DRAFT
NPR-A
Subsistence Advisory Panel
Meeting Proceedings

November 15 & 16, 2011
Fairbanks, Alaska

Sponsored by:
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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1150 University Avenue
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Tuesday November 15, 2011 ~ 9AM
Subsistence Advisory Panel Chair, Joe Sage Presiding
Welcome and Introductions

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:02:45.08]
Good morning everyone. I'd like to call this meeting to order. It's now 9:20 and before we get started I'd like to ask the honorable Bart Ahsogeak to do our invocation.

Bart Ahsogeak
[00:03:04.06]
Thank you Lord Jesus... inaudible... guidance to move forward and make the right choices for the subsistence users... inaudible... In Jesus' name, Amen.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:03:42.24]
Hello, my name is Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow. I am the newly elected chairman of the Subsistence Advisory Panel. This is basically my second meeting, so bare with me. Before we get started I would like to ask Lon to make some introductions.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:04:07.19]
Good morning everybody, this is a great turn out and I appreciate you all coming. I think we need to recognize the members of the panel. They are all volunteers. They don't get compensated in any way for participating in this but they bring a lot of local knowledge and expertise to our management of the NPR-A so I really really really appreciate them coming this long way from their homes. This SAP is a government to government coordinated body, with representatives from local governments and tribal governments on the North Slope that are impacted by NPR-A activities. The basic idea is that we talk over the things that BLM is doing and allowing to be done in NPR-A. We look for areas where things are working well or where things are problematic. We try to take on some of these issues and think of new ways or better ways to make the impacts on subsistence in particular from these activities that we authorize, more, ah, well, less, basically. We try to get those impacts on subsistence species and access to those species by residents of the North Slope down to zero if we can.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:05:48.04]
Some of the issues that we've discussed over the years have been aircraft over-flights; they are a sensitive issue and we've made some progress on that. Seismic trains which travel across the North Slope and it's hard to plan your hunting if you don't know where they are. So we worked a little bit on ways that seismic activity could coordinate with local search and rescue operations to make sure that local people know where those operations are going and what they're up to day by day. One of the big things that we do when we have oil and gas development whether it's seismic or drilling is to have the oil company come to the SAP and present what they are proposing to do and this panel will give us their expertise, you know try to identify special things based on where this activity is happening that BLM ought to do to minimize the impacts on

subsistence. So it's really an advisory board or an advisory panel advising BLM about what we should do about things we're going to permit, specific things, but it's also a problem solving group where we try to tackle things that are problematic for subsistence users on the North Slope.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:07:27.03]
We don't... we recognize pretty much everybody on the North Slope uses subsistence resources and relies on subsistence resources, so we take a pretty broad attitude toward what subsistence is - we don't just try to focus on subsistence. If there is an issue that is affecting people on the North Slope and the SAP wants to take it on, I don't think we've ever said 'no, that's outside our scope.'

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:08:06.25]
Did I say my name? I'm Lon Kelly, I'm the field manager for the Arctic Field Office, so I'm the lowest level manager. You know I sign permits and environmental assessments and basically the foot on the ground kind of person that does, that makes decisions about what happens in the NPR-A. We have a 15 person staff in our field office, largely, mostly scientists, biologists, hydrologists, hazmat specialists, and they really do all the work. I take their advice and make decisions and sign my name and check the time sheets... inaudible.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:09:02.27]
So let's go ahead and introduce the panel. If you can just go around and say your name and what you are representing, you know, the tribal government, the local government and what do you expect to get out of this day's activities, day and a half. So, Ira...

Ira Ungudruk, SAP
[00:09:27.15]
Good Morning everybody, my name is Ira Ungudruk from Wainwright. I am kind of still new here - this is my second meeting with the panel. I work for ICAS and I also work with the tribal council, the Wainwright Traditional Council in Wainwright. I am a subsistence hunter and I support subsistence hunting, and... good morning.

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[00:10:02.06]
My name is Qinugan Roddy. I work with ICAS, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, I am also a subsistence hunter. This is my first panel meeting, and this is Aliana [baby hiccupping].

Price Leavitt, SAP
[00:10:19.00]
Hi, I am Price Leavitt. I am with the Inupiat community of the Arctic Slope I'm their executive director and all like the panel, I'm a subsistence hunter and this is my first meeting and I'm usually, you know, behind the desk, and maybe like you Lon, you know doing comments on

proposed activities. The last comments that we did was back in October of 2010 when I had to... it was a long comment and well, it made me feel like environmental justice has started to emerge in the off shore development issues and I'm, you know, glad to be here and see if I can be helpful with the whole board... inaudible.

Peter Panik, SAP
[00:11:25.14]
Yes, good morning I'm Peter Panik from Wainwright. I am a subsistence hunter and that's about it. This is my first time here and I am looking forward to seeing what's going to happen.

Cliff Benson, SAP
[00:11:42.09]
My name is Cliff Benson. I am with the Native Village of Barrow. I am a wildlife technician for the Wildlife Department at Native Village of Barrow, and this is my first time for the panel, representing the panel, and I am a subsistence hunter myself and I am glad to be here and looking forward to seeing what we can do to help you guys with what needs to be done.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:12:15.12]
Do I have to sing?

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator, SAP Coordinator
[00:12:17.12]
Yeah. [laughter]

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:12:19.02]
Good morning. My name is Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow, Wildlife Director for three years now. When I took this job my main goal was to start a young hunters program which I did and it created opportunities for our younger generation, and that's basically one of the reasons I have Clifford as a wildlife technician is for guys like him, very enthusiastic, very outgoing and able to communicate to the younger generation, which basically promotes the young hunters program and through this young hunters program we are able to get grants and stuff like that to hire the next generation. Since I started in my position all I heard was, it was good to hire someone like me in the directors positions so that I'm able to communicate with the younger generation and ever since then the opportunities just exploded and it also brought us to the SAP, so welcome everyone.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[00:13:47.19]
Good morning. My name is Thomas Napageak, Jr. I'm here representing the Native Tribal Council. I am currently the city mayor of Nuiqsut. I am also a whaling captain. I'm also on maybe four other entities, but I'm here representing all the subsistence hunters in my community and this is my first BLM SAP meeting as well.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[00:14:17.24]
Well I'm not on the panel, but I guess I'll introduce myself now. My name is Dave Yokel. I work for Lon Kelly and I'm one of the wildlife biologists up in the NPR-A.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[00:14:30.09]
Good morning, my name is Bart Ahsogeak. I am with the North Slope Borough Planning Department, Permitting Section, and I was directed to come down here, so... I've been involved with NPR-A ever since, let's say about '77 and have been visiting all the villages. Try to show light use inventory and inventory of all the elders in each village, and figure out how they used the land prior to contact, and how NPR-As got it's boundaries. Right now we're trying to integrate all the agencies that do permitting, to communicate better. Right now we've got a big thing that's going on with Colville River Delta, and it's pretty hard when the other agents don't communicate. That's why I'm here. Trying to figure out who is who to work with. But, I've been involved with BLM. My good friend Bob Whirly, we've traveled together on the North Slope quite a bit, and that's about it.

Steve Hartmann, BLM District Manager
[00:16:12.10]
I'm Steve Hartmann. I'm the new District Manager here in Fairbanks since the spring. The old DM is sitting right over there, Bob Schneider. I shouldn't say old... past, the former DM, sorry Bob. So he's had, my understanding, a lot of involvement with this group. Anyway, welcome and, you know I hope you feel like this is a beneficial forum to discuss issues and like I said I'm relatively new and I'm just here to listen to you and learn. So welcome.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:16:57.01]
You wanna go... Yeah, we'll go ahead and introduce our staff members who are here besides Dave. I do want to recognize Bob. Bob set up the subsistence panel in the first place and got it going and that was not an easy thing to do and he was a real mentor to me, moving up to the North Slope and I'm really glad that he came out of retirement to be here and sit in.

Bob Schneider
[00:17:28.24]
I'm still retired. [Laughter] Old, past, and former are all probably appropriate words to describe me.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:17:39.17]
So, Deb...

Debby Nigro, BLM AFO Wildlife Biologist
[00:17:41.09]
Good morning my name is Debby Nigro and I work for the Arctic Field Office as a wildlife biologist. I work with a lot of biologists at the North Slope Borough and I'd like to speak to you

and talk to you about what you guys are doing at the Native Village of Barrow.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[00:18:09.02]
I'm Susan Flora. I'm a hazmat specialist and I'm working the AFO and I'll be giving a powerpoint on some of the sites that we are focusing on.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:18:23.18]
Okay, now, is that everybody from our staff?

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[00:18:28.20]
I'm Stacey. I'm the coordinator of the SAP.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:18:30.07]
She, she only did all the work. [Laughter] Sorry.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:18:39.20]
Okay so we have several invited presenters who are here and probably some more that will show up later. So Colleen, could you introduce yourself?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[00:18:52.12]
Yea, I can do that now. I'm Colleen Richards with Linc Energy and I'll be presenting on Umiat...inaudible

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:18:59.21]
Okay, great. And, I don't know Winslow Hansen.

Winslow Hansen
[00:19:05.09]
I'm Winslow.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:19:06.14]
Oh, hi.

Winslow Hansen
[00:19:06.28]
I'm a master's student here at UAF, Winslow Hansen. I'm going to be presenting on some research we did looking at how wind speeds have changed over the last couple of years and how that affects bowhead hunting opportunities.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[00:19:25.00]
I'm Randy Reed, I'm with CGG Veritas. We're a seismic exploration company and I'm here today to talk a little bit about the program that we have proposed for this window, in the area east of NPR-A.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:19:40.14]
Is someone here from USGS, yet? No. Okay, Bill...

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:19:46.17]
I'm Bill Morris from Fish and Game here in Fairbanks. I'm going to talk a bit, provide an update on some of the new fisheries research we're doing around Wainwright.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:19:58.09]
And, let's see. Do we have anybody besides Stacey?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:20:02.08]
Hi I'm Richard Driscoll. I'm with the State of Alaska Fish and Game also. I'm working on North Slope salmon... inaudible

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:20:14.06]
And we have Stacey.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[00:20:17.12]
Oh, I'm a presenter...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:20:19.17]
You're a presenter...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:20:21.05]
So, Stacey is going to talk about some field work she's been doing on the Kuk River that's pretty cool.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:20:34.07]
Back to you.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:20:40.11]
Next item on the Agenda is approval of the agenda.

unknown:
[00:20:45.24]
Mr Chair, I make a motion to approve the agenda.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:20:48.18]
There's a motion to approve the agenda.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:20:54.15]
All in favor of approving the agenda say aye

Many voices
[00:20:58.03]
Aye.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:20:59.28]
All opposed, same sign.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:21:02.02]
Alright, next item is approval of minutes of April 14, 2011 meeting in Wainwright. Is there a motion to approve it?

Unknown
[00:21:12.21]
inaudible

Unknown
[00:21:22.26]
Second.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:21:19.18]
Was that a motion?

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[00:21:22.25]
I'd like to make a motion.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair

[00:21:24.03]
I've got a motion to approve the minutes of April 14, 2011.

Ira Ungudruk, SAP
[00:21:34.10]
Second.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:21:35.00]
Seconded by Ira.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:21:37.25]
Inadible...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:21:50.07]
All in favor of approving the minutes?

[Many voices]
Aye

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:21:57.29]
Same sign?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:22:01.23]
Alright, the next item will be BLM update.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:22:07.20]
Thanks Mr. Chairman. Well, I'm going to cover a couple things - our integrated activity plan and the coming lease sale that we'll be having early next month. And then Susie Flora is going to talk about Hazmat, and we'll need a little break to gets Susan's... you have a powerpoint right?

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[00:22:29.20]
Yea, I have to get that set up.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:22:31.02]
So we'll have to set that up. So I'll just start right up and we'll try to pick up some time here.

BLM UPDATE:

The Integrated Activity Plan and the upcoming Lease Sale
Lon Kelly, US Bureau of Land Management, Arctic Field Office Manager

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:22:38.26]
BLM started this planning effort in July of 2010, had a lot of public meetings, Bob was still here... It's a plan for the whole of NPR-A. Most of you are well aware of this because you've been part of the cooperating agency - North Slope Borough Wildlife is writing parts of it, Fish and Wildlife Service, and BOEMRE - your Offshore Energy Management... [quiet talking] Regulatory Enforcement? (okay, so it's now just BOEM? okay.)

