

WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II  
Pike's Landing  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
March 27, 2019  
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Reakoff, Chairman  
Raymond Collins  
Timothy Gervais  
Don Honea  
Tommy Kriska  
Jenny Pelkola  
Goodwin Semaken  
Pollock Simon

Regional Council Coordinator, Karen Deatherage

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

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(Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/27/2019)

4

5

(On record)

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've got 9:00 on my  
watch here. Excuse me. We're going to bring this  
meeting to order. It's 9:00 and I said we're going to  
start at 9:00 sharp. We have a big day today and we  
have to get out of this room by 4:00 o'clock.

12

13

14

So we've got Ray on the phone. Did you  
come on the phone, Don?

15

16

(No response)

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Who else is on  
the phone? Are you there, Ray?

20

21

MR. COLLINS: Yes, I'm here.

22

23

24

25

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27

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I wanted to  
make sure the line was still there. So nobody else is  
on the phone. We're going to go to public and tribal  
comments on non-agenda items. Is anybody from the  
public, tribal entities want to speak.

28

29

(No comments)

30

31

32

33

34

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jim Simon has  
something from the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish  
Commission. Is that you, Don? I heard a beep on the  
phone there.

35

36

(No response)

37

38

39

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We've got Jim  
Simon. Go ahead, Jim.

40

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MR. J. SIMON: Hi. For the record, my  
name is Jim Simon. I'm an anthropologist with the  
Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the  
executive director Mary Sattler Peltola was unable to  
be here. She just returned to the state late last  
night, so has asked me to hand out a two-page summary  
of 2018 accomplishments of the Kuskokwim River  
Inter-Tribal Fish Commission as well as 2019 goals. So  
hopefully that's been distributed to you.

50

1 I'm going to just highlight a few  
2 points. The Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish  
3 Commission is a consortium of the 33 Federally  
4 recognized tribes located along the Kuskokwim River. In  
5 2016 the Commission entered into a memorandum of  
6 understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
7 to cooperatively manage Kuskokwim River chinook salmon  
8 stocks to ensure a more self-determined management  
9 structure.

10  
11 As part of that arrangement the  
12 Commission has four in-season managers that represent  
13 the seven different geographic regions along the river  
14 that work together with Federal and State managers to  
15 make important in-season management decisions about  
16 fishing openings and closures.

17  
18 2018 was the first year that there were  
19 actually four in-season managers representing the  
20 Commission. Prior to that, from 2015 to 2017, there  
21 were three. The in-season managers are Nick Kameroff  
22 from Aniak, James Nicori from Kwethluk, Robert Lekander  
23 from Bethel and James Charles from Tuntutuliak.

24  
25 The Commission is strongly committed to  
26 valuing both Western science as well as traditional  
27 knowledge. Traditional knowledge is helping to fill in  
28 gaps that Western science aren't able to address in  
29 assessing, for example, predicting run timing. So one  
30 of the big successes of the 2018 season was the  
31 application of traditional knowledge to provide  
32 additional limited chinook salmon fishing opportunities  
33 and yet not compromise the escapement goal target  
34 established by the Commission.

35  
36 The escapement goal that the Fish  
37 Commission has utilized is 110,000 chinook salmon,  
38 which is higher than the Department of Fish and Game's  
39 escapement goal range for the Kuskokwim chinook salmon  
40 stock. Part of the reason why the Commission continues  
41 to support 110,000 chinook salmon on the spawning  
42 grounds is they are accommodating and considering the  
43 quality of escapement, the declining fish size, the  
44 feedback being received from headwaters tribes.

45  
46 And particularly Ray Collins is a major  
47 source of information of long-term history of  
48 demonstrating that the closures that have been in place  
49 are resulting in large, big female hens returning to  
50

1 those upper river drainages in the Upper Kuskokwim.

2

3 The success with respect to using  
4 traditional knowledge to predict run timing, I want to  
5 give you a little more example of how that was utilized  
6 this past season. James Nicori's fish camp is located  
7 near the Kwethluk Y and it's a multi-generational camp.  
8 So he has grown up there and understands that as the  
9 season progresses, fishermen will have success on the  
10 mainstem of the Kuskokwim.

11

12 Then once the people on the Kuskokwak  
13 Slough at that Y start catching, that means the run is  
14 halfway through. Otherwise, the only run timing  
15 assessment information comes from the Bethel test fish  
16 operations.

17

18 So there was a concern that the run had  
19 reached the halfway point. The in-season manager said,  
20 no, we have not reached the midpoint of the run yet.  
21 There are going to be more king salmon returning. We  
22 can hold at least two additional limited fishing  
23 opportunities for chinook salmon and not compromise the  
24 escapement goal of 110,000 fish.

25

26 The Federal and State managers were  
27 reluctant to accept that traditional knowledge, but the  
28 Fish Commission was firm in utilizing and making a  
29 management decision based on the traditional knowledge.  
30 So there were two additional openings held on June 24th  
31 and June 29th. People were able to fish and additional  
32 openers did not compromise the overescapement goals.

33

34 Our preliminary information from the  
35 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is that the  
36 escapement was 110,426. So I think that illustrates  
37 how powerful traditional knowledge can be when  
38 traditional knowledge holders are part of in-season  
39 management decision making.

40

41 I just have a couple other points.  
42 Most of this you can read through the additional  
43 detail. The Fish Commission has hired Kevin Whitworth  
44 in McGrath who used to work for MTNT. He now works  
45 with Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and the  
46 Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

47

48 The Commission will continue to hold a  
49 Monday morning teleconference at 10:00 a.m. throughout  
50

1 the chinook salmon fishing season in order to provide  
2 opportunity for residents along the Kuskokwim River to  
3 call and share their concerns, hear what the latest  
4 information is. It's much more of a traditional type  
5 of teleconference. It's not agenda driven, it's people  
6 driven.

7  
8 There's also some additional  
9 information that you might want to take the time to  
10 look at the videos of the testimony of the Kuskokwim  
11 River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission provided before the  
12 United States Senate Indian Affairs Committee on June  
13 20th of last summer as well as the United States Senate  
14 Commerce Committee chaired by Senator Sullivan. That  
15 was done during AFN this fall. A lot more information  
16 is available in there.

17  
18 The Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish  
19 Commission is the lead on the Takotna River weir and is  
20 a partner on the Kwethluk weir and strongly promoting  
21 having local Alaska Native Kuskokwim born and raised  
22 biologist working on those projects.

23  
24 I hopefully will have the 1-800  
25 toll-free number to give you in one second. No, I do  
26 not. If you're interested in what that number is, it  
27 gets distributed broadly, but last summer was a long  
28 time, so I can't remember the number off the top of my  
29 head. Kuskokwim representatives of the Western Interior  
30 please avail yourself of that opportunity for Monday  
31 morning teleconferences to follow the chinook salmon  
32 season.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does the Kuskokwim  
37 River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission have a website with  
38 that number available on it?

39  
40 MR. J. SIMON: Yes, it does. I believe  
41 that would be KRITFC.org. The website has just  
42 recently been put up, so it should be relatively easy  
43 to find.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would that also have  
46 those videos you're referring to?

47  
48 MR. J. SIMON: I don't believe it has  
49 the Senate hearing videos on it yet, but there are also  
50

1 bios on the various executive council members and the  
2 governance structure of the Commission and how to  
3 contact them and you can learn a lot more about the  
4 Commission on the website.  
5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
7 Any questions. Tim.  
8

9 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
10 What's the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's position on  
11 this special action request that's occurring this week?  
12

13 MR. J. SIMON: Thank you, Tim, for that  
14 question. It's a very good question. The Inter-Tribal  
15 Fish Commission continues to work with the  
16 congressional delegation and Federal agencies to  
17 address the issues for this annual need to submit a  
18 special action request to close chinook salmon fishing  
19 to all but Federally qualified users. It's very  
20 different than when you were talking about your Federal  
21 closure reviews.  
22

23 Yesterday, with respect to wildlife,  
24 when those are in place, that does not happen with  
25 fisheries management for some peculiar reason such that  
26 the Commission spends about several months each year  
27 just trying to maintain their seat at the in-season  
28 management table through the special action process.  
29

30 The Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is  
31 highly deferential to its member tribes and does not  
32 try to dictate what member tribes do and that special  
33 action request was submitted by the Native Village of  
34 Akiak, Akiak Tribal Council.  
35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You got a  
37 question, Ray? You're on the phone there.  
38

39 MR. COLLINS: No, I didn't have.  
40

41 Thanks.  
42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No questions. Okay.  
44 And is your opinion about how this is working well?  
45

46 MR. COLLINS: Well, we haven't had a  
47 lot of contact with it. I'll have to start calling in  
48 on some of those Monday ones so we could report on --  
49 well, Kevin can also gather that information up here  
50

1 about when the fish are starting to show up. But  
2 they'll show up above Nikolai and Big River before they  
3 show up in McGrath. They go right by here. And they  
4 can't drift here because of snags. So when they start  
5 resting in the mouth of the Takotna over here, then  
6 people here start catching them, but after those  
7 headwaters fish a lot of them have already gone by.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So any other  
10 questions.

11  
12 Tim.

13  
14 MR. GERVAIS: Do you know what the 2018  
15 harvest was on the king salmon for the whole river?

16  
17 MR. J. SIMON: Unfortunately I do not  
18 have that information at the top of my head. I'm not  
19 sure if Ray Born and Aaron are here from the Refuge.  
20 They may have that information.

21  
22 I don't see them here today.

23  
24 MR. GERVAIS: Does it seem like then  
25 for last summer 2018 subsistence needs were met for the  
26 entire drainage?

27  
28 MR. J. SIMON: The people were much  
29 happier in 2018, but it's very far from subsistence  
30 needs being met. On average, the chinook salmon  
31 harvest from the Kuskokwim is about 85,000 fish a year,  
32 which is much more than even the Yukon. In general,  
33 one out of every two subsistence chinook salmon caught  
34 in the state comes from the Kuskokwim Drainage. I  
35 believe it was like 22,000 or something in the harvest  
36 in 2018.

37  
38 Yeah, the reason why we're not really  
39 certain is because we have the in-season harvest  
40 monitoring that is a partnership between the  
41 Orutsararmiut Native Council and the Bethel Tribe, the  
42 Bering Sea Fisherman's Association and the Kuskokwim  
43 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the Fish and Wildlife  
44 Service and the Department of Fish and Game.

45  
46 But then following that in-season  
47 harvest data collection the Department of Fish and  
48 Game, Division of Subsistence, conducts post-season  
49 salmon surveys just like they do on the Yukon. Those

50

1 data were probably finished being collected in early  
2 December. We should have final estimates very shortly  
3 if they're not already available.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So one more  
6 question.

7  
8 MR. GERVAIS: I can look it up on their  
9 website.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we've got a big  
12 day today. Appreciate that update on Inter-Tribal Fish  
13 Commission.

14  
15 Any other public comments on any  
16 non-agenda item.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing nobody in the  
21 room, we're going to be moving to -- BLM has a large  
22 presentation and then we're going to come back to Yukon  
23 Delta and National Park Service on the agency reports.  
24 So BLM, Bonnie and Staff.

25  
26 MS. ETHAN: Do you want the agency to  
27 go first or do you want the Central Yukon to go first?

28  
29 MS. MILLION: Is there a particular  
30 order you would like us to go in?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't have an  
33 order. Who wants to go first?

34  
35 MS. MILLION: You go first. I'm  
36 throwing that out there as an option. Rock, paper,  
37 scissors, right?

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Whoever's  
40 had the most coffee can go first.

41  
42 MS. ETHAN: Mr. Chairman, are we ready?

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Go right  
45 ahead.

46  
47 MS. ETHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
48 for having us today and thank you to the Council  
49 members for having us today as well. My name is Chel

50

1 Ethan and I am the project manager for the Central  
2 Yukon Resource Management Plan, which is one of many  
3 EISS that the Bureau of Land Management is working on  
4 at this time. You'll hear from different members for  
5 different projects, but I can address the Central Yukon  
6 Plan.  
7

8 I believe you have notes in your  
9 packet. Fortunately or unfortunately, not much has  
10 changed since the last time we made a presentation to  
11 this Regional Advisory Council. We are still in the  
12 process of working on the draft EIS right now.  
13 Recently we have completed a review for the range of  
14 alternatives. There are some new standards that have  
15 been set out per Secretarial Order 3355, which  
16 streamlined NEPA in which we visit with the Department  
17 of Interior before we take each critical step.  
18

19 So actually the day of the lapse of  
20 appropriations and/or Federal government shutdown was  
21 the day that we briefed on our range of alternatives.  
22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can I stop you for a  
24 second.  
25

26 MS. ETHAN: Certainly.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're looking for  
29 our folder with all the.....  
30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's all about purple.  
32

33 MS. ETHAN: I'll hold.  
34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Everything's purple.  
36 I want the Council to get all the right papers here.  
37 Go ahead. Continue.  
38

39 MS. ETHAN: That's okay. So on that  
40 day our team met with the Secretary of the Interior and  
41 the briefing team to go over our proposed.....  
42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The date again on  
44 that?  
45

46 MS. ETHAN: That would have been  
47 December -- I don't have a calendar in front of me, Mr.  
48 Chairman, but I believe it was December 22nd. It was a  
49 Friday, the same day as the lapse of appropriations or  
50

1 the beginning of our long break.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Black Friday.

4

5 MS. ETHAN: Yeah.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Continue.

8

9 MS. ETHAN: December 21st.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The darkest day of  
12 the year.

13

14 MS. ETHAN: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Continue.

17

18 MS. ETHAN: We were given the green  
19 light to move ahead with our range of alternatives.  
20 The next step after that is when we convene our  
21 planning team to work on the impacts analysis. Clearly  
22 there was a 35-day break in our work schedule, but once  
23 we resumed the ability to start working again on  
24 February 1st we convened and started working on the  
25 impacts analysis. That's where we're at right now.

26

27 We anticipate wrapping that up and  
28 having a draft EIS available for yet one more review  
29 with the Department of Interior in late May in  
30 anticipation of releasing it for public comment. It's  
31 looking like right now actually late June, early July.  
32 I realize and I fully acknowledge that that is a pretty  
33 tough time because most people are out actively at fish  
34 camp, et cetera, but we are under the direction of the  
35 Department for our timelines.

36

37 As we get closer, we will communicate  
38 through Karen to the Subsistence RAC on our timeline so  
39 that you're able to coalesce if you'd like, come  
40 together, have a conversation, make comment, et cetera.  
41 It will be a 90-day public comment period. Prior to  
42 going out for that public comment period I anticipate  
43 right now about early May we'll start to communicate  
44 with the communities to set up a series of meetings.  
45 So likely community members and representatives here  
46 will start to hear from us once we know we're about to  
47 go out so that we can set up meetings and come to your  
48 communities.

49

50

1                   There was a request that's happened at  
2 the last I think three consecutive Western Interior  
3 Resource Advisory Council meetings for us to put  
4 together an annotated bibliography of the subsistence  
5 data that we've used and we will provide that as part  
6 of the DEIS.

7  
8                   We have a small subsistence working  
9 team that includes our current cooperators, which is  
10 the tribe of Allakaket, Ruby Tribe, we're working with  
11 ADF&G, our socioeconomic folks and then also leaning  
12 heavily on TCC. So we will be pooling all those  
13 resources together. We'll make sure that that's an  
14 appendix and that's available to everybody at that  
15 time.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that comment  
18 period is problematic for the Council because we only  
19 have two meetings a year. We have our October meeting.  
20 Our next meeting won't be until around -- what is our  
21 meeting date? Something like in the middle.....

22  
23                   MS. DEATHERAGE: October.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: October something.  
26 So that's problematic to get the pertinent comments  
27 from the subsistence community which would be able to  
28 comment on the 810 analysis, the primary thing. I've  
29 not seen the documents that's in review right now  
30 either. Are those on your website?

31  
32                   MS. ETHAN: The only documents that are  
33 on our website are what went out early in 2017 with the  
34 preliminary alternatives concepts. Per NEPA guidelines  
35 right now when we're going through this impact analysis  
36 and crafting the draft, actually we don't release any  
37 of that because that's pre-decisional until we go  
38 through our next review. Once that review is ready to  
39 go then we put everything out on the website.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So early May we're  
42 going to get these documents.

43  
44                   MS. ETHAN: Hopefully.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In the middle of our  
47 busiest time of the year.

48  
49                   MS. ETHAN: You are correct.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're supposed to  
2 make pertinent comments on that, so I would say that  
3 that does not adhere to Title VIII or 810 because it  
4 has a significant impact on the subsistence users and  
5 the timeline that the Secretary of Interior would  
6 violate the statute.  
7

8                   MS. ETHAN: My suggestion for a  
9 response, we fully acknowledge that. We've asked for  
10 extensions in our timelines. They have not been  
11 granted. I guess I would respond with two things.  
12 One, it's an estimated timeline. What I have seen in  
13 practice with other large environmental impact  
14 statements is that there has been significant internal  
15 delays. So while I say it's likely to come out in  
16 July, there's a high chance that we could be delayed  
17 yet again. I know that's not comforting for the  
18 Council because you have to be able to make plans, but  
19 it's sort of out of our control.  
20

21                   The other piece of that is underneath  
22 the current Secretarial order we're held to the NEPA  
23 streamlining. So we can take your concerns back to the  
24 Department and we'll voice those back up, but that may  
25 again be out of our control.  
26

27                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like that  
28 conveyed back to the Director of BLM. The timeline  
29 that the Secretary is violating the statute. So the  
30 Secretary is under obligation to the statute. This is  
31 an ANILCA 805 Council and anything related to  
32 subsistence has to be reviewed by this Council. That's  
33 a statute.  
34

35                   That Secretary is gone. They've got a  
36 different Secretary now or an interim Secretary. So  
37 maybe it's got to go back up the chain and go, hey,  
38 wait, Zinke was wrong here. He's actually violating  
39 some statutes. We need to move this timeline back a  
40 little bit so we can actually have pertinent comments  
41 on this resource management plan.  
42

43                   So that's what my position is. How  
44 does the Council feel about that, just regarding the  
45 timeline of this Central Yukon Resource Management  
46 Plan?  
47

48                   Tim.  
49  
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: So what's our course of  
2 action? We'd draft a letter to the Secretary of  
3 Interior?  
4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We work through the  
6 Federal Subsistence Board, but we can write directly to  
7 the Regional Director of Alaska. Who may that be? I'm  
8 not sure who that is.  
9

10 MS. ETHAN: Well, for BLM we are  
11 divided into states, so you'd have to write to the BLM  
12 State Director or.....  
13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: State Director.  
15

16 MS. ETHAN: .....you could contact the  
17 Department of Interior. We just have a new BLM State  
18 Director, which he was sworn in last week. It is Chad  
19 Padgett. So he is now officially on duty. Your other  
20 option is to contact the Department of Interior Office,  
21 which we have one here in the state of Alaska.  
22

23 The Acting Secretary is David  
24 Bernhardt. It is anticipated that he will go through  
25 his confirmation hearings next week. It remains to be  
26 seen how long those confirmation hearings will be going  
27 on through Congress, but at this point he's the Acting  
28 Secretary.  
29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will  
31 entertain a motion to dispatch a letter to the Regional  
32 Director Chad Padgett stating that the timeline - the  
33 past Secretary of Interior's timeline is not adequate  
34 for the Federally recognized Western Interior Regional  
35 Advisory Council's ability to comment, make pertinent  
36 comments to the resource management plan. This is a  
37 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council on fish and  
38 wildlife resources. So I feel that this needs to be  
39 transmitted sooner than later because May 1 is coming  
40 right up. That's about a month out or so. Do we have  
41 a motion to that effect?  
42

43 MS. PELKOLA: I'll make that motion.  
44

45 MR. KRISKA: Second.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tom.  
48

49 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, can we do a carbon  
50

1 copy of that to the Department of Interior office also  
2 or should we bring this up at the FSB meeting in two  
3 weeks in Anchorage?  
4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, our  
6 representative to the Federal Subsistence Board could  
7 bring this up because the Council members can make  
8 comments to the Federal Subsistence Board. I can't  
9 attend that meeting. I have a meeting conflict. So  
10 that person could also bring it up to the Federal  
11 Subsistence Board.  
12

13 It would be kind to the Regional  
14 Director to write this into a letter form so that the  
15 Regional Director, being brand new and has no idea  
16 about subsistence and statutes understands that this is  
17 a statutory thing and the timeline does not match with  
18 how the Councils actually meet. I can work with the  
19 Council Coordinator Karen Deatherage on this letter and  
20 draw up the various statutory language to transmit to  
21 the Regional Director.  
22

23 MR. COLLINS: Chair.  
24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.  
26

27 MR. COLLINS: This is Ray. Our next  
28 scheduled meeting when we could deal with this would be  
29 those fall series of meetings.  
30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, that's what our  
32 problem is. And we'll bring that up to the new  
33 Regional Director.  
34

35 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'd give him the  
36 timeline because those have been traditionally always  
37 scheduled in October.  
38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the rush for this  
40 resource management plan is far beyond me. I don't  
41 understand what the rush is. These are Federal public  
42 lands and the rush to make some timeline has never made  
43 any sense to me. We want to be thorough. When we had  
44 the last resource management plan for the Dalton  
45 Highway Corridor in the Central Yukon Region, we went  
46 through a timely process and had lots of time to  
47 comment on various things. So this is a little bit  
48 frustrating for the local people who utilize these  
49 lands and have a vested interest in maintaining those  
50

1 resources.  
2  
3 Any further comments on that letter.  
4  
5 (No comments)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a motion to  
8 adopt.  
9  
10 Do we have the question.  
11  
12 MS. PELKOLA: Question.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question called.  
15 Those in favor of the motion to transmit a letter to  
16 the Regional Director for Alaska regarding this  
17 timeline for the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan  
18 signify by saying aye.  
19  
20 IN UNISON: Aye.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.  
23  
24 (No opposing votes)  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there, Don?  
27  
28 MR. HONEA: Yes.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Didn't know  
31 you were there. So we've got Ray also?  
32  
33 MR. COLLINS: Yes. Aye.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Continue.  
36  
37 MS. ETHAN: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I  
38 have a question. Absent of a change in timeline or if  
39 indeed we are able to meet the timeline that's laid out  
40 in front of us -- as I articulated before I've seen a  
41 lot of delays, so it is unknown -- but if we are able  
42 to meet the timeline that's laid out in front of us, is  
43 there an appropriate way that the Council would like us  
44 to inform you when we are ready to go out for a draft  
45 and/or to engage in another method? I'm just thinking  
46 of alternative methods here.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For the Council, we  
49 have a Council Coordinator. That should be transmitted  
50

1 to OSM to our Council Coordinator and Eastern Interior  
2 would be involved in this process also. So that would  
3 be the most expeditious way to inform the Council so  
4 that we can access those documents and reviewing those  
5 as soon as possible.

6  
7 MS. ETHAN: Certainly, we'll do that.  
8 Additionally, I wanted to provide a couple of community  
9 output notes especially since members of the Council  
10 represents some of the communities that we've been  
11 engaged with recently. As part of our cooperators for  
12 the resource management plan they are government  
13 agencies that cooperate with us or work with us as part  
14 of the team.

15  
16 Allakaket has been involved for some  
17 time and recently we signed Ruby. Ed Sarton is the  
18 point of contact, so we've been engaged with Ed quite a  
19 bit actually over the last few weeks. I think he's  
20 sort of sick of listening to me call him with updates.

21  
22 We will also be traveling to Huslia  
23 next week and Koyukuk. There's been a request for  
24 G-to-G as well as cooperator status, so we're engaging  
25 there and then Venetie, which I know is not a member of  
26 this Council, but Venetie reached out to us recently  
27 and has requested the same. So I'm not sure when we'll  
28 be traveling to Venetie, but we're certainly engaged in  
29 those conversations as we speak.

30  
31 So I'd like to thank the communities  
32 that are involved and that have provided information.  
33 As I mentioned, we do have a small working group on  
34 subsistence and that information is really, really  
35 valuable. We've not only taken the ADF&G subsistence  
36 harvest data in a GIS layer, but we've also taken  
37 information that we found when we went out and met with  
38 communities scoping ACEC nominations, et cetera, and  
39 tried to lay that in as a layer of community input for  
40 subsistence harvest. So that is very valuable  
41 information and we have taken it to heart.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

44  
45 MS. PELKOLA: Jenny Pelkola, I'm the  
46 First Chief of Galena. I just want to know will you  
47 also be traveling to Galena?

48  
49 MS. ETHAN: We haven't had a request in  
50

1 some time, but we can work that in. When we were in  
2 Galena in 2017 there was some discussions back and  
3 forth about potentially coming back for some more  
4 G-to-G and/or cooperating agency status, but we haven't  
5 had a lot of conversations really since 2017. So if  
6 you'd like us to reach back out, we'd be happy to do  
7 that.

8  
9 MS. PELKOLA: Yes. As the First Chief,  
10 I would like you to.

11  
12 MS. ETHAN: Certainly. Thanks, Jenny.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

15  
16 MR. GERVAIS: Is the Northwest Arctic  
17 RAC also involved with this draft EIS?

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not exactly sure  
20 if they overlap into this area. I don't think so.  
21 They may have some customary and traditional use but  
22 don't know.

23  
24 Any other questions on this Central  
25 Yukon Resource Management Plan.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. Do you  
30 have any other information?

31  
32 MR. KRISKA: I have.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tom.

35  
36 MR. KRISKA: I have a question here.  
37 BLM does the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan and  
38 then looking at your EIS deal right here it says 90  
39 days to review the RAC input needed on the EIS timeline  
40 and then over here it says Ambler Road EIS timeline 45  
41 days. Is there two different deals we're talking about  
42 here?

43  
44 MS. ETHAN: There are two different  
45 projects and Bill will address the Ambler Road EIS.  
46 The reason there is a difference in time it has to do  
47 with BLM policy. Actually I believe it's written in  
48 the CFR, so Federal regulations. Land use plans  
49 require a minimum of a 90-day public comment period.

