Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A)
Subsistence Advisory Panel (SAP) Meeting

January 20-21, 2016

Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska

Summary of Public Presentations and Panel Recommendations

From left: Martha Itta (Native Village of Nuiqsut), Sollie Hugo (Naqsragmiut Tribal Council and SAP Chair), Esther Hugo (AKP), David Kippi (Native Village of Atqasuk), Anna Nageak (Naqsragmiut Tribal Council), Raymond Paneak (AKP), Wanda Kippi (Native Village of Atqasuk), BLM Barrow Office NRM Specialist Roy Nageak, BLM Arctic Field Office Manager Stacie McIntosh, Leslie Stalker (Native Village of Point Lay), Bart Ahsogeak (North Slope Borough), and Josiah Patkotak (ICAS) on 1/20/2016 at the 47th SAP meeting.[*]

The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) Subsistence Advisory Panel (SAP) consists of representatives from seven tribal governments and the North Slope Borough. SAP meetings provide a forum for representatives to review oil and gas activities and other projects authorized by BLM in the NPR-A and to make recommendations to BLM on measures to reduce impacts to subsistence. The SAP was established in 1998 and has public meetings 3-4 times per year with presentations by oil industry and researchers. SAP members communicate issues and concerns from their communities to BLM and information from the meetings to the tribal governments they represent.

[*] Photos and text by BLM Arctic Field Office Anthropologist/Subsistence Specialist (SAP Coordinator) Stacey Fritz. Slides copied from meeting presentations. Complete meeting materials available electronically: contact sfritz@blm.gov

** Please like the NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Panel Facebook page to receive updates on the SAP and other NPR-A activities and research **

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Participants

Subsistence Advisory Panel Representatives

Wanda Kippi, Native Village of Atqasuk
Sollie Hugo, Naqsragmiut Tribal Council and SAP Chair
David Kippi, Native Village of Atqasuk
Anna Nageak, Naqsragmiut Tribal Council
Leslie Stalker, Native Village of Point Lay
Martha Itta, Native Village of Nuiqsut
Chuck Ekak, Wainwright Traditional Council
Josiah Patkotak, Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
Bart Ahsogeak, North Slope Borough Planning Department

Other Anaktuvuk Pass participants:
Raymond Paneak, Esther Hugo, Susan Morry, Riley Sikvayugak, and Vera Woods, Simon Paneak Museum Curator

BLM Employees
Stacie Mcintosh, BLM Arctic Field Office Manager (Acting)
Roy Nageak, BLM Barrow Field Station Natural Resource Specialist
Stacey Fritz, BLM Arctic Field Office Anthropologist/Subsistence Specialist (SAP Coordinator)
Seth McMillan, BLM Law Enforcement Ranger/Pilot

Industry Representatives
Mary Mae Ashcoff, Lisa Pekich, and Robyn McGhee: ConocoPhillips
Dale Hoffman, Land and External Affairs Manager and Faith Martineau, Regulatory Coordinator, Caelus Energy Alaska

Researchers/Other
Jim Magdanz, UAF and AK Dept. of Fish and Game Subsistence Division
Taylor Stinchcomb, UAF (Aircraft noise and wildlife response)
Alyssa Rodrigues, UAF (Arctic Wildfires)

Film Project:
Crofton Diack and Ian Dray, National Geographic Mygrations Project

Other Participants:
Lindsey Hayduk, Conservation Lands Foundation
Eric Kenning, ASRC

Wednesday, January 20, 2016 (Day One): Public Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 am. The meeting opened with general introductions followed by an invocation by Roy Nageak. The Panel approved the agenda with the understanding that the order of certain presentations could shift, approved the minutes and the summary from the September, 2105 SAP meeting, and reviewed meeting materials.

BLM update: Overview of the Subsistence Advisory Panel

Stacie McIntosh, Manager of the BLM Arctic Field Office, presented the history of the SAP, why it is important to BLM, discussed some of the key recommendations that the SAP has made, and briefly described the BLM permitting process and BLM's authority. McIntosh provided an overview of the Petroleum Reserve's history and the major land use planning documents.

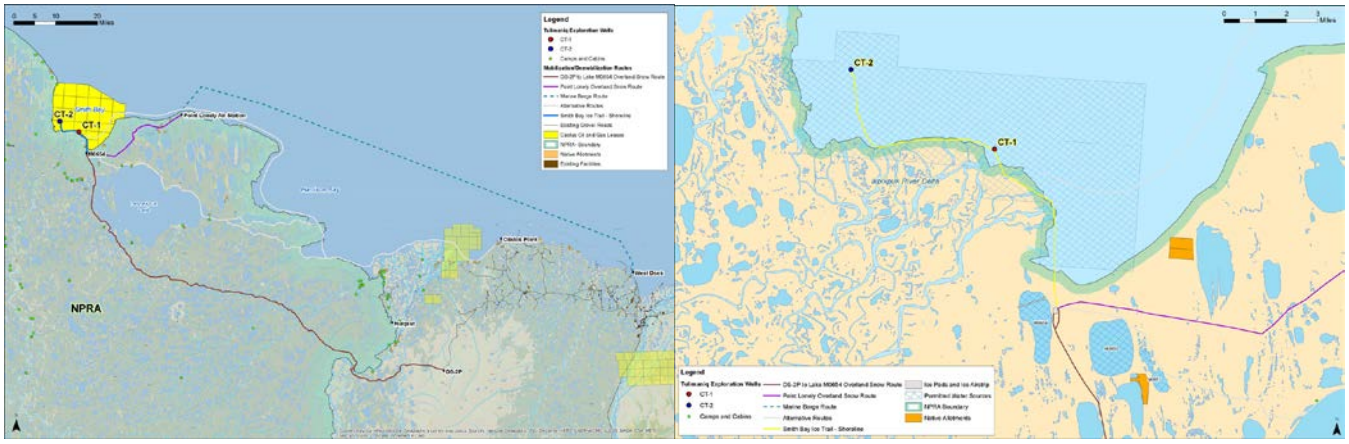
Bart Ahsogeak provided an overview of the NPR-A from his perspective and the 105(c) place names and history studies he worked on. Anna Nageak and Riley Sikvayugak spoke of the unique circumstances of AKP and how it is very impacted by activities in the NPR-A.

Tulimaniq Exploration Program in Smith Bay: Caelus Energy

Dale Hoffman and Faith Martineau provided an update on the 2015-2016 Tulimaniq Project. The leases are offshore in state waters, and Caelus proposed to access the leases by going through the NPR-A.

- Two wells, CT-1 and CT-2
- Drillsites are 400-500 ft diameter
- Arctic Fox drilling rig

- State leases in 1-4 ft of water
- Wells to be plugged and abandoned
- Demobilization via DS-2P snow road
- Backup plan:
    - Stage remaining items at Point Lonely
    - Barge any items staged at Point Lonely to West Dock



Three contingency access routes were evaluated during summer work, and other equipment was scheduled to be transported overland from Point Lonely, were it was barged last summer. Caelus' primary area of operations consists of a single ice pad at the shoreline of the 654 lake and a temporary ice air strip that runs across its northern extent. Caelus is able to access both drill sites from this base. Caelus began drilling the CT-1 location on January 19 and after exploratory drilling is completed at both sites, both wells will be plugged and abandoned in accordance with the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's standards. The plan was for all the equipment to be demobilized back out to Deadhorse via the snow road in the spring.