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:23:34.07]
So the North Slope Borough is doing most of the marine mammals and public health, and US Fish and Wildlife is doing polar bears and walrus, and BOEM is doing oil spill projections. And all of them are viewing the documents while it's in draft, so as each chapter gets to draft stage they make comments on it, and we respond to those comments. Particularly, the North Slope Borough wants us to make sure that while they're a cooperating agency, all the decisions are BLM's decisions. They have a seat at the table, but BLM has the full responsibility for identifying the range of alternatives and describing impacts that can result.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:24:28.27]
So, our schedule... the next big milestone is to publish the Draft Plan for Public Review and this, we're supposed to have the Final Plan published in early 2013. And the decision, the record of decision issued, roughly, it has to be at least 30 days later.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:25:03.24]
So far we've completed three chapters... alright.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:25:12.25]
In draft. Description of that purpose and need and description of existing environment and a description of the alternatives that we're considering. Now these are all internal documents, it's still subject to quite a bit of editing so they're not available for public review at this time.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:25:42.04]
We're updating research and monitoring projects, and data throughout this plan so it's a little bit fluid until we issue the draft. And, um, I guess that's what there is to say about that.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:26:08.13]
...Okay...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:26:16.01]
There are four alternatives. There is existing situation, which describes the current situation that we have now, two integrated activity plans, one for northeast and one for northwest, and no plan for the south part of NPR-A. There are three action alternatives - they call them action alternatives to distinguish from the "no action" alternatives. And in NPR-A we try to balance two mandates that we have: One is to produce energy through an expedited program of leasing to provide for the energy needs of the nation and the other is to protect resources. And one of the resources that we are charged with protecting is subsistence resources. So, we're trying to find that balance point, so our alternatives go from a very aggressive program of leasing to a very aggressive program of conserving and holding areas back from what's...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:27:29.29]
There is no preferred alternative right now, and we don't expect there to be a preferred alternative in the draft.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:27:41.01]
Because there's so much work going on on the North Slope, we've been getting information almost weekly from different science groups, whether it's NOAA, or USGS, or our own cooperators, that make this process kind of um, you know the, simile of building an airplane in flight. It's kind of like that. Every week it seems like we get some new information that makes us go back and have to write something different. And some of the science inputs that we're getting are climate change, air quality monitoring, we got some funding... for climate monitoring and we gave a contract to the Scenarios Network for Alaska Planning to help us predict what the climate will be in the future and what impact it will have on soils and vegetation. And we contracted for some air quality monitoring and we should be incorporating data from that.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:28:59.06]
We've got petroleum research. This is specimen from USGS. They show a dramatic decline, I'm sure everybody on the panel knows this, the oil reserves in NPR-A that were thought to be technically and economically recoverable declined a lot, about 90%. And the gas reserves went up, a little bit. So it's looking more like a gas show in NPR-A than we had thought before in our earlier planning. That, of course, has all the problems we read about in the paper about getting gas to market in an economic way

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
So, lets see. One of the things that I want, always point out when I'm doing this. I know the panel is familiar with this, but there's a lot of things on the North Slope that you don't think about. This is the... We could use some science. But even if you had a lot of scientific input you wouldn't

quite know what to do with it. Like, this is the Galutawuk ?? River in the Summer, and this is the Galutawak ?? at break up, so you can see the idea of a riparian zone or protecting a crossing, you know it's not as straightforward as it is in other areas that don't have such dramatic variation from season to season and such a flat flood plain with so much water suddenly in the spring.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:30:53.10]
So were there questions on the Plan?

[00:31:02.06]
Unknown
I'll just cite the project that's going on in northwest, is that just seismic activity this winter? Or was that just Planning?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:31:12.06]
I don't think there is any seismic activity in Northwest, is there? Does anybody know?

Same unknown
[00:31:17.29]
On NPR-A? Is that what's going on, in the NPR-A? Anything this winter?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:31:25.08]
Well, Veritas will have a presentation on that. But I don't think the ...inaudible...

Any other questions about this land use plan?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:31:41.17]
The whole thing is we call it an integrated activity plan and we do address a lot of recreation and visual resources and that sort of thing, but it's mainly a leasing plan.

Unknown
[00:31:54.17]
One of the you know main efficiency comments was that, you know, for BLM to have a management plan for the different public land users. I'm... with ICAS, we've been, in the past two years we've been involved with offshore development issues and now, you know, this is my first time in going into research on your NPR-A so ah, the comments that we have made on the management plan was one of the primary concerns that we have.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:32:44.05]
Yeah, this juxtaposition of the off-shore oil and gas exploration and the potential development, and on-shore facilities is where these two plans would come together. So if they make a discovery offshore of Wainwright than we would be, we would be providing the route for the

pipeline, it basically has to go through BLM land, if they plan a pipeline between off-shore oil over to the TAPS line so we will have a section dealing with that pipeline and on-shore facilities largely as part of our cumulative impacts analysis. So we'll be looking at development in Prudhoe and development in the Chukchi.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:33:45.29]
Does that make sense?

Same Unknown
[00:33:48.06]
Yeah.

Unknown
[00:33:51.17]
I had a question on BLM's perspective on the bridge crossing on the Niġliq channel?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:34:01.06]
We were surprised by the original, by the decision to deny it, but it's really not... we don't really have a dog in the hunt. Ah, I know that I... I think, like a lot of people, I thought if Nuiqsut and the borough thought it was a good idea, it would probably be approved.

So, it just goes to show... but we don't really have, we know it's under review, and it'll make a difference, make a big difference. But, we're not trying to make our... the plan won't stand or fall on whether or not it's approved.

Unknown
[00:35:01.17]
Who owns the coast line?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:35:02.13]
What? who owns the coastline? Oh [laughter], well, let's see. I've got [a map]...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:35:21.03]
BLM owns the coastline inside this line. That's part of the Beacon-Sands [?] decision, so the deeply incised bays in the barriers islands, like along the Kasigluk Lagoon, up the coast from Icy Cape are BLM. It's shown on the maps, a lot of maps show this as a maritime refuge, but its not, it's BLM and, so, ah, that's based on the definition of the coast line of Alaska. Is this a trick question or anything?

Previous unknown
[00:36:02.24]
No.

[laughter]

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:36:03.29]
Okay.

Unknown
[00:36:04.18]
Who has the final say on permit travel?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:36:08.07]
In NPR-A? BLM.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:36:20.02]
Okay.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:36:29.09]
Okay, so now I'll talk about this lease sale they're going to have on December 7th. By the way, the state will be having their lease sale on the same day and they'll be selling some acreage off-shore, and some more acreage on-shore in the oil patch between ANWR and NPR-A. It looks like reading the paper that we'll probably get a pretty good idea of what kind of interest there is from the oil industry in areas of NPR-A. I think our geologists think that, well you can't read too much into it if there's a lot of interest in state sales off-shore with BLM plans, then you can figure from the basic maps that we have of the geology, where they might be interested within NPR-A. And we're real curious about what will happen with leasing in NPR-A.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:37:47.12]
So these purple areas here are existing lease tracts.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:38:03.01]
These heavily cross hatched areas are expired tracts. And there are some other cross hatched areas that have been relinquished. Did I say that right?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:38:27.06]
Lon, can you point out which one's are...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:38:36.00]
The only one's that are... all these crossed hatched ones, and the purple ones, were leased at one

time. The purple ones, and I'm calling it purple even though I'm probably a little bit color-blind, these ones here are still leased. So you can see that of the land that has been leased in NPR-A, only a fraction of it is still under lease. And none of it is producing right now.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:39:18.16]
So we're doing this lease sale pretty quick because President Obama and Secretary Salazar, who are our big bosses in the executive branch of the government, told us to. And by golly, we are doing it. So in June, we called for nominations, we went out to the oil industry and the general public, and asked for comments on what land should be leased or offered for lease. We made a draft determination of NEPA adequacy. It's a document that says our existing planning EISs are adequately describing the impacts of leasing in these areas. We posted the notice of the sale this month and on the 7th, we'll be holding the lease sale. Has anybody, anyone on the panel, have you guys been to a lease sale?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:40:28.29]
It's really not much. It's kind of like... [announcement over loudspeaker] They open the, they open the bids, they have a map on the screen and they show what areas they've got bids and what the bid amount was and it's really pretty quick. You get the new map right there in real time. So, it's worth going to, if you're in Anchorage on the 7th.

Unknown
[00:40:57.24]
Yea, um... How open are the.. how long are those leases open for? Five years?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:41:02.11]
Ten.

Unknown
[00:41:03.01]
Mmm.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:41:13.17]
So by March, we'll have actually got the money, validated the bids, seen that they're a fair bid, and issued the leases. Then immediately after that we'll call for nominations for the next lease sale which we expect to have in October, tentatively, to be on the schedule that the President and the Secretary of the Interior who mandated the sale every year.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:41:50.00]
So these are the tracts. The current leases are in the dark color, the dark purple, and the areas that are available for lease in this lease sale are in the lighter color. All these other areas are not

available for leasing. So the Teshekpuk Area, the Peard Bay, Kasigluk Lagoon, and then the areas just south east of Wainwright, and all of southern NPR-A. And.. I think...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:42:37.00]
So any questions about leasing?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:42:43.03]
Thanks.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:42:46.20]
If it's okay with you Joseph, we'll just take a couple minutes to get Susan's presentation set up.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:42:55.00]
Two minutes?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:42:56.27]
Well, let's give ten minutes.

BACKGROUND NOISE

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:50:43.06]
Are you ready to go?

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[00:50:44.15]
I think so.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:50:46.20]
Alright, we'll call this meeting back to order.

[set up / lights]

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[00:51:48.19]
Do you want me to begin?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:51:52.19]
Yeah, go ahead.

BLM UPDATE:

Contaminated Sites in the NPR-A

Susan Flora, Arctic Field Office Hazardous Materials Specialist

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[00:51:53.10]
Okay. This repeat here, my name is Susan Flora and I work for Lon in the Arctic Field Office. I'm an environmental scientist and my focus is on hazmat issues. Our hazmat issues are ah, kind of three pronged. I worked with old legacy wells, that was wells that were drilled starting with the Navy in about 1945, transferring to the USGS in 1977, and ending in about 1981. Also, am involved with looking at what the Department of Defense agencies to clean up old, ah, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard sites that are within or adjacent to the National Petroleum Reserve, and the third prong, fortunately we haven't had to work with at all, very much anyway, is spill response. When there is an active spill that has taken place.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[00:53:04.16]
And so, just a quick summary, our legacy wells, and my function with the legacy wells is some reserve pits. And so, we have an entire staff in Anchorage that works with the old wells themselves, and that's our petroleum engineers. I work with the reserve pits and in 2004 we became aware, in Sept 2004, that we had really accelerated shore erosion near Pt Lonely when we had a well site three miles east of there. And that was J W Dalton. And the shore line erosion had gotten... reached to the point where it had just touched on the reserve pit. And so we, um, the J W Dalton response, which we, which we initiated in January of 2005, was our first response to address erosion threats at reserve pits with our legacy wells. And so that's what I'm going to be focusing on here.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[00:54:18.20]
And right now, as of the end of 2010, we've completed our first phase of closures of the four reserve pits that were most threatened. And then that's... and I don't have JW Dalton on here, but, ah, JW Dalton was really the first and um, our next ones here, just to show you really briefly we have some little dark spots on the shoreline, so those are some of the remaining well sites, and mostly... and we are monitoring those well sites, but except for the sites that we've removed, these sites are not threatened by erosion at the present.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[00:55:05.22]
So, we can go... so, um, East Teshekpuk was the well site after JW Dalton that we removed the site on the east side of Teshekpuk Lake and we completed that removal of that reserve pit in 2007. And that is the site. And Atigaru ah, we did in 2008. And as you can see here the Atigaru Point well sites, they're very low and actually the Atigaru Point well site and the reserve pit, well the lands that those are sitting on, were conveyed just, I think, two years after that well was

drilled and the reserve pit were created, to Kuukpik got the surface and ASRC has the subsurface. So we got permission from both Kuukpik and ASRC to go in and plug and abandon that well and removed that reserve pit. And so that work was completed, ah, was completed in 2009. And once again that's just an overhead view of that site.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[00:56:26.00]
And the most recent removal that we did was the well site at Drew Point. And it, ah, this is a photo that was taken, I believe in 2005, and at that time I did some lines of estimates based on what our erosion rate was between 2000 and 2005 of what the future erosion rate would be. Thankfully, it has slowed down, because based on the estimate at that time by 2011, our shoreline would be to this point, but right now, as of this fall the shore line is about right here. So, um... [to someone who brought water] thank you.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[00:57:20.28]
And so that is a brief summary of where we are at with our reserve pits. Once again we have monitoring in place for the remaining reserve pits. I think the other reserve pits of concern are on the Simpson Peninsula and just west of Admiralty Bay. And as for legacy wells, there, the Bureau has an agreement with the Corps of Engineers to use the same contractor to close out a well in Umiat - Umiat Well Nine - that the Corps is currently doing contaminated soil removals from. So as soon as the Corps has completed the contaminated soil removals, that Umiat Well Nine will be plugged and abandoned.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO Hazmat Specialist
[00:58:19.07]
So the next phase of our work is working with Dept of Defense agencies, and one of the sites that we've been working on, conducting a lot of negotiations with them, has been the Pt Lonely Site. This is just an old aerial oblique that shows Pt Lonely, and the site that's about a mile away called Camp Lonely. And Camp Lonely was constructed beginning in 1974 by the Navy. It was completed, the construction was completed I believe in 1977 under the USGS and it was done by the Husky Contract, which hopefully some of you are familiar with that Husky contract. And anyway the Pt Lonely DEW Line became operational in '53 and the purpose was to detect and report airborne traffic and Camp Lonely, which was very closely associated with Pt Lonely, used the airstrip at Pt Lonely for access.