50

1 Those are also environmental impact statements. So a  
2 land use plan is covered by an environmental impact  
3 statement, but because it's a land use plan it is a  
4 minimum requirement of a 90-day public comment period.  
5

6 A large, complex authorization project  
7 like the Ambler Road also can be covered by an  
8 environmental impact statement, of which this one is,  
9 but that is only a required minimum 45-day public  
10 comment period. So, yeah, it's confusing. It has to  
11 do with the policy and the regs on what type of action  
12 it is. So, yeah, Bill can address the timeline for  
13 Ambler Road, but that is a 45-day compared to the RMP.  
14

15 Did I answer your question?  
16

17 MR. KRISKA: Yeah. Thank you.  
18

19 MS. ETHAN: Sure.  
20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions  
22 on the Central Yukon Management Plan.  
23

24 (No comments)  
25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. We'll  
27 continue on.  
28

29 MS. ETHAN: Thank you. I'll yield to  
30 Bill.  
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so  
33 much.  
34

35 MR. HEDMAN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
36 Member of the board. Thanks for having us. My name is  
37 Bill Hedman and I'm the assistant field manager in the  
38 Central Yukon Field Office for lands and realty  
39 actions.  
40

41 Today I'm just going to give you a  
42 little bit of information about the Ambler Road EIS  
43 project and the Anaktuvuk Pass snow trail effort and  
44 answer any questions from the board or the Chair  
45 that I can answer.  
46

47 In your packet that we provided, the  
48 first one here is the Ambler Road EIS. So the BLM  
49 Central Yukon Field Office is the lead agency for this  
50

1 project and we're heading up the environmental impact  
2 statement process. We've got several cooperators,  
3 including the State of Alaska, Allakaket and Alatna  
4 Traditional Councils, Environmental Protection Agency,  
5 the National Park Service, the Army Corps, the Coast  
6 Guard, Noorvik Native Community and the Northwest  
7 Arctic Borough. Those are the cooperating agencies.  
8

9 I think the big news sort of is where  
10 we're at right now in the process. We're trying to get  
11 geared up for a draft EIS. We've recently kind of  
12 settled on four alternatives that will be looked at in  
13 the draft EIS. Two weeks from now or the week after  
14 next we're going to be having some internal workshops  
15 where we're going to be looking at potential cumulative  
16 impacts from construction of a road development of  
17 mining out in the Ambler Mining District.  
18

19 So just to briefly run through these  
20 current alternatives. The first would be a no action  
21 alternative where the road is not permitted.  
22

23 The second alternative A would be a  
24 proposed route through the Gates of the Arctic National  
25 Park and Preserve, about a 211-mile route leaving from  
26 the Dalton Highway at Milepost 161.  
27

28 Alternative B is a similar route and  
29 that one actually has a bypass to the south that  
30 minimizes the amount of National Park land that the  
31 road would cross.  
32

33 Alternative C came out of our scoping  
34 and there was several comments indicating that some  
35 folks in the Interior would like to see a road running  
36 through a diagonal route, like run up through the area  
37 of Hughes and over towards the mining district. It's  
38 been called several things. A diagonal route,  
39 communities route, but we're calling it Alternative C.  
40 That would be quite a bit longer. It would be a  
41 332-mile road that would leave the Dalton Highway at  
42 about Milepost 59.5 and it would not involve a new  
43 crossing over the Yukon.  
44

45 Mr. Chairman, do you have any questions  
46 on where we're at with this process with Ambler Road?  
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you've drawn up a  
49 preliminary document and that will be released for the  
50

1 public review again sometime like in July or August?

2

3 MR. HEDMAN: Yeah. So where we're at  
4 right now is we are gearing up to publish this draft  
5 EIS. That should be -- the target is July for release  
6 of that and then we're into that 45-day public review  
7 July/August. So similar timing issues perhaps that  
8 we've got with the other.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We do have timing  
11 issues with that for this Council to make pertinent  
12 comments on that. Also the Gates of the Arctic  
13 Subsistence Resource Commission should also have a  
14 time. I'm vice chair of the Subsistence Resource  
15 Commission, so the Commission needs to be able to have  
16 time also to review that. So this 45-day timeline --  
17 the Commission would meet typically in early November.  
18 This Council is meeting in the middle of October.

19

20 So again this is a projected release  
21 possibly delayed. Should we discuss this in our letter  
22 to the Regional Director also?

23

24 MR. HEDMAN: I would recommend that.  
25 We're responding to the same Secretarial order to get  
26 this thing done under a timeline. So I think it would  
27 probably be appropriate to include  
28 it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will  
31 entertain a motion to add on the Ambler Road timeline  
32 for publication the same reasonings to the Regional  
33 Director for Alaska.

34

35 Do I have a motion to that effect.

36

37 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

38

39 MR. KRISKA: Second.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further  
42 discussion.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question. Those in  
47 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

2

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have all council  
6 members on that.

7

8

Any other questions from the Council on  
9 the Ambler Road Project?

10

11

Tim.

12

13

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you for your  
14 presentation, Bill. How significant does the impact  
15 need to be for the BLM to choose a no action  
16 alternative to the road?

17

18

MR. HEDMAN: That's a difficult  
19 question for me to answer. That would be something  
20 quite a few steps above my pay grade. State Director  
21 and Department of Interior level type question. I  
22 really can't answer that. I'm sorry.

23

24

MR. GERVAIS: So who is the group or  
25 individual who's going to decide what alternative is  
26 best?

27

28

MR. HEDMAN: It will be the authorized  
29 officer, which would be Tim LaMarr, field manager, but  
30 he likely would not do that alone. We get input on all  
31 of these big projects from our State Director and from  
32 Department. So the EIS process is a NEPA process.  
33 We're gaining input, we're creating a record.  
34 Everybody's comments are important. When there's  
35 questions down the road, those comments are there and  
36 we're accountable for our  
37 decisions.

38

39

MR. GERVAIS: Okay. But there's no  
40 like formula based on public comment or anything that  
41 says, okay, the project can't go forward because 80  
42 percent of the people are against it? There's no.....

43

44

MR. HEDMAN: No. And Chel can correct  
45 me. She knows the NEPA process better than I, but I  
46 can tell you at some point our elected folks have quite  
47 a bit of say in the outcomes. We can run the process  
48 but one perception may differ from another as to how  
49 severe impacts are. When there's real conflict, these

50

1 things can end up in the courts.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

4

5

6

MR. HEDMAN: I think Chel's got a --  
oh, go ahead.

7

8

9

10

11

12

MS. PELKOLA: Okay. From what I  
understand is that the road is already going through  
regardless of what we said and this came from an AIDEA  
rep.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

MR. HEDMAN: No, ma'am. The road is  
not a done deal. There's several steps that have to be  
completed. The environmental look through the EIS  
process has to be done, rights-of-ways would have to be  
issued. We're quite a ways I would say from saying  
it's a done deal.

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

MS. ETHAN: If I may, I can help  
clarify the NEPA process relative to this because  
admittedly it's a bit confusing. So right now this  
NEPA process is for the grant of the right-of-way not  
necessarily for construction of parts of the road, but  
to get to the question about how it will be determined  
a no action alternative.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

The intent behind the NEPA as a law is  
that we disclose all impact. When we do a full and  
proper NEPA analysis, we are required to disclose all  
impacts, positive and negative. It doesn't preclude an  
agency from picking some portion of an alternative that  
has an impact, but if they don't disclose it, that's  
where we're in legal trouble.

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

There have been projects in the past  
where there has been a decision that enough impact is  
there, that it's wise not to choose it. That usually  
is, as Bill says, well beyond our level. That kind of  
gets into the upper levels of an agency to make that  
determination.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Our job though, at Bill's level or even  
at Tim LaMarr's level, is to make sure that we have  
adequately addressed all the possible impacts, reached  
out to everybody, get them down on paper and document  
them so that somebody above who is weighing out those  
decisions has a full picture and also is accountable to  
the public on no matter which decision they choose.

1 And to say we agree, we concur, we understand what the  
2 potential impacts of an action are. Again, negative,  
3 positive or what have you.  
4

5 So, to clarify that, it's happened  
6 before. It's hard to determine, but our job is to  
7 disclose everything. And then to get to Ms. Pelkola's  
8 comment, this particular NEPA analysis is simply for  
9 the right-of-way authorization, but once a  
10 determination is made where that right-of-way could go,  
11 then there'll be a whole other series of steps to  
12 actually implement the road project. Some of those  
13 will be done at the local level and some will be done  
14 at the State level.  
15

16 So right now this is just can we  
17 authorize a right-of-way for a road project and then  
18 the next piece is probably years down the line and may  
19 or may not happen.  
20

21 MR. HEDMAN: I would add that we are  
22 not the only agency utilizing the EIS. This EIS will  
23 serve several agencies including the State of Alaska,  
24 NPS, the Corps, in doing their permitting. We'll get a  
25 record of decision and then we go to our grant of  
26 right-of-way. So we'll use this as the environmental  
27 analysis to support a grant of right-of-way if that's  
28 what we choose to do.  
29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.  
31

32 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
33 name is Pollock Simon, Sr. I live in Allakaket. The  
34 peoples of Allakaket and Alatna are all opposed to  
35 Ambler Road. So that's where I'm saying all those  
36 opposed to any road development. We don't have too  
37 good experience with the old pipeline road.  
38

39 The old pipeline road was started in  
40 1974 and stating that the road was going to be used for  
41 industrial use only, but it was later turned over to  
42 State and it was soon open to the public. Immediately  
43 around Allakaket area that already limited number of  
44 fish and wildlife.  
45

46 So if the Ambler Road was ever open to  
47 the public, it would be trucks and peoples coming up  
48 the road not only to look at the mountains but maybe  
49 hunt and fish in that area. The Ambler Road would  
50

1 travel westward just north of Allakaket and to prime  
2 hunting and fishing area.

3  
4 Peoples around my home are concerned  
5 about the Ambler road, afraid if there's a spill it  
6 could be disastrous. There's sheefish spawning areas  
7 in Alatna River and salmon spawning areas, so that's  
8 why I'm opposed to the Ambler Road.

9  
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those  
13 comments, Pollock. So that's Central Yukon's  
14 presentation.

15  
16 MR. HEDMAN: I can tell you a little  
17 bit about the Anaktuvuk.....

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please.

20  
21 MR. HEDMAN: .....Pass snow trail. So  
22 we've issued a five-year right-of-way to the North  
23 Slope Borough to have a crews construction create a  
24 winter snow trail from the vicinity of Galbraith Lake  
25 to Anaktuvuk Pass. I believe that entire route is  
26 about 100 miles, 101. Twenty-seven miles of it are on  
27 BLM-administered lands.

28  
29 The idea is that they would stage at  
30 Galbraith and then run escorted caravans across the  
31 snow trail. This year they've struggled with  
32 conditions north of the Brooks Range in the lower  
33 foothills. There just really isn't snow. So they're  
34 having some real issues and also with overflow. Lots  
35 of running water.

36  
37 So I struggled to get up-to-date  
38 information from crews for the Board and for this  
39 presentation, but I'm not certain that they're going to  
40 be able to put that in this year. We'll wait and hear.  
41 I'm still trying to get back with North Slope Borough,  
42 but they're having some real struggles.

43  
44 And I guess the last -- I know it's not  
45 in here, but some folks might be interested to know the  
46 status of the Bettles Road. They also have struggled.  
47 A little different situation. Lots of snow, lots of  
48 wet snow. They're not being very successful at getting  
49 that road or that trail laid in.

50

1 In fact Big State had gone up a couple  
2 weeks ago to try and work from the road from the Dalton  
3 Highway and actually I think put a D6 into the Jim  
4 River. They got it out pretty quickly. I'm not hearing  
5 any report of a release. They're, as far as I know  
6 right now, trying to build ice. We'll see where that  
7 goes.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Build ice at 35  
10 degrees doesn't work.

11  
12 MR. HEDMAN: I know. It's a tough one.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I saw pictures on  
15 Facebook of some like heavy track rigs that had been  
16 coming to Anaktuvuk Pass. Has there been a preliminary  
17 foray out there?

18  
19 MR. HEDMAN: Yeah. So they've had some  
20 PistenBully track vehicles running out the  
21 snowmachines. It sounds like they were having good  
22 conditions on portions of the trail. We're going to  
23 sort of reassess some of our communications with the  
24 various parties, including the State of Alaska, because  
25 the State has a special role in this in determining  
26 when it's open for tundra travel. They can grant  
27 certain waivers.

28  
29 I haven't seen that yet, but as soon as  
30 I can get with the Borough I'm assuming what I'll find  
31 out is they did get a special waiver for those low  
32 pressure vehicles to get out and they probably went  
33 into an area that had a little more snow, a little  
34 further from the mountains up near Toolik probably.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it's pretty  
37 blown off all the way out to Toolik. I've got a lot of  
38 experience over there. That's the least amount of snow  
39 for 30 years at least.

40  
41 MR. HEDMAN: Yeah.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is the route  
44 defined? I mean is there markers on the ground where  
45 this is going to be the road or it's a GPS coordinated  
46 thing?

47  
48 MR. HEDMAN: There's a map in your  
49 packet. Yeah, it was defined. We expect that as they  
50

1 move out they're not going to follow that GPS line  
2 exactly if they have to get around something but within  
3 reason and then they would do like an as-built GPS of  
4 it, stake it and then we would look at do we stick with  
5 that one route or maybe do we shift it based on what we  
6 see when we do monitoring. There could be an argument  
7 for not using that same route year after year.  
8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I mean people  
10 in Anaktuvuk are real excited about that winter road.  
11 That's made a huge difference for people to go take  
12 vehicles and stuff from the spine roads. It seems to  
13 me not a good year to do that because you're going to  
14 be basically crushing all the tussocks down. There's  
15 virtually no snow at Galbraith. None. It sublimates.  
16 A snow scientist told me a snowflake or grain of snow  
17 doesn't blow over 2 kilometers before it sublimates. I  
18 thought it blew away. No, it just dries it up. It's  
19 really warm on that side. This warm wind goes over the  
20 Brooks Range, dumps all the snow and downslopes and  
21 heats. So it's been above freezing temperature or near  
22 freezing temperature on the north side and it dried all  
23 the snow out of those valleys. So it's probably not  
24 the best year to go out there to Anaktuvuk.  
25

26 MR. HEDMAN: No, I would agree.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The overflow is  
29 going to be a chronic problem because that's the way --  
30 there's spring lines along the front of the mountains  
31 and they release static flow of water. So overflow is  
32 a chronic issue. Remember the Sag River debacle.  
33 That's just the way it is up against the mountains.  
34 That's where that water comes from. So good to know  
35 where that route is, that it kind of stays around the  
36 same place.  
37

38 So that's the end of Central Yukon's  
39 presentation?  
40

41 MR. HEDMAN: I guess in closing I would  
42 just thank Mr. Simon for your comments and what I'm  
43 hearing from you it's what we've heard and I'm really  
44 heartened at the involvement of Alatna and Allakaket.  
45 They've got good representation in this process. So  
46 thank you.  
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There may be public.  
49 I saw P.J. here. Is there anybody in the room that  
50

1 wants to comment on this portion of Central Yukon's  
2 presentation.

3

4 Pollock.

5

6 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
7 peoples would like to add if Ambler Road just being  
8 limited to industrial use only and keep it that way and  
9 not open it to the public. Our elders around the areas  
10 have mentioned before.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And  
15 that's why the importance of the comment period being  
16 extended so that the public can make pertinent  
17 mitigations. If approved, there has to be mitigations  
18 to the impacts. The haul road was going to be closed  
19 to the public. It's actually in ANILCA that the road  
20 was going to be closed to the public and lo and behold  
21 it's not closed to the public because they spent one  
22 dollar of Federal highway funds.

23

24 If there's on dollar -- and that's an  
25 important issue that needs to be brought out in the  
26 disclosure, is there going to be Federal highway funds  
27 involved in this project. I want to know that in your  
28 document. So that's an important problem. They can  
29 say anything they want to, but if they spend one dollar  
30 the road will be open to the public. That's the way  
31 this works. We learned that. Been there, done that.

32

33 I would like any of the public here --  
34 this is a public forum, so I'd like the public to  
35 comment briefly on the point in process for the Central  
36 Yukon Resource Management Plan and the Ambler Road and  
37 the Anaktuvuk Road if anybody wants to speak. I'm just  
38 opening the floor.

39

40 Go ahead, Pollock -- I mean P.J.

41

42 MR. P.J. SIMON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. My  
43 name is P.J. Simon for the record. I was past chief of  
44 Allakaket Tribal Council and been involved with the  
45 Ambler Road process since the tribal members of  
46 Allakaket and Alatna saw the DOT remote operated  
47 weather station up by Help Me Jack Creek where the  
48 proposed road was supposed to cross.

49

50

1                   Now I can't recall how many years ago  
2 that was, Mr. Chairman, but the hunters called that  
3 number and it was explained to them they're going to  
4 build a road and the tribal councils of both tribes  
5 became aware of that. So they called the DOT and they  
6 said why didn't you inform the Allakaket/Alatna Tribal  
7 Councils or Evansville. They said we don't have to,  
8 it's not your land. So this brought out a long,  
9 drawn-out fight versus sovereignty on traditional  
10 homelands.

11  
12                   It's like my dad said, Allakaket Tribe  
13 and Alatna and Evansville have stood strong against the  
14 road. I can't speak for Hughes. The issues at hand  
15 were, well, access to subsistence resources, renewable  
16 resources, biological resources like Dall sheep. The  
17 Alatna River spawning area. The second largest spawn  
18 river for whitefish and sheefish in Interior Alaska off  
19 the Yukon and also the Henshaw River. Fifteen percent  
20 of the whole Yukon River chum run spawns in the  
21 Henshaw.

22  
23                   And 7,000 Dall sheep in the Gates of  
24 the Arctic National Park and Preserve and also the  
25 caribou. Around 200,000 of the Western Arctic Caribou  
26 Herd that used to migrate to Allakaket. Also our moose  
27 has been cyclical, going up, going down, 2,000 to 800  
28 to 2,000, back down.

29  
30                   It's like Sidney Huntington said when  
31 he went up there a few years ago. He went up in 1926,  
32 1982 and a few years ago when a member of our community  
33 passed away and he flew in. He said this is some tough  
34 country. Mr. Chairman, you know very well how tough  
35 that country is. We're rich in -- we've got good  
36 country, but the habitat doesn't really -- if you  
37 stratify a habitat, it's not high moose density  
38 habitat.

39  
40                   If we cut down populations of ungulates  
41 like moose, the population models have shown, according  
42 to the ecology of most American wild moose, that no  
43 matter how good the vegetative carrying capacity is  
44 you'll never get back that moose population or caribou  
45 population or sheep population.

46  
47                   Those are the concerns of the Allakaket  
48 Tribe. I pushed hard and although there's Barrett  
49 Ristroph, the tribe contracted her and she works well  
50

1 with us, and she made Allakaket a cooperating agency,  
2 one of the first in Interior Alaska, so we  
3 could work with Ms. Ethan and Bureau of Land Management  
4 on this process.  
5

6 One of the other questions is, if I can  
7 recall, last year Doyon Limited wrote a letter to BLM  
8 before the comment period deadline of going west and it  
9 was an extensive and comprehensive 13-page, 14-page  
10 deal on, well, look at the options of going west, from  
11 Bornite to the West Coast, which would make sense  
12 financially in terms of getting ore to smelters,  
13 wherever they go in the world. I don't know where Red  
14 Dog has it.  
15

16 We're also concerned about noise  
17 pollution affecting the caribou, the sheep. The miners  
18 coming in in terms of hunting pressure, also fugitive  
19 dust, invasive species. You name it. Bridges across  
20 rivers. So there's a lot to be talked about. Our  
21 estimates locally -- you know, we're not economists,  
22 we're not estimators -- this road will cost very well  
23 over a billion dollars.  
24

25 So out of concern I'm flying to Kobuk  
26 on Saturday, Mr. Chairman, with Trilogy Metals and meet  
27 with NANA at their annual meeting and see what their  
28 take on the matter is. And our concern is with high  
29 unemployment and subsistence is the Upper Koyukuk's way  
30 of life.  
31

32 Mr. Kriska, you're a board member, you  
33 flew up to Allakaket a few times and you've seen what  
34 the country is like. You look at the last part of --  
35 gosh, you can look across the United States, Mr.  
36 Chairman, and the southern Brooks Range is the last  
37 beautiful place pretty much in North America. You have  
38 three species of caribou that comes through migrating,  
39 you've got sheep, you've got salmon, you've got fish,  
40 you've got everything there. Very rarely do you have  
41 an area like that.  
42

43 Allakaket, they've worked well with the  
44 guiding industry, they've worked well with the air taxi  
45 operators. Jay Jespersen, Dave Leonard, all those guys  
46 that work out of Bettles, they've actually brought meat  
47 to the tribal members of Allakaket, 7.50 a gallon, Mr.  
48 Chairman. So it's a tough life out there. But  
49 non-Natives and Natives, we've worked together well,  
50

1 well over the last 80 years, however long guiding has  
2 taken place.

3  
4 So the road is something new. You  
5 know, sometimes you keep an open mind on what do you --  
6 as a leader, what do you do for your children. Do you  
7 set a placeholder for employment, education, job  
8 opportunity or do you protect your traditional way of  
9 life. That's a tough situation. Like Ms. Ethan has  
10 said with Bureau of Land Management, this road is not  
11 set in stone.

12  
13 Allakaket/Alatna Tribes have opposed  
14 this road. To us it's something that, well, you make a  
15 road right through the whole world is going to come.  
16 You look at the effects of subsistence activities.

17  
18 Take, for example, the Yukon River  
19 Bridge, that lodge there. I talked to the owner. I  
20 travel through there quite a bit. I have an active  
21 trapline towards Bettles, so I have unlimited use of  
22 inholdings. And the last two years with all the Asians  
23 coming in, you know, I don't mind, but hundreds and  
24 hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of them. There's  
25 430 million middle class Chinese wanting to come to  
26 Alaska.

27  
28 So take that along with the road,  
29 trucks, people, hunters, miners, it will in my opinion  
30 destroy the culture. Is that a value to United States,  
31 is that a value to the Department of Interior as the  
32 First Nations people? Of course it is. That's our  
33 livelihood. And with climate change  
34 compounding everything, affecting the wildlife, we  
35 don't know what's going to happen.

36  
37 Mr. Chairman, I would say proceed with  
38 caution against development like this. A  
39 billion-dollar road, whether the powers that be push it  
40 through and the tribe is against it or corporation is  
41 for it or the ANC is for it, that's yet to be  
42 determined. But we've been fighting this for I would  
43 say seven years, eight years.

44  
45 Like I said with St. Mary's, golly,  
46 what do you call -- Myron Naneng used to work for the  
47 Association of Village Council Presidents and we went  
48 down there for the Yukon River Fish Commission and  
49 their elders were very concerned about the salmon  
50

1 spawning grounds in the Koyukuk River and development.

2

3

4 So Myron Naneng newspapers converts to  
5 Allakaket and we had a meeting. All the  
6 environmentalists in the state went to Allakaket and we  
7 stopped the road and we said let's talk about this for  
8 a little bit. I think there was positive dialogue and  
9 it's been happening like this every since.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question for you  
12 is -- I don't know if you've got the document here, but  
13 it says they're planning on releasing the EIS in  
14 July/August of 2019 with a 45-day comment period. Do  
15 you feel that subsistence users can -- is that an  
16 adequate amount of time at that time of the year to --  
17 we're writing a letter to the Regional Director about  
18 that timeline.

19

20 This Council feels that this timeline  
21 should be pushed back to into the early part of the  
22 winter, into October at least, to where people can have  
23 time -- you're enumerating a lot of things that need to  
24 be commented on. How can people do that in the middle  
25 of the harvest season? That does not accommodate Title  
26 VIII of ANILCA.

27

28 So I feel that you, as a Doyon board  
29 member, Doyon should be on board with Western Interior  
30 on pushing these timelines back. The beginning of  
31 these timelines need to be at a time when people can  
32 make valid comments to mitigate all these myriad of  
33 different issues that are going to be coming up when we  
34 see the document.

35

36 MR. P.J. SIMON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.  
37 For the record, I am associated with Doyon Limited.  
38 I'm their vice chairman. I cannot speak for Doyon at  
39 this time, but I can bring the comments back to the  
40 board of directors.

41

42 Also one more comment on Option C that  
43 goes through the Ray Mountains towards Hughes. I  
44 believe 1986 there was an act of Congress to make Lake  
45 Todatonten a special interest area, 37,000 acres, and  
46 every year since '86, I believe, they're supposed to  
47 have an annual meeting with two representatives from  
48 Tanana, Huslia, Hughes, Allakaket, Koyukuk and  
49 Evansville, and any kind of activity that goes through

50

1 that area will have to go through that standing board.  
2 So I looked at the proposed route that goes through  
3 Lake Todatonten. My family owns 160 acres there and  
4 we're also very concerned.  
5

6 There's a lot of unanswered questions.  
7 It's a big project. It's going to cost money. As you  
8 know, Mr. Chairman and members of the board, there is  
9 no money right now unless it's an act of the President  
10 of the United States as well, national security, we  
11 need this road, but I don't see it happening soon. I  
12 think keeping an open mind and working with the powers  
13 that be who are pushing this road or against it and  
14 hearing both sides is positive.  
15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
17

18 Any questions.  
19

20 Tom.  
21

22 MR. KRISKA: This is just to the  
23 people. With these road things, I just have a few  
24 things concerning, you know, all these issues with this  
25 road. You know, like they say, crap flows downhill and  
26 we're downhill. I'm really concerned on behalf of the  
27 Koyukuk River people. A lot of things are going to be  
28 coming through that river. Just because of the history  
29 of the hunting on the Koyukuk River. We're pretty  
30 concerned about that whole issue.  
31

32 I don't like it even though things are  
33 regulated and all of that, but you're not going to  
34 regulate anybody that's going down that road. It's  
35 just going to be an open road. Us Native people will  
36 be hit harder than anything. I mean it's going to be a  
37 disaster to us and our livelihood.  
38

39 With government, all those assistance  
40 things that are out there, they're all going to wind up  
41 going away anyway. So that going away, our moose going  
42 away, and then the problem becomes bigger. So I kind  
43 of oppose this road. If anything good was going to  
44 come out of it -- well, I don't see it.  
45

46 During this little timeline you have,  
47 you have 45 days, I think that should be passed back to  
48 at least October and November because you know as well  
49 as -- well, I don't know if you know, but our people  
50

1 we're just like the beavers. We have limited time to  
2 be feeding on fish and there's a lot of food that we  
3 gather up and put away at this time that you have your  
4 timeline. Why I speak to this is because most of us  
5 are going to be thinking about our stomachs when other  
6 people are thinking about their pockets and I kind of  
7 don't like it.

