....
7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
9

10 MS. CELLARIUS:lake.
11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
13

14 MR. WRIGHT: Between that one I flew,
15 but I wouldn't know.
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
18

19 MS. CELLARIUS: He -- Dave has gone
20 back to that lake and done some sort of follow-up work
21 on that lake. That one actually I believe is in the
22 Copper River drainage and this project is in the Yukon
23 River drainage. They're -- that lake is just like just
24 over the line, but.....
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
27

28 MS. CELLARIUS:this project
29 focuses on lakes in the Tanana Yukon River drainage.
30

31 So if there's no more questions about
32 wildlife I just have one -- there's one.....
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any more
35 questions on wildlife?
36

37 (No comments)
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
40 Go ahead.
41

42 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. The last -- the
43 last four pages -- well, the last -- there's three
44 pages discussing Federal subsistence hunt -- hunting
45 permits that are issued for Wrangell-St. Elias National
46 Park and Preserve. The majority of them are actually
47 for unit 11, but I'll just give you an update on a
48 couple of the hunts in unit 12.
49
50

1 So the Chisana caribou herd hunt takes
2 place in the far, sort of southeast corner of unit 12
3 and the hunt was established in 2012. We set a harvest
4 quota based on the management plan that Caroline
5 referred to earlier, that harvest quota has been seven
6 bull caribou for several years and a total of four
7 permits were issued, two people hunted and one caribou
8 was harvested. This is a pretty difficult area to
9 access so most of the hunting is by the local residents
10 who actually live in the hunt area.
11

12 And then the other table I will bring
13 your -- call your attention to is table two, the joint
14 State/Federal permits for the fall moose hunt in
15 portions of unit 11 and 12.
16

17 So the top table is all hunters. This
18 permit is available both to Federally-qualified
19 subsistence users and anyone else who can hunt under
20 State of Alaska regulations. So in 2019 277 permits
21 were issued, 159 people hunted and 21 animals were
22 harvested. Fourteen of those harvests were in unit 11
23 and seven were -- of the harvest were in unit 12.
24

25 The table below is for Federally-
26 qualified subsistence users. And we had 171 -- 172
27 permits issued to Federally-qualified subsistence
28 users. And it turns out that all of the animals
29 harvested were by Federally-qualified subsistence users
30 this year. That's not always the case, but that's
31 happened -- that was the case this year.
32

33 And then on the back page -- and if you
34 have questions about the other tables I can answer
35 them, I'm just trying to move through this quickly and
36 focus on unit 12. On the back page there's just a
37 summary of some projects that are going on. Karen
38 mentioned the Ahtna Ethnographic Overview and
39 Assessment that I'm working on with the Ahtna Tribal
40 Resource Commission. There are two traditional and
41 local knowledge projects we're working on with Ahtna
42 Intertribal Resource Commission. I mentioned the local
43 knowledge of winter environmental conditions and the
44 impact of subsistence access. And then there's one
45 looking at the caribou herds in the Park. We're doing
46 -- in-house we're working on taking a manuscript on the
47 ethnohistory of the Chisana River basin and turning it
48 into a publication.
49
50

1 And then the -- and then I already
2 talked about the remote sensing project related to snow
3 and ice.

4
5 So that completes our report. If you
6 have any questions.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
9 questions.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

14
15 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you
18 very much.

19
20 Are there any ADF&G, we did that BLM
21 one already, people that want to speak.

22
23 MR. HERRIGES: Madame Chair, I
24 have.....

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have
27 more.

28
29 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, just.....

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

32
33 MR. HERRIGES:a brief
34 presentation.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry. I
37 thought we covered it.

38
39 MR. HERRIGES: Madame Chair and
40 Council, how's that sound?

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good. I saw
43 you stacking it, I thought you were taking them home.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MR. HERRIGES: Making good use out of
48 these.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Fire
2 starter.

3
4 MR. HERRIGES: I'll show a few videos
5 actually shortly, but -- is why I'm sitting here. I'm
6 Jim Herriges with the Eastern Interior Field Office of
7 BLM. I'm just going to provide you a brief update and
8 you can see by the handout it should be pretty brief.

9
10 I'll just mention -- we've talked about
11 caribou pretty well I think. I would just mention that
12 this year is the heaviest use of the White Mountains
13 area in the winter that we've seen of caribou.
14 Possibly as much as half of the herd has been hanging
15 out in that area which is -- and further west than the
16 White Mountains which is fairly unusual.

17
18 I'll mention just briefly that I
19 encourage and would like you to encourage subsistence
20 users to if they have any input to contact BLM, me
21 directly. And I -- I mean, I rely mostly on you guys
22 and being in Fairbanks I'm not necessarily out amongst
23 the users a lot. So please encourage them to feel free
24 to contact me with any preferences or issues that come
25 up. Or my other biologist -- BLM's other biologist,
26 Craig Townsend.

27
28 We are still working on a Tribal
29 Management Plan for the Steese Conservation Area and
30 the White Mountains Recreation Area. We're expecting
31 we'll have public meetings sometime in 2020.

32
33 Another planning topic, the Central
34 Yukon Resource Management Plan which includes the
35 Dalton Highway is still ongoing. And the draft EIS
36 should be available sometime in 2020 as well.

37
38 Future fieldwork plans include -- we're
39 planning to begin a moose study in the Upper Draanjik
40 and Upper Little Black River collaring moose and
41 looking at movements and distribution. And we'll be
42 doing that -- we're planning to do that in coordination
43 with Yukon-Charley National Preserve and so we'll have
44 kind of dual things going on there at the same time.
45 That study was one that was proposed in response to
46 input from local residents during our resource
47 management plan process.