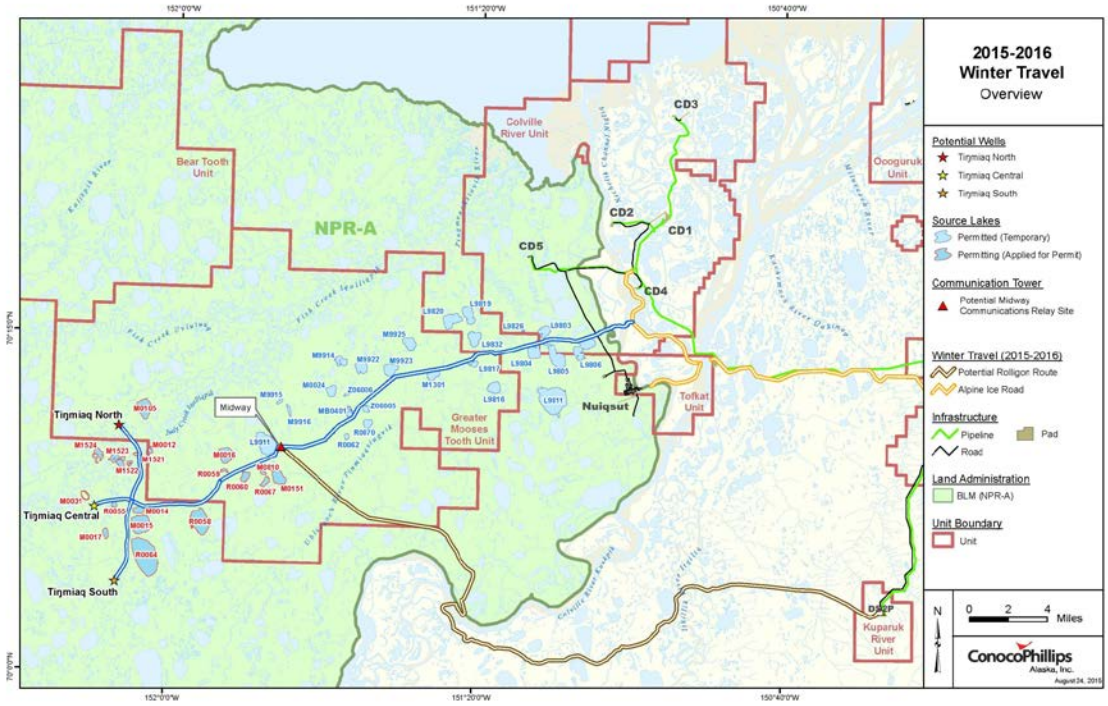
Caelus asked the SAP to advise on timing for summer stick picking. Bart Ahsogeak recommended spring/early summer, and Caelus reported that they would work with the communities to schedule a time that minimizes risk of disturbance. Dale Hoffman invites anyone with questions to call him on the Tulimaniq Information Line at 907-343-2108.

Update on ConocoPhillips NPR-A Activities

ConocoPhillips 2015-2016 exploration plans

Mary Mae Aschoff, Explorations Permitter with CPAI, gave an update on exploration in the northeastern section of NPR-A.

- December 14, 2015: Started rolligon travel from 2P to Midway
- December 20, 2016: Ice Road construction from Four Corners began
- December 22, 2016: Midway Ice Pad completed
- January 1, 2016: Ice Road construction will begin at Midway Camp near Lake L9911. The Ice Road being built in both directions.
- January 28, 2016: Entire Ice Road completed
- February 7, 2016: Begin drilling Tiŋmiaq-2
- March 1, 2016: Begin drilling Tiŋmiaq-6 and well testing Tiŋmiaq-2
- March 29, 2016: Complete drilling program
- Summer 2016: Ice road & ice pad final clean-up and inspections



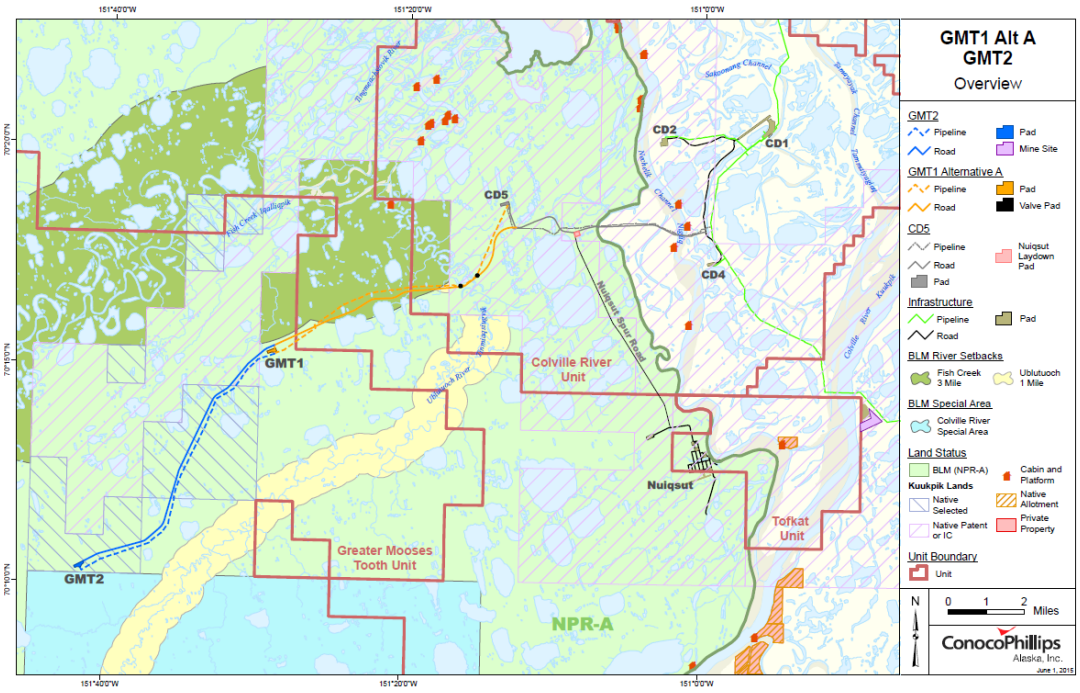
- CPAI plans to build four main ice pads:
  - Mobilization & Support Pads:
    - L9911 Camp Pad 800' x 800'
    - DS-2P 700'x700'
  - Drilling Pads:
    - Tiŋmiaq-2 1000'x 1000'
    - Tiŋmiaq-6 800' x 800'
- Three temporary camps will be used to support the project.