Susan Flora, BLM Arctic Field Office Hazmat Specialist
[00:59:35.16]
That was constructed to support staging operations for oil exploration done by USGS through Husky. And once again these are mapped shorelines starting with 1998 and 2003, and this one here I believe was done in 2003. Since that time there has been just a small amount of erosion but at the Camp Lonely site... all the buildings and all the stockpiled materials were all removed in 2005 and 2006. All that remains at this site is the pad itself but approximately... the pad is about 15 or 16 acres in size and about a quarter of that pad has landfill debris underneath it. And so there's several parties that are involved with negotiating and planning... how they are going to address the remaining pad.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO Hazmat Specialist
[01:00:59.27]
And this is a picture of the edge of that pad with some of the landfill scrap metal poking out. This is a picture of Pt Lonely and this was taken 4 years ago when the Air Force went in and removed an old 1956 era landfill that was on the lagoon close to the coast and they removed that landfill because they were fearful that it would start eroding ... into the sea. They moved a portion of that landfill back behind, south of the DEW Line property and expanded the landfill that they had to create in 1996. And when they removed that landfill they ran into soils with PCB content that was higher than 1 part per million. But mostly it was less than 10, and mostly even more so, less than 5 parts per million, which in the State of Alaska can be land-filled, but they hadn't been able to find a municipal landfill willing to take it yet. So they've taken most of this material and have stockpiled it in this blue hangar. So that blue hangar has landfill materials stored, temporarily stored.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO Hazmat Specialist
[01:02:39.14]
And at Wainwright, over here at the Wainwright Dew Line there's been a lot of activity starting in 2010 with multiple contractors and we're lucky today because John Ford from Olgoonik is here. And Olgoonik has been prime contractors for many of these actions and including the most recent actions that are occurring at Wainwright. In 2010 the Air Force and the US Army Corps of Engineers contracted to have a beach length removed and contaminated soils from that landfill were removed. So that occurred in 2010. There were some beach diesel tanks just north of the village with a pipeline that accessed the DEW Line sight proper. In 2002 the pipeline was removed; in 2010 the beach diesel tanks were removed.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO Hazmat Specialist
[01:03:47.17]
This last summer, the contract was to remove asbestos out of the module train and remove contaminated soil at the DEW line gravel pads associated with the, or next to the module train and also to the garage. Do you guys that haven't started anything on the building demolition yet though...

They also removed a pipeline that was there between the buildings.

[01:04:17.06]
inaudible comment from audience

Susan Flora, BLM AFO Hazmat Specialist
[01:04:18.02]
Yeah, yeah.

So there's a lot more work remaining at Wainwright. What's unique about the Wainwright site, the Pt Lay site, and actually the Pt Barrow site, which is a small site, is all three sites are BLM managed lands and so that's why we've been very very active in negotiating with the Air Force on these three sites. All of the other sites on the North Slope and throughout Alaska, the

Department of Defense agency is the land manager for the footprint. So these sites are unique even though we are the land manager because these are certified for superfund type action the Air Force does have final say in what is the best remedy. And.. you know they are accepting comments through their Restoration Advisory Boards. And there's a Restoration Advisory Board in Barrow, there's one in Wainwright, there's one in Pt Lay, there's one in Nuiqsut. Although the one in Nuiqsut I don't think has meet in a couple of years.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO Hazmat Specialist
[01:05:43.05]
So, on these sites, both at Wainwright and Pt Lay, the Air Force is going through a decision process trying to decide right now how they will handle with the building demolition debris. They are planning on demolishing the buildings, you know, they have no future plans for the structures at these two sites. And one of their options that they are considering at both of these sites is to create a landfill at the site to landfill those materials.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO Hazmat Specialist
[01:06:24.28]
In, you know, from our standpoint on landfills, unless they are constantly maintained cannot, cannot, ah.... They have to be maintained or else they'll probably be good for 20 maybe 30 years and then frost jacking or some other problems will. So our recommendation to the Air Force is, you know, they're putting themselves into long term headache if they leave the landfill on-site. But the cost may be prohibitive for them to move the materials off-site, but that's something you know, you know, that you guys should, should know about.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO Hazmat Specialist
[01:07:11.03]
Go ahead

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:07:11.13]
Um, Is BLM in contact with the Army for the Oliktok STP?

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:07:21.15]
Oh, for Oliktok, actually Oliktok is owned by the Air Force and the Air Force has not asked for our review of their actions there, you know, so we have not been involved.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:07:37.07]
I should have explained the relinquishment process...

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:07:43.23]
Yeah, and in fact we'll have a couple pictures here coming up real quickly of some sites that aren't on the NPR that we do not own but in those cases the Navy or the Air Force has asked us to review the actions that they've taken because they want to relinquish their ownership and they

want it to go back into the public domain. And and so in those instances, only when they ask us, you know, to begin the review, do we get involved. And we have very strict guidelines as to what we can accept, is acceptable to put back to the public domain. And essentially, if we accept property back into the public domain it cannot have institutional controls on it. You know, so if the lands have landfills, you know, there is an institutional control associated with landfills, which you can't dig into unless you remove it entirely. So, so um, we've got pretty strict sidebars as to what we can accept.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:09:04.05]
And so that's some of the work that we are progressing on slowly. When we consider how fast we've been able to move forward with the legacy wells, when you consider, well, we found out in September of 2004 that we had erosion threatening a reserve pit. And we've removed four reserve pits since 2004. Whereas on these DEW Line sites, it began, they began studies on these DEW Line sites thirty years ago, and there still slowly moving forward. So you know things. you know, the timescales vary greatly.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:09:46.29]
And so this is just a map presentation of where the DEW Line site is there at Wainwright. This is a DEW Line site here; there's the village up here, and this is actually the route that was taken in the winter of 2010 when the contractors removed this beach dump. And they moved the materials over here to Taqpaq Bar for barging.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:10:18.14]
And this was a photo from the summer. And this is some of the contaminated soil removal that was done by hand by contractors there underneath the, um, I believe, that's a module train.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:10:35.12]
And this is just an aerial of, a google, of Pt Barrow and I just wanted to point out that the, ah, at Pt Barrow the project manager for the Air Force is Lori Roy and that they've been actively picking up contaminated gravels and soil so that site we removed old, unused fuel storage tanks and also at Pt Barrow I believe for about two years they have, the Air Force, has worked very diligently to find someone to take over the ownership of their blue [?] hangar.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:11:23.02]
It's just right along the edge of their property and well, last I heard from Rory, although there were several groups in Barrow had said that they were very interested in taking that hangar, no one has actually stepped forward so I believe that in 2013 the Air Force will begin the process to contract to do demolition of that building.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:11:48.24]

Right adjacent to the DEW Line site is these lands over here, is a 6 acre, a 600 acre property called the NARL Antennae Farm. And the Navy had quite a bit of clean up done at NARL Antennae farm [to someone near her: is that right?] this last winter, and of course through this summer. And all of these power lines, old power lines were removed as well as some other structures out there on the site.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:12:29.16]
Last I heard from the contractor working out there in mid-September was that they figured that they had removed a little over half of what they could see was out there on that property and that they have, they have quite a bit more work to do. But, ah, the contract money ran out and they would have to find (fund?) a new contract.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:12:57.04]
This site, once again, the NARL site, even though it's right next to the Pt Barrow site, is owned by the Navy. The Navy has asked the bureau to do an environmental review of the work they've done, to consider taking it back into the public domain and, ah, I've held off that review pending, you know, pending completion of their clean-ups. So, it's up in the air, you know, whether the Navy would get the funding to complete their clean-ups or not, but that’s work that has progressed each year.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:13:36.10]
And at Cape Sabine, Cape Sabine is not in the National Petroleum Reserve, but once again it's a Navy site. The Navy did a major clean-up out there, I believe it was 8 years ago. But they have some remaining issues that, ah, that they actually brought up these issues themselves here at that site, and they have not resolved them so we have not been able to conclude our review of the work that they have at Cape Sabine. But that is also a property that is, ah, had all the buildings removed. They have issues at three small sites that they have to address before we can process our environmental review.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:14:25.10]
And Icy Cape, once again at Icy Cape a portion of Icy Cape, the upland portion of Icy Cape, was within NPR-A, and, but the, ah, luckily for us, there was no infrastructure there. All the infrastructure was on the coast side of the NPR-A line. And so that is still owned, I believe that is Navy again. And there were some questions, once again, to be addressed, that the Navy needs to address with some old landfills there at that site before we can progress with our review of whether or not that site is suitable.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:15:13.28]

And in going, switching back on the east side of NPR-A, in Umiat, the Corps of Engineers is sta..., started in the fall of 2010 to look at planning and looking at options for removing or

stabilizing the landfill there that is placed in the flood channel of the Colville River. It was a landfill that was constructed sometime in the mid '70s as a clean-up project by the Corps. So, there was geophysical studies done in April out there and there's hydrologic studies that were done out there this last summer. And I guess we are waiting to see the results of those studies, both winter and summer studies, but the project managers they have, they've gone through a couple project managers already on that due to retirement and they anticipate that this is probably a ten year planning process because it's such an expensive prospect.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:16:28.00]
I had a question.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:16:29.13]
Yes

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:16:30.00]
For that Umiat project. The landfill... Why was the state using public monies to try and build the ___??__ road to Umiat if there's going to be no access for them, as well as the landfill not being pulled out yet?

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:16:51.04]
I can't answer that. And actually my understanding of the road, the state road across state lands, is that road would end on the east side of the river.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:17:04.19]
But there, the ah the Corps is hoping that road will help them decrease the cost - cause you're looking at what, a hundred million or more...

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:17:17.12]
Four hundred million, is what they think.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:17:20.12]
...to clean that dump up without the road and considerably less if you can haul that stuff out on a road - even if you had to you know stockpile it in the winter, get it across the river. Even lacking a bridge it would still be a huge improvement in the cost picture.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:17:42.04]
There was one burbot that had um, a little too much PCB. I spoke with a couple of the scientists this last summer and there was one in the channel where all that debris was that had a lot of PC..

I'm not too sure...

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:17:59.17]
Well, yeah in 2003 we found a transformer, a small transformer. We were lucky that we found it because just like 2 weeks later it flooded through there and if that transformer had been broken open it would have contaminated an incredible amount of soil. So... go ahead.

Unknown
[01:18:25.05]
What is the cost difference in having road access to Umiat or not? What is the projected difference? You said $400 M without the road...