48
49 And that's all I have for kind of those

50

1 updates. I wanted to give you guys a chance to share
2 in the fun of some of our caribou camera video collars.
3 And these are only nine seconds long each and so they
4 go pretty quickly. But if we're real short of time we
5 can cut it short on a few so you can wave at me or if
6 we carry on too long.
7

8 This is something that we're doing with
9 the University of Montana. Students are basically
10 dealing with the hundreds of thousands of clip -- video
11 clips that we have now from two summers worth of
12 collaring. And I should say that this project is
13 something that we're doing with ADF&G and the Yukon
14 government. And the primary focus is to identify
15 caribou diet. And the first phase has been for the
16 2018 collars has been done which is a basic
17 classification of how -- what's the quality of the
18 video, what's the activity of the caribou and any
19 special behaviors or as well as identifying the
20 habitat. We're relying mostly on college student
21 volunteers for that and we're broadening that out
22 somewhat. If folks know of qualified, dedicated folks
23 who are interested in spending some time looking
24 through videos and doing this initial classification
25 work, there's a contact person and email in that
26 handout and I also left a -- some flyers on the table.
27 So that's a fairly -- yeah, that -- we're -- that's
28 basically open to anyone who's dedicated, probably
29 upper high school would be the lower limit in terms of
30 age. And they'd have to be fairly serious folks. So
31 with that said I'm going to show you some of these.
32

33 First just some results of our initial
34 classifications that caribou eat -- spend most of their
35 time eating, 45 percent of their time, 25 percent
36 ruminating, 12 percent walking, that's pretty much most
37 of their life. 11 percent stationary, but awake and
38 about 5 percent sleeping and about three out of a
39 thousand videos they are drinking.
40

41 This graph shows the number of calves
42 seen in videos and it peaks right at the end of May as
43 you would kind of expect. We'll see a fair number of
44 calving videos.
45

46 And then insect avoidance behavior.
47 Looks like it peaks in the latter half of July which is
48 past the peak mosquito season. And so that's probably
49 in -- at least in 2018 probably botflies were bothering
50

1 caribou more than mosquitos were. Or at least the
2 behavior is more visible on videos.
3

4 Of course I had it all set up and it
5 working fine and now something's going on here. One
6 second, please.
7

8 Use of mushrooms is one thing we have a
9 big interest in and so I've got a few -- more than a
10 few videos here of caribou focusing on mushrooms. They
11 really snarf them down when they're available.
12

13 This is a burn. Mushrooms seem to be
14 more abundant. The camera's on the collar. Face --
15 it's hanging around their neck and facing forward. And
16 this is just an example of how good of -- how much they
17 appreciate scenery.
18

19 (Laughter)
20

21 MR. HERRIGES: There's a collar you can
22 see on that shadow. They like to spend time on
23 snowbanks even in May which this video is in.
24

25 This is -- some of these are different
26 caribou. I have four or five caribou mixed in here.
27 Foraging on willows, these look pretty well foraged on.
28 So probably in the core summer range. They suffer with
29 smoke just like we do. Closeups of friendly bulls.
30 Having a bite of willow and then mixing it up with some
31 fireweed flowers. Pretty selective foraging on lichens
32 there, going from little patch to little patch.
33 Getting some small mushrooms as well on -- in the
34 alpine areas. And in some places really dense like --
35 this probably isn't anywhere in the core of the summer
36 range where lichen is pretty well used. This caribou
37 kind of turned up that past ripe mushroom and went to
38 another one.
39

40 (Laughter)
41

42 MR. HERRIGES: Taking photos of their
43 friends as they stand in the river. This is a pretty
44 new calf here, still wet. Twenty minutes later, this
45 is the 21st of May, it's standing. And then cleaning
46 up after the -- cleaning up the site afterwards. This
47 caribou had that calf, yeah, that's the same calf. And
48 that was the placenta and everything it was consuming.
49 And that month and a half old already. This is the
50

1 same calf here. Eating some horsetail. More nice
2 scenery shots. More really heavy lichen there. Same
3 calf, August, so she survived -- the calf survived that
4 long. Yeah, and through the -- into September.
5 Success. Again pretty selective looking for bits of
6 lichen in that case. It's traveling through black
7 spruce which they do a lot of. I think this one is
8 going for some young blueberry leaves which they don't
9 normally eat very much of. This is an area where
10 lichen is very sparse, but probably once existed, but
11 yet it's -- caribou are still looking for those bits.
12 Fun walking through some tussock tundra and what looks
13 like a burned -- black spruce burn. Lots of forage
14 there, but it's focusing on the willows there. More
15 willow foraging. Early July nap in a snowfield. More
16 early July bug avoidance type behavior. Little
17 bluebell, little bit of dwarf fireweed. Caribou at
18 Eagle Summit about a day before the season started.
19 It's calm right now. This caribou, yeah, crossed the
20 highway before the season.

21
22 And I think we're getting close to the
23 end of them. Another calf -- another cow with another
24 calf. And more shots of that calf and other cows'
25 calves. Crossing an ATV trail, but didn't actually
26 want to use it. Nose down, probably -- looks like it's
27 just kind of keeping it down out of the -- away from
28 the bugs.

29
30 MR. WOODRUFF: They go through there a
31 lot faster than I can.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Faster than any of us
36 can.

37
38 MR. HERRIGES: Walking on a game trail,
39 probably a caribou trail, created -- a recently created
40 caribou trail. Eating some dirt, just kind of in a
41 little base of a tree root, but we also see them using
42 some big muddy licks as well. Early June there, still
43 young calves. Still the 2nd of June. These calves are
44 pretty mobile already. You'll see in a minute
45 they're.....

46
47 MR. McMANUS: Did you catch any
48 pictures of caribou with predators or not?