GMT1 (previously known as CD6)

Lisa Pekich, Community Outreach with Conoco, gave an update on CD5 (production started on October 22, 2015) and on GMT1 (the Greater Mooses Tooth 1 Development Project) and upcoming GMT2:

GMT1

- 7.4 mile gravel road and pipelines connecting to CD5 with bridge over Ting/Ublutuoch
- 12.5 acre drill pad
- Project was sanctioned by ConocoPhillips and Anadarko in November 2015
- Construction scheduled for 2 winter seasons (gravel winter 2016-17; pipelines winter 2017-18)
- Drilling Begins May 2018; Start-up by end of 2018



GMT2 (previously known as CD7)

- August 24, 2015 Application for Permit to Drill (APD) submitted to BLM
- Drill site connected to GMT1 via 8-mile road and pipelines
- On Kuukpik Corporation selected (not yet finalized or conveyed) land

Lisa Pekich also gave an overview of the Nuiqsut Caribou Subsistence Monitoring Program conducted annually by Stephen R. Braund and Associates that was required by the North Slope Borough as part of the CD4 permit and has included the formation of a Nuiqsut Caribou Panel. There are two main pieces of the study: 1) in-depth interviews with hunters (consistently about 60 hunters every year) that determine, among other details, areas where they hunted the past year and whether it was successful, and 2) a full household survey of the community. These use areas are digitized on maps - one layer per hunter - then are overlapped producing maps that show the more overlapping areas, the redder the areas.

Environmental Studies in the Colville Delta Area Conducted under Contract to ConocoPhillips

(Robyn McGhee, Environmental Studies Coordinator with Conoco)

Studies are designed and conducted for multiple purposes and projects:

- Baseline data to support new project design and permitting
- Compliance monitoring required by permits, RODs, or regulations
- On-going monitoring of key environmental indicators

Specific Study Areas:

1. **Mammals** (Caribou/bears) (e.g. infrared camera survey for polar bear dens, ADF&G grizzly survey, ABR caribou monitoring and research for entire development area since the 1980s including radio and satellite telemetry and aerial surveys in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, USGS, BLM, and the North Slope Borough)

2. **Birds** (e.g., annual spectacled eider nest surveys before setting foot on tundra, yellow-billed loons, time-lapse cameras on nests
3. **Hydrology** (Army Corps of Engineers requirement to collect extensive hydrological data in the Colville River Delta every breakup)
4. **Subsistence** (e.g., Nuiqsut Caribou Subsistence Monitoring Project, required by the North Slope Borough)
5. **Archaeology** (federal and state requirement under the National Historic Preservation Act, requires sending an archeologist out before building ice roads, before seismic, before laying gravel to make sure no cultural or archeological sites will be impacted)
6. **Fisheries** (e.g., 30 years of collecting data on the subsistence harvests of Qaktaq in the Nigliq Channel)
7. **Water Quality and Bathymetry** (authorization from State required before withdrawals)
8. **Air Quality** (managed by air specialist, one station in Nuiqsut and one at CD5. State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation air permits to operate drill rigs or production sites)
9. **Vegetation** (e.g., 240 vegetation plots north and south of the CD5 road near and far to compare any impacts, permafrost monitoring)
10. **Rehabilitation** (e.g. old gravel sites, managed by rehab specialist)

Community Knowledge and Research Needs Relating to Arctic Wildfires

Alyssa Rodriques of UAF presented on her PhD project which is part of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee Wildfires Collaboration Team. Tundra fires have been very rare in the last 11,000 years but are getting more frequent. The fire return interval is typically between 80 and 100 years, but that has been shrinking. Climate change is likely to cause that to shrink more, and when you have that kind of shrinking between the fire return intervals, the regeneration in the plants will be reduced compared to when there is a longer time period between fires.

The 2007 Anaktuvuk River fire was so large you can see it from space. It was the largest tundra fire in history at 401 square miles; 2.3 million tons of carbon were released. Questions that are coming from residents include, "How do tundra fires affect the ecosystem as a whole?" "How do they affect subsistence?" "How do they affect health? Human health? Animal health? Plant health?"

The objective of this project is to consult with local communities and figure out what kind of research needs communities have about tundra fires. Rodrigues is conducting a review of existing literature and traditional knowledge on tundra fires, then is consulting with communities to see what other traditional knowledge communities have that isn't written down if people want it written down or want it known.

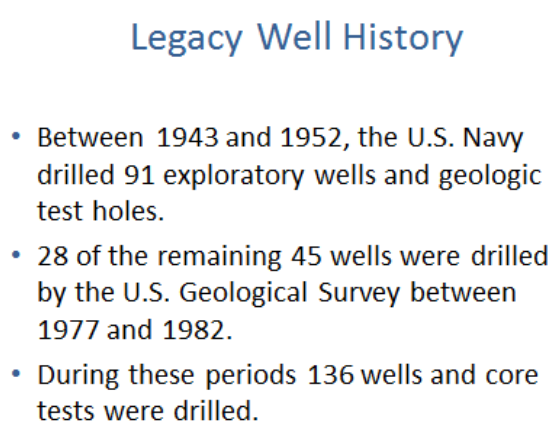
In the end, the study will focus on three communities that have had wildfires within 20 miles and residents and tribal councils or other entities in those communities will identify and prioritize the research. The communities will receive a report that includes a collection of the questions that were asked and the research that people want done, and all the background research. They can get a printed report and also have the information given in whatever format they'd like. (e.g., video, a brochure, audio recordings or just a presentation).

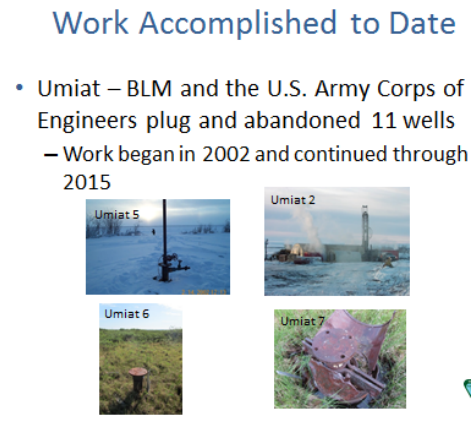
** PLEASE NOTE – Paid interview opportunity: Alyssa Rodrigues would like to speak with Arctic community members who have traditional knowledge of fires on the tundra. She would also like to talk to community members who have research requests relating to tundra fires. She is **only to offer $50 per interview**. If you or anyone you know would like to talk with her about your knowledge of tundra fires or your research needs relating to tundra fires, please contact her at 907-230-8673 or AlyssaVSRodrigues@gmail.com

Thursday, January 21, 2016 (Day Two): Public Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am, and after approval of the revised agenda Roy Nageak gave an invocation.