8  
9 So I think this timeline should be  
10 pushed into October or November where we have a little  
11 bit more time to think once we're done with what we're  
12 doing there. That's just where I am coming from there.

13  
14 Another thing too, you need to think  
15 about the man up above, you know. When things don't  
16 need to be done, maybe he put issues in there and  
17 that's probably one of the reasons that you're having a  
18 hard time with this Anaktuvuk deal, snow road.

19  
20 There's a lot to think about there.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those  
25 comments, Tom.

26  
27 One more comment there, P.J.

28  
29 MR. SIMON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
30 Chairman. To answer your question on the 45-day  
31 period, I think that's too short for a lot of the  
32 tribes involved along the Koyukuk and Yukon Rivers.  
33 Mr. Chairman, everything is written and communicated in  
34 high standards American English that a lot of our  
35 elders who we seek knowledge through, a collective  
36 wisdom of elders from our people, they've got to be  
37 able to vet the concerns via the medium of the tribal  
38 councils or Tanana Chiefs Conference or, like you said,  
39 a corporation or Gana-a'yoo or Doyon Limited.

40  
41 I guess my concern as a private  
42 citizen, Mr. Chairman, is that since things are done in  
43 high standards American English how can we understand  
44 it in 45 days yet make decisions that's going to change  
45 the way we live with a road or a proposed road or  
46 however it happens.

47  
48 So that's my comments.

49  
50

1 Can I go to the back now, Mr. Chairman?

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, you may.

6

7

Go right ahead.

8

9

MR. P.J. SIMON: Thank you, sir.

10

11

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much. I appreciate Central Yukon coming and giving us a report on these three projects. It's of very high interest as you can tell, so we do appreciate you bringing up the various paperwork and timelines. So it's good for you to hear these comments also.

12

13

Thank you very much.

14

15

MR. HEDMAN: Absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks, board.

16

17

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to start with Bonnie now.

18

19

20

MS. MILLION: Good morning. My name is Bonnie Million. I am the field manager for the BLM's Anchorage Field Office. First off, I would like to thank the Council so much for the opportunity to come and present to you today.

21

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26

I am here today to discuss the BLM Bering Sea-Western Interior Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft EIS, which is currently out for a 90-day public comment period. That public comment period started on March 15th and runs through June 13th.

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32

There was a packet of information that I believe Karen passed out to the Council yesterday. It starts with a news release on top which announces the start of the public comment period and then it has some fact sheets associated with it and a summary of what some of the alternatives outline.

33

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Just a quick background. This plan, the Bering Sea-Western Interior Plan, has been in the works since 2013, I believe, is when the public scoping period was first kicked off. We went out to communities in the area to sort of initiate that public

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1 scoping period. We sent letters out to tribes inviting  
2 for cooperating agency status and  
3 government-to-government consultation. I believe there  
4 were presentations that were made at subsistence RAC  
5 meetings at that time.

6  
7 There was another round of public  
8 outreach which occurred in 2015 when BLM Staff went out  
9 to the same communities again to talk about preliminary  
10 alternatives. Ideas for what we were thinking about  
11 for the alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS.

12  
13 Now we're into the public comment  
14 period, which is sort of the summation of public  
15 involvement on this project process. We have the  
16 projector that is behind me on the wall that has out  
17 main planning website up. That website is  
18 [www.blm.gov/alaska/bswi](http://www.blm.gov/alaska/bswi) and that will bring up this  
19 website that's up right now.

20  
21 What I'd like to first point  
22 everybody's attention to is right on this first page  
23 that you come to has our meeting schedule for public  
24 community meeting, for public comment and also for the  
25 ANILCA 810 subsistence hearings. We did have a  
26 preliminary finding in this draft EIS of a  
27 may-significantly-restrict call for some of the  
28 alternatives. Actually I think for all of the  
29 alternatives. So at these community meetings we will  
30 also be holding ANILCA 810 hearings at that time.

31  
32 So just really quickly for the record I  
33 would like to read out the meetings that we currently  
34 have scheduled. On April 10th we will be meeting at  
35 the Nulato Tribal office, on April 15th we will be  
36 meeting in McGrath, on April 19th we will be meeting in  
37 Chuathbaluk and April 22nd we will be meeting in  
38 Unalakleet, April 23rd at the Crooked Creek Tribal  
39 Office, on April 24th in Aniak, April 30th at Kalskag  
40 Tribal Office and one at the Lower Kalskag Community  
41 Building.

42  
43 We are still trying to get in touch  
44 with folks from Bethel, Russian Mission, Holy Cross and  
45 Grayling. I think I just got an email this morning  
46 that we've got a tentative meeting scheduled at Kaltag,  
47 so the website will be updated with that meeting date  
48 and time here shortly. If folks have any contacts at  
49 Grayling or at Holy Cross that we might be able to  
50

1 reach out at.

2

3 We're really hoping to meet with folks  
4 in April or early May. That way we can walk folks  
5 through the document, understanding that resource  
6 management plans are highly complex documents. It's a  
7 very high level, planning level document. So I'd like  
8 to be able to communities, have these conversations  
9 with folks, but still leave them enough time before the  
10 June 13th end of the public comment period to pool  
11 their comments together and submit them by that due  
12 date.

13

14 In addition to the public meetings on  
15 this Bering Sea-Western Interior website up at the top  
16 we have links directly to the actual draft RMP and EIS  
17 document. Then there's another kind of cool, I'm going  
18 to geek out a little bit, I used to be a GIS person, we  
19 have a link to a web map that provides an interactive  
20 experience with some of the alternative management  
21 decisions which are being proposed. Of course right  
22 now it's not working on this website. I encourage  
23 folks to check that out.

24

25 The planning site also has maps that  
26 are available. I brought the Council a collection of  
27 large maps in the back and organized by management sort  
28 of decisions. I'll be around all day today and I'm  
29 more than happy to walk anybody through those if  
30 they've got any questions.

31

32 I would really quickly, just sort of  
33 preemptively, like to discuss -- this project has been  
34 going on since 2013. We have cooperating agencies that  
35 have been participating in this process since that  
36 time. Those are the State of Alaska, U.S. Fish and  
37 Wildlife Service and the Native Village of Chuathbaluk.  
38 Recently, since October of 2018, the Bering Sea/Wester  
39 Interior has received, I believe, 13 additional  
40 cooperating agency requests. We have responded to all  
41 of those requests and we are in varying stages of that  
42 discussion, but just recently we did sign on the Nulato  
43 Tribal Council as a new cooperating agency.

44

45 I did want to explain to the Council  
46 that the main reason we're having that conversation is  
47 the Bering Sea-Western Interior Plan is in a much  
48 different stage of development than the Central Yukon  
49 Plan. I'm sure Councilman Jarvis can attest to

50

1 cooperating agency status is a lot of work associated  
2 with this.

3  
4 So with all of the new requests that we  
5 have received since October I want to have, and I have  
6 been having, conversations with those tribes to ensure  
7 that they understand where we're at in the process,  
8 what opportunities there are for cooperating agencies  
9 to participate in the process given that we already  
10 have a draft EIS that's out for public comment, and  
11 what some of those timelines look like.

12  
13 We have an ambitious timeframe once  
14 this Draft EIS closes for public comment and some of  
15 those cooperating agency status review periods are in  
16 June and July. I understand that is not the ideal time  
17 for some communities to participate. So I did want to  
18 give an update on that.

19  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can't read the  
22 back screen there very good. You're in the EIS release  
23 and you have the options out and that's for comment  
24 currently?

25  
26 MS. MILLION: Correct.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And when does that  
29 end?

30  
31 MS. MILLION: That public comment  
32 period closes on June 13th, 2019.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's already open,  
35 so we can't really try to mitigate that by pushing that  
36 back. In our letter to the Regional Director can we  
37 request push back on that so that we can have pertinent  
38 comments?

39  
40 MS. MILLION: The Council is always  
41 available to request that, yes.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I do feel that  
44 the current timeline is too ambitious and I feel that,  
45 as we've stated earlier, we need to be able to -- as  
46 Council Member Kriska says, we're like beavers. We're  
47 basically harvesting from spring to fall and once we  
48 start into the winter then we've got time to deal with  
49 this kind of stuff. I like that saying.

50

1 (Laughter)

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will entertain a motion to add on the Bering Sea-Western Interior RMP timeline to our letter to the Regional Director to request that it be extended to at least the end of October through its current comment period.

MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So moved by Jenny.

Do I have a second.

MR. KRISKA: Second.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tom. Those in favor of that addition to the letter to the Regional Director of the BLM on timeline for these RMP processes and the Ambler Road signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you too, Ray?

MR. COLLINS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that will be an add on. Any Council comments on the project. Tim.

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks for your presentation, Bonnie. Can you briefly review for us -- BLM staff for your office and for Central Yukon you got a directive from who, the Secretary of Interior, that said that all projects need to be fast-tracked to the minimal amount of days? Is that the official situation?

MS. MILLION: So Chel can correct me on this if I am wrong, but we received a Secretarial Order 3355, which addressed NEPA streamlining and it addressed trying to shorten the size and length of the documents. Trying to make them a little bit more readable and understandable and one of those page limits was a target of 150 pages in length with a possibility of extension up to 300 pages in certain situations. So 300 pages is what the Bering Sea-Western Interior Resource Management Plan shot for for

1 the length of the document. Not including appendices.

2

3 But the timelines for EISs under that  
4 Secretarial Order the target date was an EIS would be  
5 completed within one year. They also had some  
6 timelines associated with environmental assessments,  
7 but I won't go into that here.

8

9 MR. GERVAIS: So do you feel with the  
10 resources in your respective offices that you have time  
11 to adequately vet these projects on that suggested or  
12 mandated timeline?

13

14 MS. MILLION: We are working through  
15 it. It's definitely challenging especially with all of  
16 the other work that's going on. We definitely have  
17 other applications that are in front of us and other  
18 projects that we're working on, so we're trying to  
19 balance that act of working on this project and giving  
20 it its due diligence and also completing the other  
21 projects and preparing for our field season because  
22 there's a lot of field work that our staff do to assist  
23 with weir roll-outs in Unalakleet and whatnot. So it's  
24 definitely a challenge.

25

26 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, can this  
27 Council request the Federal Subsistence Board to  
28 request the new Secretary to rescind that order or  
29 reconsider that -- what, 303.....

30

31 MS. MILLION: I believe it's  
32 Secretarial Order 3355.

33

34 MR. GERVAIS: 3355, as it's not meeting  
35 our regional needs  
36 for project evaluation.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, I think we can.

39

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: A letter?

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to write  
44 a letter regarding Secretarial Order 3355, the  
45 Secretary of Interior's Office. The arm of the  
46 Secretary of Interior's Office is the Federal  
47 Subsistence Board. So we can request that the Federal  
48 Subsistence Board address that issue that these  
49 timelines are in violation of ANILCA Section 810, so we

50

1 can add that to that letter.

2

3 Do you want to make a motion to that  
4 effect.

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I make a motion in  
7 our letter to the Federal Subsistence Board to request  
8 a rescission or reevaluation of Executive Order 3355.  
9 The accelerated timeline is not meeting our regional  
10 needs for public comment.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It basically  
13 violates the statutory requirement of ANILCA that has a  
14 public forum to comment on anything that addresses  
15 subsistence. So the statutory requirement trumps any  
16 kind of executive order from the Secretary of  
17 Interior's Office.

18

19 The Federal Subsistence Board should  
20 basically push back and say, no, this violates Federal  
21 statute and we have to allow the Councils to comment.  
22 Basically it's our position that it's in violation of  
23 ANILCA statute to allow a public forum that allows the  
24 Councils under 805 the ability to comment within a  
25 reasonable amount of time.

26

27 Do you have a comment, Jenny?

28

29 MS. PELKOLA: I was just going to  
30 second that motion.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion by Tim,  
33 seconded by Jenny to add that to the letter to the  
34 Federal Subsistence Board asking to rescind that  
35 Secretarial Order 3355 by the past Secretary of  
36 Interior.

37

38 Any questions on that.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: Do we want to talk about  
45 for Alaska because of our summer subsistence  
46 activities? For tribes Outside who don't have the same  
47 harvest schedule, they may be able to meet the 45 days.  
48 So just rescinding it would be nationwide, but I think  
49 they may need to make a distinction for Alaska.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A good point because  
2 it is Title VIII of ANILCA, Alaska National Interest  
3 Lands Conservation legislation. So good point. It  
4 should be Alaska specific because it is violating the  
5 ANILCA. Good point, Ray. Appreciate that.  
6

7 MS. ETHAN: Mr. Chairman. If I can  
8 offer a point of clarification to echo what you just  
9 said. The Secretarial Order was issued nationwide I  
10 think with the intent of cleaning up NEPA. We could  
11 all agree that there are reasons to clean it up.  
12 Shorten lengthy time periods, make the documents more  
13 readable. I think it was set with good intent.  
14

15 But you are correct, it was absent on  
16 Alaskan provisions. I think you've articulated that. I  
17 just wanted to echo that the order is national in  
18 scope, but it is silent on any specific Alaskan laws  
19 and restrictions or requirements. So addressing those  
20 may be helpful for the folks that need to revise it  
21 because clearly they may not have had that information  
22 when they crafted the order.  
23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that  
25 clarification for the record. It will be in the  
26 transcript. So it's Alaska specific. Those in favor of  
27 that addition to the letter to the Federal Subsistence  
28 Board in regards to Interior Secretary Order 3355  
29 signify by saying aye.  
30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.  
32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
34

35 (No opposing votes)  
36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much on  
38 that. Karen.  
39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
41 I was just wondering if Don is still on the phone.  
42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I heard him there.  
44

45 MR. HONEA: Yes. I did an aye.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I heard you, Don.  
48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: I just wanted to make  
50

1 sure. Thank you.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bonnie.

4

5

6 MS. MILLION: Well, I will be here as I  
7 said all day today. The information that I've got in  
8 the back, both of the summary sheets that the Council  
9 has and the maps, are available online. If you have any  
10 questions about any of the meeting times, any of the  
11 communities, about the project itself, please do pop by  
12 and grab me. I'm more than happy to talk about it. Of  
13 course, you can email me at any time.

13

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to question  
the RMP. Is it taking into account the right-of-ways  
that's being requested for the Donlin Creek pipelines?  
Is that included in the RMP, the right-of-way proposals  
for gas line, et cetera?

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

MS. MILLION: Sure. So the Donlin  
right-of-way project is complete from a BLM perspective  
as far as the NEPA process is concerned. So in this  
Resource Management Plan Draft EIS that Donlin project  
is considered as part of the cumulative effects  
analysis, but not in terms of the actual management  
actions being proposed.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.

36

37

38

39

40

41

MS. PELKOLA: Bonnie, will there be a  
time in the schedule for cooperating agency meetings?

42

43

44

45

46

MS. PELKOLA: I have another question.  
I noticed you read out a whole bunch of names of  
villages where you're going to. Are you going there by  
invitation?

47

48

49

50

MS. MILLION: Yes. We reached out to  
the communities that we met with in 2013 and 2015 to  
see if they would like a public community meeting again

1 at this period and that's how we've been setting these  
2 up.  
3

4 In addition we have also sent out  
5 tribal letters to the 76 tribes which are within the  
6 planning area. We either provided a paper copy of the  
7 document. I believe it was to the 27 tribes that are  
8 in proximity of BLM lands, and then we also sent out  
9 electronic copies to the remaining tribes in the area  
10 inviting government-to-government consultation. Then  
11 in addition we also sent consultation letters to the  
12 ANCSA corporations within the planning area.  
13

14 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. You also mentioned  
15 that you had a cooperating agreement with Nulato.  
16

17 MS. MILLION: Correct. Nulato Tribal  
18 Council. They just recently signed on. I believe we  
19 officially signed off on it like a week or two ago.  
20

21 MS. PELKOLA: Is that open to all  
22 tribes?  
23

24 MS. MILLION: Any tribe that has the  
25 expertise to be able to weigh in on the planning  
26 process and the management actions that are going on  
27 can request cooperating agency status.  
28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That sounds  
30 good. And we'll look at some of your maps. I think  
31 we're ready for a break. We'll break until 10:50.  
32 Give us a 20-minute break and we're back on the record  
33 sharp.  
34

35 (Off record)  
36

37 (On record)  
38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to come  
40 back to order. We have 11:00 here. I want to know  
41 who's on the phone.  
42

43 MR. COLLINS: This is Ray. I'm on.  
44

45 MR. JOLY: Hello, Mr. Chairman. This  
46 is Kyle Joly with the National Park Service.  
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to  
49 finish up with Bonnie. She's going to give us the  
50

1 supplement to her report from BLM. Then I'm going to  
2 do YR DFA, then Yukon Delta report, then the National  
3 Park Service report and Alaska Department of Fish and  
4 Game, would be the order that we're going to be going  
5 in.

6  
7 So, Bonnie. Let's see if I've got a  
8 quorum here. Who do I have on the phone? Do I got  
9 Ray?

10  
11 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have  
14 Don out there?

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don's not there, but  
19 Tommy is back. Go ahead, Bonnie.

20  
21 MS. MILLION: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 Apologies. This is Bonnie Million, Field Manager for  
23 the BLM Anchorage Field Office again. I forgot what's  
24 possibly one of the more important points about the  
25 Bering Sea-Western Interior Resource Management Plan  
26 that is currently out for public comment.

27  
28 We have three action alternatives that  
29 are being proposed in the Draft EIS. Alternative B, C  
30 and D. Alternative B is sort of more of a  
31 conservation-minded alternative. Alternative D is more  
32 of a development of use alternative. Alternative C  
33 sort of is in the middle of the road and that's the  
34 alternative in the Draft EIS which is identified as the  
35 agency's preferred alternative.

36  
37 One clarification on that designation.  
38 Preferred alternative just means it's the alternative  
39 at this stage in the came that the agency is pointing  
40 to as that's pretty close to what we think we want to  
41 do, but it does not mean that in the final EIS and the  
42 final decision that that is the alternative that we  
43 have to pick. We have the opportunity to create sort  
44 of like an ala carte alternative as the final resource  
45 management plan where we can pick and choose from the  
46 different management actions being proposed across the  
47 different alternatives.

48  
49 So I just wanted to say that so when  
50

1 you are reviewing the document and you are formulating  
2 your comments, if you're seeing management actions in B  
3 or in D that you think that is really great, that would  
4 work perfectly for my community or area, please do feel  
5 free to identify those and point them out and tell us  
6 why and we can keep that in mind when we're vetting the  
7 final EIS.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions on  
10 that.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate  
15 that supplement.

16  
17 MS. MILLION: Thank you so much.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So YRDFA, Wayne  
20 Jenkins is going to come up.

21  
22 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and  
23 the Council for taking the time to listen to my words.  
24 I'm Wayne Jenkins. I'm the Director of the Yukon River  
25 Drainage Fisheries Association. The first thing I would  
26 like to do is just follow up on some of the BLM work  
27 that we've been doing.

28  
29 As you know from previous reports to  
30 the Council that Suzanne Little with the Pew Charitable  
31 Trust, Wayne Jenkins with YRDFA and more recently Bob  
32 Sattler with TCC have been working by invitation to  
33 assist tribes in participating with the Bering Sea-  
34 Western Interior and the Central Yukon Resource  
35 Management Planning that you've just heard so much  
36 about this morning.

37  
38 Many tribes have engaged with the BLM  
39 resource management planning through nominations of  
40 areas of critical environmental concern in order to  
41 achieve protections of traditional lands people have  
42 used for thousands of years. In these nominations  
43 tribes shared with BLM in both the Bering Sea-Western  
44 Interior and Central Yukon planning processes what is  
45 important to them. The health, use and access to the  
46 lands and the waters that they have always hunted,  
47 fished and used to meet their needs in a tough region.

48  
49 Several of the ACEC nominations were

50

1 rejected because they were not relevant and important  
2 enough to meet the BLM criteria. Tribes have followed  
3 up by seeking cooperative agency status with BLM, which  
4 they have a right to and which would give tribes a seat  
5 at the table. BLM's response to these requests have  
6 not always been adequate.  
7

8 In response, Chief Victor Joseph of TCC  
9 has sent a letter of concern to the Secretary of  
10 Interior Zinke, which led to Senior Advisor of Alaska  
11 Farris recently meeting with several tribes to  
12 apologize for BLM's poor handling of their trust  
13 relationship and then to offer cooperating agency  
14 status to all tribes that have requested it. We have  
15 yet to see much progress in that process but we look  
16 forward to working with the assistant and the regions  
17 on making that happen.  
18

19 In the meantime, the Bering Sea-Western  
20 Interior Draft RMP EIS is out. The 90-day comment  
21 period, as you have heard, ending June 13th. We have  
22 heard the Central Yukon drafts could be released  
23 sometime in May just in front of fishing season.  
24

25 Tribes share with us their struggle to  
26 understand a process that asks what's important to your  
27 community and upon taking the effort to share  
28 important, sensitive and even critical information  
29 they're told that information is not acceptable.  
30

31 From the start BLM has been  
32 understaffed, underfunded and unsupported for working  
33 with the tribes and getting the traditional subsistence  
34 land use part correct. The question is how will this  
35 be turned around, especially in light of a fast-track  
36 timeline.  
37

38 How will the next 20-year BLM land use  
39 plan protect the culture, land and lives of the people  
40 living in the planning area and who depend on the  
41 resources for traditional use for their survival? As  
42 Mr. Sam said yesterday, if we don't have our land, we  
43 don't have anything.  
44

45 So the Bering Sea-Western Interior  
46 Draft EIS is out for comment. We've just started to  
47 analyze it. I'm going to share a couple things that  
48 we've plucked out. Most of these are from the  
49 preferred alternative, which we focused on first, which  
50

1 is Alternative C.

2

3 One of the bullet points that we've  
4 pulled out is completely eliminating ANCSA 19(d) (1)  
5 protections that have been in place for decades on 13.4  
6 million acres of land and much of the land is  
7 traditional use land. 99 percent of this land has the  
8 highest levels of intactness, meaning it is pristine  
9 and productive. Landscape intactness has been defined  
10 as a quantifiable estimate of naturalness measured on a  
11 gradient of impact by people.

12

13 BLM considers landscape intactness as a  
14 broad-scale indicator of resource condition for BLM  
15 management landscape approach which requires multiple  
16 scales of information to quantify the cumulative  
17 effects of land use.

18

19 69 sovereign tribes call this planning  
20 area home and have been sustained by this land for  
21 thousands of years. Most planning area communities  
22 achieve a majority of food resources directly from the  
23 land. This roadless and pristine public land being  
24 planned by BLM is undeveloped, intact landscape rich  
25 with fish and wildlife populations including the  
26 largest caribou herd in Alaska, the Western Arctic  
27 Caribou Herd.

28

29 69 fly-in only Alaska communities are  
30 located in the Bering Sea-Western Interior planning  
31 area. All are Federally recognized tribes. Local  
32 communities have been living on traditional land for  
33 very many years. With the drastic changes proposed by  
34 the BLM plan, the draft, will the planning area  
35 communities be able to continue living with this land  
36 over the 20-year life plan.

37

38 C also eliminates protection for 1.6  
39 million acres of areas of critical environmental  
40 concern, ones established back in 1981, 38 years ago.  
41 These were put together to protect important  
42 populations of fish and wildlife in the planning area.

43

44 The preferred alternative also denies  
45 new protection for 9.6 million acres nominated for  
46 protections by local communities living on the land.  
47 Communities have asked for protection of important  
48 places. Those protections should be granted.

49

50

1                   Also creating high-value watersheds and  
2 then opening those up. High-value watersheds in the  
3 entire 13.4 million acres to mining with small  
4 exceptions, like the 100-year flood of the Unalakleet  
5 Wild and Scenic River corridor on the Iditarod Trail.  
6

7                   Even important connective corridors  
8 important for fish and wildlife migrations are open to  
9 mining. BLM says opening this land to mining will not  
10 cause impacts because the current data shows low,  
11 minimal potential in the planning area.  
12

13                   However, BLM also acknowledges that it  
14 lacks data in many areas. Therefore, by opening all  
15 13.4 million acres to mining BLM has failed to provide  
16 basic ecological protections for important, intact,  
17 productive landscapes like watersheds BLM has  
18 designated as having high value.  
19

20                   We're going to continue to analyze the  
21 draft and kind of pluck out the good, the bad and the  
22 ugly, share it with the tribal groups that we've been  
23 working with and then they would come to their own  
24 conclusions about what is good, what is not good and  
25 how to comment before the 90-day comment period is up.  
26

27                   The timing of all this and the process  
28 not recognizing the needs in summer for traditional use  
29 of land is -- I won't say criminal, but it is pretty  
30 depressing I think. It does not seem to respect the  
31 lives of the people that you're actually asking  
32 information from.  
33

34                   So that is about all that I have.  
35

36                   You have a copy of the letter from  
37 Chief Joseph at TCC sent to Mr. Zinke.  
38

39                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions for  
40 Wayne on YRDFA's presentation on the BLM RMP process.  
41

42                   MR. COLLINS: This is Ray.  
43

44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.  
45

46                   MR. COLLINS: Could you please identify  
47 some of those  
48 critical areas that were designated that are in the  
49 plan. I don't have it before me right now.  
50

1 MR. JENKINS: Ray, I'm sorry, I can't  
2 identify those at this time. We can certainly get back  
3 to you with those specifics. You're probably really  
4 interested in the sheefish situation, but there are  
5 others, but I can get Suzanne to touch base with you  
6 and fill you in on that.