49
50

1 MR. HERRIGES: No, except for a
2 scavenger on a dead one.
3

4 There's Joseph Creek there. We do know
5 the locations because there's a GPS location. Some
6 calves playing, take off running, circle back. That's
7 the 13th of June and they are already pretty mobile.
8

9 And with that I'll call that good and
10 see if there's any other questions on anything I
11 mentioned. If not, I'll say thanks for another good
12 meeting and we'll see you next time.
13

14 MR. GLANZ: How many -- how many are up
15 there in the Crazies and the Whites, the caribou, are
16 the majority of them over there in the new grounds or --
17 the only reason I'm stating is why I keep trying to
18 tell Jeff let's take a break here and don't start
19 taking three or four a person at this time because
20 they've still been hanging around the same point for a
21 million acres burned, that's where they come in every
22 summer by us and they're hanging around there. But now
23 I see they're going to Fort Yukon, they're going up in
24 the Crazies and the Whites and they're going in a
25 country where they probably grazed a hundred years ago
26 or 50 years ago. And, I mean, they're going back into
27 those areas now because everything's burned down where
28 they usually hung around every summer in our
29 neighborhoods. So I just.....
30

31 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, well, there's
32 really -- with all the satellite collars that are out
33 we have really good information on where the herd in
34 general is going. I mean, we don't have a collar on
35 every animal obviously, but the -- yeah, they're
36 getting up to the ridges of the Crazies. In the
37 wintertime they are fairly restricted to areas that
38 don't have a lot of burned areas. They pretty much
39 stick to the unburned areas. Not exclusively, but they
40 focus in the unburned areas. So that kind of limits
41 how far they'll go in some -- in some areas where
42 there's fairly continuous past fire history of burns.
43

44 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, because, I mean, we
45 started this caribou stuff in '91 with the coalitions
46 and everything and I just hate to see all that go to --
47 go to heck after.....
48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
50

1 MR. GLANZ:how many years of
2 getting them up to where they're now in the thousands
3 instead of -- 30,000 instead of like 12 or 1,500 or 25 --
4 no, how much did we have, 3,500 I think in '91 total
5 in that herd, you know.

6
7 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah. I think in '90 --
8 yeah, more than that.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think.....

11
12 MR. HERRIGES: The minimum in the '70s
13 was like 6,500. So.....

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
16 what I remember.....

17
18 MR. HERRIGES: And in the.....

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 65.

21
22 MR. HERRIGES:in the mid '90s or
23 early '90s it was about 22,000. So but, yeah, that's
24 up to 85,000 from that is a pretty significant growth.

25
26 MR. GLANZ: So, I mean, but if their
27 weights are going down I understand, but they're not
28 down enough where they're starving yet. But you could
29 still recover I'm sure.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Keep after
32 them, Bill, because my husband agrees with you.

33
34 MR. GLANZ: Right. You know, that's
35 what.....

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

38
39 MR. GLANZ:I mean, it's -- we're
40 a little premature starting to take three or four per
41 person, I mean.

42
43 MR. HERRIGES: I don't think there's
44 any plans for multiple caribou immediately.

45
46 MR. GLANZ: Okay. Good. Okay.

47
48 MR. HERRIGES: I think there's plenty
49 of opportunity to get a lot of harvest with.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

2

3 MR. HERRIGES:one per person.

4 Yeah, they've shown that.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: With the
7 quota, uh-huh.

8

9 MR. HERRIGES:demonstrated that.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: I -- yeah, we are seeing
12 some caribou in some funny places that they haven't
13 been in in a long time like you said. They ran from
14 the White Mountains down towards the Minto and Manley
15 this fall, hanging around the flats. And I've seen
16 some come into town and I just -- they've always been
17 behind Tanana a little bit, the Ray Mountains here, but
18 a few inland ones. But they've been being seen in some
19 funny places that they haven't been seen in a long
20 time.

21

22 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, I'm -- I'd
23 definitely be interested in getting -- yeah, hearing
24 about some of those more distant things that we may not
25 have -- may not be enough caribou where there happens
26 to be a collar in the group, yeah.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything
29 else.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
34 right. Thanks a lot.

35

36 MR. GLANZ: Nice show.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There -- I
39 guess I'll just make sure. No one from Fish and Game
40 to speak. Is there anyone left that wants to speak.

41

42 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is Mark
43 Burch. I'm still hanging on here. And I am not aware
44 of any additional biologists that expected to give
45 reports to you.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: With the

50

1 permission of the Council could I ask him a question.

2

3

(No comments)

4

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mark, I am interested in the protocol for data. I've had so many people come up to me and say we got to go through so and so, we got to go through George Pappas, we got to go through Mark. What is the protocol for us as a RAC to get information from Fish and Game?

MR. BURCH: Yes, Madame Chair. We're working closely with George Pappas to work on communication and we expect to work out more details after the Federal Subsistence Board meeting. But for now the protocol is for George to send requests to me and I route them back through the management coordinators and they consult with the area biologists from there as necessary. So that's the protocol that we're using. And we're trying to manage the time and be aware of the demands on the time of the area biologist especially.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it's not working. I just want to let you know because there's a lot of things that have fallen through the cracks here. We didn't have AC minutes that we could have had and there's a -- people are coming up and saying they can't talk directly to someone and when all we need is a report. So it just seems like it should be a little simpler. And I just want.....

MR. BURCH: Yeah, one of the things that we do is that we encourage OSM biologists and others to use the reports that we publish. And the AC request for instance, that information is posted to the Department of Fish and Game, Board of Game page. So those are all available online in a couple of different formats.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But in the case of the Board of Game and the ACs meeting last week, none of that was posted, we couldn't find any of it. So I'm just letting you know that it doesn't seem to be working. There's got to be some other system that when we need something we can get it rather quickly. It's not happening. And I can talk to you about it further.

1 MR. BURCH: I'm happy to talk with you
2 more about trying to make things more efficient.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
5 would love to do that.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MR. BURCH: You know how to get ahold
10 of me anytime. Feel free.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

13
14 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, members of the
15 Council. The OSM report is included in your
16 supplemental materials packet. Earlier in this meeting
17 Thomas Doolittle covered the first part of this report
18 so I will only be addressing the latter points.

19
20 As many of you know Gene Peltola
21 vacated the assistant regional director position at OSM
22 in June, 2018. Over the past 21 months Tom Doolittle
23 did an outstanding job leading OSM as the acting ARD
24 for OSM.

25
26 And thanks to Tom.