Alaska Legacy Wells in the NPR-A Program Update





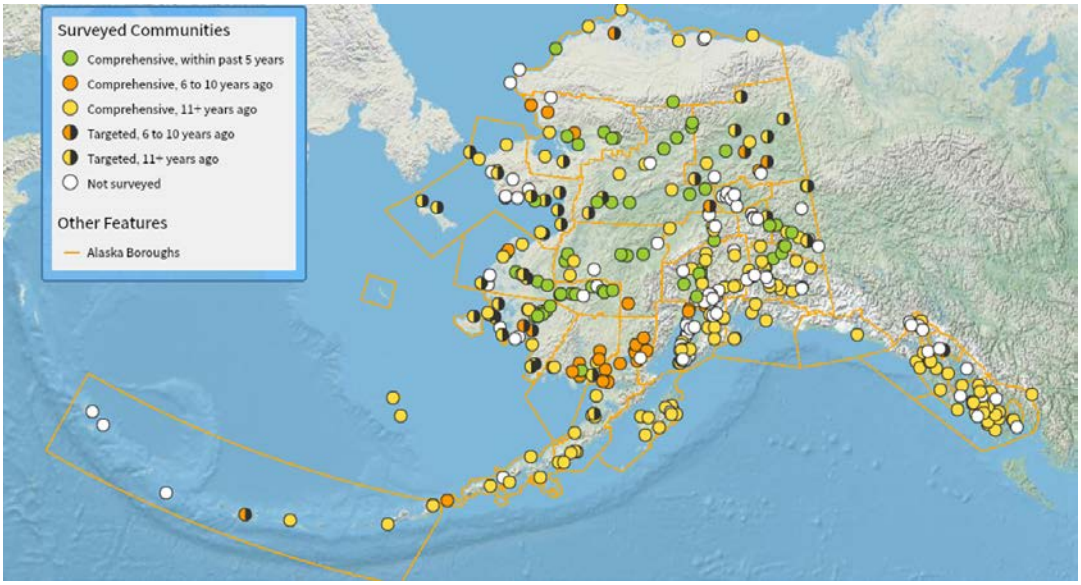
- BLM Plugged and remediated 4 high priority wells threatened by erosion (JW Dalton, East Teshekpuk, Atigaru, and Drew Point)
- In 2006, BLM plugged 5 wells that were drilled by the Navy at Cape Simpson and this past summer completed surface cleanup at three of those well sites - removed all of the debris, all of the drums, any concrete that might have been left.
- 21 wells plugged since 2002 at a cost of approximately $100 million.
- With remaining funds, BLM is focusing on clusters of wells at Barrow and on the Simpson Peninsula.

- BLM awarded contracts to Marsh Creek and Olgoonik Construction
- Future work will include 11 more wells in the Cape Simpson area and the remaining 3 wells in the Barrow area

The Persistence of Subsistence: Lessons from 30 Years of Survey Research

Jim Magdanz, retired from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence in 2012, has worked and lived in Nome and Kotzebue, lived in Shungnak, and has a camp up on the Mauneluk River. He is now at UAF pursuing a PhD in natural resources. He summarized a professional paper that he is writing with UAF economists Joshua Greenberg and Joseph Little, and with David Koster at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

Their focus is on understanding the complexity of subsistence from a statistical point of view. Results of surveys on subsistence harvests (a data set of more than 18,000 household surveys over 31 years) show that rural residents of Alaska harvest about 300 pounds of wild food (niġipiaq) per person per year. The current work represents the first time that all subsistence harvest surveys have been analyzed in this way and it allows them to ask questions about the big picture that you can't ask about one community and basic questions about subsistence in Alaska.

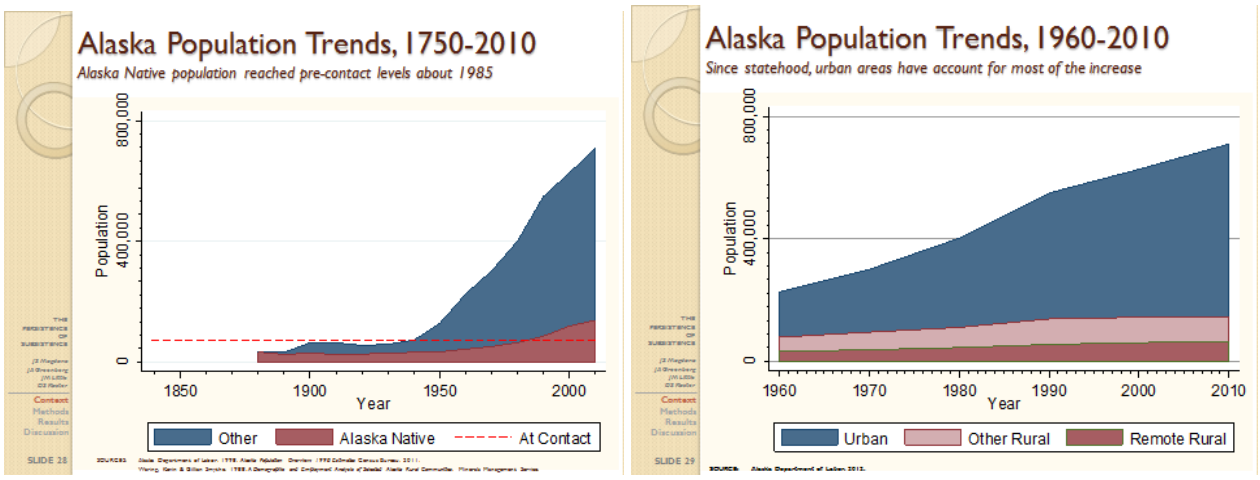


Crews have surveyed 18,048 households with 58,113 people in 355 communities from 1982 to 2013 in 165 communities with 50 to 100,000 people.

People hear that subsistence is declining because people have jobs and less time to hunt or fish, or that young people don't like to eat niġapiaq, or caribou or salmon are declining, the climate is changing. That is one school of thought, that harvests are going down. There is another school of thought, that subsistence harvests are going up because villages are growing and snowmachines and bigger boats make it easier make it easier for people to harvest more.

Economist Scott Goldsmith, in a paper called "The Remote Rural Economy of Alaska," looked at places like AKP off of the road system and found that official data on economic well-being and personal income employment are inadequate indicators of the mixed cash and subsistence economy. Economists typically study income and populations, but miss a large part of what life is about in rural Alaska. Goldsmith wrote, "They ignore the important contributions of subsistence and other non-market activities to the economic well-being of the community and subtly undermine the validity of those activities. If they don't measure it, they can ignore it." Magdanz thinks it's important to measure subsistence in ways that economists and politicians understand.

Magdanz reviewed the population of Alaska Natives from the time of contact, about 1750, until now. One of the estimates of how many Alaska Natives lived in the area when the Russians arrived in the Aleutians is about 75,000. Diseases (small pox in 1937, influenza in 1900 and 1917, measles in 1900) and wars decimated the Native population. By 1880 when the first Census was taken, there were about half as many Alaska Natives alive as there were at contact. The population of Alaska Natives did not increase quickly, in part due to the epidemics in 1900 and 1917. It didn't reach pre-contact levels until about 1985. Today, the Alaska Native population is not even twice what it was at contact: it's about 140,000.