7  
8 MR. COLLINS: Okay. The initial  
9 testimony that I made for the people of Nikolai was the  
10 movement down in the black spruce. Donlin declared  
11 that that is wetlands. Is that still the status of  
12 that black spruce, is it classified as wetlands?

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Wayne.

15  
16 MR. JENKINS: Ray, I don't know the  
17 answer to that question.

18  
19 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

20  
21 MR. JENKINS: But we can certainly try  
22 to find out for you.

23  
24 MR. COLLINS: The mountains out there  
25 have low wildlife potential in the black spruce itself.  
26 As far as I know, it's very limited in any waterfowl  
27 production out of that area, so I  
28 couldn't understand why they were deemed as wetlands as  
29 a reason for not considering them.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions,  
32 Ray?

33  
34 MR. COLLINS: No, that's all I have  
35 right now.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Council  
38 members.

39  
40 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

43  
44 MR. HONEA: Yeah, this is Don. Thank  
45 you, Mr. Chair. Wayne, I had a question about the  
46 overall, whether it's the Yukon or the Bering  
47 Sea-Western Plan, are all the areas in critical  
48 concern. Are you going -- is the process included in  
49 the Western Interior and the Bering? I don't know

50

1 where Ruby sits, what planning, but we already have  
2 those in our plan.

3  
4 I was wondering about the GASH area,  
5 Holy Cross, Shageluk, when we had our regional meetings  
6 in Fairbanks and you guys put on a presentation there,  
7 I think maybe some others were there from YRDFA, but  
8 when they asked for questions, and I'm just wondering,  
9 were they given an opportunity or how does that process  
10 go where they would select their lands and do they have  
11 a plan in place?

12  
13 Because when it came time to answer  
14 questions, it seems as if they haven't been visited by  
15 BLM or know the process or were given the opportunity  
16 to select their lands. And the timeline is coming up  
17 pretty fast. Am I missing something here? Could you  
18 explain that?

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Wayne.

21  
22 MR. JENKINS: Mr. Honea, it sounds like  
23 there's several questions, so I don't know if I can  
24 specifically address them because it's a little bit  
25 confusing. But something that's important to hopefully  
26 understand, though the ACECs in most cases were not  
27 accepted due to BLM's criteria in their analysis, that  
28 information I think has to be and will be used -- at  
29 least folks with the Central Yukon have shared -- that  
30 information will be used in their decision-making  
31 process and their analysis.

32  
33 So what I'm hoping to see at some point  
34 along the way are maps that BLM has generated that  
35 shows those traditional use areas across their entire  
36 region. As far as outreach.....

37  
38 MR. HONEA: (Indiscernible).

39  
40 MR. JENKINS: Go ahead, Don.

41  
42 MR. HONEA: Wayne, I think I'm going to  
43 rephrase this question. Were they given an opportunity  
44 like us here in the Middle Yukon to go ahead and make  
45 those critical areas of concern as a village, as a  
46 tribe? Were they given the same opportunity because it  
47 doesn't sound like -- I mean, you know, we discussed  
48 this in Galena and to me it's still a moot point why  
49 some of them were rejected. I want to know if they

50

1 were given the same process down there in the GASH  
2 area.

3  
4 MR. JENKINS: Okay. You're referring  
5 to the GASH area.

6  
7 MR. HONEA: Right.

8  
9 MR. JENKINS: Yes. In fact, I think  
10 they may have submitted ACEC nominations, but perhaps  
11 not. Perhaps once -- because they came to this a  
12 little bit later and it could be that they approached  
13 it differently and provided BLM with that same kind of  
14 information, but not through an ACEC nomination  
15 process.

16  
17 It doesn't have to be through ACECs.  
18 Obviously ACECs are not popular for this for very many  
19 reasons. But BLM still needs that information. Where  
20 do people and how do people use that land. I think BLM  
21 to their credit has tried to do outreach. It's not  
22 always easy. I think to the credit of the tribes in  
23 many cases they have tried to their best capacity to  
24 also respond. It's been a messy process all along the  
25 way.

26  
27 But this fast-tracking and speeding up  
28 and streamlining has really thrown a monkeywrench into  
29 the midst of this whole thing. I really just don't know  
30 how the concerns of the people on the land can be  
31 respected and work toward a good working plan with this  
32 kind of a fast-track timeline.

33  
34 Does that answer your question and  
35 more, Don?

36  
37 MR. HONEA: I guess my question -- I  
38 guess you probably answered it, was the method the same  
39 across the regions for all of us to have some ACECs, to  
40 have some areas of critical concern, you know, giving  
41 us the opportunity to select those. I was just  
42 wondering if that process was across the board wherever  
43 we hit.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It was my  
46 recollection that YRDFA highlighted the area of  
47 critical concern early in the process. Most of the  
48 people in our region, the tribes, were notified of that  
49 and many tribes did identify areas of critical concern,  
50

1 nine point something million acres of areas that were  
2 of critical concern.

3

4 So I think that the answer is yes. I  
5 think that people were notified early enough in the  
6 process to submit those, Don.

7

8 MR. HONEA: Okay, Mr. Chair. I realize  
9 that, but I guess the only other question too for Wayne  
10 was if we had already submitted those, then we don't  
11 have to do anything yet, even though he's working with  
12 Ed here at the Ruby Tribe. That is our original areas  
13 of critical concern and we just keep it as it is,  
14 correct?

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, right now  
17 there's these different drafts and the preferred  
18 alternative is to eliminate the areas of critical  
19 concern, but you can comment that the areas that are  
20 critical to use areas should have consideration in one  
21 form of the alternative that's adopted. So you can --  
22 there's going to be a resource management plan and your  
23 tribe can request that your concerns for those use  
24 areas be considered in management actions in the area  
25 around your community.

26

27 So copy that.

28

29 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any other  
32 questions, comments on this YRDFA presentation.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to go  
37 over your project paper here, Wayne?

38

39 MR. JENKINS: Yes, if I could, Mr.  
40 Chair. Can I make one more point about the traditional  
41 use areas?

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

44

45 MR. JENKINS: The studies that ADF&G  
46 has done over the years in partnership with the tribes  
47 have been hugely important and  
48 successful in getting the data and the information from  
49 the permission and information of the tribes to BLM.

50

1 If BLM isn't pulling every single one of those studies  
2 that has to do with a tribe in their region, I would  
3 ask them to do that.

4  
5 Hopefully they have a person that's  
6 focused on that and they call pull that information in.  
7 The studies don't cover every village, but they do  
8 cover a lot of them and the studies are very well done.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate all  
11 that YRDFFA has done to highlight these areas, tribal  
12 use areas and areas of critical concern. I've worked  
13 on various ACECs up north in the Central Yukon  
14 Management Area and some of those are very important  
15 areas of habitat. If there was detriment to those  
16 areas, it could affect a population significantly. So  
17 throwing out all the ACECs because it might impede some  
18 kind of development, no, it doesn't. It mitigates the  
19 development. It doesn't stop the development. It just  
20 has to be mitigated.

21  
22 So I don't feel that throwing out all  
23 the ACECs was appropriate as you said under Alternative  
24 C. So those areas should mix and match ala carte,  
25 should be reinstated. But I haven't looked at the  
26 entire document.

27  
28 Okay.

29  
30 Moving on further in your projects list  
31 here, Wayne.

32  
33 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Chairman. You  
34 have before you the second document. It's all of our  
35 major projects and I'm not going to go through every  
36 single one of these. I'm just going to highlight very  
37 quickly just a few and then I'm open to any questions  
38 that you might have.

39  
40 You're probably aware of most of these.  
41 Some of you the YRDFFA in-season teleconference will be  
42 starting back up with that again. This is an FRMP  
43 project. The last year of this round of FRMP, but  
44 we'll start that the first week of June when the fish  
45 start to run. Most of you know that we get fishermen  
46 representatives all up and down the river on those  
47 calls.

48  
49 We also have our in-season harvest

50

1 surveyors in various villages. I think it's 10  
2 villages now and they're also on the calls to help  
3 inform the managers. So it's a timely way for the  
4 managers and the fishers in real time to discuss what's  
5 going on in the river. It's very helpful to both  
6 sides.

7  
8 This project we have resubmitted with  
9 the new round of FRMP and we hope that it's going to be  
10 supported and we'll be funded to continue to do that.

11  
12 The YR DFA pre-season meeting is funded  
13 by RNE, Restoration Enhancement Fund of the Yukon River  
14 Panel. This is the once-a-year meeting between the  
15 managers and the fishers. It's usually between 80 and  
16 100 people. Usually have about 50 folks representing  
17 the river come together with the managers.

18  
19 They discuss -- the managers present on  
20 -- review last year, how did things go, projections for  
21 this coming year, challenges that managers think may  
22 be presented to people. Especially with a focus on  
23 does it look like it's going to be another year,  
24 especially on kings, of conservation or is it going to  
25 be a stronger run.

26  
27 Early on it's sounding like the run is  
28 expected to be similar to last year. They're not a  
29 strong run like we saw in 2017. Of course an  
30 overarching goal of all these conversations in people  
31 working together is the conserving of the Canadian  
32 portion of the run and meeting that escapement goal in  
33 Canada. So that will happen April 25th in Fairbanks  
34 this year.  
35 this year.

36  
37 Let's see. YR DFA in-season harvest  
38 interviews provide an important communication tool that  
39 qualitatively informs managers how fishers are doing in  
40 key locations throughout the Yukon River Drainage in  
41 season, enabling managers to make timely decisions and  
42 allowing the maximum number of fishermen to meet their  
43 subsistence needs.

44  
45 This year we have 10 communities. We  
46 have Alakanuk, Mountain Village, Marshall, Russian  
47 Mission, Anvik, Huslia, Ruby, Tanana, Fort Yukon and  
48 Eagle. There's a harvest surveyor in each of those  
49 communities gathering information from fishermen in  
50

1 that community. Then reporting in to Catherine who  
2 puts that into a document that's released as a summary  
3 once a week and they also join the teleconference to  
4 help inform that conversation. This too is an FRMP  
5 project which ended this year and we have reapplied for  
6 the coming four-year round.

7  
8 Traditional Knowledge of Anadromous  
9 Fish in the Yukon Flats With a Focus on the Draanjik  
10 Basin. This is an FRMP project.....

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Where is the  
13 Draanjik Basin?

14  
15 MR. JENKINS: It is in the Upper Yukon.  
16 I think it would be east of Fort Yukon. In the  
17 Draanjik.....

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In the Chandalar  
20 drainage?

21  
22 MR. JENKINS: No, it's in the Yukon.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, the Yukon.

25  
26 MR. JENKINS: Yeah, it's Upper Yukon.  
27 The purpose is to provide critical information to the  
28 management of anadromous fishes and the habitat that  
29 supports them. This will be accomplished through using  
30 traditional ecological knowledge interviews and mapping  
31 activities with knowledgeable fishers and hunters in  
32 Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, Venetie and Fairbanks to  
33 identify areas of the Yukon Flats and the Draanjik  
34 Basin with salmon and whitefish spawning and rearing  
35 areas.

36  
37 This information will then be verified  
38 by helicopter and river boat fieldwork and finally  
39 nominations of new spawning areas will be submitted to  
40 the Anadromous Waters Catalogue. This is a partnership  
41 with Tanana Chiefs Conference, YRDFA and the  
42 communities. There's also a parallel project in  
43 coordination with ADF&G in the Tanana River Basin.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you use drones  
46 on that?

47  
48 MR. JENKINS: You know, Brian has been  
49 doing great work with drones. I don't know. I would

50

1 guess that if using drones in this project was  
2 applicable, Catherine would have mentioned it, but I  
3 think in some areas, maybe remoteness or whatever  
4 reason, drones don't always work. But I know they are  
5 very, very excited to expand the use of drones for this  
6 kind of work.

7  
8 I think the future of drones for  
9 resource management and monitoring and stuff is going  
10 to be huge. Anybody young and up and coming and wants  
11 to get into a really exciting field, I think the drone  
12 field for management and monitoring is going to be  
13 huge.

14  
15 Let's see. I think that about covers  
16 it. There's more here that you're welcome at your  
17 leisure to look at. If you have any questions -- if  
18 you ever have any questions about anything that we do,  
19 any work that we're involved in or our programs, don't  
20 hesitate to contact me.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate  
23 all that YRDFA does and looking forward to the outcome  
24 of the pre-season meeting for consensus about how  
25 management is going to occur on the Yukon River.  
26 That's an important issue.

27  
28 Any final questions for Wayne, Council  
29 members.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much.

34  
35 MR. JENKINS: Thank you all very much.  
36 Appreciate it.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Yukon Delta.

39  
40 MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
41 Thank you, everybody. Sorry, but I had a PowerPoint  
42 but I haven't been able to get into my computer so I  
43 printed it out, sorry Ray and Don, maybe I can get it  
44 send to you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

47  
48 MR. MOSES: It's really nice to come  
49 here and see you guys because I always see you guys

50

1 right before like I'm starting to go hunting and stuff  
2 so it's always a good time to come see you guys?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got geese down  
5 there?

6  
7 MR. MOSES: They said that -- I was  
8 talking with some people at the barber shop in Bethel  
9 they said somebody seen a swan down river a couple days  
10 ago.

11  
12 What I'm going to talk to you guys  
13 about is the calendar projects that we're doing, some  
14 -- and a few topics that people have been asking us at  
15 the Refuge, like parasites and the sick seabirds out on  
16 the coast and then I'll highlight a couple projects  
17 that we're going to be doing this summer.

18  
19 When you look at the calendar of  
20 projects we're really busy this coming summer. At the  
21 fall meeting for the biology department, I'll give you  
22 guys updates on what happened, what projects we were  
23 doing during the summer.

24  
25 One of the good things is that our RIT  
26 and our outreach and education program is starting to  
27 pick up. I moved on from being a fish biologist at the  
28 Refuge, I'm now the acting subsistence  
29 specialist/coordinator. So we felt like there was a  
30 need for someone to be able to go to the villages and  
31 do outreach with our Park Rangers and our Refuge  
32 Information Technicians and so I've filled in that role  
33 now where I'm -- we've been to quite a few villages  
34 already talking about issues that they have with  
35 regulations and we want to do a whole -- do a lot more  
36 of that, not within just the Kuskokwim but on the lower  
37 Yukon.

38  
39 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead.

42  
43 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I hate to interrupt  
44 this gentleman here, but, you know, who is he?

45  
46 MR. MOSES: Oh, my apologies. Sorry  
47 about that. My name is Aaron Moses and I work for the  
48 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Sorry about  
49 that.

50

1 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

2

3 MR. MOSES: One of the things I want to  
4 talk about is the rice breast. It's a -- we've had  
5 complaints about this this fall from hunters. It's  
6 just a -- it looks like when you hunt, get a bird and  
7 when you cut it open it looks like they have rice,  
8 that's.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It looks really bad.

11

12 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've got it before.

15

16 MR. MOSES: Yeah, we've had some people  
17 send us some specimens this fall and a lot of people  
18 are starting to ask about it so we -- this is one of  
19 the things that we're going to all the communities  
20 about. I'm still learning up on it so I can't really  
21 comment too much on it. But there's also another paper  
22 over there that gets in more detail about what rice  
23 breast is.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I'll have to  
26 pick that up. It looks really bad and it's completely  
27 unappetizing.

28

29 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Continue.

32

33 MR. MOSES: Next, I'll talk about those  
34 sick seabirds. In 2018 there's starting to be lots of  
35 reports of hundreds of seabirds coming to shore dead.  
36 A lot of them, what they have found that a lot of them  
37 died from starvation.

38

39 (Teleconference interference -  
40 participants not muted)

41

42 MR. MOSES: So anybody -- even if it's  
43 not just seabirds, but any kind of waterfowl that you  
44 believe is sick or dead you could report it to the U.S.  
45 Fish and Wildlife Service at the end of the -- at the  
46 phone number that's at the bottom of this paper.

47

48 REPORTER: So, Aaron, hold up.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tina, the phone.

2  
3 REPORTER: It's actually not us, it's  
4 the people on the phone that they might have it on  
5 speaker phone, or a cell phone on speaker phone and  
6 it's bouncing back through.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you're on speaker  
9 phone on the phone out there, we're getting a really  
10 huge echo after that so if you could not be on speaker  
11 if you're no a cell. If you could put your phone on  
12 mute, otherwise it backs into our system here.

13  
14 REPORTER: Star six if you're not  
15 talking directly and just listening.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Star six to mute  
18 yourself. Okay, it stopped thank you.

19  
20 REPORTER: Go ahead Aaron, go ahead,  
21 it's not you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So continue Aaron.

24  
25 MR. MOSES: Thank you. Going along to  
26 our programs that we're highlighting for the spring is,  
27 us, along with Fish and Game are starting a ptarmigan  
28 study since we know little about the ptarmigan out in  
29 our area on the Yukon Delta, but the current  
30 information from traditional knowledge and from people  
31 around the area, they're stating that the ptarmigan  
32 populations have really declined out on the lower Yukon  
33 and Kuskokwim. So this spring, I think it's starting  
34 actually like next week, we're going to be putting  
35 radio tags on to about 50 ptarmigan this spring and  
36 then in August we're going to try to do 50 more on the  
37 babies and just try to figure out where they're going  
38 and they're just moving to another place.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you know what it  
41 is, it's raven's. We've got way too many ravens around  
42 the villages. The raven populations keep building up,  
43 they go out and kill all the birds.

44  
45 MR. MOSES: Uh-huh.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Everybody wonders  
48 what in the world happened to the ptarmigan in the  
49 White Mountains, they've got 2500 ravens living in

50

1 Fairbanks eating garbage, they go out in the White  
2 Mountains and eat baby ptarmigan all summer. We've got  
3 way too many ravens, that's what the problem is. So  
4 that's -- you should really start looking at the raven  
5 interaction with those ptarmigan. I've watched them  
6 just wiping nests right out. That's all they do is go  
7 from one nest to the next to the next. Ducks can't  
8 handle them, they flop around on the water, they have  
9 no idea how to deal with these ravens. The raven is a  
10 very aggressive birds. I watched one killing a  
11 snowshoe hare, they kill even prey. So there's way too  
12 many ravens in Alaska right now. That's a big deal.  
13 So you watch that raven thing down there.

14

15 Continue.

16

17 MR. MOSES: Okay. Another thing I want  
18 to highlight, something that is really cool, especially  
19 for me, is the Kwethluk weir. I worked there as an  
20 intern for a whole bunch of summers and the cool thing  
21 about this year is that the village of Kwethluk's going  
22 to be the ones that are hiring all the workers for the  
23 weir, the crew leads so the Kwethluk weir is going to  
24 be completely run by the village of Kwethluk with our --  
25 and we will be helping and supporting that. And it's  
26 in the hopes that in the future that Kwethluk, the  
27 village of Kwethluk completely takes control of the  
28 weir within the next five to 10 years or even sooner.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So U.S. Fish and  
31 Wildlife's just going to be looking at quality control,  
32 how the crew's working?

33

34 MR. MOSES: We're more of like support  
35 and yeah we're going to pretty much be getting -- we're  
36 like pretty much you run it, we'll help you, we'll get  
37 all the kinks worked out so that in the future you  
38 would be able to do all this on your guys' own. And  
39 we've been trying to do this for the last five or six  
40 years and now it's really starting to pick up and I  
41 think it's really cool.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

44

45 MR. MOSES: Okay. Another update, for  
46 the Kusko fish for this summer. From what it looks  
47 like it's going to be the exact -- pretty much the  
48 exact same from last year. They're thinking the run  
49 size for the Kuskokwim is going to be around 140, and

50

1 then the InterTribal Fish Commission and U.S. Fish and  
2 Wildlife had determined that we could have the  
3 escapement objective of 110 so we're going to be able  
4 to harvest around 30,000 chinook this summer.  
5

6 Right now they're still a whole bunch  
7 of meetings going on with the State and the InterTribal  
8 Fish Commission and the Kuskokwim Management Salmon  
9 Working Group and so probably by this fall we'll be  
10 able to tell you how it's been going. There's just a  
11 whole host of meetings.  
12

13 MR. GERVAIS: Question.  
14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead, Tim.  
16

17 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, at this point I'm  
18 quite not understanding you got Kuskokwim River Salmon  
19 Management Working Group, ADF&G determining the closure  
20 -- preseason closure, where is the Kuskokwim  
21 InterTribal Fish Commission fit into the decision  
22 process?  
23

24 MR. MOSES: When we Federalize the  
25 Kuskokwim River, that's when the InterTribal Fish  
26 Commission comes in. The working group and Fish and  
27 Game, for this -- they're the ones that -- we have to  
28 have a closure sometime in June or not June, it could  
29 start in May, so the InterTribal -- or not the Fish --  
30 the Working Group, they set that front end closure and  
31 it's like for this year they haven't made it yet but  
32 it's going to be closed until June 12, that's the date  
33 that the Board of Fish and the people agreed to a few  
34 years back and so the working group is able to create  
35 that -- or set the front end of that so that they won't  
36 be restricting people who are trying to get sheefish  
37 and other whitefish, and so once -- during that  
38 timeframe the State's still managing the river but  
39 through special actions and all that we Federalize the  
40 river around June 12th, it could be sooner, it could be  
41 later. It's just all through special actions.  
42

43 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.  
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Continue.  
46

47 MR. MOSES: All right, on to Staff  
48 updates. There's a whole bunch of Staff updates.  
49 We're still running -- we're still really short on  
50

1 Staff. Our Refuge manager has moved on to detail in  
2 the regional office so our Deputy Refuge manager is now  
3 our acting Refuge manager. Our assistant manager is  
4 now our Deputy manager, Spencer Rearden, and then we  
5 got Gary DeCossas hired on as a fisheries biologist, he  
6 was working at OSM fisheries biologist and so we got  
7 him out there in Bethel now.

8  
9 I moved on from being a fish biologist  
10 to a subsistence coordinator/specialist.

11  
12 And another big thing is our law  
13 enforcement officer transferred to Washington, D.C., so  
14 we're lacking in law enforcement department and this  
15 summer we're asking for people from down in the States --  
16 the last few years we've been doing that for the Kusko  
17 salmon stuff, it's worked out pretty well and we're  
18 hoping to get the same crop of law enforcement guys to  
19 come back to help out this summer.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. It says  
22 you're acting subsistence coordinator, or are you  
23 permanent now?

24  
25 MR. MOSES: I'm acting. But I'm hoping  
26 by this fall to be permanent.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any questions  
29 for Aaron on YK-Delta National Wildlife Refuge's  
30 presentation.

31  
32 Tim.

33  
34 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, Aaron, I would like  
35 to know some more information on the sick seabirds.  
36 This was a real significant indicator event in the Gulf  
37 of Alaska in 2015. It actually preceded an 80 percent  
38 drop in the cod population and right now we're trying  
39 to tie in why almost all of the salmon runs in the Gulf  
40 of Alaska failed last summer. So you're saying you  
41 started receiving reports in May of 2018, I heard a  
42 radio story about it during June or July of 2018, is  
43 there still birds starving into the fall and then  
44 through this winter, is the problem -- are you not  
45 seeing birds anymore, is there still a lot of  
46 starvation going on.

47  
48 MR. MOSES: Through the Chair. We  
49 haven't heard any reports lately. Like in 2018 there  
50

1 were like three significant timeframes, like three  
2 different reports of huge -- of large scale die-offs in  
3 different areas. Ours was just in May. There was some  
4 up in the Savoonga, up there, and so -- I did have a  
5 report on that, I could get it to Karen and then she  
6 could pass it on to you.

7

8 MR. GERVAIS: All right, yeah, I'd  
9 appreciate that.

10

11 MR. MOSES: Yeah, sorry I didn't -- I  
12 had it at the Yukon Delta RAC meeting but I forgot to  
13 bring it with me this time.

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: And that's significant to  
16 this Council because it seems like the king salmon and  
17 the chum salmon are spending a fair amount of their  
18 maritime life in the Bering Sea so there's not enough  
19 food out there that could play into the salmon  
20 abundance.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, it is. It's a  
23 real -- showing the productivity of trophic level of  
24 the Bering Sea is what that is.

25

26 So any other comments.

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen.

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 Just a quick comment. The Seward Peninsula Subsistence  
34 Regional Advisory Council has also been dealing with  
35 large seabird die-off and also walrus floating up on  
36 the shores in the Shishmaref area and in Norton Sound.  
37 We had an excellent presentation at our meeting about  
38 saxitoxins, which are naturally in the environment and  
39 grow in algae but they are overblown now, largely due  
40 to what they consider warmer temperatures in the water.

41

42

43 I also have an update, it may be the  
44 same one, but if not I'll work with Aaron and we'll  
45 make sure we get you updates on that, but it's  
46 definitely -- it's moving up the coast and there's a  
47 lot of concern because it's starting to hit marine  
48 mammals.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Appreciate that  
4 information.

5

6 So thanks so much, Aaron. We  
7 appreciate you coming to our meetings. We've been sort  
8 of in a black hole with YKD and so since you've been  
9 participating in our meetings we -- we have a lot of  
10 relationship with the YK-Delta RAC on various issues so  
11 it's good to know what's going on down there also.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. MOSES: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're going  
18 to go to National Park Service SRC report. Are you  
19 here Marcy, and then Kyle, are you still on the phone.

20

21 MR. JOLY: I am, Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So Marcy is  
24 coming up to the mic. And do you want to introduce  
25 yourself on the phone there, Kyle.