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:18:34.21]
Right now, just, ah, you know, ah, the initial estimate which is essentially the way, was that they're looking at $400 million for clean up - without a road and then with a road, they could save, you know, probably 25-30% of that cost.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:18:56.25]
That's really not our call. We're just repeating what really amounts to hearsay, that we heard in meetings with the Corps in the early days.

Same Unknown
[01:19:06.21]
I was just looking for a ball park. I didn't know if it was going to be the difference between 4 hundred million to a hundred million...

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:19:11.04]
Right. And actually, um, the land ownership where the landfill is, is shifting because, you know, because as it's been repeatedly flooded, um, most of that landfill can be considered below the knee high water mark which puts essentially all of the landfill on state land and I ah, if BLM has any involvement at all, you know, with the landfill, our involvement might be that we would be the recipient. We, um, the Corps has already put us on notice that if the road to Umiat is not constructed, that their first best option would be to build a new landfill within NPR-A on BLM land to remove all those materials to.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:20:13.17]
And so I think that's it. It's very quick and dirty, I know I skipped a few sites but I didn't want to take all day... I will be around if anybody has any further questions that you have to ask me that you don't want to ask here - but does anyone have any other questions for me right now?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair

[01:20:36.21]
Well, looking at... Oh, thank you for your presentation. I think, speaking on behalf of hunters and people that use the land for subsistence, year 'round, my main concern would be the outcome and the conditions of the land and the waters itself, you know, 30 yrs from now. And my concern is what would be the contaminant level 30 years ago, versus what it's already been in the last thirty years. As of right now, we're dealing with seals and walrus that have a disease that is unknown as of right now and we found a number of beached seals and walrus which looks to me, according to the picture of the seal or the marine mammal, would be something from the water, and to find the source of that - it's really hard to pinpoint where it's coming from. I'm sure it could be done, because of traditional knowledge, of the current and how it's been the predominant flow of the current and with that they could actually, to me, I think it could be done to pinpoint where it's coming from and find the source, of where that contaminant is coming from - if it is actually a contaminant that causes the conditions of the marine mammals. I know there's a great number of sites that were built back in the '50s, they have these old landfills that were, that because of erosion is now exposed to our waters and I have to deal with that, these guys have to deal with it. And hopefully our grandkids will not have to deal with it, you know, fifty years from now.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:23:37.19]
And, to me, I think it would be best to just completely remove all of these sites... You say they're not going to be maintained, in some places. Is that what you said earlier?

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:23:58.13]
No, that's an argument I've made to the Air Force, that unless the Air Force has a means into the future of maintaining the landfills, the landfills can fail. And I you know yeah, that's definitely a concern.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:24:14.17]
Well, if... I would say to them if you don't want to deal with me and my grandkids, in the future, you know, why not just completely eliminate the problem and that way we don't have to deal with this problem, you know 20 or 30 yrs from now. You know, it would be completely out of their hair, and completely out of our hair, and our people can travel the country without any worries at all.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:24:43.09]
Well, that's good to hear. And once again, I know it's more meetings to go to but the Dept of Defense agencies do have the Restoration Advisory Boards that the meetings, the last couple of years have been getting pretty sparsely attended, but that message needs to be repeated, at each and every meeting. Go ahead Bob.

Bob Schneider
[01:25:10.00]
Susan, you might just clarify what can go into a landfill.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:25:15.28]
Well, hum, actually I don't want to get into that. Heavily contaminated materials, by state law, cannot go into a landfill, but um, um, but um, materials with light petroleum contamination, and also light PCB contamination, under 50 PPM can go into the landfill. So, um, so ah, you know, so a landfill isn't just necessarily just scrape metal, it can be household waste, it can, it can be contaminated gravels it can be contaminated soil with small amounts, low levels, of petroleum or low levels of PCBs.

Go ahead.

Unknown
[01:26:05.00]
Am I correct in interpreting that to mean that the state allows those materials to go into a landfill that is maintained.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:26:14.01]
Yes.

[01:26:14.01]
Same unknown
Not into a landfill that in the future is not going to be maintained and is going to leak those materials.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:26:23.10]
It's, it's, ah, it's, complicated. We could talk about this for a long time, but

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:26:26.23]
Yeah we we've been talking about it for a long time.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:26:30.06]
But, basically the state will allow you to close a landfill and they will set a schedule for it's periodic inspections and, um, and that one of the things that we've really been working closely with the state to be sure that those periodic inspections continue essentially for ever.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:26:52.01]
Right, and currently according to state statute, those periodic inspections, once the state agrees

that a landfill is closed, can be anywhere from 3 to 6 years. Well from our experience up on the North Slope, 20 years is the point at which failure is going to start and it's well beyond the radar screen currently or the state regs.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:27:20.06]
But we have, we do have an agreement with the Air Force where they will get a land lease authorization from BLM for any land filling that goes on there. And part of the terms and conditions in that landfill will be, not under state rules but under the terms of that authorization would be ongoing inspections and there is a possibility for action if there's anything being discharged to the environment or in danger of being discharged.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:27:58.16]
Bart

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[01:28:00.02]
You mentioned about the Air Force site...

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:28:04.11]
Yes

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[01:28:05.16]
And you mentioned that the Air Force is about to turn that over to BLM?

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:28:13.08]
No. The, ah, the Pt Barrow site, which actually it's a small acreage, is already BLM, and the Air Force has a right of way on that site and the Air Force and, um, ah, Donna, correct me, but I believe that that was that site now has a right of way that is good for another 20 years?

Donna ??
[01:28:36.05]
Ahhh, I think maybe. I don't know.

We renewed it once.

It was renewed

many voices

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[01:28:46.05]

Okay, my question is, nobody wants to claim the hangar?

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:28:51.00]
That's what Rory?? has explained to me.

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[01:28:54.15]
Okay. The other part is that, does that include the Corps, or

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:29:03.22]
Pardon me

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[01:29:05.03]
Here's the hangar, plus you got those ah, where the main station is

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:29:12.01]
Oh the ... inaudible.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:29:13.05]
Oh, oh, no. He's talking about the module train.

No, she's talking specifically about the hangar because they are going to maintain operations and presence at the DEW line property. And now, she said, I believe they've talked with several different groups there in Barrow because you know Ed Radney??'s folks said they really wanted to have that hangar remain in place. And BLM has said, yeah, we would be amenable to giving a right of way to whoever the new entity is that, you know, as long as it's a viable entity, it has to be a native village, or you know the North Slope Borough, or you know something like that.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:30:07.05]
To keep that building standing, but we never heard from any groups and the last thing I heard from Rory is that nobody has stepped forward.

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[01:30:20.25]
Okay. The other part about the status of the Navy property... The other hangar? here.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:30:33.02]
Oh, oh, okay. The status of the Navy property, which is the runway and the large hangar, the Navy has not asked us to review that particular prop yet for the environmental work they've

done. The only request they've made to us thus far is for the 600 acre Antennae Farm.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:31:01.26]
So um, without them requesting us to review the runway or the hangar, I have to assume that they intend to continue holding it.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:31:14.23]
We'd be brought down. There's quite a bit of pollution, especially in the active layer, and, it's, there, in the best case it's going to take years and years to get it out...

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:31:27.26]
Probably 20 yrs
at best
Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:31:28.22]
to attenuate.

Unknown
[01:31:30.21]
It's been twenty years.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:31:30.14]
Yeah, well, but you know, you know, there were mammoth fuel spills there, and it just keeps moving around in the active layer and showing up in monitoring wells and in that condition the Navy's not going to give it to us. They may

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:31:50.06]
Well yeah, they know that...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:31:52.01]
... dispose of it for a GSA but that would be it

Unknown
[01:31:56.28]
How many miles you got on NPR-A?

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:31:59.10]
How many miles?

same unknown
[01:32:02.00]
Miles, yeah, I seen you at Lonely one time...

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:32:05.28]
Oh, laughing, I hitch hiked - a lot.

Any other questions?
Well, I think we need to get things going. I think I went way over my 15 minutes...

sorry about that.

[Thank you's all around.]

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:32:29.05]
Next we have an industry update.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:32:33.14]
An industry update? yeah.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:32:39.26]
So, it's a big deal for us, these military clean-ups. So anybody in the audience or on the panel who wants to collar Susan or me.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:32:48.24]
Yeah, go ahead.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:32:50.15]
You know we're happy to talk about it in detail. Each site has it's own unique things with land status and different people that have different plans for reusing it. It's pretty interesting, really, but it's also expensive.

Inaudible... flash drive

inaudible... background

INDUSTRY UPDATE:

Linc Energy: Proposed Activities in the NPR-A for the 2011-2012 winter season

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy Stakeholder Relations

Colleen Richards
[01:34:57.03]
Okay, so good morning I am Colleen Richards with Linc Energy. I am responsible for stakeholder relations and external communications for Alaska and I'd just like to point out or introduce Bartley Kleven. She's our permitting manager for Alaska.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:35:12.10]
So when I moved to Alaska, I actually moved here from the Republic of Kulau[?], which is an island in the Pacific, so you know there was a lot of you know cultural lifestyles, subsistence, you know, fishing, not so much hunting. And then I moved to Bethel for three years, and people would say gosh you know was that a culture shock. No it was a weather shock, um, inaudible... but a lot of the similarities in terms of social and economic and cultural ways of life. So in that regard I can appreciate very much the time of the Subsistence Advisory Panel and what you're doing for your communities, so thank you for that.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:35:59.10]
So, I'm keeping this presentation short so there is time to talk and take questions, I just wanted an introduction and really what we're doing in Umiat but please at any time during the presentation just stop me and ask questions - so you don't need to hold them, if you don't want to...

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:36:18.01]
So just to give you an overview about Linc Energy, and it is an Australian company. They've been in the US now for a while and in Alaska actually for two years now. Their primary portfolio is oil and gas, enhanced oil recovery, and then you may have heard about our underground coal gasification and gas to liquids. The underground coal gasification and gas to liquids is really the core of the company. So world headquarters are in Australia but we have offices across the US and here in Anchorage.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:36:56.27]
So Linc Energy in Alaska, and I like to point out that it's an all Alaskan team, so everyone was hired here, they've got experience in Alaska. It's a big deal vs. operating something from Huston or some other state, so you know we've all been around the state. To me I mean, I think that's a good thing for Linc to do. We have Alaska assets, leases - I'll go over some of those here briefly. They reason we are here is you know we acquired Renaissance Alaska and so we have a controlling interest in Umiat.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:37:32.16]
We have 15 staff in Anchorage and we're still growing, so that's probably going to go up to close to 30 within a year. We're still looking and focused on growing the office - we use consultants where we don't have our lead specialty.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:37:51.13]
So, it's kind of hard to see, kind of bumped over a little bit, but this map really just gives you a visual of our statewide locations and operations. In the interior we have about 70K acres and that's up near the Anderson and Healy area, and that's for underground coal gasification and exploration. We have 110K acres in South Central, in oil and gas, and underground coal gasification. In Cook Inlet, we have 122K acres and in fact we just drilled our first core well for underground coal gasification exploration in Cook Inlet... so that's exciting for us there. And then in Umiat we have just over 19K acres. I'm not sure if I can shift this over a little bit, but... can you guys see okay? I don't know how much is cut off...

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:38:46.29]
So this slide is really just zooming in on our Umiat lease to show you the drill site locations and I'll talk more, briefly, in a few minutes about our plans in Umiat, but again, just showing you wells 14 thru 18, kind of up-close.

Unknown
[01:39:04.26]
Those are proposed wells?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:39:08.02]
These are the, we'll be working on up to five sites this winter so these are the five that we've identified.

Same unknown
[01:39:15.22]
There is no historical drilling at those sites, though?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:39:16.21]
Is what?

[01:39:06.14]
There is no historical drilling at those sites, though?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:39:20.02]
There's permitting... all but one have been permitted.

[01:39:23.20]
But have drilled at those sites before?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:39:26.13]
I don't think so.

[01:39:28.18]
No existing wells

[01:39:29.04]
Well, I mean Linc hasn't. No, there's no existing wells.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[01:39:31.26]
There's a legacy well.

Right there those specific well sites... There isn't... except for I think there was one proposed well site that's supposed to... inaudible

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:39:51.04]
The legacy well is south of 14?