Historically, most of Alaska's population growth has occurred in urban areas. Rural populations have been grown much more slowly.

In contrast, the settler population has grown quickly. With the Gold Rush in 1900 the settler population matched the Alaska Native population, it jumped with World War II and has now grown to 600,000. However, almost all that growth is in the urban population of Alaska and the remote rural population is not changing very much at all. Magdanz notes that when populations of people trying to live off the land and hunting and fishing don't change, there will likely be enough fish and game. But when the urban population is factored in, there is not enough fish and game in Alaska for everyone to subsist.

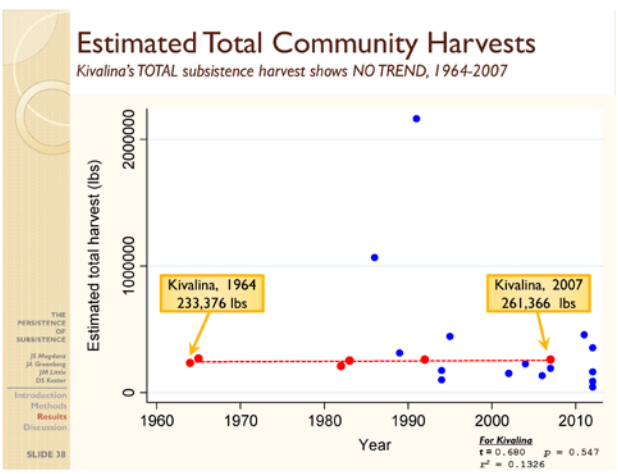
Other than the regional hubs like Barrow, Nome, and Kotzebue, the density of the rural population in Alaska is similar to what it was at the time of contact. Magdanz contends that if there were not competition from commercial fishing and sports hunting, there would likely be enough food for those rural populations.

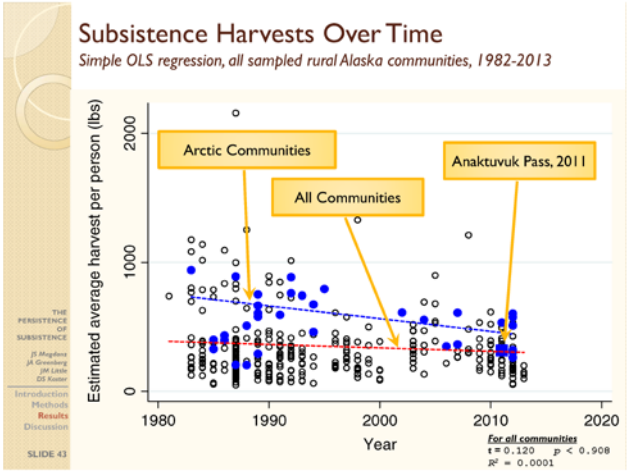
In his research, Magdanz is asking two big questions:

- "How have subsistence harvests changed over time," and
- "What factors might explain why average subsistence harvests (per person) are higher in some communities and lower in other communities?"

The oldest data are from Kivalina, where the TOTAL amount of food harvested by the community has remained about the same even though the community's population has doubled since 1964. At first glance, someone might conclude that people are getting half of the food they used to. However, in earlier years it is likely that about half of the food harvested was used to feed dogs, so the same amount of food now feeds many more people. A substantial portion of the harvest in the 1960s was ringed seal, largely used to feed dogs. Now the ringed seal harvest is small, but beluga and trout harvests are higher, mostly used to feed people.

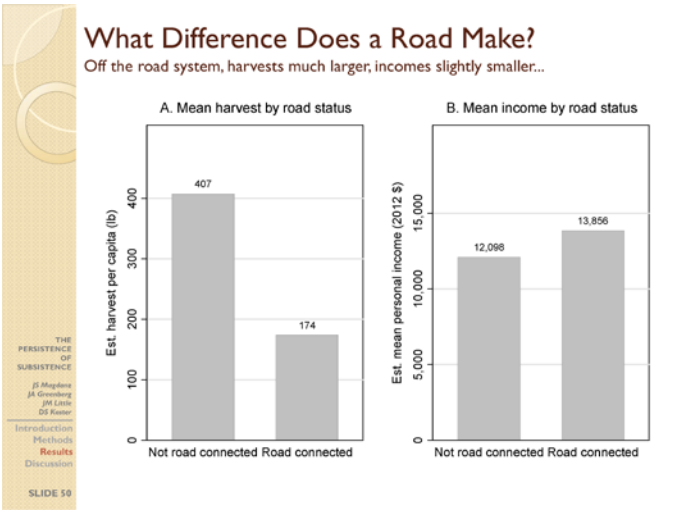
Different areas of Alaska have different harvest trends. In the Arctic, average harvests (per person) seem to be decreasing slowly. This is also true in the Interior and Southwest Regions. But in small communities along the road system, harvests have not changed much since the 1980s. And for all small communities in the state together, harvests have not changed significantly in the past 30 years.

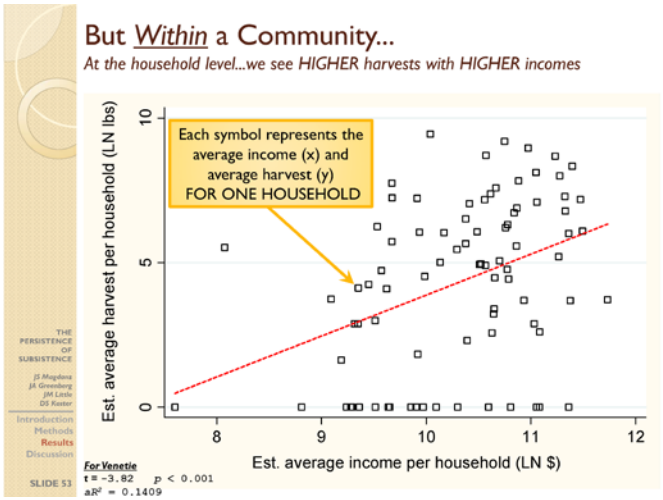




LEFT: Total harvests in Kivalina have changed little since 1964, but the human population has doubled. At the same time, harvests for dogfood declined, so people have almost as much nigipiaq as before. RIGHT: Average harvests per person have been slowly declining in the Arctic, but are still well above statewide averages. Average harvests along the road system, while much lower, have not declined since 1983. And the harvest trend for all small- and medium-sized communities surveyed between 1982 and 2013 is a flat line.

Magdanz also found that roads are strongly associated with subsistence harvests: If a community is off the road system, its harvest is about 400 pounds per person. If a community is on the road system, harvest is about 174 pounds per person. No matter when or where or whether it's a Native community or a non-Native community, being on a road is expected to cause harvests to go down by about a third.