26

27 MR. JOLY: Hello, Council. My name is  
28 Kyle Joly. I'm a wildlife biologist with Gates of the  
29 Arctic National Park and Preserve.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

32

33 Go ahead, Marcy.

34

35 MS. OKADA: My name is Marcy Okada.  
36 I'm the subsistence coordinator for Gates of the Arctic  
37 National Park and Preserve. And I'll be sharing three  
38 summary updates with you.

39

40 So the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence  
41 Resource Commission met November 13th through 14th last  
42 year in Fairbanks, main discussions were focused on the  
43 Ambler Mining District Road and various resource  
44 updates from the Park Service. Additionally, Dr. Todd  
45 Brinkman from UAF presented information on research  
46 projects which investigated human development and  
47 environmental change impacts to traditional harvest  
48 practices.

49

50

1                   The next meeting is scheduled for April  
2 16th to 17th in Anaktuvuk Pass and both Jack Reakoff  
3 and Pollock Simon, Sr., are on our Commission and will  
4 be attending the meeting.  
5

6                   The brown bear disease assessment study  
7 was recently published and it shared results looking at  
8 the exposure of Alaska brown bears to bacterial, viral  
9 and parasitic agents. Results indicate that the bears  
10 that had, at some point in their lives, been exposed to  
11 various diseases such as toxiplasmosis to lorenia,  
12 burcelosecis, leptosporis, canine distemper, canine  
13 parvo and canine anovirus. In general, though, levels  
14 of exposure to these pathogens are fairly low in Gates  
15 of the Arctic and Kyle is on the phone if you have any  
16 questions on this particular study.  
17

18                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, but that's  
19 interesting that they would have some of those  
20 diseases, canine distemper and canine parvo.  
21

22                   MR. KRISKA: Yeah.  
23

24                   MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, I wonder where  
25 they're picking that up.  
26

27                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That must be coming  
28 from sled dogs or something.  
29

30                   Go ahead.  
31

32                   MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, it'd have to.  
33

34                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tommy.  
35

36                   MR. KRISKA: I have a question for  
37 Kyle, this is Tom. Anyway I was just, your bear study  
38 right here, I did run across it's canine distemper and  
39 canine parvo, I'm just kind of curious do you know  
40 anything about -- I know it was a bear study, but you  
41 run across anything in wolves around your area.  
42

43                   MR. JOLY: We haven't done a wolf study  
44 in that area since about 1990, Mr. Adams who is now  
45 with the USGS conducted a wolf study out of Anaktuvuk  
46 Pass and that was the last time that we've really had  
47 any kind of studies of wolves in that region.  
48

49                   MR. KRISKA: Okay. So I was just  
50

1 asking because I mean did you find anything back in the  
2 '90s because I run across maybe a couple of wolves that  
3 were really hairless and they reek of like chemicals in  
4 this past month. So I was just kind of curious about  
5 this disease that they're exposed to, but these are the  
6 bears, but, anyway, just a question.

7

8

Curiosity.

9

10 MR. JOLY: Yeah, I don't recall that  
11 study looking at any diseases like that, they were  
12 mostly looking at pack sizes, pack home range and stuff  
13 like that. Wolves do have a -- can get a particular  
14 problem it's called feliculardisplasia, and that's when  
15 they lose their guard hairs and so they kind of look  
16 fuzzy and kind of furless. The other problem that can  
17 cause loss of hair is lice. And the only area I know  
18 of that really happening is kind of in the Mat-Su area  
19 and just south of Fairbanks where wolves have closer  
20 exposure to human pets and dogs. So I have been  
21 hearing a little bit more about the feliculardisplasia  
22 so, you know, that's something that we can look at but  
23 we -- we haven't been doing any work with wolves in the  
24 last 25 years or so out that way.

25

26

MR. KRISKA: Thank you.

27

28

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

29

30

Continue Marcy.

31

32

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MS. OKADA: Continuing on. A dall  
sheep study was conducted exploring the impacts of  
weather conditions and adverse weather events on dall  
sheep throughout their lattitudal range in Alaska and  
it also assessed lamb production and population trend  
in relation to the end of the snow season, as a measure  
of spring onset. In 2013 spring onset was  
extraordinarily late providing an opportunity to  
directly assess the impacts of variability in weather  
on sheep population dynamics. This 2013 event was  
associated with a 40 to 70 percent decline in overall  
sheep numbers in Arctic areas indicating adult survival  
was also impacted. Overall results suggest that  
expected increases in adverse weather events may have  
direct lasting impacts on dall sheep populations and  
that these impacts can be expected to be most extreme  
for populations occurring at northern range limits  
where growing season conditions are most restricted.

1                                   And I have a copy of this particular  
2 study if folks are interested.

3  
4                                   Moving right along to the 2018 dall  
5 sheep survey that was conducted in Gates of the Arctic  
6 between July 2nd and 7th. This survey area covered  
7 areas around Anaktuvuk Pass and the Itkillik Preserve,  
8 which includes portions of Game Management Units 24A,  
9 24B, 26A and 26B. Population estimates for this survey  
10 are approximately stable when compared to the previous  
11 couple of years, the lamb to ewe-like ratio in both  
12 subareas is approximately average but in the Itkillik  
13 it is potentially low.

14  
15                                   Upcoming surveys will continue in these  
16 study areas annually because the Itkillik is a long-  
17 term data set and the Anaktuvuk Pass area has an  
18 important subsistence value. As part of a five year  
19 rotation, in 2020 the survey area will be expanded to  
20 cover all of Gates of the Arctic National Park.

21  
22                                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On that issue, in  
23 light of the conditions of extremely deep snow on the  
24 south slope versus virtually no snow on the north side,  
25 can that schedule be rearranged or is that set in  
26 stone.

27  
28                                   Is that -- are you there, Kyle, are you  
29 aware of what -- if these studies can be tweaked  
30 slightly?

31  
32                                   MR. JOLY: You know Kumi Rattenbury was  
33 heading up the sheep program and she left the Park  
34 Service about a year, year and a half ago and we don't  
35 have anyone filling that position yet so we're just  
36 kind of taking a band-aid approach and trying to cover  
37 for her. So I could take that suggestion forward,  
38 what, specifically would you like us to tweak.

39  
40                                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could talk about  
41 it further at the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence  
42 Resource Commission meeting but the survey schedule, I  
43 want to assure that the survey schedule captures some  
44 of this -- that the south slope is surveyed because we  
45 just got pounded with deep snow up there, it's  
46 plastered all over those hills land the north side, the  
47 Itkillik is basically dry. So those sheep over there  
48 are having a great winter but on our side it's really  
49 bad. So we can talk about that further though.

50

1 MR. JOLY: That sounds good, Mr.  
2 Chairman.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions on the  
5 sheep survey methodology.

6  
7 (No comments)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, okay, continue  
10 Marcy. Is that it?

11  
12 MS. OKADA: And lastly I'd like to  
13 provide an Ambler Mining District Road update for Gates  
14 of the Arctic.

15  
16 Gates of the Arctic is required to do  
17 an environmental and economic analysis also otherwise  
18 known as an EEA, the impact assessment portion of the  
19 EEA is nearing completion. This is a critical chapter  
20 in which information gained from public input and data  
21 from subject matter experts is used to evaluate impacts  
22 of each of the two proposed routes going through  
23 National Park Service lands. Environmental, social,  
24 economic impacts to resources and rural and traditional  
25 lifestyles, including subsistence activities are  
26 examined. Currently our impact topics are caribou,  
27 fish, subsistence, permafrost, hydrology, wet lands,  
28 archeology, visitor experience, wild and scenic rivers  
29 and water quality. Results from the impact assessment  
30 will be used to determine the recommended route across  
31 Park Service lands and to develop permit requirements  
32 to minimize adverse effects.

33  
34 If you have any input regarding whether  
35 we've captured the most significant impact topics for  
36 this task, please let us know.

37  
38 And I know PJ, earlier, had mentioned  
39 concerns about fugitive dust, invasive species, and  
40 noise pollution, so I have written that down.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

43  
44 MS. OKADA: And then just to share the  
45 project schedule, our draft EEA will be open for a 60  
46 day comment period and the expected comment period  
47 opening is mid-July of this year. And by fall of this  
48 year we're hoping to have the final EEA completed and  
49 then by early winter 2020 we're hoping to release the

50

1 final EEA.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: As you've witnessed  
4 here, this Council's been opposed to this summer  
5 schedule for comments. Are these projected estimates  
6 or can we tweak those back to where the Council can  
7 have -- is the document available for viewing, not  
8 until you release it, the EEA?

9

10 MS. OKADA: So it won't be open to the  
11 public until mid-July for viewing.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I guess we got to  
14 write a similar letter to the Regional Director of the  
15 National Park Service to push this EEA comment period  
16 back to October like we did to the BLM Regional  
17 Director.

18

19 Tim.

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: I make a motion to  
22 transmit that letter.

23

24 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Basically for the  
27 same reasonings, so seconded by Jenny.

28

29 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Same reasonings and  
32 basically a carbon copy with the same line of logic  
33 about statutory involvement of these .808 Subsistence  
34 Resource Commission and .805 Regional Advisory Council  
35 participation.

36

37 Any further discussion.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. OKADA: And I just have one more  
42 thing.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got to vote on  
45 that first.

46

47 MS. OKADA: Okay.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So those in favor of

50

1 the motion signify by saying aye.  
2  
3 IN UNISON: Aye.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You there Ray.  
6  
7 MR. COLLINS: Aye.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Ray.  
10  
11 MR. COLLINS: Yes, aye.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that was you  
14 also Don.  
15  
16 (No comments)  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, I don't hear Don  
19 anymore.  
20  
21 So you had a comment there Tim.  
22  
23 MR. GERVAIS: I have a question for  
24 Marcy. So in the Ambler Road Project, does the Park  
25 Service -- you have your -- a separate and distinct  
26 assessment that you can close -- you can put forth a no  
27 action result for this north and south route and force  
28 the developers to use the non-Park Service route for  
29 their right-of-way.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can answer that  
32 question, Tim. The ANILCA requires the National Park  
33 Service to have a route across the Preserve area, that  
34 was written into ANILCA. This road was foreseen like a  
35 long time ago. This has been in the Alaska Department  
36 of Transportation's projection of Alaska looking like a  
37 spaghetti bowl of roads, and so, quote/unquote, and so  
38 this was already written into ANILCA so the Park  
39 Service is compelled to provide a route through the  
40 Preserve.  
41  
42 So continue Marcy.  
43  
44 MS. OKADA: And one final thing to  
45 share is I know folks have concerns about this road  
46 becoming a public access road eventually. Currently  
47 the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority  
48 right-of-way application permit states that access to  
49 the road would be controlled and primarily limited to  
50

1 mining related industrial uses although some commercial  
2 uses may be allowed under a permit process and so,  
3 therefore, the application is being reviewed in that  
4 context and if there is a request for public access in  
5 the future the Park Service will treat it as a new  
6 undertaking and conduct an appropriate level of review  
7 at that time.  
8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so as I stated  
10 to the BLM on the Ambler Road, if there's one dollar  
11 and it has to be disclosed by AIDEA, if there's one  
12 dollar of Federal highway funds used in the  
13 construction of the road it has to be disclosed in the  
14 EEA. And so the Subsistence Resource Commissions and  
15 the Advisory Regional Councils have to know that  
16 because it's an integral part of whether the road is  
17 going to remain closed or to be open. And so the other  
18 permitting that could be hunting guides using the road,  
19 it could be tour companies using the road, it could be  
20 all kinds -- it could be transporters bringing hunters  
21 on the road and dumping them off. AIDEA's trying to  
22 make it sound like oh it's just going to be trucks  
23 hauling ore, it's like no it's going to be anything  
24 they feel like permitting on that road and then at some  
25 point opening the road to the public just like they did  
26 the Dalton Highway, the Haul Road.  
27

28 So that has to be discussed in the EAA  
29 [sic] and so that should be noted, is that agreeable to  
30 the Council?  
31

32 (Council nods affirmatively)  
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The disclosure issue  
35 -- yes, the Council's affirmative to that.  
36

37 And then, Kyle, you weren't on the  
38 phone at our fall meeting, I'm concerned about not  
39 enough data on what caribou actually eat. The  
40 perception is caribou eat lichen throughout the whole  
41 year and that's not correct at all. So I would like to  
42 see -- I want to this Council to be aware that I'm  
43 concerned that managers statewide, Federal and State  
44 managers are under the assumption that caribou eat  
45 lichen throughout the whole year and that's not the way  
46 it really is. And so I would like to see that in  
47 future caribou projects, that they include the critical  
48 timing of when caribou begin eating cotton grass, which  
49 is typically in the end of April, but this year it  
50

1 happened to be in the middle of March for some areas  
2 that have already opened up and started to blossom. So  
3 I would like to see the National Park Service work with  
4 -- what do you call that, the Arctic Network on  
5 developing a plan to include other times of the year  
6 besides winter on what caribou food is.

7

8

Comment.

9

10 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11 Yeah, a lot of caribou forage studies -- are you still  
12 with me?

13

14

15

16

17

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're here, go  
ahead. It's other people on the teleconference not  
muting their phones, but go ahead we hear you Kyle.

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One thing I would say is that there's a  
few studies that we have done looking at caribou diets  
during summer. They are still eating lichens it's just  
at a much lower percentage. In one area they can be as  
high as 90 percent of their diet and the average is,  
for the Western Arctic Herd is in the 70s, those  
averages drop quite a bit during the summertime but  
they are eating a little bit of lichens during the  
summer but they are switching very often to willows and  
other forbes and grananodes, so, yeah, we look forward  
to trying to figure out how to do that and get those  
results to you.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we can talk  
about this further at the Gates of the Arctic  
Subsistence Resource Commission in a couple weeks. But  
I want the Council to be aware of my concerns with --

1 it's come to my attention -- I just assumed that  
2 managers knew what caribou eat, being real biologists  
3 and stuff, but when they talk so much about lichens  
4 being non-existent on calving grounds, like that's a  
5 big deal on a calving ground, that's not a big deal at  
6 all, they don't eat lichen. It's supplementary. It's  
7 like if somebody's got a candy on the table and you  
8 just snack on that, but you don't eat that, that's not  
9 your meal, you know, caribou snack on lichens in  
10 conjunction with eating flowers. They start with  
11 gramonoids, with tussock sedge and moving on through  
12 these various -- they love those willylousewarts and  
13 various forbes like that, they go from one thing to the  
14 next of high protein, that's pollen, that's protein.

15  
16 So we need to get an understanding of  
17 that so the managers get away from the assumption that  
18 caribou are exceeding their carrying capacity on  
19 calving grounds because there's no lichens there,  
20 that's a big huge giant mistake.

21  
22 So we'll talk about that at our Gates  
23 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission meeting.

24  
25 Thanks so much Kyle.

26  
27 MR. JOLY: You're welcome, Mr.  
28 Chairman. And I would say I agree with you on that  
29 point, that lichens are not a limiting factor on the  
30 calving grounds and I guess I'd also plant a seed that  
31 we have a young biologist working for us, starting his  
32 PhD, his name is Matt Cameron, and he's currently  
33 working on a project I think it will be of great  
34 interest, looking at factors driving where caribou are  
35 calving, and one of the things that we're looking at is  
36 the abundance of (indiscernible - distortion)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right,  
39 appreciate that.

40  
41 Pollock you got a comment.

42  
43 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's  
44 good to see that the sheep (indiscernible) better in  
45 the last few years. In the early days, my father and  
46 my grandfather and the older peoples of Allakaket and  
47 Alatna always go up into the mountains, sometimes we'd  
48 pull (indiscernible) and be in the mountains it's good  
49 to camp out and just hear the water trickling down

50

1 river. Today some use from Hughes and Allakaket and  
2 Alatna still go up in the mountains where their  
3 grandfathers used to go so it's good to keep track of  
4 the sheep population.

5  
6

7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those  
10 comments Pollock. What Pollock is saying and I'll  
11 agree with him, I've heard many people say sheep is not  
12 a subsistence animal, that's a sport animal, it's like  
13 what, not if you live in the mountains, sheep is a  
14 significant nutritional value to people who live in the  
15 mountains. There's over a month's meat for a family of  
16 five for a month can eat a sheep, that's not a little  
17 bit of meat, that's kind of a lot of meat. And so I  
18 take exception to those -- I've heard, mainly coming  
19 out of the guiding community, sheep are a sport animal  
20 and they're not really a subsistence animal -- you'll  
21 hear that propagated at the Board of Game meetings, so  
22 that's erroneous. Subsistence users have used sheep  
23 for hundreds and hundreds of years and they're a  
24 beautiful animal to eat and they got a lot of --  
25 they've got a higher calorie meat because they have  
26 inter-muscular fat, moose is one to three percent,  
27 caribou is one to three percent, sheep is like five to  
28 seven percent inter-muscular and they've got really --  
29 that's why wolves love them is because they're high  
30 calorie.

31

32 So I want the audience and the Council  
33 to be aware that dall sheep are an important animal up  
34 in the northern part of this region.

35

36 So any further comments Marcy.

37

38 MS. OKADA: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're good, all  
41 right appreciate you coming so we're about 10 after  
42 12:00 here so we should come back on at about what  
43 time, Karen, 1:15-ish -- 1:15, we'll recess until 1:15,  
44 we have to be out of this room by 4:00 o'clock, so  
45 that's 1:15 sharp.

46

47 (Off record)

48

49 (On record)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you on the phone  
2 Ray and Don.

3  
4 MR. COLLINS: Yes, this is Ray.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we'll  
7 bring the meeting back to order.

8  
9 MR. HONEA: I'm here.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hey, Don.

12  
13 MR. HONEA: Yo.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
16 have the State of Alaska Glenn Stout and Sara come up  
17 for the ADF&G report.

18  
19 MR. HONEA: Okay.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Glenn.

22  
23 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
24 the record my name is Glenn Stout, I'm the Galena area  
25 biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
26 And we have several points to go through here but I'll  
27 just make them all kind of brief, kind of bullet  
28 points, and if you have questions on them then I can go  
29 into more detail on them.

30  
31 The first thing I wanted to talk about  
32 was the March winter hunt that we held in 21D. A  
33 little bit of background on that. That proposal, we  
34 began talks on that with the Fish and Wildlife Service,  
35 the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge back in 2017,  
36 we've been seeing our moose surveys, the population  
37 increasing on the Kaiyuh. We then took the -- the  
38 Koyukuk Refuge did a population estimation survey on  
39 the Kaiyuh Flats area then in the fall of 2017 and it  
40 confirmed that the population had essentially doubled  
41 in that area. So we took that issue to the Middle  
42 Yukon Advisory Committee and discussed it with them in  
43 spring of 2018, they were supportive of our effort to  
44 introduce an agenda change request to the Board of Game  
45 to open up a March season. We talked to them again in  
46 the fall of 2018 just to kind of rehash some of the  
47 issues, make sure everybody understood what was going  
48 on and they, again, voted unanimously to support that  
49 agenda change request. We took it to the Board of Game

50

1 meeting then at the Petersburg meeting, so it was out  
2 of cycle because it was an agenda change request and  
3 the Board supported our information there. We, through  
4 an emergency order, then opened up the season right  
5 away, this March in 2019, and this year we had 16  
6 people participate in that hunt, they took seven moose,  
7 it was four cows and three bulls and everything seemed  
8 to go real well. We made those permits available in  
9 Kaltag, Nulato and there at Fish and Game and they were  
10 also available on line and we had several people get  
11 their 2019 hunting licenses and the permit on line so  
12 that seems to be a real growing familiarity with being  
13 able to get those permits and hunting licenses on line.  
14 So I thought that worked real well.

15

16

Moving on to the next thing.

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We reduced the permits, the drawing permits for the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area and we're now down to 25 drawing permits for that Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.

The third thing that I wanted to let you know about is the fall moose harvest this last fall. One of our long-term strategies and it relates back to this bull/cow management objective is if we can keep our bull/cow ratios high we've seen that local

1 hunter success is high and if we can keep local hunter  
2 success high in the fall it reduces their dependence on  
3 winter hunt opportunities. And I think that really  
4 plays into and explains a lot about why there's only 16  
5 hunters that applied for that March hunt that we had  
6 this year, because I think needs were met mostly in the  
7 fall. And so I think it's a good strategy that we have  
8 a winter hunt for those people that didn't meet their  
9 needs, I don't think there's going to be a lot of that,  
10 but it's kind of a good back up alternative for not  
11 meeting their needs in the fall.

12  
13 We did have, once, again, real high  
14 hunter success this last fall and, therefore, demand  
15 was low for this winter hunt. So I am pretty convinced  
16 that strategy is working and I'm going to keep working  
17 to keep high bull/cow ratios, not just for the  
18 biological sense but for the management concerns.

19  
20 The fourth thing that I wanted to talk  
21 about, we're completing a write up on the Upper Koyukuk  
22 Management Area wolf predation control area and we're  
23 working with Subsistence Division on completing a  
24 comprehensive analysis of that, not just the biological  
25 response in the moose population to the predator  
26 control but also the household survey and the human  
27 harvest component response to that plan. And so we're  
28 going to continue on getting that write up complete,  
29 hopefully we'll get that done this year.

30  
31 We've already talked about -- you  
32 already covered some of the Board of Game proposals and  
33 you are aware that the deadline is May 1st for State  
34 Board of Game proposals, so even if people individually  
35 had things that come to their mind between now and then  
36 they still can submit proposals as individuals.

37  
38 The Galena Management Area, we're  
39 already aware of several different proposals that are  
40 going to be coming forward. One of the things that I  
41 wanted the Board to be aware of, you're probably pretty  
42 familiar with Proposal 129 that was recently reviewed  
43 at the Anchorage Board of Game meeting, that was also  
44 an agenda change request and it had to do with  
45 confusion over the complicated set of regulations that  
46 exist within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management  
47 Area and the reason there's so much confusion is  
48 because first of all there's several layers of Federal  
49 and State regulations, and all those different changing  
50

1 regulations, of course, they shift whether you're  
2 hunting or trapping, they shift whether or not you're  
3 on Federal or private land, and then, of course, if  
4 you're a Federally-qualified hunter, they change  
5 different on Federal lands, so it's a very complicated  
6 landscape in trying to understand those regulations.  
7 And so the Department of Fish and Game is going to be  
8 submitting a placeholder proposal with the intent of  
9 getting as much public input on the Dalton Highway  
10 Corridor Management Area. The other thing to take in  
11 mind is there's a lot of changes happening on the Haul  
12 Road since that -- both the statute, the State statutes  
13 and the State hunting regulation changes were  
14 implemented more than 20 years ago. We have roads of  
15 course going to Anaktuvuk Pass, roads going to Nuiqsut,  
16 there's a lot of different spur roads and a lot of  
17 other activities that have changed and so I think, you  
18 know, it's probably a good time to review what the  
19 public wants in those regulations and how to coordinate  
20 both our State regulation with the State statutes.

21

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So with that.....

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Excuse me, there was  
no -- the Board deferred the proposal to a permanent  
proposal, on 129?

MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair, the way  
they addressed it is they added language on the end of  
the hunt regulation. And we're still getting the final  
language. I haven't seen what the final language was.  
But, essentially, it stated that trapping is allowed on  
the Haul Road Corridor and transportation, as long as  
it doesn't conflict with State statute. It's something  
to that effect, is what the final additional regulation  
is. And so we haven't gotten the full idea of how  
that's going to impact the situation. As you  
know, probably one of the key issues associated with  
that proposal was whether the hunt regulation was  
meant, or intended originally to apply to trappers and  
that was part of the issue that they were considering  
at the Board of Game meeting.

But even that issue, I think, what  
we're going to submit as a placeholder proposal is just  
kind of put everything out there on the table and  
review all the different points of access that are  
going in and out of the corridor and how those may be  
changing and that Haul Road Corridor, not just being

1 Unit 24A, which is most of it in the Galena Management  
2 Area, but the North Slope portion as well.

3

4 So with that I'll turn it over to Sara.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,  
7 Sara.

8

9 MS. LONGSUM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 For the record my name is Sara Longsum. I am the  
11 assistant Galena area biologist for the Alaska  
12 Department of Fish and Game. And I just wanted to give  
13 you guys a quick update on what I have been up to.

14

15 We just completed a Unit 21D wolf  
16 survey during March 18th and we finished up just on the  
17 23rd and our goal with this was to obtain a minimum  
18 wolf count in the area. We ended up surveying 8,752  
19 square miles of Unit 21D, that's about 75 percent of  
20 the unit. Preliminary results show a minimum count of  
21 96 wolves. The pilots saw mostly small packs and  
22 mating pairs kind of branching off from the larger  
23 packs. The largest pack that they saw was about a pack  
24 of 12. A few packs of 10, 9, 8 and several one, two  
25 and three count packs. They reported pretty fair  
26 conditions. As you guys have been mentioning there was  
27 a lot of snow and then there was a lot of snow in the  
28 evenings after we were done surveying so the wolves  
29 didn't have a lot of time to lay down a lot of tracks  
30 between days because it continued to snow throughout  
31 the survey. So conditions were just fair for this  
32 survey. We did have three very experienced fixed wing  
33 pilots for this survey. And I haven't had a chance to  
34 compare data yet from previous surveys because we just  
35 finished up on Saturday. But numbers do seem quite  
36 similar to previous surveys. Also would note that this  
37 survey was kind of late in the season as compared to  
38 other ones possibly but that's just something that will  
39 get written up for the survey.

40

41 And so that's what I've been up to.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so that  
44 was Glenn and Sara's report and so the Council may have  
45 questions on various aspects of the report.