27
28 Susan Detwiler was recently selected to
29 be the new ARD for OSM. She expects to be here by the
30 end of March. Susan has over 25 years of experience
31 working in Alaska with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
32 Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

33
34 She first went to work for OSM and the
35 Fish and Wildlife Service in 1989 when the subsistence
36 program consisted of just two people. After leaving
37 OSM in 2000 Susan went to work in other areas with the
38 Fish and Wildlife Service, including the congressional
39 and Native American liaison and endangered species
40 coordinator in Alaska and the Wildlife and Sportfish
41 Restoration Division chief in Region 8 down in
42 California and Nevada.

43
44 Susan has over 30 years in Federal
45 Service. She has a master's degree in natural resource
46 policy from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a
47 bachelor's degree in wildlife management from Humbolt
48 State University. Most recently Susan came from the
49 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the director of
50

1 the Alaska Operations Office. She says she enjoys her
2 time -- she enjoyed her time in the subsistence program
3 and is very happy to be coming back.

4
5 Please join us in welcoming Susan back
6 to OSM.

7
8 Since the fall, 2019 Council meetings
9 there have been a number of staffing changes at OSM.
10 Tom Evans, one of our wildlife biologists retired while
11 another wildlife biologist, Megan Kosterman, left OSM
12 for a position with the National Park Service. Our
13 budget analyst, Durand Tyler, took a promotion with a
14 new Joint Administrative Operations Division or JAO.
15 Over his -- even in his new position Durand has
16 continued to help arrange travel and logistics for
17 these Council meetings. OSM's executive secretary, Pam
18 Raygor, left for a promotion at the Bureau of Safety
19 and Environmental Enforcement. Our pathways
20 anthropologist student, Christine Brummer, left to
21 finish her master's degree and Jarred Stone, a
22 fisheries biologist took a promotion with the Alaska
23 Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Protection
24 Program. With these departures OSM staff was down
25 about 40 percent.

26
27 The good news is that OSM filled four
28 vacancies this past month. Tina Baker took a lateral
29 transfer from the JAO Division to become OSM's
30 administrative specialist. Michelle St. Peters
31 returned to OSM after working for the Wildlife and
32 Sportfish Restoration Program for about a month to
33 resume her duties as the grants and agreement
34 specialist, while Sabrina Schmidt and Catherine Avery
35 were selected to fill two vacant administrative
36 assistant positions.

37
38 With these new arrivals OSM is still
39 down about 35 percent. However by the end of the
40 calendar year we hope to fill at least three to four
41 additional vacancies. OSM is currently waiting on
42 Human Resources to advertise one fishery biologist
43 position and the anthropology and council coordination
44 supervisor positions leaving us down 28 percent.

45
46 Thank you, Madame Chair. I'd be happy
47 to answer any questions that you have.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any

50

1 questions.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

6

Thank you, Tom.

7

8

MR. KRON: Thank you.

9

10

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's been

11

a request to bring Michael up here. He's standing in
12 the back.

13

14

Would you come up.

15

16

MR. KOHLER: You guys obviously know

17

something I don't. Why am I here.

18

19

(Laughter)

20

21

MR. KOHLER: I wasn't planning on being

22

here for several years.

23

24

(Laughter)

25

26

MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.

27

Yeah, Michael, I asked her to call you up here because

28

I wanted to express to you from not only myself, but

29

hopefully from the RAC here, I think everybody's in

30

agreement, that we really value your input and your

31

time on the RAC and we're hoping that you continue to

32

keep reapplying because we think this situation will

33

change and we would love to have you back on our RAC.

34

I was actually quite shocked to see that you weren't

35

approved. There was -- we've got quite a bit of

36

discussion during this meeting, you weren't here for it

37

early on, trying to explain to us why we're in the

38

situation we're in. But the bottom line is the

39

recommendation for you would be to just keep applying

40

and we would really love to have you back on here.

41

We're really -- I personally really valued your

42

enthusiasm and your commitment to it and I know you

43

were really interested in working on some of the hunter

44

ethics and education programs and we'd really love to

45

have you back.

46

47

So thank you for your service and I'm

48

hoping that we can say continued service into the

49

future.

50

1 MR. KOHLER: Thank you very much, Andy.
2 And I was listening over the teleconference yesterday
3 and I really appreciate you guys' input on the -- on
4 this process and how it works and how we can make it
5 better. Because I think what you talked about very
6 passionately which is so true is what I found is just
7 being on here in the years that I have been it's a very
8 complex process and unless you guys, you mentors, are
9 teaching us younger generation then there's going to be
10 a bunch of new people coming on here that have no idea
11 what to do in the future. So, no, I really appreciate
12 what you said.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: I guess the most
15 important thing to me is don't feel discouraged by it.
16 That's -- I mean, if I was removed from it I be pretty
17 discouraged. So maybe I'd be a little relieved too, I
18 don't know.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think I'd
23 be relieved.....

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Who wants to know how you
26 do.....

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:to see
29 if someone like that was in there.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MR. BASSICH: But, you know, really
34 please, stay engaged, we really need you engaged. And
35 even if it's not in -- on the RAC, we really need to
36 keep you engaged in the process, whether it be through
37 the AC or any other thing that you become kind of
38 passionate about because I do know you have the passion
39 for fish and wildlife and the lifestyle and the
40 protection of what's needed for that lifestyle up here.
41 So stay engaged, you're really valuable and you've got
42 a good head on your shoulders and the enthusiasm and
43 that's rare to find in people of your generation.
44 And.....

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MR. BASSICH: That's a compliment, a
49 heavy compliment to you. And that's not a cut to the
50

1 others, it's just the facts, my friend, just the facts.

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So thank you and it's good to see you here, I'm glad you were able to come in and stop by and visit us.

MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Don.

(Applause)

MR. BASSICH: Hold on, Mike.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don wants to comment.

MR. WOODRUFF: I want to thank you for when I was off the RAC for a while and you stepped up to the plate and took my seat at the Fortymile Coalition. I really appreciate the fact that you just slid right in there and gave your input.