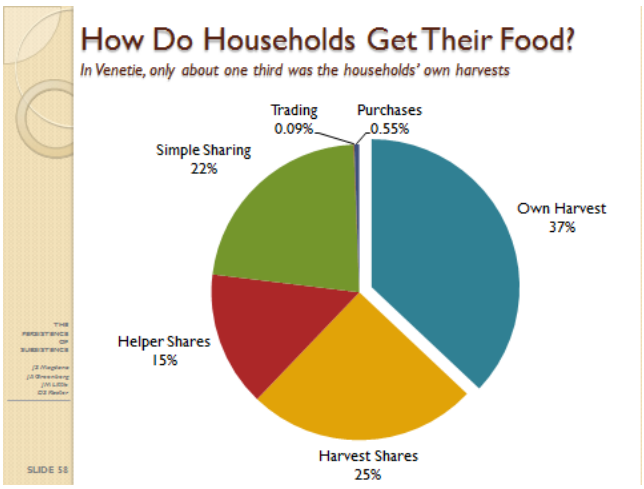


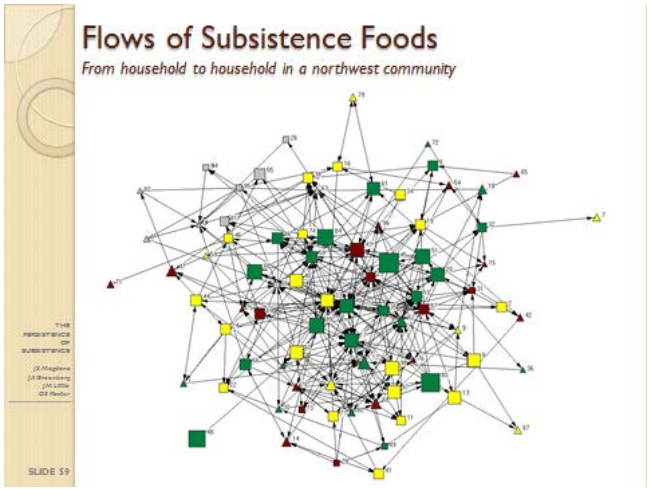
LEFT: Roads make a big different in expected harvests, but not in expected incomes. RIGHT: Within most rural communities, households with higher incomes have higher subsistence harvests, because they can afford the equipment and supplies to hunt and fish.

Many people attribute declining harvests to increasing income. The standard belief is that as someone earns more money, they need less subsistence (the wealthier community, the lower the harvest). Income is only slightly higher in communities that are on roads. However, the cost of living off the road system is about twice as high as the cost of living on the road system. The data are also influenced by the larger communities, with large populations of settlers who don't do much subsistence. In smaller remote communities, at a household level, it is the opposite: the households that have the higher incomes are more likely to harvest more resources.

Magdanz's research and mathematical models found the following significant factors:

- In remote rural (roadless) Alaska, population densities are very low – they are similar to what they are estimated to have been at the time of contact
- Average subsistence harvests (per person) are not changing much over time in small- and medium-sized communities, but they are decreasing in some rural areas
- Average harvests in communities along the road system are 61% greater than small communities closer to cities.
- Average harvests in communities off the road system are 180% greater than in small communities closer to cities.
- for each 10 percent increase in Alaska Natives, harvests go up about 1 percent (remote rural Alaska areas are about 69% Alaska Native,
- Take altogether, time, rural location, road access, income, and ethnicity explain about 65%—about two thirds—of the variation in harvests
- Most households in remote rural communities get a majority of their subsistence food through cooperative harvesting, processing, and sharing.





LEFT: Only about a third of Venetie households' subsistence harvest came from household members harvesting food for themselves only. Another third came from people hunting and fishing and cutting food together ("shares" and helper shares). The rest came from simple sharing, trading, and purchases ("customary trade"). RIGHT: When researchers asked Venetie people where their nigipiaq comes from, they named people throughout the entire community.

Magdanz is optimistic about the future of subsistence in rural Alaska, as long as people responsibility harvest fish and game and the legal priority for subsistence is maintained.

BLM Law enforcement roles, duties, and jurisdiction in and near the NPR-A

Seth McMillan, BLM Law Enforcement Pilot/Ranger, gave an overview on the BLM law enforcement program in Alaska and what it means for people in villages like AKP. BLM has a very small law enforcement program: three rangers and three agents for the entire state. They represent those public lands managed by BLM with partners who have a larger enforcement presence. McMillan often works with Alaska State Wildlife Troopers in areas of high use, like the Dalton Highway during hunting season.

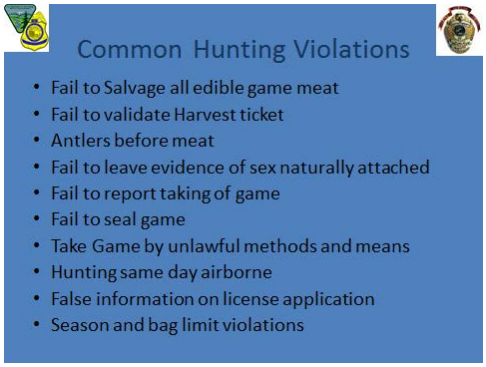
The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game produces hunting regulations that apply throughout the state. These state regulations apply to public lands whether they are BLM, or State, or private land, like Corporation land. The wildlife of the Alaska is mainly managed by mainly these regulations. (There are exceptions for subsistence in park areas which are managed by the Office of Subsistence Management under federal regulations). In the State of Alaska, some federal officers are cross-delegated with the State for the special purposes of enforcing State of Alaska Fish and Game regulations.

There are various types of land designations in Alaska:

- US Dept. of Interior National Park Service: Federal Parks and Preserves (e.g., Gates of the Arctic)
- US Dept. of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service: National Wildlife Refuges (e.g., ANWR)
- US Dept. of Interior Bureau of Land Management: Public Lands (e.g., NPR-A and other BLM land)

Some State of Alaska lands may also be public land (open to the public), but this does not mean similar management. In response to confusion over who has authority to regulate hunting, McMillan explained that the only way to change hunting regulations for subsistence is through the Federal Subsistence Board in the North Slope Regional Advisory Council. These are the regulations that say whether a place is open or closed to hunting. The BLM is not able to make those determinations - it cannot close areas to hunting. Only the Federal Subsistence Board can on the federal side, and on the State side, the Board of Game makes those determinations.

In response to questions about the restrictions on flying around AKP, McMillan explained that the "no-fly zone" is not closed to flying through, but is closed to the transportation of hunters, gear or game, for the purposes of caribou hunting, for specified dates. People are allowed to fly through but cannot transport caribou hunters, gear or game. They are allowed to fly and land to hunt sheep, moose, bear, etc. McMillan and the Panel had a long and detailed discussion over what regulations apply to whom and who can enforce them. Interested readers are asked to review the verbatim transcript.