Oh, Well 9?

So, no.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:39:59.07]
I got a question. Was Linc doing any activities this summer?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:40:04.13]
No, we acquired Renaissance in July, so the activity that's been going on which I'll go over what we've done so far, its been more the reconnaissance end of work and I'll show you that.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:40:19.28]
So this slide is just going to show you how we intend to access the project. By snowpacked road. We'll be using lo-ground-pressure vehicles so the snowpack will be fine for us, we won't have heavy equipment so it'll work good. We're going to traverse through ASRC lands, so again this is the proposed road that we hope to start snow packing next week. inaudible...

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:40:50.16]
This is an infield slide, just to give you an idea of the logistics, just infield, so we'll be using existing gravel roads and then we'll also be constructing new ice roads to access our drill sites. And again, it's all in field, these, you know a lot of the sites in these areas have been used so the road alignments are there, I guess, for what we're doing.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:41:19.17]
I'm sorry is it going to be an ice road, or is it just going to be a pre-packed...

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:41:23.26]
Which one, the one that accesses off the Dalton?

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:41:25.16]
To Umiat

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:41:27.04]
That's snowpack.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:41:28.21]
Just snowpack, not an ice road?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:41:29.18]
No. Yeah the equipment we're using it's the low gravel pressure, so we don't need an ice road. inaudible

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:41:36.00]
So, um, our activity... you were asking, Thomas, what we've been doing since we acquired Renaissance, really we've been doing, like I said the recon, and going out and looking at the sites. We have completed all of the recon at the drill sites for constructability. We've met with agencies and continue to do that. We have sited the location for the air monitoring station at Umiat, because we know that permit will be out there 5 plus years, so we're getting started on that right now.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:42:13.29]
The permit submittals are underway. We are working on our plan of operations that'll be submitted to BLM... inaudible

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:42:29.21]
Our planned activities, this is what we're looking at this winter season. Our goal is to drill up to five sites and we're going to tart with drill site 18 and see what can get done this winter. And the objectives are the delineation, the float test, to further our planned development project description. So that's the main objective for this winter, and to do that we've got to get our access in, we've got to get our logistics, our infield roads set up.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:42:59.16]
Excuse me.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:43:00.22]
I'm sorry?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:43:00.28]
Before you continue on, I'd like to introduce Andrew Hobson. He is from the Naqsragmiut Tribal Council and he is from Anaktuvuk Pass. I just wanted to cut it off before she continues because she's actually talking about the road to Umiat, so if you can real quick kind of give us... bring him up to par.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:43:26.29]
Absolutely. So in fact I'll be in Anaktuvuk Pass next week. I'm tentatively scheduled to visit there on Tuesday. And so just to, for clarification the snowpack road going out is to access the project site, and I'll talk about the DOT road because I know that that is a major concern and there are some junctions to that road. That is different from the Linc Energy project. But Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk Pass as well as the North Slope Borough government are key stakeholders certainly, so...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:43:59.24]
Thank you.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:44:03.26]
So moving forward after we get through this winter which we'll continue doing, to long term is proceeding with our EIS or EA depending on what we have to do for a pipeline, permitting, up-front drilling facility, and pipeline engineering - all of that has yet to be done. That way we can move toward a formal submittal of a plan of development.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:44:27.17]
Any questions on activities planned for this winter?

Unknown
[01:44:31.08]
Are you planning on large volumes of test oil that comes out of the exploratory wells being freighted off on the ice road back to the pump station. Or how does that work?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:44:41.11]
Well, we're donating it into TAPS and it will have to be trucked.

Unknown
[01:44:45.25]
Yeah, are you expecting large volumes?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:44:49.02]
I think they're going to do the reasonable amount for float testing but Bartley, you may have more specifics on the quantity.

Bartley Kleven
[01:44:56.16]
Well, I don't have... it's, you know, we have to guess. [agreement] Bottom line, but I would say maybe 5000 gallons?

[Inaudible background comments]

I don't have any idea, honestly, as to how much there might be. 5000 gallons?

We'll have 5000 per well in [storage?] ... That is what we're expecting but that can change.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:45:20.08]
And again it's really just to get the flow rates and beyond that we're not going to continue to...

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:45:31.02]
Okay, so Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut a couple of pictures there. So I'm looking forward to actually getting out to the villages. I was almost in Nuiqsut, I guess it was last week, was it, yeah, but we had to cancel that.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:45:46.11]
So one of the things, you know, I wanted to do was, for me, was to see the areas that we're working with, the communities and look at, you know, the map at where subsistent flows are, and I'll show you some of that, but I thought I would just give you some of Linc Energy's philosophy I guess is a good way to put it, you know toward stakeholders and the communities

they work in. And it, I'm sure a lot of oil companies come in and say you know, we're committed to this this and this but you it's really a core competency at LE, it's right up there with some of the most critical operation things... We're, it's in the mix, it's everything we do, it impacts where we work, and it's brought into the decision making. And so Linc's philosophy is truly to treat communities with respect, timely communication, relevant, you know talk to the community about the frequency and, you know, style of communication, and achieve win-win situations.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:46:48.15]
So there's, you know, we're doing our due diligence right now, to, you know sort of, understand the area. Again, we just acquired Renaissance Alaska in July, so there is still a lot of work ahead of us. So I've asked, and I can't give you lots of detail this at all but what I've done was ask our GIS specialist to give me a visual of the harvest areas around each of the villages. And so this is one, and it just, it's an eye opening show of this spread. Again, we'll be coming in and talking to you guys and your communities about traditional knowledge and impacts on subsistence, and how things are going, you know, today.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:47:32.08]
For me this was a really good way to kind of start the dialogue within our company too, and to give our team a visual. This is Anaktuvuk, with the harvest area.

Joe Sage
[01:47:45.12]
As in subsistence harvest?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:47:47.24]
Yeah, subsistence harvest. I think the notes that we had on the traditional trails and... inaudible

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:47:57.14]
So for our subsistence consultation it's required through our lease stipulations, and how we've approached it is that we've got to go through directly through affected communities, discuss potential conflicts, the sitting and timing of proposed operations, provide updates - and these need to be done regularly. Reporting incidents - inaudible

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:48:24.00]
The goal, really, is to minimize cultural and resource conflicts. And I think the way to do that is open communication, what makes sense for the communities, you know, how we can work together,

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:48:34.12]
And we are finishing up our subsistence plans for operations which is part of the overall plan of

operation that Bartley Kleven is putting together for BLM.

And that will include mitigation, monitoring. We will be hiring local subsistence advisors. Two from each village - you know, 2 from Anaktuvuk Pass and 2 from Nuiqsut. And then putting in place the communications protocol. And this is just an overview of a lot, a lot, a lot more... inaudible... how we're going to approach doing this.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:49:09.25]
And some of the questions that I wanted to ask is, you know, how we can, you know, have, I was thinking, how can we achieve economic development potential in Umiat without impacting the subsistence and other cultural resources? I think there's a lot that a lot of people agree that there are in fact economic advantages to development and but there's also negative impacts, so how do we work together to achieve the positive and... inaudible

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:49:44.02]
Okay, and I'll just open it up for discussion again. Again it was just a here's what we're doing in Umiat, we're just getting started.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:49:57.12]
Is Linc going to be opening their arms to subsistence users that are in that area if they are in need of help. You know if they break down or something.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:50:08.14]
Oh, you mean for local hire, or?

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:50:10.03]
No just if I were out wolf hunting near Umiat and I break down by one of your rigs.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:50:14.18]
Oh, yes, absolutely, yes.

unknown
[01:50:20.19]
As far as the road, does Linc have any thoughts about what direction it might want to come in from? It looks like the preferred alternative for you guys is going to be in the southeast, but is there talk about coming in from the north?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:50:39.02]
Now are you talking about the DOT foothills road?

unknown
[01:50:41.02]
Yeah

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:50:42.09]
Okay, that's the state's road and so we are actually not involved with how they're aligning that.

Unknown
[01:50:46.22]
Not at all

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:50:47.11]
No, no. Because they were looking at, I know the Galbraith Route that starts somewhere

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:50:53.20]
Forty Mile marker

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:50:54.12]
Yeah, somewhere around pump station 4? They're also taking a look at a Meltwater Route? [?]

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:51:00.03]
So, you know, the road to the Beluga oil fields is very much, it's a state road. Certainly I just heard today the Army Corps would benefit you know in terms of reduction of cost and access to the area. It does have economic advantages. I'm sure if it's there would we use it? Would any other development use it to transport goods and a work force. Yeah. But it doesn't make sense from our perspective, necessarily to put our pipeline across it. Also needs to be done for what makes sense for the communities. So that's been our message to DOT.

Unknown
[01:51:39.04]
Doesn't the proposed road actually have I've seen plans that actually have a pipeline built into the road. Isn't that the pipeline that's being discussed.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:51:48.05]
Well, the original intent, as far as I understand it just keeping it in sort of the forefront for the last couple of years, the original intent that DOT had was to turn over a minimum, correct me if I'm wrong was to turn over, like a turn key EIS for a transportation corridor so you could put a pipeline in there as well as a road.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:52:11.21]
Well I think the Corp and DOT have had discussion - well is it connected action? Meaning you know can a pipeline, well, will the pipeline not be built if the road isn't built. Well, no. That's... it's not connected because you can still do a pipeline, for example, if we were to build a pipeline out of our field over to Pump Station 2, it wouldn't use that road corridor.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:52:34.09]
So that was the original intent but if you look at new maps now it's not it's not in there.

Unknown
[01:52:38.08]
So are you suggesting that the level of communication that Linc has with DOT is not that vibrant at this point? Or, what is that level of communication at this point?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:52:49.03]
Well, we're a stakeholder, like anyone else out in the field and so our, we have said that we are viewing Umiat as a stand alone project. Moving forward on it, and in terms of the road - yes it has economic advantages to moving goods and workforce but it's... Umiat is not... if the road does not happen we still move forward on Umiat.

same unknown
[01:53:13.14]
That seems, I'm I'm, that seems odd, because without a pipeline the resource is useless.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:53:18.29]
Yeah.

same unknown
[01:53:20.04]
it seems like there would be a vested interest in .... dialog with DOT...

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:53:24.06]
Well yeah.

Same Unknown
[01:53:24.29]
... for that pipeline because without the pipeline Linc's oil resources in the area are totally useless.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:53:32.25]

No I mean, we're looking at pipeline engineering where we wouldn't need to put a pipeline along their road. So does that make sense? You're right. We need a pipeline, absolutely

Same Unknown
[01:53:43.01]
Okay because my understanding

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:53:44.10]
but not along the road.

Same Unknown
[01:53:45.01]
of the pipeline was an essential part of this EIS for those flats and so to hear that Linc is kind of detached from it is kind of odd to me because it's a huge piece of the resource export mixture so it seems like a dialog would be quite vibrant between DOT and Linc.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:54:02.17]
Well, absolutely. I think also the timing of the acquisition of Renaissance, Alaska and then the EIS with the road, just sort of lumped and said well the road is for Linc Energy. Well, there's Anadarko, there's Linc, there's Army Corps trying to access clean up sites. I mean there's a lot of users that would open up access to that area for economic reasons and I think that's great for that reason, but it's not a Linc project, so we definitely dialogue with the but not in a way that is, you know, this road is make it or break it for us.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:54:35.11]
The road needs to be, the concern, I mean, is that you're going to have public access. You know, if it has state or federal dollars, then it's got public access. And so the communities, and I've read the scoping comments and questions, is the access going to impact on subsistence.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:54:53.00]
Again, so...

NAEC
[01:54:54.06]
Does Linc have a preferred idea, of whether they'd prefer a road up to Nuiqsut or ... inaudible

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:55:00.20]
No, honestly, we just received the maps and we're watching to see what DOT does, but we're moving forward with the project.

NAEC

[01:55:08.02]
Okay.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:55:08.20]
Yeah, I don't know if that helped or not, but...

[several voices]
Bartley Kleven
[01:55:12.04]
We can't wait for that road - we want to be in production in 5 to 7 years. Who knows when that road will... inaud

several voices

Bartley Kleven
[01:55:18.28]
We have to, we have to, our economics do not depend on that road.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:55:22.09]
right.