46

47 Council members.

48

49 Tim, go ahead.

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I'd just like to  
2 say thanks for having our moose populations in a  
3 healthy state, it's definitely one part of our  
4 subsistence economy that I don't hear anybody  
5 complaining about is the lack of healthy moose around  
6 so great job in keeping the resource available and  
7 appreciate your extra effort in getting this Kaiyuh  
8 Flats winter hunt through an out of cycle time.  
9

10 So great job.  
11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question would be  
13 -- oh, excuse me, go ahead there Goodwin.  
14

15 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, Goodwin Semaken  
16 from Kaltag. Since we were talking about Innoko, I was  
17 wondering, do you have a report on the bison?  
18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Glenn.  
20

21 MR. STOUT: Through the Chair. Member  
22 Semaken, no, I really don't have any information on  
23 that. That's handled by Tom Seaton, our bison  
24 researcher on that and I'm really not too aware of how  
25 that's been going.  
26

27 MR. SEMAKEN: I didn't know if they  
28 were supposed to come to our area but they seem to be.  
29

30 (Laughter)  
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a comment,  
33 Tommy.  
34

35 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, Glenn, just thanks  
36 to you guys for all the work that you do and there was  
37 just a little few issues with our hunting and I think  
38 we might have taken care of it. Anyway yo know what  
39 I've seen with a lot of the calves this year, I travel  
40 a lot from between Nulato, Kaltag, Koyukuk, behind  
41 Galena, through the Flats across the country towards  
42 Huslia and I ran across a lot of calves that weren't  
43 killed by wolves or like I said, we talked to your  
44 other guy the other day, or yesterday, that they were  
45 -- the snow was so deep that they tend to get snowballs  
46 under their arms and around their legs and everything  
47 and we did stop by a couple of them that they're dying  
48 and their mothers were there but you could tell that  
49 the moose wound up with either pneumonia or, you know,  
50

1     hypothermia. They got hypothermic and within a day or  
2     two, once they laid down they just died I mean right on  
3     the river, there were three deaths right in between  
4     Nulato and Koyukuk right on the river, one right smack  
5     in the middle of Koyukuk and another one right half a  
6     mile below a house in Nulato and they were just  
7     everywhere, a lot of the calves and they didn't make  
8     it.  
9

10                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Glenn.

11  
12                   MR. STOUT: Yeah, through the Chair.  
13     Member Kriska. Yeah, I think that's probably pretty  
14     predictable where they're having to expend so much  
15     energy on a year like that and we've seen that before  
16     where you have die-off and typically what it is, is the  
17     body condition is drawn down so far that they become  
18     susceptible to other potential diseases. We've seen  
19     internal parasites become a problem that are normally  
20     not affecting the moose. They become more of a problem  
21     when their body condition is drawn down like that.  
22

23                   We've got some really interesting  
24     pictures of years like that where we've done a field  
25     necropsy on them and maybe what I'll do is I'll take  
26     the opportunity at some point and get you some of those  
27     pictures that we've taken, and if I can't get out there  
28     and do a field necropsy maybe you can become familiar  
29     with it enough to where you can open it up and just  
30     look at some of the places like on the lungs or on the  
31     (indiscernible) where we tend to see some of these  
32     internal parasites start showing up. And then you can  
33     kind of assess for yourself and look at it yourself  
34     what could be, you know, potentially killing those  
35     moose.  
36

37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to comment  
38     on that. I've seen dead calves and cut them open,  
39     they've either plugged up with wood fiber because the  
40     cow eats everything in front of them, the calf has so  
41     much wood in it looks like toothpicks and one of them,  
42     the whole digestive system was back pressured it had so  
43     much wood fiber the droppings couldn't go through, the  
44     bladder was that big around and it plugged the urethra  
45     off and it killed -- it had kidney failure.  
46

47                   So I've seen two or three.

48  
49                   We've cut them open, they're like  
50

1 either plugged up with droppings or a lot of times in  
2 really super deep snow, if you really cut the stomach  
3 open they can't ruminate all that wood fiber, they were  
4 having to browse on too big of wood and they get -- so  
5 when you see those, slice them open and look in there  
6 and take a look and you'll see some really weird stuff.  
7 Either -- usually really skinny, they just can't --  
8 even if the snow starts to drop off, even if you feed  
9 them, I've tried to feed them when they're like that  
10 but they're so plugged up with wood they don't -- so  
11 check them out when you see them.

12  
13 (Teleconference interference -  
14 participants not muted)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just whip out your  
17 knife and slice them open and see what they look like  
18 and you'll see some really odd stuff.

19  
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

23  
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Just a quick  
25 announcement. For those on the phone, to please  
26 remember to press start six to mute your phone, we're  
27 hearing some background noise and we'd appreciate it.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tommy.

32  
33 MR. COLLINS: And actually you're  
34 dropping off again.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, too far away  
37 from the mic, sorry about that.

38  
39 REPORTER: Actually, Jack, it's the  
40 telephone participants not muting their phone, someone  
41 is on a cell phone and has it on speaker phone, that's  
42 what's interfering.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sorry about that,  
45 closer to the mic everybody -- well, I guess it's not  
46 us. Star six to mute.

47  
48 MR. KRISKA: Okay. Then one of the  
49 things that Jack mentioned yesterday like there was a  
50

1 lot of crows, three of these moose that were on the  
2 river without any predators going -- you know, three of  
3 the moose died right on the river and snowmachine  
4 trails going back and forth all the time so there was  
5 no foxes, no wolverines, no wolves on these moose and  
6 three of them, the whole moose were devoured in two  
7 weeks by crows.

8  
9 (Teleconference interference -  
10 participants not muted)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, they eat a lot  
13 of meat.

14  
15 MR. KRISKA: Yep, and it was amazing.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any other --  
18 Pollock.

19  
20 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21 Talking about moose, we used to be a lot of moose  
22 around Allakaket this winter, and maybe last month,  
23 they come off the hills, there is so much snow on the  
24 hills but I haven't seen any wolves close to the  
25 village. Usually there's two or three wolves running  
26 around killing dogs but since the wolf control was done  
27 we haven't seen too many wolves but it looked good just  
28 now, no moose coming off the hills so I just wondered  
29 when the next moose survey will be done around  
30 Allakaket.

31  
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Glenn.

35  
36 MR. STOUT: Through the Chair. Member  
37 Simon. We're probably going to try and get up there  
38 next fall to do the Kanuti area that we've typically  
39 done. And I think what we'll do is we'll get on a  
40 pattern just because of limited funding to try and do  
41 that Kanuti area on alternate years and then that 21D  
42 area north of Galena on the other years and it may not  
43 be perfect because there'll be years that we want to  
44 get over and do stuff like on the Nowitna area that we  
45 want to do every now and then but I hope to get to a  
46 good schedule of every other year on the Kanuti.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I had a question  
49 regarding the fall harvest, was the fall harvest in the  
50

1 Kaiyuh higher because of the high moose population, was  
2 the cessation coming from that Kaiyuh Flats country,  
3 did you show a higher harvest this year?  
4

5 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. The challenge  
6 on the Kaiyuh is access into it late in the fall  
7 sometimes changes pretty rapidly as the Yukon River  
8 drops because most of that access on Kaiyuh Slough is  
9 dependent on water level on the Yukon River and this  
10 year they did do pretty good out there early on in the  
11 hunt and I would say we even saw fewer people that  
12 normally are from Nulato that come up to the Koyukuk  
13 Controlled Use Area and hunt were successful early in  
14 the season and so we didn't see as many of them up  
15 there on the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.  
16

17 But it's hard to really access that as  
18 reliably as you can on areas like on the river there,  
19 on the Koyukuk River.  
20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, thank  
22 you.  
23

24 Goodwin.  
25

26 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, I was just  
27 commenting access, you know, different areas the water  
28 drops and you're right there, my concern is that, you  
29 know, they have a mine over there at Illinois Creek and  
30 they were running 24/7 and all of a sudden it seemed  
31 the moose population just go up after they left the  
32 area. So I don't know, you know, it's -- you see those  
33 lights, those animals are well aware of what's going  
34 on, you know, in their country. So keep that in mind  
35 if you're opening roads or whatever.  
36

37 Thank you.  
38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Glenn.  
40

41 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Member Semaken,  
42 through the Chair. When we presented at the Board of  
43 Game, we said there's probably three causes that  
44 probably played all together simultaneously to affect  
45 that Kaiyuh moose population. First of all we saw --  
46 we knew in 2005 there was about 300,000 acres of fire  
47 out there on the Kaiyuh Flats and it usually takes  
48 about 10 to 15 years for a burn to really respond and  
49 the moose population to respond to a burn like that and  
50

1 so here in 2018 we weren't too surprised to see  
2 essentially 13 years later a habitat response to those  
3 fires. The other thing was we had four really mild  
4 winters in a row and that just happened to be timed  
5 perfectly, if you will, right when those browse were  
6 really erupting and the nutritional quality of the  
7 browse was really at its highest. And then somewhat  
8 anecdotally, we saw a decline in the black bear numbers  
9 throughout the area and that certainly affected calf  
10 survival and we're not really certain what caused the  
11 black bear decline, how great that decline was but it  
12 certainly had an effect to it, and simultaneously, too,  
13 I know we had a lot of wolf harvest in there from a lot  
14 of locals. So we've kind of had the perfect storm of a  
15 lot of beneficial things going on at once and that's  
16 why that Kaiyuh moose population went from about 2,000  
17 moose to over 4,000 moose. So it helps to be lucky and  
18 I appreciate the kind words of our efforts but  
19 sometimes we're just lucky.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tom.

22

23 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, talking about those  
24 bears, just after that we were talking about they're  
25 declining, one year they're there and the next year  
26 they left for somewhere. But anyway I started to think  
27 about that and this is the second time in my life that  
28 I seen the bears, they were just gone the next summer  
29 and then the summer before that there was no berries,  
30 there was nothing really for them to eat and so when  
31 they denned up they were under weight and everything  
32 like that and then in that same year, and this is the  
33 second time I've seen this now, just really thinking  
34 about it, is there was a lot of snow -- well, not in  
35 that year but it turned cold, and then it rained really  
36 hard during the end of December and part of into  
37 January and I think a lot of them suffocated or they  
38 either got glaciated out and they just didn't make it  
39 through the winter. and it seemed like there was one  
40 year there were hundreds of bears and they were hungry  
41 because they were all over but then the next year they  
42 were just gone. I don't really know really, maybe just  
43 nature.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A long time ago  
46 those old-timers told me that in the '60s, the early  
47 '60s the black bears, they were really thick and a lot  
48 of people had trouble with them, you know, they were  
49 really skinny in the fall and old Benny Albert from

50

1 down there in Bearpaw, on the Kantishna River, told me  
2 he killed a bear that was just -- it was a big bear  
3 coming around trying to get meat, he shot it and it was  
4 just full of worms, really skinny and full of those big  
5 nematodes, those large round worms, which Beckman says  
6 it's not a management concern but large parasitization of  
7 -- with those nematodes can be a very restrictive to a  
8 bears ability to observe nutrients. Being a denning  
9 animal that -- that particular time a lot of bears that  
10 were killed that year, back in like 1962 or '63 or  
11 whenever that was had a lot of worms. So that can be  
12 another factor besides food. You know, too many bears,  
13 they -- I wanted to learn more about the life cycle of  
14 those worms and nobody seemed to be interested in it.  
15 I wanted to know if they over winter with the bears, if  
16 they were in the dens, I wanted to know how those worms  
17 go from bear to bear. When there's lots of bears they  
18 seem to have more of those worms.

19

20

Tim.

21

22

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

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29

30

Glenn and Sara, so last night after you guys had  
departed we had put forth a proposal for Board of Game  
to change the dates of the winter hunt from March to  
December 1st to December 15th, Tom or Jack can talk  
about the reasoning on that if you want to hear that.  
But I wanted to get your comments about this proposal  
that the WIRAC is going to submit.

31

32

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Glenn.

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MR. STOUT: Yeah, Member Gervais,  
through the Chair. When we talked about the different  
options there was a couple of issues that came into  
play. The first one, when we went through the Koyukuk  
Moose Management planning effort, we talked about when  
moose populations were below our management objectives  
we would have to take a step-wise process for  
eliminating cow hunts, first of all. The first place  
that we would eliminate cow hunts would be in the fall  
season and so we closed down those hunts because at the  
time we were entering into this period where we were  
below our management objective. If it persisted then  
we had to take the next step and that was eliminating  
cow harvest during our winter hunts and in that case we  
had a March hunt in 21D in that same area. And so as  
we stayed below our management objective, we had to  
take that next step of eliminating that March season at

1 that time. And then we started reducing other hunts in  
2 the fall, bull hunts, though they were all exclusively  
3 bull hunts through these drawing permits and just like  
4 this year, I reduced drawing permits once again.  
5

6 And so part of it was this historical  
7 process of stepping things back and as the moose  
8 population improved on the Kaiyuh Flats portion of it,  
9 then it's just a matter of reinstating them in the  
10 same way they were in reverse order essentially.  
11

12 And so we proposed that and we took  
13 that to the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee. We talked  
14 to them about the challenges in other parts of the  
15 year, you know, we know with the warm seasons we've  
16 seen the last several winters where we aren't even  
17 getting good freeze-up until well into December. So  
18 having those options there weren't as reliable. During  
19 the middle of the winter severity, one of the things  
20 that we have even with the March seasons when we had  
21 them 15, 20 years ago was they were always a to be  
22 announced season like this one is for us to have that  
23 more immediate response to judge weather conditions and  
24 make it, not just an open season, but a meaningful open  
25 season where it was meaningful for hunters to be able  
26 to get out there and typically we see the most reliable  
27 travel conditions existed once trails had been settled  
28 all winter, the snow's kind of settled down and people  
29 have already established a trail system throughout the  
30 area.  
31

32 So we had several reasons that kind of  
33 went that direction and when we discussed that with the  
34 Middle Yukon AC at both the spring and December meeting  
35 they supported unanimously to have that March season be  
36 the one.  
37

38 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.  
39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was wondering if,  
41 you know, this proposal's going to be submitted, I was  
42 wondering if you issued the permits and there's --  
43 again, you issue like 20 permits, you get 10 moose  
44 harvest and you have excess number of moose, the season  
45 closes, you have an opening on December 1 to December  
46 whatever, for five days, and then if the number -- your  
47 objective to kill so many moose is still there, can you  
48 have a second season, have two harvest periods, one in  
49 December and one in March to accommodate the -- to meet  
50

1 the harvest objective, to give people the opportunity  
2 that didn't get a moose and really needs one really  
3 bad, didn't get one in the fall, the December  
4 opportunity.  
5

6 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I think  
7 that's really kind of up to the public, you know,  
8 what's going to work best for them. I would say that  
9 we would even consider, you know, a cow hunt in the  
10 fall in that area, too, if we get to the point that  
11 we're seeing, for instance, concern in the habitat.  
12 And so, you know, we've tried to articulate all along  
13 that the Department's not opposed to having a cow  
14 harvest if it's sustainable. And so I feel, yeah, you  
15 know, whatever we can do to make it better for the  
16 public and if people can meet their needs in the way we  
17 used to have a fall cow hunt, it was like the last five  
18 days of the fall season, may be a good opportunity for  
19 those people that didn't -- you know they hunted all  
20 season and they're probably going to have a pretty good  
21 success rate taking a cow even in the late fall hunt.  
22

23 So I think there's a lot of options we  
24 can talk about.  
25

26 I'm not closed to any consideration.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tommy.  
29

30 MR. KRISKA: Okay. Now that you put  
31 that out there, I really like that idea, Glenn, is if  
32 you went ahead and opened the cow season the last five  
33 days, the 28th to the 25th [sic] and that probably will  
34 eliminate your winter hunt because that would help a  
35 lot of the people. I mean I see some people that --  
36 they come to me, and you know me I won't say no and I  
37 help a lot of people every fall, probably eight or 10  
38 moose you see me hauling in is just because to help the  
39 people that can't -- you know, they already spent  
40 \$2,000, they don't have another dollar to buy gas and  
41 they're looking at you and I just can't see their faces  
42 like that so I go and literally you've seen me, four or  
43 five moose in some trips and I do it because they need  
44 it.  
45

46 But -- and I'm busy, too, at the same  
47 time, with -- a lot of times, and my kids, and so it  
48 would be probably more of a -- just, you know, to solve  
49 the issues to make that last five days be a cow hunt,  
50

1 that would probably help a lot of people. Because  
2 trying to get a bull in that late season and they're  
3 not moving, and they like -- like last year they moved  
4 after the 18th and then people were already exhausted  
5 for their monies and everything for fuel. Because I  
6 know that when you open it in the early part of the  
7 22nd of August everyone is out there. So if you really  
8 think about it they're out there for a whole month  
9 almost trying to get a moose. So it would be -- you  
10 know, common sense to do that five days.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Glenn.

15

16 MR. STOUT: Yeah, and I'll just  
17 reemphasize, I totally understand those concerns. When  
18 we presented this proposal, even to the Middle Yukon,  
19 we had a quota of 25 moose, not to exceed 20 cows and  
20 so I say we're open to all options when we start  
21 assessing this so I -- it's not -- I didn't want to  
22 make it seem like I'm ready to go there at this point,  
23 I have to assess it and even with this winter hunt,  
24 I'll talk with Brad Scotten at the Refuge and working  
25 with Boomer and then, we wanted to ease into this and  
26 kind of watch this because we have one good data point  
27 that saw that increase along with our trend area data  
28 that showed that's the trajectory but I'm still going  
29 to be cautious. I'm still a very conservative manager  
30 in that sense and so I'm going to be pretty cautious  
31 about how much I jump into this immediately. I just  
32 wanted to kind of throw that in there.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're not to fall  
35 harvest yet. I almost went for a proposal but -- okay,  
36 Tom.

37

38 MR. KRISKA: Okay. One of the reason  
39 that was talked about in that proposal that we put in  
40 is that once that we did have that AC meeting and  
41 remember just a few days later I started contacting you  
42 and we got -- went through a whole bunch of this stuff  
43 and you were saying that if you could get a hold of all  
44 those AC members and they agreed to this then it  
45 possibly can happen on December 1st through the 15th  
46 and then I did contact all of them and they said yes  
47 and I mean that's one of the reasons I felt okay to go  
48 ahead and do this because that's what they really  
49 wanted and a lot of them were -- like some of the

50

1 people that were commenting on this that, you know,  
2 they just sit back and waiting for longer days and  
3 maybe out of a little laziness that they're not wanting  
4 to go out there on these longer days but there's a lot  
5 of guys that need that meat and, you know, in the early  
6 parts and that they were willing to go out there and  
7 you look at it, there's only five to 10 moose that  
8 they're really wanting so I don't really see a problem  
9 with going in December.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the way I look at  
12 it, the proposal that will be submitted during the  
13 timeframe December 1 to December 15th with an EO, we  
14 could have that harvest period, if we don't achieve  
15 that harvest we could have another harvest period in  
16 March and then people who want to have -- I hear people  
17 say, I want a cow moose in March because it's got a  
18 certain thinner skin for leather and stuff like that,  
19 you hear that out of Huslia quite a bit. So then you  
20 get -- you could have -- then you could achieve your  
21 harvest objective, you could come up with up to 25  
22 moose harvest and then we would meet -- possibly meet  
23 that harvest objective and have -- and accommodate  
24 people who really need the moose in December.

25

26 Does that make sense to ask for that,  
27 Glenn?

28

29 MR. STOUT: You know this area down by  
30 Kaiyuh, of course, it was just down by Kaiyuh, not up  
31 by the Huslia area, and the Middle Yukon had two  
32 meetings that they spoke specifically to this issue and  
33 so I'm going to stick with what they told me at this  
34 point, you know, I think they gave me two meetings  
35 where they gave me a firm answer on what they wanted,  
36 and I'm all ready to listen to them again but that's  
37 what they told me -- they gave me a really strong  
38 response when I asked specifically again, you know, to  
39 make sure this was going to work that's what they told  
40 me, so I'm still going to continue to support what they  
41 told me last.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, well, we'll  
44 submit the proposal. We should clarify the proposal  
45 that it would actually have two harvest periods.....

46

47 MR. KRISKA: Okay.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....by emergency

50

1 order, December 1 to December 15, and if the objective  
2 is not achieved, then March 1 to March 15 with EO for  
3 the amount of days and you're way within your -- what  
4 you feel comfortable with and let the Middle Yukon mull  
5 that one over. That's what the process would actually  
6 achieve. You can get the answer from them.

7  
8 MR. STOUT: Yeah. And ideally, and one  
9 of the things that we really emphasize in that process  
10 is to make sure that the State and Federal regs align  
11 because down there in the Kaiyuh all that checkerboard  
12 pattern it would be a real problem if it just got  
13 approved on the State side -- or on the Federal side,  
14 because when we open up a State hunt it opens up on  
15 both State and Federal lands but if you opened up a  
16 season that did not -- was not consistent with a State  
17 season then it would be problematic.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we'd have --  
20 we should have a redundant proposal to the Federal  
21 Subsistence Board because they're under call for  
22 proposals as of today -- I think it's today. So that  
23 would be a redundant proposal for the Federal  
24 Subsistence Board also under the -- using the State  
25 hunt on the Federal lands.

26  
27 Would that be appropriate?

28  
29 MR. STOUT: Yeah, I guess maybe I  
30 misunderstood, I thought that's what you were talking  
31 about, a Federal hunt.....

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, I'm talking  
34 about.....

35  
36 MR. STOUT: .....in the December.....

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....this is a --  
39 we're talking about the State Board of Game proposal.  
40 The hunt we were -- everything has to do with the State  
41 hunt and right now the Federal subsistence regulations  
42 don't reflect it, they have a different hunt period  
43 than that -- for a -- there's a spring hunt on the  
44 Brooks but it actually doesn't have the same timeframe.

45  
46 Lisa.

47  
48 MS. MAAS: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just  
49 wanted to notify the Council that Jeremy Havener with

50

1 the Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko Refuges is planning on  
2 submitting a Federal proposal to reflect the changes of  
3 Proposal 151 -- is that the number that it was?  
4

5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: For the March  
6 hunt?  
7

8 MS. MAAS: Yeah -- well, I mean was  
9 that the only change in that, I think there were a  
10 couple other changes in one -- in that proposal, but  
11 basically to align the Federal regs with the new State  
12 regs for that area.  
13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
15

16 MS. MAAS: And, of course, I mean if  
17 it's legal under State there's no Federal closures in  
18 that area so they could still hunt on Federal lands.  
19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So we're  
21 still going to make a proposal for the December 1 to  
22 the December 15th timeframe with an emergency order of  
23 five days somewhere in there, your discretion. And  
24 then also have the component of March 1 to March 15 and  
25 then let it sort with the Advisory Committees and the  
26 process and by the end of next winter we'll have some  
27 idea. But we do want a Federal proposal submitted --  
28 or registered today that would be to that effect on the  
29 Federal side so that -- and Jeremy can submit his  
30 proposal in case our proposals all fail, we still have  
31 the redundance on the Federal side.  
32

33 So Jeremy can submit that one, this  
34 Council's going to submit a proposal to use the State  
35 hunt registration permit and emergency order authority  
36 from December 1 to December 15 and then March 1 to  
37 March 15 with the area biologist emergency order  
38 authority to open and close the hunt and to set the bag  
39 limits -- set the harvest requirement.  
40

41 Am I getting through Karen?  
42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 You're talking about a Federal proposal?  
45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm talking about  
47 two exactly the same proposals, one is going to be  
48 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board today  
49 because we have to get it in today and then we're going  
50

1 to submit a State proposal to the State Board of Game  
2 for exactly the same thing. And with the understanding  
3 on the Federal Subsistence Board proposal, that this is  
4 if the Advisory Committee's and everybody's agreeable  
5 to the -- to having two hunt periods. So if not, we  
6 get to our spring meeting next year and Middle Yukon  
7 goes, no, we don't want to do that, and the area  
8 biologist says I don't feel comfortable with that, we  
9 still have Jeremy Havener's Koyukuk/Nowitna, that's  
10 going to align with the current State season.

11  
12 Does that sound like it's workable,  
13 Glenn?

14  
15 MR. STOUT: Yes. Mr. Chair, I  
16 understand what you're saying.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

19  
20 So, Tim.

21  
22 MR. GERVAIS: All right. So I'd like  
23 to make a motion to do -- could we take two actions on  
24 one motion. The first action would be the amend our  
25 State Board of Game proposal.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

28  
29 MR. GERVAIS: .....from yesterday to  
30 include the December 1st through December 15th hunt and  
31 then a second season, if there's enough moose left  
32 available, to go from March 1st to March 15th?

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: March 1st to March  
35 15 timeframe.

36  
37 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. And then the  
38 second part of my motion.....

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, wait, wait,  
41 wait, what is your timeframe, is it that March 1 to  
42 March 15, or do you have a timeframe?

43  
44 MR. STOUT: The way the proposal is now  
45 it's open during that to be announced 15 day season  
46 during the month of March. So that gave us that  
47 latitude to pick 15 days sometime during the month.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So scratch --

50

1 go ahead, Karen.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 Right now on the record the Board of Game proposal that  
5 the Council moved for is to actually adjust the winter  
6 hunt to have instead of a March opening for the season  
7 in this area, to change the starting date of December  
8 1st to December 15th; so if you wanted to modify that  
9 to allow for -- now this is for the Board of Game  
10 proposal, not the Federal proposal, to -- in addition  
11 to the March hunt, that would be something you could  
12 do. But if you're going to do this at the Federal  
13 level, then the recommendation would be to have an  
14 entirely different proposal.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, what we're  
19 doing.....

20

21 MS. KENNER: And motion.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: And motion.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, what we're  
26 doing.....

27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: And motion. So not to  
29 include the Board of Game motion proposal with the  
30 Federal proposal motion.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Tim is.....