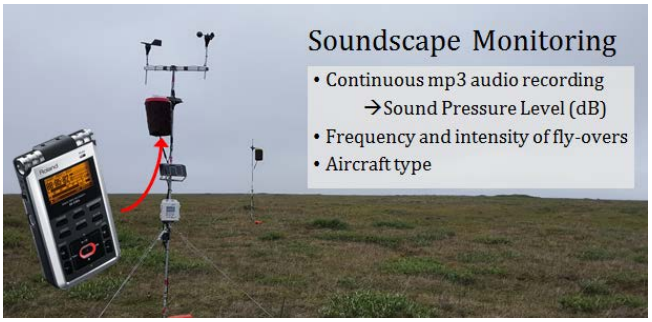
Monitoring Aircraft Activity in Nuiqsut, Subsistence Use Areas Using Soundscape Research

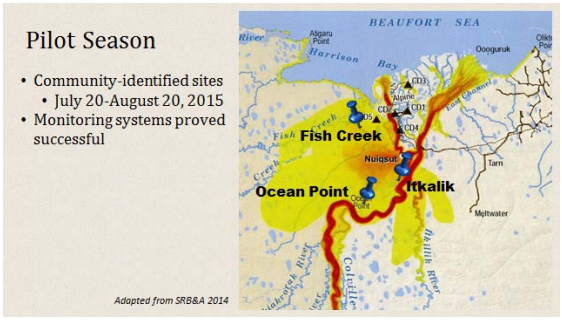
Taylor Stinchcomb, graduate student at UAF, has been working with Dr. Todd Brinkman, KSOP (Kuukpik Subsistence Oversight Panel), and the community of Nuiqsut (with the support of BLM, Alaska EPSCOR and the National Science Foundation) to design and implement a project to observe and document changes in the environment which the community of Nuiqsut perceived as important.

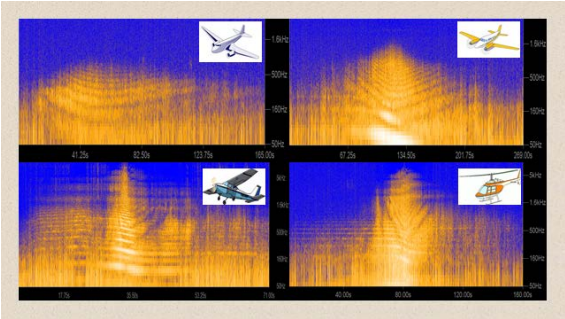
The first phase of the project included providing Nuiqsut hunters with camera-enabled GPS units so they can take pictures of whatever they perceived in the landscape as important and the photos would be tagged with the coordinates for future reference. Over 200 unique images and local narratives have been downloaded since this community monitoring program began in 2014, capturing anything from the harvests to community events and fish camps to physical changes in the landscape, like river erosion, vegetation changes, snow pack levels.

Brinkman and Stinchcomb also learned that aircraft activity is an important concern and there is frustration expressed by the hunters over aircraft traffic. The existing data on traffic was insufficient to get a grasp on the volume of aircraft that was occurring (outside of some takeoffs and landings that are documented by the BLM and ConocoPhillips).

Soundscape ecology is a new approach to monitor aircraft traffic by recording environmental sound. Systems are deployed to monitor sound continuously, and the MP3 audio can be converted to a sound pressure level – a measure of the intensity of noise. The project can measure intensity, frequency of flyover events, and differentiate between aircraft types.







Preliminary Results – Fish Creek Site

	Propeller Plane	Chopper	Jet	Total Aircraft
Average events per day	5.6	8.5	3.5	17.6
Average duration (sec (min))	141 (2.35)	136 (2.26)	150 (2.5)	142 (2.37)
Average % time audible (per hour)	1.5	3.0	1.0	2.8

The results of the 2015 pilot study, upon preliminary analysis, indicated an average of about 17 aircraft flying over one of site per day. The community liked the pilot study and requested many more recording devices/soundscape sites, so in the summer of 2016 Stinchcomb will be working with local residents (boat hires and guides) to establish 20-25 sites.

The team hopes to get enough aircraft data to develop a baseline distribution of how much aircraft is occurring in these areas, and where it's occurring. Then they will merge that data with information on how hunters are accessing caribou, caribou movement data, the infrastructure around Nuiqsut, and physical landscape change.

Riley Sikvayugak recommended that a similar project be conducted in and around Anaktuvuk Pass. He noted that in the mountains, the noise travels and bounces off the mountains. Wanda Kippi noted that she has similar issues with aircraft in Atqasuk, and that this is an issue in all the villages. Martha Itta recommended that video recording be added to the project.

National Geographic Mygrations Project

** Please note that since the time of this SAP meeting, National Geo has decided to change the location of its planned trek and video project to the east side of the Dalton Highway and they have received permits from the North Slope Borough and BLM Central Yukon Field office for this activity. **

Ian Dray, senior producer at National Geographic, described the first season of this show, which was in the Serengeti National Park in Africa. Nat Geo takes 20 people and they become a human herd to see how humans react to the same conditions as migrating herds of animals (in Africa, it was the migration of the wildebeest). For Season 2 they are planning to do a similar show with humans emulating an arctic caribou herd and showcasing the environment.

1,000 to 2,000 people apply to be on the show. Nat Geo does rigorous checks to make sure the people are fit and mentally stable enough to undertake the journey, then the 20 selected walk the whole way in about 40 days. There is no prize money and they do it solely for the challenge. 13 participants made it the entire way in Season 1. They practice 'Leave No Trace' ethics and will avoid disturbing caribou. UIC will be providing bear guards.

Panel members warned the Nat Geo producers that the Utukok area is a very spiritual and special area where many ancestors were born, and that there are many reports of supernatural occurrences when people travel through there.

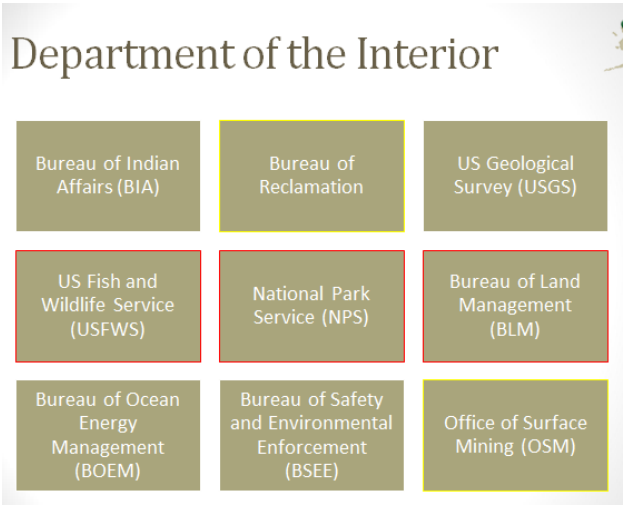
Josiah Patkotak questioned the Nat Geo crew about their plans for emergencies, noted that NSB Search and Rescue is already concerned about funding to provide services to local subsistence hunters, and recommended that Nat Geo fund their own emergency services. He asked how many air drops would occur

and Nat Geo responded that they would have one every 3 to 4 days. This prompted concerns about exacerbating existing air traffic disturbance or introducing air traffic disturbance in one of the few areas where it isn't already a problem. Josiah Patkotak suggested: "Why not go on the west side, and come 10 miles off the Dalton and you can walk along that route?" This SAP recommendation was taken up by the Nat Geo crew.