Same Unknown
[01:55:22.26]
They're not likely to build a pipeline without road access because there's concerns about oil spills, right, so to have a pipeline with no road...

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:55:30.15]
Who, Linc you mean?

Same Unknown
[01:55:31.02]
...is probably not likely

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:55:32.21]
You mean Linc Energy?

Same Unknown
[01:55:33.10]
Yeah

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:55:33.25]

Yeah, if we built a pipeline out like, let's say, to pump station 2, we'd have to have a maintenance access roads - it'd be private access roads.

Same Unknown
[01:55:41.00]
Right.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:55:42.14]
Then there's discussion okay, do we bury it ... inaud.. above ground, so that all of those, you know, we're just getting started so we're having all of that looked at...

Same Unknown
[01:55:52.14]
yeah

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:55:53.08]
...but certainly we need to access things. And it doesn't need to be continuous.

Unknown
[01:55:56.26]
If the DOT Foothills West project completely fell through then it would be safe to assume that Linc would probably be trying to push it's own access through, whether that be a road next to a pipeline, or a road, or a pipeline inside of a road, or whatever the case is, it's probably reasonable to assume that if the Foothills West EIS completely went away and they found a no action alternative on that, then Linc would be a new project proponent for perhaps a different road, or the same road... Are you suggesting that you would be pursuing that transportation access regardless of what DOT does?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:56:28.28]
Yes, we would pursue from a pipeline and minimal access. I mean we wouldn't necessarily need to build a continuous road, we can do sections, you know, where you need to do checks - there are other ways.

Same Unknown
[01:56:40.27]
right

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:56:40.27]
But again, I don't know exactly what our plans are. We're still, you know, in the research and you know analysis phase of it, but I did want to clearly bring that up - the DOT state road - that is a state project and like any other stakeholder out there in the industry in the area, they have an interest in it. It's just, I know Linc comes up a lot though.

Same Unknown
[01:57:05.05]
Right

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:57:06.09]
I'm sorry I'm going to have to cut you guys off.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:57:09.09]
That's alright.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:57:11.20]
You guys can talk politics about the road all you want but what we're here for is subsistence impacts. And to have access to Umiat, to me, you guys are going to do what you can to get there, whether you have the road or not. And that is a huge impact on subsistence users of Anaktuvuk Pass, Nuiqsut, and anybody else who travels to Umiat, like myself and the people here. You know, we use Umiat as basically a base camp and we subsist on all the animals that are in the area.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:58:04.02]
And to have access, you know you're talking about all these companies having access to Umiat, and doing whatever they can with or without a road, that's a huge impact on us.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[01:58:18.17]
Yeah

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:58:19.09]
And you’re talking about going from Meltwater and stuff like that. See, the way I look at it, you know, with all these companies moving in, that gee, now, open exploration and stuff like that. To me, it's basically a straight walk from the Brooks Range north. You know, and, that, that, that is a huge impact that we have to deal with, you know, thirty years down the line. And you're talking about ...just getting started... and stuff like that and that's just a little piece, but then again every little bit counts.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:59:08.17]
It's just like, just like Prudhoe Bay - it started out just as Prudhoe Bay and there was just a natural area and now look at it. It just just expanded from this little piece, and all of a sudden we got all these oil companies that are expanding left and right and still trying to figure out what they're going to do to keep oil pumping in the pipeline. And that, for me, 20 or 30 years down the line

it's going to go from this, at Umiat, and it's going to look like this. And that's a huge impact and that to me is a huge brick wall as far as migration routes and land use and subsistence users, you know, down the line. And that's what we're here for.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:00:02.20]
Yeah, no I mean, you make a very good point. I mean long term when you add up everyone's little bits, it's a lot. Certainly. For Linc Energy I know that we are very dedicated to having the least impact on subsistence, you know, users. We will be doing the cultural and subsistence awareness training with our staff out there, we will you know engaging the communities regularly to help us monitor that and minimize impacts. And once I get out to communities I will be asking, you know, what can we do that will help mitigate. Taking that advise up through the decision making. And that's the only way it will work, if we take what the communities say - here's how you can help or here's how you can mitigate and then I bring that back to Linc Energy and they implement that.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:00:55.21]
To me, myself personally, I think, coming from my point of view and listening to all these presentations throughout the year. Every one of them, whether it's you know... inaud... stuff like that... and then to me it's like they all say minimum impacts on subsistence lifestyle and every little but counts, which adds up to a huge impact. And to me, that basically, that ain't going to work, minimum impact. To me there's no minimum impact, every little bit of minimum impact adds up to 50 yrs down the line of huge impact to where I might not even see my kids eating caribou meat in the future or fish, and that's a huge impact. So I'd like to, you know, remind companies to say - you know, what can we do to, you know, help you with that huge impact. And not say it's going to be minimal.... because I don't see that happening. I mean I'm pretty sure that's what they said when they started Prudhoe Bay. How can we minimize impacts on subsistence lifestyle. And look at it now, it's expanded to a population that's 3, 4 times larger than the whole North Slope.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:02:42.10]
And that's a huge impact on us. Okay? And my point of view is just basically looking down the line, 30 yrs down the line, and myself, I'd like to eliminate the impact on our subsistence lifestyle. And that's to me I think it's going to be a real real challenge. I don't know if it's going to be done - you know we might see more oil companies - especially going through Umiat if it happens. You know, their main door was Prudhoe Bay that was their open door, Prudhoe Bay, 30 yrs ago. Now they have all these little doors, both left and right, ...something... and that's a huge impact on us.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:03:34.08]
No, it's a very good point. I hear what your saying, as you know what can we do to manage - you say eliminate, but incrementally it does add up, so you know our goal is truly to start the dialog and see how we can work together and what will be done. I appreciated that.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:03:54.28]
Thank you. Were there any questions?

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:03:59.16]
Yeah, you know just like the offshore development issues it's the same thing, same process, goes on with the federal government in the agencies. They, you know, want economic development, there's oil, natural gas, and you know... Joe was talking about subsistence issues, to have minimum impact, for our way of life in the North Slope. And you know, industry and the federal government has mandates under ANILCA to protect subsistence resources and maybe under the NEPA process, and you know, your company talks about subsistence consultations and providing a subsistence plan of operations you know, subsistence advisors and also participating on the Subsistence Advisory board, the panel and the key issue is that I know that I want to mention is the environmental justice process of preserving our lifestyle, culture, and tradition is to make sure that our health is not adversely impacted to where it is going to be social and maybe economic repercussions from the development.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:05:51.08]
That's some very good comments that you made, especially the one on ANILCA. I'm on the Governor's Advisory Commission for Federal Areas and I've been through ANILCA, and I need training, I probably need to go through probably a dozen or 5 dozen more to really understand it so I'm just sort of scratching the surface of it in understanding and having an appreciation for it. It is a challenge.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:06:16.21]
It's You know often times we talk about sustainable development, and people say, well, we want a sustainable road and, you know, parks and everything else. Well, sustainability is not just about sustaining either economic or environment, it's really about sustaining the social welfare so, way of life and, you know, the economic and the environmental and it's a challenge to balance it so... something inaudible, coughing

Unknown

Yeah. You know this health impact assessment that was introduced by Dr. Wernham back in... sometime, when he started working at Columbia University he mentioned that human health assessment should follow from these economic development from the federal government and the industry and you know that that can encompass social, emotional, and cultural impacts as well as physical harm, you know from whatever goes on in the North Slope and affected areas of Alaska. [http://www.springerlink.com/content/h23528781uq67732/]

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy

[02:07:28.11]
So the competing of the economic but then looking at the benefits there and not realizing the detriments of social and emotional aspects is what you're saying?

Agreement

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:07:41.00]
Yeah, that's very very... good.

Yes maam?

Unknown
[02:07:49.20]
During the process of your discussions and communications with the subsistence based communities, if one of those communities decides they really want to just say no, are you going to be able to hear that?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:08:06.21]
Hear it? Absolutely.
I'm going to hear it and bring it...

Unknown
[02:08:07.15]
And respect it?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:08:08.22]
Yes, absolutely. Now what the regulatory agencies and the company ultimately do, I mean personally I wouldn't have control over that, but certainly if I go into a community and everyone just no no no then I'm going to just provide information and I absolutely respect it.

Pete Dronkers, NAEC
[02:08:28.02]
One of the concerns that I hear a lot about is that Governor Parnell basically is touting this road access as the beginning of access to all of the rest of NPR-A and so I think sometimes people tend to look at this as in some sort of vacuum in terms the project proposed around Umiat and view the gas fields as being just little small projects that require a small road but Governor Parnell, I've hear him say many times and this is his great plan, to open up the entire NPR-A to more pipelines, including one that would traverse all the way out to the Northwest NPR-A to accommodate oil that would come on line from Chukchi off shore leasing and drilling, which is now happening.

Pete Dronkers, NAEC
[02:09:10.26]

So I think it's important for people to understand that this isn't really a vacuum, according to Mr. Parnell, this is the first wave to get large scale industrial infrastructure into NPR-A as soon as possible. And so that's what the Governor says publicly, so I think it's important that people realize what his intentions are and how this road actually fits into that greater picture rather than just looking at this as the Umiat oil fields and gas wells. I just wanted to make that point.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:09:44.11]
Are there any other questions?

different Unknown
[02:09:46.09]
Just a point. For our friend over there, AKP, they been... the caribou migration has been diverted at times. That's why they got a lot of questions about the road.

Same Unknown
[02:10:05.24]
On the other point, the other side of NPR-A there's a migration route and they come from the North to the South for Kotzebue inaud... what's happening there is that the game guides are going into NPR-A and then diverting the caribou to the west instead of coming down. My point is that's the stuff that diverting the migration would harm the village. In other words, what I'm trying to say is, let the first group pass by. Let 'em make the route, the migration is the first herd passing by without gunshot. These guys, some of these guys come around just shooting and divert... That's a point that any oil company should know, so we won't have what's happening at AKP. What's happening at Kotzebue right now, it’s... for a ...inaud area. They're diverting the migration route. That's just one thing that's ongoing right now. Just I don't know how AKP is going to do it, but your activities coming up...

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:11:55.12]
And that is the type of information that we want to collect and will be trying to collect, in terms of you know let the first herd go by, you know things that we can do, and will do and we'll respect that we'll have those talk in Anaktuvuk Pass next week.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
That's why I was asking if you were working in maybe August or September. We had an awful lot of DC6s from Umiat, and all the Moose were south of Umiat and all the hunters had to go beyond Umiat or after the fact the Moose season was over they had to try to get an extension because there was so much activity that everybody had to go further south.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:12:44.21]
Bartley do you know if we did work in August? September?

Bartley Kleven
[02:12:51.20]

We had the director of the company and the chairman of the board... inaud...

Same Unknown
[02:13:28.19]
Was the surveyor surveying caribou?

Bartley Kleven
[02:13:31.16]
No no, just the drill pad area.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[02:13:34.16]
At the same time there was planes constantly interfering with our caribou. I am current the chairman of KSAP, Kuukpik Subsistence Oversight Panel and we work with all the oil industries and make sure they follow the rules and regulations on our lands and I might just happen to get a handful of calls from the Umiat project. helicopters, planes, and that DC6, that big plane.

Bartley Kleven
[02:14:03.07]
You have to have... inaud

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:14:12.03]
Mr. Chairman?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:14:14.15]
Yeah

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:14:15.10]
At ten o’clock tomorrow we're going to have a briefing from the state on the road. I think a lot of this discussion about the road outside of NPR-A you know would be covered there.

Andrew Hopson, SAP
[02:14:32.21]
Well, talking about minimal impact the road to Umiat would largely affect Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut and being subsistence communities, we depend on, we travel we're always searching for caribou, for any animals. And... if you think about it, that road will largely affect both communities and mainly the caribou migration. The village of Anaktuvuk Pass there, we depend so much on subsistence, for example, this fall our fall migration hasn't come through yet. And talking about minimal impact. I mean this road will just create a big disaster for those communities, Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk and it would really hurt both communities.

Andrew Hopson, SAP
[02:15:56.10]

The road to Umiat is like taking something that you need everyday, take it away from you, you're not going to function. And that's how the road to Umiat is.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:16:13.20]
Thank you Andrew. Thank you for the presentation and thank you for taking questions. And like Lon said we're going to discuss this more in more detail tomorrow, tomorrow morning. I'm pretty sure the same people will probably be here tomorrow morning, so if you have any more questions

Unknown
[02:16:38.14]
One last question. How long? When did you come to Alaska? Did you say?