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: You would need two.  
35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, Tim's trying  
38 to modify the State proposal that we made yesterday.  
39 I'm clarifying -- we're getting it out of the horse's  
40 mouth, I was getting hearsay information about March 1  
41 to March 15th, so we're going to go -- we're redoing  
42 our State proposal first. So let's -- Tim's going to  
43 make a motion to redo the State proposal and so the  
44 State proposal is going to be, state it Tim.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So I'd like to  
47 make a motion to adjust the language in our State Board  
48 of Game proposal for the Kaiyuh winter hunt to have a  
49 season -- let's do it 15 days in December to be

50

1 announced by the State biologist and then if there's  
2 remaining moose quota available to have a secondary  
3 opening for 15 days in March to be announced to fill  
4 the rest of the quota.  
5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll align  
7 with the language, it's to be announced in March;  
8 that's the State regulation right now, so to be  
9 announced in March and we could also just say to be  
10 announced in December, and so that gives the area  
11 biologist the leeway to announce when in December but  
12 preferably early December is when you would say -- so  
13 we can talk about that during deliberations.  
14

15 MR. KRISKA: Well 15 days in December.  
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, he's going to --  
18 we only had.....  
19

20 (Teleconference interference -  
21 participants not muted)  
22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....five days this  
24 year.  
25

26 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, this is  
27 Ray.  
28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Glenn's going to  
30 answer a question, Ray -- go ahead, Glenn.  
31

32 MR. STOUT: Yeah, it was 15 days.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So 15 days in  
35 December, 15 days in March at the discretion of the  
36 area biologist about setting that time. So is that  
37 your motion to have 15 days in December, 15 days in  
38 March, and at the discretion of the area biologist for  
39 the Kaiyuh?  
40

41 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, it is.  
42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so.....  
44

45 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second it.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....is that clear  
48 Karen?  
49

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Jenny seconded.  
4 And, Ray, you were going to comment.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Yes. There's no mention  
7 of cows with calves. It seems to me that some of those  
8 old hunts that we had was it was closed to cows  
9 accompanied by calves because if it's earlier in the  
10 season, those calves won't survive if they don't have a  
11 cow there to help break trail, out in this area they  
12 just (indiscernible) and it was the (indiscernible)  
13 that kept the trails open so that the calves could go  
14 around and feed so is there any need to mention  
15 anything about cows with calves.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Glenn can answer  
18 that question, go ahead Glenn.

19

20 MR. STOUT: Through the Chair. Member  
21 Collins. That hunt the RM831 hunt had exactly that  
22 stipulation, that it was an any moose hunt with the  
23 exception that cows accompanied by calves could not be  
24 shot. So, you know, I think it would be a -- just like  
25 you said, a great idea to have that consistent with the  
26 December portion as well.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good point Ray to  
29 clarify that for the record.

30

31 MR. GERVAIS: And the intent of my  
32 motion was just to add the additional hunting days in  
33 December without modifying the stipulations on which  
34 animals were legal or not.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that  
37 clarification, Tim.

38

39 So motion on the floor to have a State  
40 hunt to the Board of Game to allow 15 days in December  
41 and 15 days in March at the discretion of the area  
42 biologist with the stipulations as stated in  
43 regulations to be announced.

44

45 Is that clear to the Council.

46

47 (Council nods affirmatively)

48

49 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead, Don.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I had a question on  
4 this, what is the language in our -- the March 5th --  
5 the March 1st to the 15th or something, is it dependent  
6 upon if moose were not taken in the December 1st to the  
7 15th hunt, I mean what is the language going to be, is  
8 that -- was that if needed or how is that going?  
9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, there would be  
11 two hunts. The proposal is for two hunt periods. One  
12 would be in December and one would be in March and so  
13 the area biologist would announce the season and issue  
14 a registration permit for that hunt and that can be  
15 done on line also, and so then if there's under  
16 achievement of the amount of moose to be taken, up to  
17 25 moose, then the area biologist, at his discretion,  
18 could have an additional hunt in March. That's the  
19 objective of this proposal.  
20

21 MR. HONEA: Oh, okay, but that's not in  
22 the language is it, I mean what I'm asking for, I  
23 guess, is -- I mean if there was a -- if there was a  
24 certain amount and if the -- if the maximum moose taken  
25 on the December hunt then you'd just forfeit the March  
26 one.  
27

28 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I was making a  
29 motion.....  
30

31 MR. HONEA: So it would have to be at  
32 the discretion of the area biologist.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.  
35

36 MR. GERVAIS: My motion was for not to  
37 be two different hunts, it's just one hunt with two  
38 opening dates if there was sufficient moose available  
39 for the second opening.  
40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So is that clear,  
42 Don? It's not changing the hunt, it's just changing  
43 the timeframe of two hunts. If all the moose are taken  
44 in December, there was that much demand for moose meat  
45 at that time of year, well, then that's the way it  
46 went.  
47

48 Tommy.  
49  
50

1 MR. KRISKA: That moose hunt is put  
2 there for people that didn't get their moose in the  
3 previous fall. So the only people that didn't get  
4 their moose in the fall are the only ones eligible to  
5 do the hunt in the winter; is that right, Glenn?  
6

7 MR. STOUT: Yes, through the Chair.  
8 Member Kriska. Every year we calculate harvestable  
9 surplus of the population. And so the quota that we  
10 establish in the fall hunts, but especially in these  
11 winter hunts where we are shooting cows always had what  
12 was sustainable harvest levels. And so this year,  
13 going into that hunt, kind of in anticipation that  
14 there was potentially a higher demand for that hunt, I  
15 actually had an EO closure in my hand ready to close  
16 the hunt. And so I think it works just exactly as  
17 Member Gervais said, that, if we met that harvestable  
18 surplus quota during December then, necessarily, I  
19 would have to close the hunt by emergency order and  
20 there would be no March hunt. So I think in principle  
21 exactly what Member Gervais is saying is what exactly  
22 we would do. And that harvestable surplus calculation  
23 is conservative at this point, just like I said, I work  
24 with Brad and we talked about that number that we felt  
25 we're comfortable with this at this time and we would --  
26 just as we always do, make that a very careful  
27 consideration of what's sustainable.  
28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

30  
31 Karen.

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 Forgive me for my ignorance but I just want to be sure  
35 that we are citing the correct area in this proposal,  
36 are we referring to 21D remainder or are we referring  
37 to the 21D within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, or  
38 are we just referring to the Kaiyuh Flats area?  
39

40 Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Glenn, go ahead and  
43 delineate the area.  
44

45 MR. STOUT: Through the Chair. Ms.  
46 Deatherage. That regulation that you're seeing in the  
47 old handy-dandy there is no longer relevant because  
48 when the Board of Game reconsidered the proposal, they  
49 rewrote the codified language so that's the old  
50

1 language. We now have a separate area defined as that  
2 area south of the south bank of the Yukon River, and so  
3 you'll see a whole different set of codifieds coming  
4 out this fall that will reflect this new area.  
5

6 MR. REBARCHIK: I also -- Mr. Chair. I  
7 also need to make a clarification, the proposal that  
8 our Refuge, Jeremy Havener is working on putting  
9 together that was mentioned earlier, we're putting it  
10 forward so that our regulation mimics the State  
11 regulation, we're actually using the verbiage that  
12 Glenn refers to as being rewritten so that our  
13 regulation is the same as the State's regulation so  
14 that there's no confusion in where you can hunt and  
15 when you can hunt.....  
16

17 (Teleconference interference -  
18 participants not muted - dogs barking)  
19

20 MR. REBARCHIK: .....it's under the  
21 State's direction, if we could clarify.....  
22

23 (Teleconference interference -  
24 participants not muted - dogs barking)  
25

26 MR. REBARCHIK: .....before we move  
27 forward.  
28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So whoever's on the  
30 phone with the dog barking put your phone on mute, star  
31 six.  
32

33 And so let me read that into the  
34 record, I have Jeremy's proposal here.  
35

36 MS. MAAS: No, no, that's Proposal 151,  
37 for the State but it'll mirror that.  
38

39 MS. KENNER: Yeah, just.....  
40

41 (Teleconference interference -  
42 participants not muted)  
43

44 MR. REBARCHIK: We don't have Jeremy's  
45 here yet.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, we don't.  
48

49 MR. REBARCHIK: No, we don't.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, well, that's not  
2 what that is. So do you want to restate that for the  
3 record, it'll be transcribed, so restate that clear  
4 from 21D south bank of the Yukon River.  
5

6 Glenn.  
7

8 Star six the phones, there's a dog  
9 barking and lots of background noise interfering in the  
10 meeting.  
11

12 Go ahead, Glenn.  
13

14 MR. STOUT: Yeah, okay, I'll go ahead  
15 and read it, thank you.  
16

17 MS. MAAS: That's what I gave Jack.  
18 This is what I gave you.  
19

20 MR. STOUT: It says 21D, that portion  
21 south of the south bank of the Yukon River down stream  
22 of the up river entrance of Kelly Slough and west of  
23 Kelly Creek and then it cites the seasons in there.  
24 That's the hunt area description.  
25

26 MS. KENNER: Thank you. And then.....  
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that's  
29 clear on the record, Karen?  
30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: (Nods affirmatively)  
32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so.....  
34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, see what Lisa has  
36 - (laughing).  
37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want this all on  
39 the record and so we want to make sure that this is  
40 nice and clean.  
41

42 Tommy.  
43

44 MR. KRISKA: And that's the up river  
45 part, where does it end, across Kaltag.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: South.  
48

49 MR. STOUT: Yeah, the way that hunt  
50

1 area description works is it says, Unit 21D south of  
2 that, and so basically that means everything down river  
3 from that point on, so that goes all the way down to  
4 Blackburn Island.

5  
6 MR. KRISKA: Okay, I see. On the south  
7 side of the river all the way down.

8  
9 MR. STOUT: Correct.

10  
11 MR. REBARCHIK: That's right. South  
12 and west and east, excuse me, of the river.

13  
14 (Teleconference interference -  
15 participants not muted)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So the  
18 record's clear where the hunt area is to occur  
19 according to the State language and the two hunts,  
20 December and March.....

21  
22 MS. KENNER: No, not.....

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....and so.....

25  
26 MR. GERVAIS: One hunt, two dates.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One hunt, two hunt  
29 periods.....

30  
31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Potentially.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....at the  
34 discretion of the area biologist and so any further  
35 discussion.

36  
37 MS. PELKOLA: Call question.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on  
40 the State proposal to be submitted, those in favor  
41 signify by saying aye.

42  
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44  
45 MR. COLLINS: Aye.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

48  
49 MR. SEMAKEN: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, so we got you  
2 Ray, are you there Don.

3  
4 MR. HONEA: Yeah. I voted aye.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I want to  
7 make sure, I've got to clarify the record for how the  
8 vote went.

9  
10 MR. SEMAKEN: I said no.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you said no?

13  
14 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, I missed that  
17 one, Tina got it though.

18  
19 MR. SEMAKEN: Okay.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we have one  
22 opposition to that.

23  
24 Okay, so then under -- and at the same  
25 time we're going to submit exactly the same proposal to  
26 the Federal Subsistence Board to go through an analysis  
27 and proposal period and we'll be able to vote this up  
28 or down at our spring of 2020 meeting with the input of  
29 the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee, which is going to  
30 be integral as to how this proposal goes.

31  
32 So it's not that we're going past the  
33 Middle Yukon Advisory Committee, we're going to include  
34 them in the deliberation process but we got to get  
35 these proposals on the table -- the Federal proposal  
36 has to go in today.

37  
38 So it's exactly the same proposal  
39 except it's on the Federal side.

40  
41 So we need a motion to that effect.

42  
43 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. I'd like to make a  
44 motion to submit the same exact proposal to the Federal  
45 Subsistence Board that we did -- that mimics verbatim  
46 the State Board of Game proposal on the -- having that  
47 December and March opening dates for that same Kaiyuh  
48 Flats hunt.

49  
50

1 MR. HONEA: Second.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And seconded by Don.  
4 And it would be the exact same hunt procedure with the  
5 area biologist EO'ing the hunt.  
6  
7 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's clear to  
10 the Council.  
11  
12 (Council nods affirmatively)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the -- do we  
15 have a question.  
16  
17 MS. PELKOLA: Question.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
20 Those in favor of submitting that Federal proposal  
21 regarding the.....  
22  
23 MR. HONEA: Hello.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....regarding the  
26 Kaiyuh moose hunt.....  
27  
28 MR. HONEA: Did we lose you guys?  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're in  
31 deliberation. We're going to come to a vote. Those in  
32 favor of submitting that Federal proposal signify by  
33 saying aye.  
34  
35 IN UNISON: Aye.  
36  
37 MR. HONEA: Aye.  
38  
39 MR. COLLINS: Aye.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And what  
42 about you Goodwin.  
43  
44 MR. SEMAKEN: Aye.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Goodwin votes  
47 for that one. So that's unanimous.  
48  
49 So any further question -- so we got --  
50

1 we had to work through this proposal thing while you're  
2 here, that's why I sure appreciate you being here at  
3 the table to help us so much. So any further questions  
4 for Glenn or Sara on this wolf thing or anything.  
5

6 Tommy.  
7

8 MR. KRISKA: No, I think I bother them  
9 enough throughout the year.  
10

11 (Laughter)  
12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks so  
14 much, appreciate.....  
15

16 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.  
17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead, Don,  
19 you got a question.  
20

21 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I have a  
22 comment. I thank Glenn and Sara for coming out here  
23 and helping Ruby AC, not helping us, but at one of our  
24 meetings here in December, I appreciate the information  
25 that they had and just a suggestion to maybe for  
26 ourselves and for the Middle Yukon, and Tommy and for  
27 the guys down there, just (indiscernible) here, but we  
28 supported the hunt in the Kaiyuh and then I mentioned  
29 it to somebody from Nulato and somebody else mentioned  
30 what does the Ruby AC got to do with our hunt over here  
31 so I think maybe in the future I attended two meetings  
32 in Galena this fall, one was our RAC meeting and one  
33 was our InterTribal Fish Commission meeting and I tried  
34 to get the consensus, tried to get the -- see where  
35 people stood on that hunt and so without fully asking  
36 them, so maybe I think -- maybe just for ourselves as  
37 an AC and for Middle Yukon and stuff to be more  
38 outspoken on this and support each other, and maybe --  
39 maybe I could have just called them up or something to  
40 see -- instead of -- instead of being in opposition or  
41 something to -- to support each other just as ACs and --  
42 I just wanted to make that comment.  
43

44 Thank you.  
45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
47 Don. I think that's it for State update.  
48

49 Thanks so much Glenn and Sara, see you  
50

1 next time.

2

3 And so we're coming down to OSM,  
4 general update.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're waiting for  
9 OSM Staff to seat, for those on the phone.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go right ahead.

14

15 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Chairman  
16 Reakoff and Council. My name is Greg Risdahl, the  
17 Fisheries Division leader at OSM. I'm just going to do  
18 a short Staffing update for our office.

19

20 As you know, Gene Peltola left OSM back  
21 in July and joined Bureau of Indian Affairs as the  
22 Regional Director, and as such he will be the voting  
23 member on the Federal Subsistence Board. I think  
24 everybody knows that but that's on my list to give.

25

26 Tom, of course, has been acting as the  
27 ARD since then and a little update on that. The  
28 application period for the assistant ARD position has  
29 opened and closed on the 22nd. So we're hopeful that  
30 something will happen soon and we'll have a new ARD.  
31 The one thing that might make that take a little longer  
32 is those positions do have to go to Washington, D.C.,  
33 to be certified officially by our headquarters.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is it too late to  
36 comment on that selection process.

37

38 MR. RISDAHL: I believe you folks can  
39 do that sort of thing.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel that that  
42 selection process should be weighted heavily towards  
43 subsistence experience with the Program, and so I would  
44 really hate to see a national opening and we get some  
45 brand new person from Washington, D.C., that would be a  
46 nightmare for the Councils, and OSM itself. So I would  
47 feel that this Council should make a statement to that  
48 effect that the ARD position that's going to run OSM  
49 should have subsistence experience in Alaska.

50





1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

2  
3 (No comments)

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there  
6 Ray?

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Lost Ray there for  
11 now. But the motion passed.

12  
13 MR. COLLINS: Aye.

14  
15 (Laughter)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we got you.  
18 It might have been your dog barking.....

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....so that motion  
23 is adopted. So continue.

24  
25 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Chairman  
26 Reakoff. And appreciate those earnest words and we  
27 probably couldn't agree more on that.

28  
29 Carl Johnson's departure has also been  
30 mentioned and he has left to run a photographic safari  
31 company and I think he started actually while he was at  
32 OSM, but we all wish him well and he will receive some  
33 recognition for his service at the upcoming Federal  
34 Subsistence Board meeting in April.

35  
36 I am here. I don't need to read my  
37 bio.

38  
39 We also just recently hired a new Staff  
40 anthropologist. Her name is Hannah Vorhees. Hannah  
41 seems to be a really nice young lady, born and raised  
42 in Eagle River, Alaska. She's got a PhD in cultural  
43 anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. Her  
44 focus was on subsistence and conservation in Alaska and  
45 her husband, by the way, works for Marine Mammals and  
46 has done a lot of work with polar bears. She's worked  
47 with Alaska Native organizations to fulfill co-  
48 management roles and has conducted a significant amount  
49 of traditional ecological knowledge research in

50

1 communities on the Seward Peninsula and in the North  
2 Slope regions. And she will be working closely with  
3 the Seward Peninsula RAC and you folks, the Western  
4 Interior Regional Advisory Council. So we look forward  
5 to seeing her at the next Western Interior RAC meeting  
6 in the fall.

7  
8 Our current vacancies include the  
9 Anthropology Division supervisor. That position has  
10 actually been -- gone through the process and we are  
11 working on recruiting for that position right now.

12  
13 And I have just completed the paperwork  
14 for a GS7/9/11 fishery biologist and a GS11/12 fishery  
15 biologist and those positions are currently going  
16 through the waiver process at the regional office.

17  
18 We have two admin assistant positions  
19 that we've been authorized to fill and, similarly, they  
20 are also going through the regional waiver process  
21 right now.

22  
23 Carl, that position is also going  
24 through the waiver process.

25  
26 That pretty much sums up where we are  
27 with Staffing at this point.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And we really  
30 hope those positions are filled rapidly because a full  
31 compliment of Staff really helps these Councils  
32 accomplish their work, and we really appreciate all  
33 that OSM does for these Councils, it's integral to our  
34 proceedings.

35  
36 Did you have something, Pippa.

37  
38 MS. KENNER: No.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, that's it, okay.

41  
42 MS. KENNER: Oh, yeah, I have  
43 something.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

46  
47 MS. KENNER: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen, did you have  
50

1 something -- Karen.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 I'd like to add a couple things for Staffing because I  
5 know Pippa's going to talk about fisheries, et cetera.

6

7 First of all, I'm not sure how much  
8 folks know about Greg Risdahl, and I'm not trying to  
9 get points here but I had the absolute honor of working  
10 with Greg when he was the Refuge Manager at Izembek and  
11 his community efforts along the Alaska Peninsula as  
12 well as Kodiak and the Aleutian Islands was remarkable.  
13 We're so pleased to have him in our camp and he -- I  
14 think he is going to be a true asset to the OSM team  
15 when it comes to working closely with communities  
16 because there is a real genuine interest in his heart  
17 to do so.

18

19 Secondly, I'd like to mention that the  
20 Region 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife has awards that they  
21 give out annually, on several different levels, and  
22 there's nominees that are made for these awards, and I  
23 think it's important to mention that Jack Reakoff has  
24 been nominated to -- nominated so far, to -- as an  
25 exceptional partner award, so I just wanted to mention  
26 that because I think it's a -- win or not, I think  
27 recognizing your contributions to our program is  
28 fantastic.

29

30 Thank you very much.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I appreciate  
33 that, thank you, but I haven't won anything yet.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pippa. I appreciate  
38 the nomination.

39

40 Pippa.

41

42 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
43 Again, this is Pippa Kenner, I'm an anthropologist at  
44 the Office of Subsistence Management. I believe all  
45 the nominations are winners.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MS. KENNER: And at first I thought

50

1 Karen was going to say I had, but, no, it was you.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5

MS. KENNER: But that's okay.

6

7

8

MS. DEATHERAGE: You were the second  
place nominee.

9

10

(Laughter)

11

12

13

MS. KENNER: Okay. So what I'm doing  
right now is I'm doing a brief update of three programs  
at the Office of Subsistence Management.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

One is the Fisheries Regulatory Cycle,  
the other is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program,  
and the third is the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring.

21

22

23

24

25

I don't have anything for you to read,  
I'm just going to give a brief update on where we are  
in those three programs. Additionally, nothing in this  
is an action item, it's just keeping you updated on the  
programs.

26

27

Okay.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

So for the Fisheries Regulatory Cycle,  
the Board will take action on the current regulatory  
cycle proposals during their April 2019 public  
regulatory meeting. The delayed action on these  
proposals means that revised regulations will not be in  
place for the standard April 1 start date for these new  
regulations. So when the Federal government had a  
furlough, these meetings as well as the fisheries Board  
meeting were pushed back, and that fishery -- that  
Board meeting to address those fishery proposals that  
we all went through in the fall, that meeting isn't  
happening until later in April, but those regulations  
would have gone into effect on April 1st.  
Additionally, it takes a couple months to get them  
published in the Federal Register, they do not become  
effective until they've been published in the Federal  
Register, so in the interim.....

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How many days for  
the Federal Register?

1 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair for  
2 the question. You know, as you probably know we don't  
3 have control of that and it has been taking more than a  
4 couple of months for that process to complete. It's  
5 part of the reason why the wildlife regulations last  
6 year were so late, we were trying to get them  
7 published.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Continue.

10  
11 MS. KENNER: So we anticipate the Board  
12 will implement a system of temporary special actions to  
13 cover approved changes in the fisheries regulations.  
14 These special actions would mirror the Board approved  
15 changes and would expire upon publication of the final  
16 regulations in the Federal Register.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a great idea.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I love it.

23  
24 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 I'll go on now. That's the end of my update on the  
26 Fisheries Regulatory Cycle.

27  
28 And now we're going to move on to the  
29 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Update, this is often  
30 called the Partners Program. And you might be aware  
31 of, we've had people get up today, particularly TCC has  
32 been a long-time partner, sometimes they give  
33 presentations on what they're doing. Henshaw weir is  
34 notably part of that -- has been notably part of the  
35 Partnership Program.

36  
37 So the Office of Subsistence Management  
38 recently closed a notice of funding opportunity for the  
39 Partners for Fisheries Program for the 2020 to 2023  
40 cycle. The Partners Program seeks to strengthen Alaska  
41 Native and rural involvement in Federal subsistence  
42 management by providing funding for a biologist, social  
43 scientist or educator positions in Alaska Native, and  
44 rural non-profit organizations with the intent of  
45 increasing the organizations ability to participate in  
46 the Federal Management process. In this process that  
47 we're doing right now. A total of 14 proposals were  
48 received from perspective partners and the review  
49 committee has met to evaluate the proposals and

50

1 notification letters will be sent out soon.

2

3 That's the end of that presentation for  
4 the Partners Program, and if there are no questions  
5 I'll move on to the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
6 Program.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions for  
9 Pippa on that Fisheries Monitoring Partnership Program.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Nope. Continue.

14

15 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So  
16 I'll move on.

17

18 We're at that point in the cycle for  
19 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program where we put  
20 out a notice of funding opportunity for proposals to  
21 get funding through this program. The priority  
22 information needs that are part of that call for  
23 proposals are the priority information needs that are  
24 developed by the Council. So people who are proposing  
25 projects in the Eastern [sic] Interior area, which  
26 includes for the purposes of the FRMP, the Yukon  
27 drainage, we're asking them to meet those priority  
28 information needs that were established by you. It  
29 ended on March 15th 2019, last week. We are seeking  
30 proposals for projects that gather information to  
31 manage and conserve subsistence fishery resources in  
32 Federal waters in Alaska. The monitoring program is  
33 also directed at supporting meaningful involvement in  
34 fisheries management by Alaska Native and rural  
35 organizations. And promoting collaboration among  
36 Federal, State, Alaska Native and local organizations.  
37 For the 2020 funding cycle it is anticipated there will  
38 be about \$1.5 million available for the first year of  
39 new projects and like I said, that deadline has already  
40 past, and so the next step in this review process is a  
41 review by our technical review committee. The results  
42 of that review will be presented to you at your fall  
43 2019 meetings, which is your next meeting.

44

45 And today you've heard some  
46 presentations from people who, in the past, and  
47 currently, are funded through the FRMP, notably, YR DFA.

48

49 And that's the end of my presentation.

50

1 I'll be happy to answer questions if I  
2 can.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions on  
5 those projects.

6  
7 (No comments)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. I appreciate  
10 all the hard work that OSM is doing and all of those  
11 updates in keeping us apprised and we'll learn more  
12 about the results of some of that informational needs  
13 in the fall so looking forward to that.

14  
15 Any final questions.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, thanks  
20 so much, appreciate it.

21  
22 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're coming down  
25 to the end of this agenda but I'm not going to be able  
26 to attend the Federal Subsistence Board meeting because  
27 I have a meeting conflict, Tim, over here, says he's  
28 available to attend the Federal Subsistence Board  
29 meeting and he has a lot of fisheries experience and  
30 this is a fisheries meeting so I feel comfortable  
31 sending Tim down there to that meeting to represent the  
32 Council. And so the Council needs an appointment, so  
33 under -- we need a motion, or just a nod of heads -- so  
34 what do you think about sending Tim to the Federal  
35 Subsistence Board meeting, Don and Ray, on the phone.

36  
37 MR. HONEA: I think it's a great idea.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Ray.

40  
41 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And Council  
44 members here.

45  
46 MS. PELKOLA: I think it's a great  
47 idea.

48  
49 MR. KRISKA: Yes.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Affirmative.

2  
3 MR. SEMAKEN: Affirmative.

4  
5 MR. SIMON: (Nods affirmatively)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So you have a  
8 vote of confidence Tim. And I want the Council to know  
9 that when you represent the Council you basically give  
10 the position of the Council on our recommendations to  
11 the Federal Subsistence Board. The liaison for the  
12 Council, Tim, will be able to interact with the Board,  
13 bring up various issues that this Council had regarding  
14 these timeframes for these -- these letters that we're  
15 transmitting and interacting with the Board on that and  
16 also Council members can interact with other regions'  
17 proposals and give supplementary information that may  
18 be integral, because Tim's got a little broader picture  
19 of fisheries than most people do. So I would encourage  
20 you to maximize Western Interior's presence at the  
21 Federal Subsistence Board meeting. You'll see how the  
22 other Council Chairs interact with them.