Thank you very much.

MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

MR. STEVENSON: I also wanted to thank you too, Michael. You showed a level of initiative that is a real example for many of us and you were always prepared and asked engaged questions. And I was delighted to see that -- I did get your application at 11:45 p.m. this past Sunday.

So thank you.

(Laughter)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And if you ever need recommendations I'm there for you.

MR. BASSICH: All of us would be.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Uh-huh. Yeah, I don't know if they let you do more than three, but that's -- I think you would have all of us. Uh-huh.

1 MR. FIRMIN: For sure.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. All
4 right. Hang in there, get your degree and we'll look
5 forward to see if you can get back on.

6

7 Thanks for all your enthusiasm. It was
8 awesome.

9

10 (Applause)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
13 have the annual report. But before I forget it, we
14 just need to finish up on Board of Game. We didn't say
15 who's going and we didn't -- I think just by nod of
16 head or motion, whatever, that we're taking --
17 someone's taking the -- what we did at this meeting to
18 the Board of Game.

19

20 So a lot of times that's what I do, we
21 just get a nod of head. Yeah, uh-huh. That kind of
22 goes without saying that we're going to be taking our
23 position to the Board of Game.

24

25 And I wanted to say that I'm willing to
26 stay and represent the RAC unless somebody else wants
27 to do it. We're going to tag team because he's going
28 to be here for his AC. If you guys want me to do it,
29 I'm willing to do it.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: I second that.

32

33 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, three.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we'll get --
38 he's been typing away all day almost getting all our
39 stuff done for it. So we covered that.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: Thanks for doing that, Sue,
42 because.....

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. I'm
45 going to stay for another day.

46

47 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Sue, the Office of
2 Subsistence Management will cover your lodging and per
3 diem for the extra time you're here. We thank you for
4 your being here, we really appreciate that. And I will
5 have composed for you this evening the notes regarding
6 the Board of Game proposals.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We'll
9 go over that together.

10
11 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
14 Okay. We've covered that.

15 Now the annual report. Does anyone
16 have any added things. It's on page 14 in the -- in
17 this -- our meeting book.

18
19 MR. STEVENSON: I think Mr. Woodruff
20 had two items.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. And
23 I did talk to Don, he had a couple items.

24
25 Don.

26
27 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
28 Chair. We talked earlier about having geographic and
29 regional representation on our Council. And I think
30 that's a pretty important issue.

31
32 And the other thing is the training and
33 the type of training that we could receive at all
34 Council -- at an all Council meeting. For me
35 personally I think it's a really good step towards
36 leadership training for us. We don't get that any
37 other way really. And the one class that I remember
38 very vividly that I took at the last thing was the
39 Federal Indian Law taught by a Rabbi. It was totally
40 awesome. Had no clue when I went in there and I was
41 really happy that I took the time to take that class.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, Council,
46 there's two topics. Would -- can we just agree or do
47 you want to do a motion, agree that -- to add these two
48 topics to our annual report. Can we just get a nod of
49 the head and we'll agree that we'll add those two

50

1 topics in the annual report.
2
3 (Council nods affirmatively)
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
6
7 MR. BASSICH: But can I -- can I.....
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
10
11 MR. BASSICH:maybe add in an
12 addition, you know, the topic of regional
13 representation. I think it would be incumbent upon us
14 to be a little bit more specific as to what we're
15 referring to in that.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
18
19 MR. BASSICH: It's not just this broad
20 oh, we want to be represented by everyone or whatever
21 and what came up was -- I guess what you're referring
22 to, Don, is the people up in Arctic Village and that
23 area.
24
25 MR. WOODRUFF: (Nods affirmatively)
26
27 MR. BASSICH: So maybe something more
28 specific to a seat from the people up in the Arctic
29 Village.....
30
31 MR. WOODRUFF: Or Venetie.
32
33 MR. BASSICH:.....Venetie, Chal -- I
34 can't pronounce it, Chalkyitsik.....
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Chalkyitsik.
37
38 MR. BASSICH:region, somewhere up
39 in that northeast region be appointed as well.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
42 good.
43
44 MR. BASSICH: I think it needs to be
45 more specific.....
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, uh-huh.
48
49 MR. BASSICH:so that they can
50

1 address that.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom.

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MR. KRON: Madame Chair. The other thing I heard discussed yesterday and Andy talked about a lot was good age representation, younger folks, middle aged, older folks, but particularly making sure we've got the younger folks here and you talked about that a bunch yesterday.

MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I wasn't sure what the outcome of that was, whether I was being age discriminate or not though. So.....

(Laughter)

MR. BASSICH:but, yeah, certainly. Put that in there as a request by the Council.

MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. On that last point, Andy. Are you suggesting that we look at perhaps developing a youth seat?

MR. BASSICH: No, negative.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.

MR. BASSICH: It's just about -- it's about getting people like Michael and Charlie here as regular seated members that -- so that they can spend the years, you know, benefiting from at least some of the knowledge that we have here.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Encourage youth. Just use those terms.

MR. BASSICH: Okay. Encourage.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

MR. FIRMIN: Or young people.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Young people.

MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Or to just have a broad
2 spectrum. Just not even specify regions, just to say
3 give preference to maybe somebody of an age group that
4 is missing on the Board or if we -- I think at one time
5 we had two Fort Yukon people, two Tanana people and two
6 people from Eagle. And then there was like, you know,
7 that's.....

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Nothing else.

10
11 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. It would be good
12 to, you know, let's give preference to somebody from an
13 area that's not there that has applied, you know, let's
14 throw somebody in from Beaver or Chalkyitsik on the RAC
15 rather than -- or, you know, from down Sue's way rather
16 than everybody being grouped in one area.

17
18 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: I think, Zach, there
21 would be certainly on the transcripts, you know, what I
22 was talking about as far as youth and the need for
23 youth to spend time on the panel. I shouldn't say
24 youth, young members, to spend time on the panel
25 gaining confidence and knowledge from people who have
26 been on for a long time.