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:16:45.12]
Me personally?

Same Unknown
[02:16:46.05]
No

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:16:47.20]
Oh, Linc. About two years they started, two years they've been active.

Same Unknown
[02:16:53.03]
Yeah.... something... climate change. I guess you'll been noticing that, you know, there's more waiting time to freeze up vs. working time that you guys want to.... inaud. Permafrost stability is another issue.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:17:26.01]
Thank you. That's, that's good.. information

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:17:29.29]
Thank you.

Colleen Richards, Linc Energy
[02:17:32.03]
And I'll be around today if anyone wants to ask questions. And I have a couple of maps I can give you as well if you want.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:17:40.08]
Thank you. And we're kind of pushing time.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:17:46.20]
We are pushing time, but one quick issue. Can I just see a show of hands for how many people - BLM, SAP reps, public - would stay here for pizza for lunch if we ordered it.

[laughter; discussion]

How many people are in for lunch?

[discussion]

10 people

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:18:28.06]
Alright. Next we have a research update from the NPR-A, from Winslow.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:18:41.16]
Short and sweet, hopefully?

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:18:43.04]
Short and sweet.

background noise / set up.

NPR-A RESEARCH UPDATE:

Wind and Subsistence in Wainwright

Winslow Hansen, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:19:34.26]
So we're gonna shift gears here a little bit and give you a research update on some work we've been doing in Wainwright over the last year or so. I'm really interested in this research. My name is Winslow Hansen. I'm a masters student at UAF and I've been working with Todd Brinkman who presented last April some research we did as well and this is addition to that project.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:20:00.22]
So our research is entitled "Changing wind speed, boating conditions, and hunting opportunities in Wainwright." I first just want to take the opportunity to thank you for providing the opportunity for me to share our research. I've been really excited about it and I hope that you guys find it interesting and useful. I'd also like to thank the hunters in Wainwright that took the time to speak with us and the Village Council in Wainwright as well as the Olgoonik Corporation.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:20:33.09]
So, as you all know, and it was just pointed it out, the environment in Alaska is changing around us. We're seeing a lot of long term changes, like decreases in sea ice extent, warming summer temps, increasing precipitation but a lot of day to day changes as well, things like increasing number of windy days, including unpredictability of weather, etc.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:21:04.00]
In our initial conversations with folks in Wainwright , people were really concerned about an increasing number of windy days during critical hunting periods, specifically bowhead hunting in the spring, or bowhead whaling in the spring, and caribou hunting in the summer time. And so to better understand what was going on, and to help community members better understand the changes they were seeing, we asked two questions with our research the first was how has the number of calm days around Wainwright changed during these critical periods since the 1970s, and secondly how might those changes in the number of calm days affect hunting opportunities for these species.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:21:47.27]
How can research like this help people in Wainwright and others on the North Slope. Well, first off, the people who know the most about the changes in the environment around Wainwright are the subsistence hunters of Wainwright . They've been out on the land their whole lives regularly, and their parents and grandparents have before them. Documenting that knowledge can be really critical to understanding what's going on, identifying changes and then begin to think what might happen in the future based on that. Our research can provide further information to help hunters really understand the changes their seeing and develop strategies to continue harvesting the resources they need if those changes continue.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:22:30.07]
And finally, the changes that we're seeing out on the land are happening really fast, and it may be that only working together, researchers and local experts together that can identify what's happened in the past to try and understand what it may look like in the future.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:22:48.00]

So how do we do this research? Well, the first step was to talk to active hunters and fishers in Wainwright. With the help of the Wainwright Village Council and the Corps we picked subsistence hunters that were getting out regularly ranging from the age of younger folks, like 20 or so, to elders. We met with small groups where people were comfortable with each other - they were family units, friends, hunting buddies, so that we could just have a comfortable conversation about their activities. We met with 17 hunters, and obviously we didn't get to talk to everyone in the community but we got to talk to a fair number.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:23:29.11]
The first questions we asked were just to better understand how your hunting system worked. So we asked people what are the really important resources that you harvest, when are you harvesting them, and when are you harvesting them. A lot of people talked about harvesting summer car along the coast and the rivers, and then they also described the bowhead migration path that heads through here in the spring, and back in the fall, further away from the community.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:24:02.15]
The second step was we just had hunters describe the environmental changes they were seeing on the land, and how that affected their hunting. Many people talked about changes as compared to 30 years ago, but a lot of people also talked about changes in the day to day weather they were seeing, and how that maybe has a larger influence on hunting opportunities.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:24:28.05]
And finally we asked them if these changes continue, how might they try to hunt in the future. One hunter joked with us by saying "Who knows what will happen in the future. We may be using remote control boats with cameras to look for whales," and he laughed.

But more seriously many people were concerned about a greater number of windy days, and the associated rougher seas affecting access to bowhead whaling in the spring and caribou in the summer. One hunter summed it up by saying "Sometimes we have lot's of open leads, lots of water to use, but too much wind. Lot's of whales but we can't get to them - the water is too rough."

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:25:11.15]
So here's how hunters described bowhead whaling in the spring. Between mid April and mid June whaling crews go out on the ice with snow machines towing their boat. When a current starts flowing to the northeast and winds blowing the same direction, leads open up in the ice and whales move through. If the wind stops the following day, then crews can go out and harvest whales safely. However, if the wind continues to blow, it makes the seas in the leads rough and it's really challenging to harvest that resource.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:25:47.07]
Whaling crews that we talked to describe seeing an increased number of windy days as compared to recent decades. For summer caribou hunting, people talked about warm temperatures and insect harassment pushing caribou to the coast and folks use boats to go along the coast line and up the rivers to harvest the caribou. However, when the wind is blowing, the insect harassment is decreased, and the seas are also rough, making it challenging to boat. The people we talked to also said that they've seen a greater number of windy days during this critical hunting period as well.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:26:27.17]
So the second step of our research was to take long term daily wind speed data collected in Barrow between 1971 and 2010 to actually calculate the number of calm days for each hunting season and then look how it's changed over time. What we found was that during each of these seasons, hunters have lost almost 7 days of safe hunting compared to the 1970s. So, for example, an average spring whaling season in the 1970s, folks could expect about 44 calm days. That's decreased to somewhere around 37 for an average spring in the 2000s. For the summer caribous season, folks could expect in the 1970s and average of around 46 calm days, which has since decreased to about 39 in the 2000s. Now while 7 days out of a 60 day season may not seem like a lot, a lot of people are also talking about having a harder time getting out regularly because of employment, the schedule of modern day life. So if those 7 days fall on the few days a week that you can get out, it presents some serious challenges as far as harvesting the resources you need to harvest.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:27:44.08]
So obviously 7 fewer days is a lot, but what's more important is what can be done about it. Well the most important things we took away from our conversations with hunters in Wainwright was that they have an amazing ability to adapt to new conditions. They've been on the land for thousands of years; the environment has been changing for that amount of time and they continue to harvest the resources they need.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:28:12.08]
So as a result, they've identified several ways to continue to harvest bowhead and caribou if these changes persist. For bowhead, people pointed out that we're just talking about environmental change, but not technological change. And they mention that due to improved real time monitoring of whales and using larger metal boats, crews actually went out and harvested the first fall bowhead whale in the community's memory - which was a really large event. And while folks were, you know, the hunter was probably joking about using remote controls to harvest whales, people were really confident that continued tech improvement would help them to harvest whales despite these changes in the wind.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:29:00.01]
As far as caribou hunting goes, because they're around the community in some capacity they're kind of around, people identified a lot of different ways to continue harvesting the caribou they need, including using snowmachines to hunt more in the winter time. they also pointed out that the insect harassment that pushes the caribou toward the coast also makes it harder for hunters to go out in the interior because nobody like to get bit by bugs. And they thought with a greater number of windy days they might be able to use ATVs out on the tundra during the summer. However, if the caribou continue to group along the coast despite the more wind, people talked about using larger boats, or hunting the coast line by ATV during the summer time.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:29:44.26]
And finally both researchers and hunters agree that with a greater number of windy days we may see improvements in caribou population numbers, because insect harassment really has large effects on calf mortality.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:29:58.15]
So what have we learned? Well, we documented lot of environmental changes going on, both in the long term, but also perhaps more importantly the day to day changes such as this increase on the number of windy days and it's effects on hunting opportunities.

However, hunters in Wainwright are really considering these changes, and they're really thinking about ways to continue harvesting the resources they need if these changes continue into the future. However, obviously no one can predict the future. And while we've seen increases in the number of windy days since the you know, since the 1970s, it may be that this is cyclical and they may start to decrease again, but what we do know is that these environmental changes are occurring fast and they may be occurring faster than they have in the past.

Working together, researchers and communities maybe really important if they continue so that we can identify the important questions that need to be answered - and answer them - and help folks continue harvesting the resources they need into the future.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:31:04.15]
The next step of our research is to look at bowhead whale hunting opportunities not just in terms of wind speed but also wind direction, when and where leads open up in the ice, and how thick sea ice is. And we were hoping that in the next you know, 10 to 15 minutes you could express whether you think people on the North Slope would find this kind of research interesting, and more importantly useful.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:31:30.18]
So if anybody has any questions or comments, I'd be happy to take some. Thank you so much.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:31:37.27]
Thank you for your presentation. To me, what I think, speaking on behalf of us whalers up there and the ocean conditions, it's not a research project. For us, it's reality.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:31:57.14]
We going to have to deal with it

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:31:58.21]
right

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:31:59.13]
whether you document it or not, fine. You know we...

I think it'd be right for me to support, you know, a good research project for the future, but you, well, but for something like this I would think you'd have to go through the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, that would be the natural route to go through to do this type of project because who knows what the number of people who are going to be out there for this project. It might be one person that could do the whole thing, or it could be 20 people, we don't know. But I would suggest that this whole thing would go through the right chain of command as far as dealing with bowhead whales...

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:32:53.04]
That's an excellent...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:32:53.28]
Thank you for your presentation. I'm sorry to say, but I think we're going to have to move on. If you guys have any questions for him and stuff like that, you know just feel free to step aside with him and stuff like that later on throughout the day.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:33:08.12]
I actually have to leave in a little while to make another meeting, but my contact information is here and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:33:18.21]
You have his information?

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:33:20.00]

And I will send it out, right, yes.

Winslow Hansen, UAF Master's Student
[02:33:21.02]
Thank you so much for your time.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:33:24.11]
Alright. Next we have our industry update, from CGG Veritas.

background and setup

INDUSTRY UPDATE:

CGG Veritas: Proposed Seismic Operations near NPR-A for 2011-2012 winter season
Randy Reed, CGG Veritas

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:34:13.17]
Well, while Lon is taking care of that, I'd like to also share the same thing that Winslow did, and that's to say thank you for the opportunity to come here. While we are an enormous state, with an enormous amount of square miles, there are a lot of people in this room with an enormous amount of knowledge that helps make the state seem smaller. For me, I was, last year - two years ago, I've been away from CGGV for a little while, recently re-joining in August, this is one of the things that I look forward to. I am by no means an expert in Alaska, but every time I come here and I see all the individuals who are here, I always take something positive away from my experience, and ah, my grandfather once said, "the older you get, the more you'll realize the less that you know." Well I was 13 at the time and of course, I didn't ever listen to anything that he said, but he was right, and so thank you again for the opportunity to come here today. As I mentioned earlier ...[quietly] How am I going to make this go?