23  
24 So I appreciate that you're willing to  
25 go to that, Tim.

26  
27 MR. GERVAIS: (Nods affirmatively)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So future meeting  
30 date updates, confirm the fall 2019 meeting date and  
31 location, Aniak or McGrath. And so has anybody found  
32 out if there's a place to meet in Aniak?

33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: (Shakes head  
35 negatively)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there's been no  
38 location found other than a culvert.

39  
40 MS. PELKOLA: There's a school there.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a school but  
43 they're usually in session and they won't allow us to  
44 meet during the daytime when there's school. They have  
45 a really nice school.

46  
47 And so McGrath has got a real nice  
48 community hall, we've met there before and so meeting  
49 in McGrath, is that agreeable to the Council.

50

1 MS. PELKOLA: I think it would be  
2 to.....

3  
4 MR. COLLINS: It's good with me because  
5 I don't have to travel and I'll be able to attend.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I think  
8 McGrath is a good spot. And the Council's pretty much  
9 in agreement with that.

10  
11 (Council nods affirmatively)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So then the meeting  
14 dates for October 8th and 9th, those are still good  
15 with the Council members.

16  
17 (Council nods affirmatively)

18  
19 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

20  
21 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have any  
24 problems with that Don or Ray.

25  
26 MR. HONEA: No, I sure don't. In fact  
27 I think McGrath is an excellent place, where we did  
28 stay was right across from where we met and just maybe  
29 a stone's throw away from right there so I think it's  
30 pretty convenient and glad to get back.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate  
33 those comments. And we'll expect a charter from OSM on  
34 that, to bring the northern unit, the northern portion  
35 of the Western Interior Regional Council down to  
36 McGrath. We can all fly into Fairbanks to go charter  
37 direct to McGrath and we've done that many times.

38  
39 MR. HONEA: Can you bring me in a week  
40 early.

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, they're going  
45 to pick you up with a float plane because they can't  
46 land on that runway on that hill. So maybe they can  
47 send a boat down there to pick you up or something.

48  
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: We can send Tommy to

50

1 pick him up.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tommy can shuttle  
4 you up there and then you can get on the plane.

5

6 MR. HONEA: All right.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we're  
11 going to hold OSM's feet to the charter on that charter  
12 thing.

13

14 And then select a winter 2020 meeting  
15 date and location. So Council member suggestions on  
16 that.

17

18 Tim.

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: My first preference is  
21 11th and 12th, and second preference is 18th and 19th.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Of?

24

25 MR. GERVAIS: February.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have a  
28 calendar here.

29

30 MS. PELKOLA: It's in the back.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

33

34 MR. GERVAIS: Page 69.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Page 69.

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: The first date was  
39 February 11th and 12th, Tuesday/Wednesday or February  
40 18th and 19th, that's the same week as President's Day,  
41 I don't know if that effects OSM.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 11 and 12 is good  
44 for me, or 18/19 would be good for me also.

45

46 Anybody have a problem with those  
47 dates, 11th or 12th, or 18th or 19th, Ray or Don.

48

49 MR. HONEA: No, too far into the

50

1 future.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Too far for me too, I  
4 don't know.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

7

8 MR. COLLINS: It's very awkward for me  
9 to travel or even to sit here for two days on an audio  
10 conference.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, we  
13 really really appreciate you being on the phone with us  
14 Ray, and so hopefully your health will allow you to  
15 continue with your integral workings with this Council.

16

17 So the Council, we're going to put  
18 those two dates down for finalization or do you need a  
19 firm date, Karen

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 At this point I would ask that you make a firm date  
23 because other Councils will also be trying to  
24 schedule during this cycle.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So for me  
29 18/19 is probably more preferable than the first one  
30 but I can go both ways. Which one is best.....

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: (Talking without  
33 microphone)

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: It doesn't -- I just had  
36 a question on -- Karen says that OSM is closed on  
37 Monday the 17th for the holiday, so does that affect  
38 having a meeting starting on the 18th?

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can go to 19 and  
41 20, how would that be.

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: (Talking without  
44 microphone)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we get into  
47 travel problems when we back up against the end of the  
48 week like that. Wright Air will not fly, if I fly,  
49 will not fly on the weekend, but we could go the 11th

50

1 and 12th, that's got an open Monday, has any Council  
2 taken those dates, do you know.  
3

4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. The Yukon  
5 Kuskokwim Delta will be meeting the 11th and 12th but  
6 we allow for two Councils to meet in one week time so  
7 there is a slot available.  
8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is 11 and 12  
10 good for the Council.  
11

12 MS. PELKOLA: Yes, sounds good.  
13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that good --  
15 well, that's too far out in front for those boys.  
16

17 (Council nods affirmatively)  
18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'll put that  
20 down, the 11th and 12th, and then the meeting place  
21 would be -- I feel that we get good participation in  
22 the winter meeting with Staff here in Fairbanks. We  
23 could go to some other place but we don't get the kind  
24 of participation, like we got Glenn, we got various  
25 people that interact with this Council, so I feel that  
26 back here in Fairbanks for the winter meeting is also  
27 cost effective for Staff to come here and it's also --  
28 air flying for the Council to get that kind of  
29 interaction with Staff from State and Federal agencies.  
30 Just think about all those tickets if those agency  
31 people have to travel from Fairbanks out to come  
32 community. So I'm fiscally aware of the program's  
33 constraints and so I think about that kind of stuff.  
34

35 So Fairbanks would be my first  
36 preference for the winter meeting.  
37

38 MS. PELKOLA: That's good.  
39

40 MR. SIMON: (Nods affirmatively)  
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: An affirmative to  
43 that.  
44

45 MS. PELKOLA: It's fine with the boss  
46 over here.  
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say again.  
49  
50

1 MS. PELKOLA: I said it's fine with the  
2 boss over here.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And is a  
5 Fairbanks meeting good for you Don.

6  
7 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. I believe it's  
8 an appropriate spot, the resources are there so I think  
9 it's fine.

10  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that  
13 sounds affirmative for the Council, it's okay with you  
14 Tim, Fairbanks.

15  
16 MR. GERVAIS: (Nods affirmatively)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So last year we met  
19 in Anchorage and I thought we'd get better support out  
20 of OSM down there but we got less support than we get  
21 at one of these meetings so Fairbanks is good for us  
22 and it's within -- close to our region.

23  
24 So that would be the meeting dates.

25  
26 So we're coming down to closing  
27 comments from the Council members. We'll start with  
28 Tim, and come around the table here.

29  
30 MR. GERVAIS: Okay, thank you, Mr.  
31 Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, actually  
34 standby, let's give Ray first comment because he's been  
35 hanging on the phone and he's probably really super  
36 tired.

37  
38 So, Ray, you want to give us your  
39 closing comment.

40  
41 MR. COLLINS: Well, it was a productive  
42 meeting and it's worked out fine for me although people  
43 were a little far from the mic at times and so they  
44 faded out, but most of it was good, most of the  
45 presenters were loud and clear. If I do end up  
46 resigning, and you create those, what do you call them,  
47 alternate positions or something like that, you might  
48 consider that, to finish out a term and so then I would  
49 just be available if somebody else was not available,

50

1 because I'd like to see a younger person up there, if  
2 we can find a good candidate for the up river, because  
3 it'd be important to get somebody that is knowledgeable  
4 up here.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate  
7 that comment.

8  
9 Any further comments, Ray.

10  
11 MR. COLLINS: No, I just appreciate all  
12 the input from the agencies, I think they've done a  
13 good job especially with the closures and everything  
14 and I'm wrestling with the same thing, I'm Chair of the  
15 Denali Parkland, too, so we weren't able to get a  
16 meeting together, couldn't get a quorum, so I'll have  
17 to decide on that too. I was appointed to two things  
18 the Salmon Management Working Group on the river and  
19 that's all audio conference so I don't mind if you  
20 wanted me to continue to represent the headwaters on  
21 that, something like that, if there's a mechanism to do  
22 that. But we can discuss all that in the fall.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So you can  
25 always, even if you step off the RAC, you can still --  
26 if you have impassioned comments on proposals or  
27 anything related to the Western Interior region feel  
28 free to call in and comment specifically on those  
29 particular things, we would enjoy your comments just as  
30 a public member as well.

31  
32 MR. COLLINS: Oh, good, yeah. Good,  
33 thank you, that would help. And congratulations on  
34 your nomination, it is well deserved, you've spent a  
35 lot of time on the Board and working.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thank you,  
38 Ray.

39  
40 So all right really appreciate all the  
41 years -- you should be getting the award, not me,  
42 you're a real trooper.

43  
44 So, that's Ray. We'll get Don, do you  
45 have a final comment.

46  
47 MR. HONEA: Yeah. I think in looking  
48 back at Ray's service, I'm actually pretty glad that we  
49 have picked McGrath if this may, in fact, be his final,  
50

1 if he wants to step off of the Board, and I appreciate  
2 Ray -- and, you know, we've had -- I've been on here  
3 since, what, 2004 I believe, and we've had -- and I  
4 kind of miss Dennis too -- when we were having our  
5 meeting in Galena there, you know, it was just Dennis  
6 and I at Agnes' and them's B&B and got to know him  
7 pretty well, his family and stuff, and kind of lost  
8 him, but anyway it's -- it's really hard to sit here  
9 over the phone, I mean I was on here since -- to about  
10 5:00, 5:15 yesterday, myself just went completely off,  
11 it just has a mind of its own and so I lost you guys.  
12 But looking forward to our meeting over there in  
13 McGrath.

14  
15 And I just wanted to thank the Board,  
16 or whoever, or the coordinator for considering -- we  
17 mentioned before, if I had to come in a day -- you  
18 know, I would have made this meeting but, you know, who  
19 can -- you know, all right, anyway, I think it's a good  
20 meeting and appreciate your leadership Jack, and it's a  
21 positive Board and I enjoy -- if we get some ladies on  
22 the job, I've enjoyed Jenny and I never did meet this  
23 lady from Grayling but I also, too, would like the  
24 idea, because they kind of bring us, you know, a down  
25 home kind of thing, right from the heart, right from  
26 the fish camp kind of view that we need, so with that I  
27 will listen to the rest of the comments but appreciate  
28 you guys supporting us, whether it's the ACs or -- and  
29 so I'll leave it at that.

30  
31 Thanks.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much for  
34 your comments Don.

35  
36 So we're going to go to Tim down on the  
37 right side of the table. Go ahead, Tim.

38  
39 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 I'd like to thank Ray and Don for working this meeting  
41 as a teleconference, I know that's difficult to be on  
42 the phone for that long but we appreciate all your  
43 comments and it's important to me and these other  
44 members to hear if you guys are in agreement or  
45 disagreement or what your personal experience or view  
46 is. So thanks for dealing with the teleconference  
47 situation.

48  
49 Additional thanks to Ray for doing

50

1 that, even though you're thinking about retiring, I  
2 hope you can help us with some recruitment if you do  
3 retire, to find somebody in that upper Kuskokwim that  
4 has good working knowledge of subsistence practice in  
5 that region. I would encourage you not to retire yet,  
6 especially since we're coming down to McGrath, at least  
7 for that meeting we should be able to -- we could have  
8 the meeting in your house if that's what you prefer.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. GERVAIS: But, anyways, as you know  
13 you're just better than Google for what's been going  
14 down in the Upper Kuskokwim for several decades, so  
15 thanks so much for all you've done and all you did  
16 during this meeting.

17

18 I hope that we can get a new member to  
19 replace Dennis from the Lower Kuskokwim, a lady from  
20 down that region I think would be real appropriate and  
21 help us out with our gender balance on that Board.

22

23 I'd like to thank all the Staff and  
24 Council members for coming here. I know it's a lot of  
25 hours sitting and especially like with the Staff, you  
26 only are presenting for five or 15 minutes and waiting  
27 your turn and you have to listen to a lot of items that  
28 may not be your area of expertise or interest, so  
29 thanks for coming and giving us the information we need  
30 and working with us, we're not professional wildlife  
31 managers, we're just here working through this Regional  
32 Advisory Council position as volunteers and appreciate  
33 your providing the correct guidance to help us get our  
34 job done correctly.

35

36 To the Council members, I know it's  
37 difficult whenever you look at the calendar you see you  
38 have a RAC meeting coming up, you have to readjust your  
39 life and make a lot of special adjustments so that you  
40 can spend a big part of the week here to do it, but I  
41 certainly appreciate having a full quorum so we can get  
42 our work done. One thing that makes me sad about Ray  
43 contemplating retirement is I always like to be the  
44 least knowledgeable one on the Council so I can learn a  
45 lot from you guys, so I hope Ray will continue on and I  
46 appreciate everybody being open and communicating about  
47 what their experiences are. We're trying to cover a big  
48 area with a lot of different topics between fisheries  
49 and wildlife. When everybody's communicating and

50

1 expressing their opinions and experience in a quality  
2 manner it really helps the process out.

3  
4 So a lot of the items we've dealt with  
5 this at this meeting, Ambler Road, Yukon River Road,  
6 Donlin gas pipeline, Pebble Mine, I mean we didn't talk  
7 about it, but people have told me about the Yukon River  
8 railway going all the way to Bering Strait, we're  
9 seeing all this potential encroachment on getting roads  
10 and other access into the Western Interior region and I  
11 feel -- I wish our villages were a little stronger, a  
12 little more resilient than they are now, I feel like  
13 they can be more stronger and more resilient and one of  
14 the keystone things that's going to keep these  
15 communities viable and have a strong future is if  
16 there's subsistence activity going on and the  
17 nutritional available from that subsistence harvest.  
18 So the harvesting activity, you know, that creates  
19 sense of purpose and then the subsistence foods, you  
20 know, that's providing the quality and nutrition that  
21 makes for a strong life where people make good  
22 decisions and do right things, so I appreciate all the  
23 other Council members and Staff members assistance in  
24 helping us keep a viable subsistence economy going on  
25 in the Western Interior.

26  
27 All these development projects and  
28 commercial activities coming in, you know, it's kind of  
29 like just a little bit here, a little bit there, it's  
30 like death by a thousand cuts. I mean there's not much  
31 left in this country that's not developed and not  
32 contaminated and what's in the Western Interior is  
33 really special and I know people get -- may get tired  
34 that I'm like pushing for conservation and pushing for  
35 non-industrial development but there's other places  
36 that have that and there's other places to get the  
37 mineral resources. I feel like once that stuff, the  
38 development and encroachment occurs, it just -- it  
39 never swings back the other direction to maintaining an  
40 intact environment. So that's why I'm always trying to  
41 be conservative on our harvesting quantities and  
42 techniques and most of the time you'll hear me take a  
43 non-development stance on the various issues.

44  
45 And wish everybody a safe trip home.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for all your  
48 comments there, Tim. Pollock stepped out, do you want  
49 to go Jenny.

50

1 MS. PELKOLA: Here he comes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, here he comes.

4 Closing comment Pollock.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. SIMON: I snuck away.

9

10 MR. GERVAIS: You were tired of

11 listening to me.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

16

17 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 Thank you, Jack, for running the meeting for us. And

19 thanks for Karen for the meeting here and setting

20 things up for us, the accommodations here at the hotel

21 was good. Sorry we lost Dennis Thomas from the

22 Kuskokwim area, so hopefully somebody else comes on

23 from around that area.

24

25 But I encourage Ray and hope he'll be

26 back next time, and I hope I'll be back next time.

27

28 And, thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,

31 Pollock.

32

33 Jenny.

34

35 MS. PELKOLA: First of all I'd like to

36 thank Ray for all what you've contributed to this

37 Council. When I first met Ray I met him on the phone

38 and he was my teacher, I used to take classes from him

39 and I never did meet him until I got on the Council and

40 then he said Ray Collins, and I said, oh, you were my

41 teacher. But, anyway, thank you Ray.

42

43 And also Don, thank you for sitting in

44 for so long at the phone. I know it's hard to just

45 stare at the walls and trying to take in what's going

46 on over here, you probably could picture us all sitting

47 up here at the table and here you're staring at the

48 walls. But, anyway, thank you again.

49

50

1                   Another thing thank the Staff, and  
2     thank you Karen.

3  
4                   Thank you, Tina, for -- good to see  
5     you, I haven't seen you for awhile. I don't even know  
6     her real name I just know her as Tina.

7  
8                   (Laughter)

9  
10  
11                  MS. PELKOLA: But anyway, thank you,  
12     Tina. Thank you for all attending.

13  
14                  One thing I'd like to say, and I've  
15     said this before, like with Ray and Don sitting there  
16     on the phone, I don't know if they're getting  
17     reimbursed for their phone calls or it's free, but for  
18     their time anyway, I don't know if they are.

19  
20                  MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.  
21     It's a toll free number that they have with a password  
22     so it doesn't cost them any money on the phone but we  
23     aren't able to reimburse any travel cost if a member is  
24     unable to travel.

25  
26                  MS. PELKOLA: Okay. I think Don would  
27     have to travel from his house back -- but, anyway, I'd  
28     just like to mention that again.

29  
30                  And also I'd like to see like I think  
31     Tim pointed out, more gender, you know, more women on  
32     here, it gets pretty lonesome. But, anyway, and one  
33     more thing, when I got this -- when I was coming in I  
34     didn't know if I was reappointed or not and I let Karen  
35     know that this was going to be my last meeting and then  
36     I got the letter so I decided I'll stay on for three  
37     more years and then that'll be it, so I'm just giving  
38     you a three year warning and let you know that you  
39     should really recruit and I wish a woman would step in  
40     my spot.

41  
42                  (Laughter)

43  
44                  MS. PELKOLA: Not to have anything  
45     against the men but like Ray said women have a  
46     different perspective. And thank you again and I hope  
47     for safety for everyone.

48  
49                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much

50

1 Jenny. You add a lot to our Council and I appreciate  
2 your participation for at least three more years, and  
3 maybe you'll reconsider after that.

4  
5 So, Goodwin. Tell how your first  
6 meeting went.

7  
8 MR. SEMAKEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
9 Yeah, this is all new to me so I got a lot of homework  
10 to do but it's delicacy on time, I think, and the more  
11 information we got, I'm really appreciative of holding  
12 a meeting here in Fairbanks because I think we need all  
13 the expertise that we can gather to make our decisions.

14  
15 So I'm just glad to be on board here  
16 and representing Western Interior. I got to -- what  
17 you call National Parks there, and checkerboards, and  
18 so people are concerned but we never step on nobody's --  
19 we never get into no conflicts, in other words, yet,  
20 so I'm just happy to be on board.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, yeah, I  
25 appreciate you signing up to being on the Council and  
26 yes it's a learning process, your first meeting it  
27 takes awhile to learn it and we usually have a lot of  
28 agenda and I'm a slave driver about coming back on time  
29 and stuff and so you'll get used to that.

30  
31 (Laughter)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have to finish  
34 by 4:00 o'clock and so we're coming down on that. But  
35 I really appreciate you signing up to be on this  
36 Council.

37  
38 MR. SEMAKEN: Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tom.

41  
42 MR. KRISKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair for  
43 allowing me to speak on these comments.

44  
45 I just want to thank the Board -- the  
46 Council members for everything they've put into this  
47 meeting and the Staff, Tina and Karen, and all the  
48 agencies that come here, it makes things easier, you  
49 know, that we hear a lot of this information that you  
50

1 have and make comments on it, or the pertinent  
2 proposals and all of this stuff and it's really  
3 interesting and I'm glad to be here.  
4

5 Thank you, Ray, for all the work you do  
6 and I'm really -- I applaud you for being there, for  
7 all the things that you did and your time and it's  
8 probably really hard to sit there, as well as you, Mr.  
9 Don, I don't know if I could sit on a teleconference  
10 that long, I'd probably have to put on headphones and  
11 I'd be riding a snowmachine.  
12

13 (Laughter)  
14

15 MR. KRISKA: But, anyway, Mr. Jack,  
16 thank you for your leadership and chairing this  
17 meeting, and I really appreciate that. It really makes  
18 things easier to understand the way you present  
19 yourself there.  
20

21 Mr. Pollock, for getting back on the  
22 caribou -- for appointment by the Western Interior to  
23 sit on that seat again. I think I'll be at the Federal  
24 Subsistence Board meeting for some other reasons, too.  
25

26 So, anyway, I thank you all for being  
27 here and safe travels home.  
28

29 Oh, Vince -- no, I'm kidding.  
30

31 (Laughter)  
32

33 MR. KRISKA: Anyway, thank you for  
34 being here. I just thank all of you guys for being  
35 here and your safe travels home and hopefully we get  
36 more members on this Board that are knowledgeable and  
37 it'll be hard to find anybody like Ray but the efforts  
38 are there and we all will deal with it.  
39

40 So thank you, once again for everything  
41 you guys.  
42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much  
44 Tommy. I appreciate all your comments, many of them  
45 will be incorporated into our work here and you're  
46 really important part of this Council, a real strong  
47 member.  
48

49 So, yeah, I really appreciate the  
50

1 Staff, National Park Service, Alaska Department of Fish  
2 and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the OSM Staff, Karen  
3 is doing a great job for this Council, making sure that  
4 all of our stuff is happening and accomplished, so I  
5 really appreciate that. I appreciate the new Staff  
6 that's coming on with OSM, Greg and I'm looking forward  
7 to seeing who the next ARD is for this running OSM and  
8 bringing more cohesion in OSM, it's factioned, a little  
9 bit in my perception, so I would like to see OSM coming  
10 together working closer together.  
11

12 I think we had a real good meeting. We  
13 accomplished a lot of good stuff. We had good dialogue  
14 with the State managers, come eye to eye on formulating  
15 that proposal. That was a really important aspect of  
16 this meeting was making sure that people have food on  
17 their table down there across the river, the south side  
18 of the Yukon, so I thought that was a good part of our  
19 meeting.  
20

21 I appreciate Don being on the phone. I  
22 know he gets antsy but he stuck it out this time and I  
23 really appreciate that.  
24

25 And Ray has been on this Council from  
26 Day 1, we had the first meeting in McGrath 1993 and we  
27 had to come up with what was an annual plan was,  
28 various things about the Subsistence Program.  
29

30 The one unsung hero in this room is,  
31 Tina, Salena Hile over here, she is, because she has  
32 experience from Day 1 with this Council and knows  
33 exactly what this Council's done and has recollection  
34 of that and reminds us of various things. So she is  
35 actually a huge part of how this Council has worked  
36 over the years and I want to express my appreciation to  
37 her about that. And her son, Nathan. One time I  
38 grabbed his seat, he didn't show up in Ruby and the  
39 plane just pulled in under the fog and they said we're  
40 taking off, anybody want to grab this seat, and I  
41 jumped on there, well come to find out Nathan had to  
42 sit there another day or two waiting to get out of  
43 Ruby, and he does a good job for us also.  
44

45 REPORTER: Never leave the air field if  
46 you're waiting for a plane.  
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Exactly.  
49  
50

1 (Laughter)

2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So was a little  
4 concerned that Shirley Clark was apathetic about this  
5 Council and so she's refusing to come to any more  
6 meetings, she's left a huge hole in the GASH area, so  
7 I'm not real happy about that and so I wanted to  
8 express that to the Council, that if somebody's on this  
9 Council, you got to remember you're representing a lot  
10 of people around your villages, so she -- she called in  
11 once and says well I got to go I'm selling a  
12 fourwheeler, and I was like what, and she never called  
13 back, so that happens. We've had various people get on  
14 this Council, they only attend one meeting and they're  
15 gone. The people that have been here, it shows their  
16 dedication to the resources and the people who rely on  
17 those resources in the Western Interior Region.

18  
19 So I'm looking forward to our next  
20 meeting, we have a lot of stuff ahead of us in the next  
21 meeting and so I would appreciate getting our letters  
22 accomplished on time, working with Karen on those  
23 issues and getting these proposals in on the correct  
24 dates.

25  
26 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
27 adjourn the meeting.

28  
29 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

30  
31 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

34  
35 MR. HONEA: Yes, just one more comment,  
36 I forgot to welcome Goodwin, Jr., to the Council, a  
37 good friend of mine, known him for many years. And  
38 also, just one other suggestion, I'm thinking there's  
39 no incentive to actually sit here so even though Jenny  
40 brought it up a couple times, I think, you know, maybe  
41 in the future it's something we should think about to  
42 put in our letter of suggestions, I think somebody  
43 should be compensated for sitting here, this is much  
44 more harder to do this than to actually be at the  
45 meeting, for myself. So just a comment.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. So we

50

1 have a motion to adjourn by Jenny, do we have a second.

2

3

MR. KRISKA: Second.

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second by Tom.

6

7

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

8

9

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of  
10 adjourning signify by saying -- oh, did you have a  
11 final comment, Ray, was that you.

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MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I would. I  
appreciate all your comments that my input has been  
valuable to members and that's why I wanted to make it,  
and I don't know if everyone knows, but some new  
Council members may not know, about three years ago the  
village of Nikolai changed their bylaws to create an  
honorary tribal position and my wife and I were  
appointed to that and that's one of the most proudest  
things that I've received through the years. I try to  
represent them with all the knowledge they gave me of  
the language and hunting and trapping and all that,  
this is payback for me from what I learned from them,  
and what I learned from them then I was able to use in  
teaching at the University of Alaska for students like  
Jenny and others.

So it's been a good run. And I'm  
hoping it'll continue but I have a condition that will  
cause my liver to fail at some point, so I'll do what I  
can to help and I appreciate all your comments.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much Ray.  
I hope you feel great this summer and we'll see you in  
the fall in McGrath, we're looking forward to that.

So we're to vote on adjournment, those  
in favor of adjourning the meeting signify by saying  
aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MR. COLLINS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You there Don.

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MR. HONEA: Aye.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Meeting  
adjourned.

Thanks so much.

(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 \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 27th day of March 2019 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 15th day of May 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22