27
28 MR. STEVENSON: Understood. Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
31 other.....

32
33 MR. STEVENSON: Sue.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:yeah,
36 I'm trying to think too.

37
38 MR. STEVENSON: Sue. Did you want to --
39 did you want to also mention in the annual report the
40 need to resolve the issue of information sharing
41 with.....

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I was
44 thinking about that. As, you know, when -- all this
45 meeting was so weird with people telling me oh, I
46 didn't get this notice and I didn't get -- I didn't
47 hear back and then I got to go through so and so on the
48 State side. Maybe we could write better communication
49 and some kind of protocol that we know so we know how

50

1 to get information. Because it's crazy that that can't
2 happen. You guys met and then it oh, it's got to be
3 through George Pappas or oh -- yeah.
4

5 MR. BASSICH: Didn't we used to always
6 have a liaison from the State at our meetings?
7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's Mark
9 Burch.
10

11 MR. BASSICH: Okay.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And he was
14 online and he's probably still online.
15

16 MR. BASSICH: Okay. But we used to
17 have people present in the room.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
20 Funding. But was there -- the other one that we'll
21 just include our concerns about communicating with
22 Arctic Village in that letter that we or that motion,
23 just include that. Yeah, I think it's -- they need to
24 know that that's what we think, the Federal Board.
25

26 MR. WOODRUFF: That's what it was.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what
29 it was. Okay.
30

31 MR. FIRMIN: And would the other one
32 that we're -- I know our hunter ethics is already on
33 there, the initiative to continue that or we can add or
34 -- anything to that aspect of it.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, would
37 you want to have our letter -- that motion just put in
38 as a separate topic or because we have it continuation
39 of the hunter ethics and education initiative and
40 dialogue with rural communities. I mean, that's the
41 broad spectrum and then this other one is specific.
42

43 MR. GLANZ: That would do it, yes.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, just
46 add it to it. Uh-huh.
47

48 And we're going on a nod of heads here.
49 If you don't like what we're suggesting you need to
50

1 tell us and then we'll vote on it.

2

3 That was the ones I had. Do you guys
4 have anything else.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
9 We got that covered.

10

11 Do you have any questions, Zach.

12

13 MR. STEVENSON: Nope, got it.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

16

17 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Madame

18

19 Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. And
22 the next thing.....

22

23 MR. STEVENSON: Future meeting dates.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:is
26 future meeting dates. First is 2020 and that's in the
27 back of your book. There's a calendar on pages 38 and
28 39. So we'll do the fall, 2020 meeting. Date and
29 location. We're already in there for Eastern Interior
30 Fairbanks on October 14 and 15th.

31

32 MR. BASSICH: That works good.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any
35 changes?

36

37 MR. BASSICH: That works good.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

40

41 Charlie.

42

43 MR. JAGOW: I think as we discussed and
44 this is probably totally not feasible, but doing a
45 meeting at some point in Arctic.

45

46 MR. McMANUS: Yes, Madame Chair, I was
47 going to try to request that. If we can find out some
48 information on it maybe we could have our next meeting
49 in Arctic Village because we were invited there. And I

50

1 know -- Paul says we would be welcome there also. So
2 if there's some way we could look into that.

3
4 Other than that Fairbanks would do for
5 me.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, let's
8 go Arctic first?

9
10 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah,
13 Arctic's first choice and backup is Fairbanks if --
14 because they'll evaluate if they can send us up there.

15
16 MR. McMANUS: Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

19
20 MR. McMANUS: That'll work.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
23 all works. Okay.

24
25 Andrew.

26
27 MR. FIRMIN: My only other thought was
28 should we wait until that or go -- either go while --
29 strike while the iron's hot or should we wait until the
30 time that there's other topics on the table that we'd
31 like to hear from them. If we go up there during a
32 fishery cycle, you know, would we be better off going
33 to.....

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What I was
36 thinking was, you know, we have a work session with
37 them where -- a round table and just forget the mics
38 and whatever and just have a little work session and
39 start talking to them about this hunter ethics and how
40 it's going and what we -- what we -- it mean -- you
41 know, means to them. Get a whole bunch of information.
42 We might have to take an extra day, but I think it --
43 that's the only way we're going to get anything done is
44 to -- and see it get started. So that would be my
45 suggestion to.....

46
47 MR. FIRMIN: I just mean at the timing
48 of it.....

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I think
2 it's.....

3
4 MR. FIRMIN:because the Board of
5 Game's going to be over, the Board -- you know, the
6 Board cycle's, the.....

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But then.....

9
10 MR. FIRMIN:wildlife cycle's going
11 to be over so we're going to be having fish -- we're
12 going to go up there and talk about king salmon on the
13 Yukon River and chum salmon, you know what I mean, it's
14 going to be kind of off topic to go there and talk
15 about bycatch and.....

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so
18 it'll be fisheries proposals.

19
20 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, that's what I mean.
21 So wouldn't -- wouldn't it be better to.....

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:so we
24 should go when there's wildlife.

25
26 MR. FIRMIN:go when it's wildlife
27 and just wait or go now and discuss something.....

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

30
31 MR. FIRMIN:that's off topic is my
32 point.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I get that.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: That point is probably
37 valid.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So let -- so
40 we could do it in the winter, 2021.

41
42 MR. FIRMIN: Or we can farther out.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Farther out.
45 Well, it's -- the wildlife proposals come up again
46 then. But you still could have this work session.

47
48 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. I just know when --
49 when does the wildlife cycle come up again, right now

50

1 we're taking -- we're talking fish proposals.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, the
4 proposals will come up winter, 2021.

5

6 MR. FIRMIN: But we do need that
7 initial meeting to get the information going.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom.

10

11 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, members of the
12 Council. Again there was discussion about fish
13 proposals, but I don't think that I heard anyone say
14 they wanted to do fish proposals at this meeting. I
15 didn't hear any from Eastern Interior.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.