In general, SAP concerns centered on potential disturbance to caribou that the short notice to plan this project. The representatives stated that the film crew should have started a year earlier consulting with all potentially affected entities. They requested that Nat Geo prepare far more detailed information on their plan. SAP President Sollie Hugo said that people were probably surprised to see the presentation, but thanked Nat Geo and told them, "If you work very hard, you might be able to do it". Others wished them luck.

BLM Permitting Process in the NPR-A

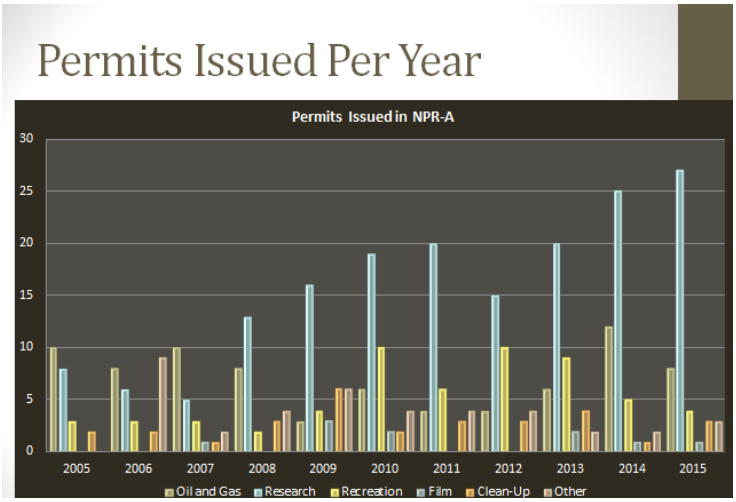
Stacie McIntosh, at the request of the SAP at previous meetings, described how the BLM processes permits in the NPR-A. She began by providing background information on the basic organization of the federal government, the Department of the Interior, and the jurisdictions of the various agencies within it.



The BLM manages Public Lands and the BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under its mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. Of the three land-managing agencies within the Department of the Interior, BLM is the agency that allows companies and people to actually use the land by applying for permits and authorizations for acceptable uses.

1. The first step in the BLM permitting process is when BLM receives an application for a proposed use of BLM lands.
2. Next, the BLM determines if the application is complete (meaning, do we have enough information to understand what it is the applicant wants to do – this can require a lot of back and forth with the applicant).
3. Step 3 is to determine whether or not the proposed use is allowable under the law (the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act) and the current land use management plan (2013 NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan).

4. The BLM must then complete a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) analysis of the proposed use to determine impacts that could result. There are 3 levels of NEPA that BLM does, depending on the proposed action:
    1. Environmental Assessment
    2. Categorical Exclusion
    3. Environmental Impact Statement
5. Next, the BLM identifies ways to reduce or eliminate any potential impacts (These are mitigation measures that we would potentially apply to the permit or to the authorization).
6. Offer the permit, including all associated terms and conditions
7. Permittee accepts permit conditions
8. BLM issues the permit, and the person or organization is then authorized to conduct the proposed use.
9. Ensure compliance with terms and conditions – done by conducting on the ground field inspections and monitoring reporting requirements (information the permittee is required to submit to BLM)



The increase in research permits (blue line in chart on right) over the past 10 years is evident: BLM is issuing more and more every year for research, as people are interested in climate change and understating what is going on with the environment.

Subsistence Advisory Panel Community Concerns and Recommendations

1. Riley Sikvayugak requested a letter to the North Slope Regional Advisory Council for a change of regulations to not allow hunting in the Petroleum Reserve. Sollie Hugo added that BLM should not allow permits to non-residents, and recommended that there should be no hunting or illegal activities inside the NPR-A, other than by local community members.
2. Request for more information on the JW Dalton Legacy Well plugging and abandonment, including pictures, a report of that action, and a copy of the inspection report.
3. Bart Ahsogeak: Request for the final cleanup report for the work that happened at Cape Simpson this past summer.
4. Bart Ahsogeak requested to know what the enclosure is at Nauluk Lake

5. Request to follow up with Craig George (NSB Dept. of Wildlife Management) and see whether or not there is a report on the fish sampling that was done in Nuiqsut and to provide that to the Subsistence Advisory Panel.
6. Raymond Paneak requested more information on the North Slope Borough Harvest Surveys that have been done in the schools (Sollie said it was UAF)
7. Sollie Hugo requested an example of a BLM application and permit
8. Request to have someone from the Department of Natural Resources come and give a presentation on permitting. Martha Itta recommended that a State of Alaska representative to attend all SAP meetings.
9. Request that BLM provide the panel with results from recommendations. Martha Itta and Sollie Hugo requested to know what the Panel can do to make sure its recommendations are being heard and responded to. (The BLM already provides the updated list of recommendations and responses at each meeting. (Stacie McIntosh committed to start the meetings with a discussion of the recommendations that were made at the last meeting and what progress has been made on them.)
10. Request for information on all the known wells on the North Slope
11. Martha Itta recommended that the Bureau of Land Management hire an Alaskan liaison to make sure that the correct information from the Tribes goes to the DOI.
12. Enforcement: Bart Ahsogeak recommended more hunting regulations enforcement in the NPR-A.
    a. Ahsogeak suggested that BLM hire undergraduate students for summer jobs in law enforcement and that BLM talk with other agencies about supporting game wardens, especially at Happy Valley along the Dalton Highway.
    b. Seth McMillan recommended that the Panel consider identifying a compliance need and making a request for additional enforcement or compliance work in times of high use.
    c. Bart Ahsogeak noted that every time he requests more enforcement, locals push back because they do not want more regulations to infringe on their hunting.
    d. McMillan suggested that everyone get their hunting license so they would not have problems with that regulation issue.
13. Bart Ahsogeak recommended that the Federal Subsistence Regulations be interpreted and translated into Inupiaq and that traditional Inupiaq hunting practices be translated into English and provided with all hunting regulations.
14. Raymond Paneak recommended that the State of Alaska construct caribou overpasses over the Dalton Highway.
15. Wanda Kippi recommended that the SAP and BLM try to get information on aviation disturbance to the pilots and aviation companies.

Raymond Paneak closed out the meeting with this statement:

> *"I just wanted to say thank you very much for all you to come up here and give all the information, communication to us, what's going on. Also I want say that some of these other villages that come up, they have some of the same problems that we do. I want to thank him, all those who came from Barrow from North and other areas. Community is very important, especially for subsistence hunting. Really important. And a group like this, keep together and talk about our subsistence way of life is really important. I am still learning a lot form this kind of meeting, what other people think. I learn a lot - that is very good. We can't do it alone, all of it. We get together like this, could solve a problem if we work*

together, if we work together, we could get things done. I want to thank you all for coming."

The meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.