18

19 MR. KRON: I don't know what will
20 happen.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You mean
23 Western.

24

25 MR. KRON: Anyway she just said they're
26 talking about possibly having a meeting in Arctic
27 Village and I guess my comment is I don't think we're
28 going to have many proposals unless you know of things
29 that we don't. And basically -- again it's up to you
30 when you want to do it, but Arctic Village I think is a
31 really good plan.

32

33 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, actually I
34 want to double down on what Tom just said in that our
35 fishery proposal cycle, we usually get about half the
36 proposals we get during the wildlife. So wildlife
37 meetings tend to be full and we can barely get done.
38 Fishery meetings are less full.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Virgil's
41 not here to make a bunch.

42

43 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. And I feel when we
44 go there.....

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry,
47 Virgil.

48

49 MR. GLANZ:all they're going to

50

1 want to do is talk and talk about the wildlife, the
2 sheep, I mean, when we get there. I don't care when we
3 go there, that's all they're going to want to talk
4 about is.....

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But we'll
7 still have to go through our agenda.

8
9 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, right.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Unless it's
12 better for a couple of us to be -- have the Fish and
13 Wildlife Service take us up there and talk to them, you
14 know, like it -- what we wanted to do. But.....

15
16 Donald.

17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: I think that if we do
19 have a meeting in Fort Yukon and it's.....

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You mean.....

22
23 MR. WOODRUFF:a call for wildlife
24 proposals, we could probably develop a proposal with
25 those folks to help them out.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You said Fort
28 Yukon, but you meant.....

29
30 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, I meant Arctic
31 Village. Sorry.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay.
34 Yeah, I know.

35
36 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Zach.

39
40 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Madame
41 Chair. Catching you on the question that Mr. Woodruff
42 just raised, can -- Tom, do you know when our -- Mr.
43 Kron, do you know when our next wildlife cycle is
44 scheduled?

45
46 MR. KRON: Yeah, Madame Chair, Zach.
47 The -- basically the wildlife cycle will be starting a
48 year from now. So that basically the meeting to
49 develop proposals will be a year from now. And that'll
50

1 start the process.
2
3 Thank you, Madame Chair.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I get what
6 you're saying.
7
8 MR. FIRMIN: First.....
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know. It
11 was 30 below when we were up there last time. In the
12 middle of the day in March.
13
14 MR. GLANZ: And my coat was in
15 Fairbanks.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MR. GLANZ: We'll put that here for
22 you.
23
24 REPORTER: I had a coat for you. I had
25 a coat for you.
26
27 MR. GLANZ: Yes, yes, Tina did have a
28 jacket for me.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 MR. GLANZ: And they did bring my parka
33 right back when they come to pick us up.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
36 then we got stuck up there or was that Fort Yukon.
37
38 MR. FIRMIN: Fort Yukon.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, that was
41 Fort Yukon. Yeah. Two days I think. Yeah, that fog.
42
43 Yeah, pick some -- so then we'll stick
44 with the 14th and 15th in Fairbanks and then we're
45 going to go -- but I would like to see the Fish and
46 Wildlife Service and the people, you know, keep --
47 start working on something, you know, to talk to Arctic
48 Village and them. And that might happen. And we might
49 -- some of us might get asked to go up there. So we'll
50

1 see what goes up there. So pick the dates and then is
2 it Arctic Village in the 2021 winter. I like March to
3 tell you the truth.

4
5 MR. BASSICH: I hate going to meetings
6 in March.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, because
9 it's so beautiful. Well, let's go in January. No.

10
11 I'm open for dates.

12
13 Charlie.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: The earlier the better.

16
17 MR. JAGOW: How about March 4th
18 and.....

19
20 MR. BASSICH: 14th?

21
22 MR. JAGOW: No, no. March 4th and 5th.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a
25 Friday -- Thursday, Friday.

26
27 MR. JAGOW: It's a little difficult for
28 somebody trapping to pull traps and, you know, be in
29 Arctic the next day.

30
31 MR. BASSICH: It's going to be too cold
32 and windy to be trapping anyway.

33
34 MR. JAGOW: No way.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: It is for guys my age.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You got to be
39 sympathetic to the young people there, Andy.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Not when it comes to
42 scheduling my time I don't.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Too bad, so
47 sad.

48
49 MR. WOODRUFF: Well, would March 9th

50

1 work for you, Charlie?
2
3 MR. JAGOW: Yeah. What's that?
4
5 MR. WOODRUFF: Would March 9th or 10th
6 work for you?
7
8 MR. JAGOW: Well, that might -- that's
9 starting to get late for him.
10
11 MR. BASSICH: I won't come if it's that
12 late. Sorry. I'm just not going to come. I'm not
13 going to give up all of March. Because I end up with
14 Yukon River Panel meetings and AC meetings are usually
15 late and then if we put this there, my whole March is
16 gone and that is the one month that I live for all
17 year. So I -- if it's too late in March I'm not going
18 to come. I'm fine with the first week, like what we're
19 doing now.....
20
21 MR. JAGOW: Okay. So.....
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So 4th and
24 5th is good?
25
26 MR. JAGOW:4th and 5th?
27
28 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, that's tolerable.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let's
31 just circle 4th and 5th, Arctic Village. And do we
32 have any -- do we need an alternative for.....
33
34 MR. BASSICH: For a location.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:whenever
37 OSM says you can't do that.
38
39 MR. BASSICH: Just back here.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just back
42 here. Okay. Then Fairbanks is the alternative.
43
44 All right. And I think that's it. Do
45 you have -- anybody have any closing comments.
46
47 Go ahead.
48
49 MR. WOODRUFF: I really appreciate the
50

1 staff and all the people that are giving us
2 presentations and they're very succinct. The only
3 problem I have with it is the data, it confuses me a
4 little bit. But that's sort of a joke.

5

6

(Laughter)

7

8

MR. WOODRUFF: And I really appreciate
9 all the Council members being here and Tina and the
10 public. The public was here pretty good today, we got
11 some good testimony and I really appreciate that. It's
12 heartfelt testimony.

13

14

Thank you.

15

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MR. McMANUS: Yeah, I'd like to thank
the staff and all you guys for taking your time out for
doing this. And, you know, we're trying to work for
the people and stuff and that -- that's something
that's always helped drive what I do and stuff. So I
just want to thank you guys very much and everybody
that's here is working for the same thing is try to
resolve our issues.

25

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Thank you.

MR. WRIGHT: I too also would like to
thank everybody for their sacrifice on the Board and
everybody that makes it happen and puts it together and
everybody that comes to present and all you guys' time
and hard work. I really appreciate everything that
everybody does.

34

35

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49

50

Thank you.

MR. FIRMIN: Ditto.

38

39

40

41

42

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44

45

46

47

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49

50

(Laughter)

MR. FIRMIN: But, yeah, we do have a
lot of -- sitting here listening to us argue for two
days. It's a little -- it's gets -- I'm sure it can --
has its ups and downs, but thank you for putting up
with us and accommodating us.

46

47

48

49

50

MR. GLANZ: I appreciate somebody like
from Arctic Village coming in here and spending their
own money or village money to come in here and spend
two or three days to converse with us and I appreciate

1 all of our members and trying to participate and help
2 them people.

3
4 So thanks guys, and thanks our team,
5 the leaders.

6
7 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I want to say thank
8 you for Sue, it's a big job to be a Chair on these RACs
9 and at times kind of a thankless job. It's a lot to
10 keep in your head, it's a lot to organize.....

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

13
14 MR. BASSICH:it's a lot to just
15 memorize everybody's names that shows up here and she's
16 amazing at that. I'm always so blown away by how she
17 remembers everybody's names over the years.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be
20 horrible.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: And of course Council
23 members. I think we have a really good mix, a really
24 good diversity here. And I like the fact actually that
25 sometimes we're not unanimous on a vote. I think that
26 shows that we think about what we're doing and I think
27 we do a pretty good job of trying to represent the
28 people that we're supposed to represent and help to
29 protect their lifestyle. And we couldn't do that
30 without the support of the staff and the different
31 agencies that contribute through data and through their
32 observations or recommendations.

33
34 So and then once again for William or
35 Michael, I'm sorry, thanks again for being a part of
36 this and you as well, Charlie. I really -- it really
37 makes me feel good to see young people get involved.
38 It doesn't matter what it is, but especially in
39 something like this that's often very dry and very slow
40 moving and you have to be very dedicated and very
41 methodical. And but stick with it because, you know,
42 there -- I want to share something.

43
44 There are times, you know, being
45 engaged in fishery stuff as much as I am that I often
46 go home from a meeting and wonder what the heck am I
47 doing, why am I spending all my time on this. And I've
48 done that at this meeting -- these meetings some years
49 and I get on a plane and I go home and I think, man,

50

1 really, why am I spending my time on all this. And
2 then if I really sit down and reflect on where were we
3 10 years ago or where were we five years ago, I realize
4 we've made changes and we made good changes for people.
5 And I think we have to be watchdogs here to make sure
6 that this lifestyle continues because we're all here
7 because we love the lifestyle and I would hate to see
8 that go away in this State. I think it's the heart of
9 what this State is. And I don't want to see that lost.
10 So I always come back because I do try and take the
11 time to reflect about what we talk about at these
12 meetings.

13
14 And the other thing I really value is
15 the friendships that I've developed over the years. I
16 often say when I go to the Yukon River Panel meeting
17 that's my second family because I've been working with
18 those people 20 years now. And same with this RAC,
19 it's Bill and Sue and Andrew, I -- you know, it's
20 almost like a family, we've been working together for a
21 long time. And that -- I think that's why we work well
22 together and I think that's a really valuable part of
23 this RAC.

24
25 Thank you. Good meeting.

26
27 MR. GLANZ: I echo the same thing,
28 Andy. We maybe get a little upset at each other at the
29 meeting, but we're just like a family. Oh, well. Go
30 in and have dinner and everybody's laughing and I'm
31 going to get you a beer. And.....

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I disagree
34 with my husband sometimes, but I still love him.

35
36 MR. GLANZ: Oh, I won't even go there
37 with mine.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie.

42
43 MR. WRIGHT: Well, I'm sure everybody
44 wants to go home so thank you and goodnight.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I
47 just want to thank all of you guys. I think we all
48 have our own special thing that we bring and I really
49 appreciate you guys very much. And Andrew, Andrew,
50

1 you're -- you keep things moving and that's really
2 important I think. Sometimes it's like gosh, what do I
3 do, do I just turn the mic off or.....
4

5 (Laughter)
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I might use
8 that, that worked pretty good.
9

10 MR. GLANZ: Where was your little
11 hammer, Sue.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My little
14 hammer, do you know about my little hammer, Zach?
15

16 MR. STEVENSON: It's packed in a box in
17 my office right now.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's where
20 it is.
21

22 MR. GLANZ: Oh, okay.
23

24 (Laughter)
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: At any rate
27 I'm probably not real good at thanking everybody like I
28 should and I think that comes from being a country
29 bumpkin I call it, raised on a dairy farm and, yeah, my
30 dad would say you can't cuss, but there was one word we
31 could say and I won't say it on the record, but it's
32 poop and then you'd have the -- but you couldn't live
33 on a farm without saying that. So there's times I want
34 to say that. I don't.
35

36 But I'm really thankful for the support
37 from you guys, all of you, and thank the staff.
38

39 So everybody.....
40

41 MR. GLANZ: Okay. See you in the
42 spring if not sooner or fall.....
43

44 MR. FIRMIN: Move to adjourn.
45

46 MR. McMANUS: Second.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.
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IN UNISON: Aye.

MR. FIRMIN: All opposed.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: None. Thank
you. Bye. Good one.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 4th day of March 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 16th day of April 2020.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22