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:35:21.02]
I'm here to talk briefly about our proposed winter seismic survey. CGG V is not, or has not proposed to do work in NPR-A this year. But it's important that we come here and talk about our project because we're going to be very very close to the NPR-A and also to the stakeholders that are here.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:35:46.10]
Right now, we plan on doing and I'll show you a map in just a moment, beginning our work in Dec of 2011 and that really just means using the existing roadway if it's available through the existing Kuparuk River unit to move some of our equipment to the south. But because of, as some of you have pointed out here, climate changes and other changes in tundra travel we may

not be able to really begin our work until January.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:36:13.21]
What we and I'm already gun-shy using the word mitigate here, or mitigate impacts. What we hope to do is use the existing roads or ice roads to Nuiqsut to enable us to be more efficient and have less of an impact on the tundra. Our projects are usually conducted in the over the course of a 90 day season. As many of you know the winter season seems to be getting shorter. This year, we probably will not start until January and we hope to be completed by early March. This is going to be a very short project for us.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:36:47.18]
We return to our project in August, and when we return to our project in August, this is when we do our clean up effort we also do our inspections with the North Slope Borough and the State of AK. That work is done by helicopter, it's usually done over a period of several days where we pick up all the items that we see that are left behind in our prospect. And in many many cases we'll pick up any thing we see. We always pick up duck ponds [?] sometimes they're almost impossible to squeeze into these little helicopters but it's important for us and we know it's important for you. We try to collect as much of this material as we can.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:37:23.01]
Earlier this year, in August of 2011, we conducted with a permit issued to us by the North Slope Borough an archeological study. That archeology study was inside the red boundary box that you see here. This is Nuiqsut here in the lower left hand corner and although the Alpine pipeline isn't in a perfect line like that, that indicates the general area of the pipeline off to the extreme right would be 2P pad, Meltwater down in the lower right hand corner.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:37:55.11]
This is an area that is not a designated unit. It's between the Colville River unit, which is on the left hand side of the Alpine facility, and the Kuparuk river unit which is on the right hand side. What's interesting about this job is that while CGG Veritas is a large seismic exploration company world wide we're a very small company in Anchorage. We are actually a subcontractor to many of the oil companies who decide to hire us.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:38:25.01]
This year, none of the oil companies wanted to do any exploration outside of the units. In fact, there hasn't been an exploration by an oil company outside the unit since 2008, and in that particular time period we worked in an area south of Teshekpuk Lake that was called Smith Bay, or I think it was called, ah it was south of Harrison Bay, and that's the last time that we were out there.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:38:49.22]
This year we've decided to do what's called a spec job, and that is another division of CGG Veritas is actually financing the effort so we're going to go to work. The area has now been reduced to, you can kind of see the Northern limited portion to the box here at the bottom. We will not be doing any offshore work. We've confirmed that, made that modification with the North Slope Borough, and particularly decreased the size of the area where we'll actually go to work.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:39:19.17]
There will actually be two areas of exploration, we call them prospects, inside of this box. One will be below the Alpine pipeline, portion on this side, very very small, and the other will be in the upper right hand corner of that particular box.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:39:40.14]
Excuse me.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:39:43.11]
What have we done already? As I mentioned earlier, we did our arch study in August of 2011, the results from that archaeological study will be made available to the State of Alaska and the North Slope Borough in December of 2011. What's interesting about that is that each time that we go out to try to do some seismic exploration work for our selves or any other company, we're required by federal law, by the North Slope Borough, and by state law to do these archaeological studies. Each time we do that we gain new information, we're able to update the state's historical preservation office, and we have a better idea of where we should go and where we can't go when we get out there.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:40:26.29]
We're nearing our 6 month maintenance program. Why is that important? Because over the last several years we've taken a lot of input we've received from your communities, from the oil companies, from the state, as well as the NSB and we've made a lot of changes to our equipment. Most - All of our equipment now has secondary containment under the engine, which means that as the engines heat up, any of the oil or other petroleum products that may be there don't drip on the tundra, they're caught in these drip pans.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:40:57.26]
We've also used environmentally friendly oils and antifreezes in our equipment wherever possible. It doesn't necessarily seem like a big deal, it's expensive, but it's important. Because it biodegrades in the soil in the event that we do have a spill. We have nearly 85 pieces of equipment pretty substantial effort that we do yearly to be sure that when we roll out on the tundra with our cat trains and our equipment, we are doing it in the most environmentally sound

way possible. We still have some community outreach to do. We plan on holding community meetings in both Barrow and Nuiqsut in the month of December. Open conversations with both of those communities to try and set up and opportunity for us to come in and do our presentation look for the potential to hire subsistence representatives and gain the input from these communities that would help us be successful in our operations.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:41:53.05]
Some of the other things that we're doing in prep of our effort to make sure that we minimize our impact to the environmental. We have a very extensive 3 day health and safety environmental training seminar that we hold in Anchorage every year. We will have approx 180 people that will support our effort this winter and each one of those people will be trained to the same standard. We'll have representatives from the Native communities of Barrow, the North Slope Borough, hopefully Nuiqsut as well. We'll have subsistence reps come and talk to our employees to share with them their knowledge, what's important to them, and how they can best conduct their business on the, this part of the North Slope in the best way possible.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:42:36.17]
We'll also have anecdotal experiences from people who've encountered polar bears and things of that nature on the North Slope and we even have a training seminar where people are trained in winter first aid, how to prevent snow blindness and that kind of thing, so we really do try to make sure that the folks that we send out there are well trained and smart and can complete the job safely.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:43:02.07]
Here's a picture of our typical camp. This picture has not changed very much in the last 10 yrs, and CGG Veritas has been conducting seismic exploration for 10 years on the slope. A little bit longer when we were a much much smaller company. Well, what you see here on the left at the top are what are called our cat trains. Each one of those is called a string, each string will support either a kitchen or dining facility, one or two sleepers that are 40 foot long that will sleep 8 to16 people a rest room, a washroom, a medical first aid car, a mechanic shop and a surveyor shop. The equipment that you see at the bottom are larger size pieces of equipment. They are basically going out and ultra-sounding the earth to create a, what is now basically a 3D or 4D picture.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:43:54.04]
We have additional pieces of equipment that are support vehicles, I'll show you some of that. These are actually called Tuckers and we use these to transfer crude and supplies to and from the project to and from the camp or to and from the existing [something].

We'll have again up to as many as 180 people in our camp this year. We'll have two full time medics, we'll have cooks, we'll have probably Arctic Catering there, make sure our people are well fed. And we'll buy our fuel probably from one of the neighboring contractors within one of

the existing units. And we're basically a fully supported remote operation that can operate for 5 to 6 weeks at a time with one limitation and that's fuel. If we weren't able to get fuel, we could perhaps make it 3 to 5 days. Every 3-5 days though, we consume between 5 and 6,000 gallons of diesel fuel. So at $7 a gallon, you can see that that's pretty expensive.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:45:00.01]
One of the things that we've done this year, and I wanted to point out that this is a direct result of input that's been received from the SAP from the North Slope Borough, and also from the State of Alaska, is that we no longer use rubber tired vehicles or rubber tired equipment on the tundra. That type of equipment works great for the delivery of fuel and other things but the... inaud... the footprint of course, is a little less, 4 or 5 pounds per square inch. We've gotten away from that because in periods of high snow or blows, rubber tired vehicles get stuck very quickly. Some of our equipment weighs as much as 60,000 pounds. So we have gone to fully tracked vehicles, just like you see here. These vehicles has a much smaller footprint than rubber tired vehicles, have the tendency to do less tundra damage when you're making turns, so through a series of communications with the groups here and others as well, we've changed all of our equipment over to track vehicles.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:46:01.24]
inaud

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:46:03.10]
I'm sorry?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:46:04.12]
You could change mine too while you're at it.

[Laughter]

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:46:06.02]
Here's another example of a piece of our equipment. This is called a jug truck. This is a 40 ft trailer with a tracked vehicle that pulls it and really if you were to fly over this, or if you were to see it in the field, you basically see a trailer of giant orange extension cords. Thousands and thousands of pounds of extension cords and we lay these across the tundra on 160 to 200 ft intervals, sometimes 500 ft intervals and at 100 ft intervals along each string there are small recording devices called geophones.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:46:38.28]
This is the piece of equipment that we'll be using this winter and more than likely we'll continue to use this in the future. This is called the X5. What's important about his is that there are two

metal base plates on this piece of equipment and subsonically vibrate the earth. It's a subsonic harmonic vibration that helps us create our 3 and 4 dimensional picture. This piece of equipment weighs 60,000 pounds, but the footprint of this vehicle is less than 3 pounds per square inch. This guy does not get stuck that often and when it does, well we have a little bit of a problem but we can fix that.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:47:13.13]
These operate 24 hours a day, and that's how our operation will continue to run this winter, 24 hours a day. There will be a crew change out every 8 to 12 hours. While this, the X5s, are out there vibrating the ground, information will be transmitted to this particular vehicle here call the recorder. What you see on the right is an example of what the recording crew managers see during the day. Now you can imagine that looking at that all day might make you a little stir crazy, but this is the kind of data that helps us get a clear depiction of what is underneath the earth.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:47:47.13]
What you're seeing here is a 2D picture, but because of changes in technology we're actually able to collect data in the 4 dimensional mode, which is three dimensional with time. And we talked about minimizing the impacts - What that enables us to do now is instead of going back and redoing or reshooting an area that was shot once before, we can go back and plant subsurface receivers that remain in place. We don't have to go over the tundra the way we did in the past, just do it locally and we can actually record the movement of oils, water, or natural gas under the surface of the Earth, without all of the support.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:48:28.23]
I bring this up for a couple of different reasons. Everyone here is probably familiar with GPS. We use a very very high speed version of that called Tiger Net. It's a 3 Dimensional tracking program and it tracks every single vehicle that we have in our camp 24 hours a day. The reason is first of all we don't want to loose any vehicles or any people. The other is to make sure that we fit all of the different source points that we see in the prospect so that we don't have to go back and do it again. The third and most important, from my perspective, is that it tells us where we can go and where we can't.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:49:06.01]
We collect information from our earlier arch study and we upload that into Tiger Net and when a driver is using the vibrator or coming down the line if he's coming upon a native allotment, or a site of historic significance, a huge red flag will pop up in this window and alarms will go off and in the future the equipment will probably shut down, but for now it doesn't do that because of the cold temperatures. But it gives the driver a three dimensional picture of an area where he is not permitted to go. At the end of the project all of this information is collected, it's provided and stored so that if we ever do have a problem we can go back and we can determine where we went, at what time of day we went, and who was driving.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:49:50.06]
It's a very very high speed program and we have been using that for several yrs now. It's also been modified to water operations, so we use it if we do any seismic work on the water. It really does help us do our job more efficiently without making errors. And really to be perfectly honest with you we want to make sure that we do this work with a limited about of errors - both for ourselves but also our stake holders.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:50:20.09]
Ongoing communication. Coordinate with subsistence activity leaders in the communities. I mentioned earlier that we're here today, I'm here today, to work with the SAP here - I hope to be working with Thomas and his community in Dec., and also going to Barrow to speak to the individuals there about our program. Each year we employ subsistence representative from one or more of the communities,. In the past, actually last year we employed a subsistence representative from the Native Village of Nuiqsut. This year we are pushing to employ two subsistence representatives, and the reason being is that they have to sleep sometime, we all do, and we believe it's in the best interest of the project to have someone available all the time, 24 hours a day in case there is an issue. So that's something from the feedback that we've collected from this group and other groups and from the native communities and that's something that we anticipate doing this year.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:51:17.22]
One of the other things we are obligated to do by our permit stipulation, but that permit stipulation came out of our previous efforts, is to maintain a continuous line of communication with the neighboring communities and what we will do here is that our subsistence representative will establish some method of communication radio, telephone, whatever it happens to be at this time, with the community of Nuiqsut and report back to Nuiqsut everyday on our location, any caribou seen and polar bears seen, any grizzly bears seen, things of that nature and also relay information to us as to whether there will be a subsistence hunting party coming through, or any other party coming through that maybe we're not aware of. That's important for us. We welcome our native users in the community, they're welcome to come to our camps at any time. We provide fuel, we provide food, we provide a warm place in the event of a blow, and we have had blows before where we can provide an opportunity for people to rest up until the weather has cleared. So we look forward to continuing that relationship.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:52:21.15]
Here's a gentleman that has worked with us for many years, showing you not only, well he's actually showing there that he has 3 hands there if you look very closely you can see that, but he's just demonstrating to you and to us that he's out there and he's working with us and not only do they work with us to identify subsistence uses but here we had a small ethylene glycol spill, on the tundra, it was just a few drops, but he's there to make sure that everything is cleaned up the way it's supposed to be, that there's no long term impact. He creates a report for us and that

report also goes to the state. And at the end of the project our subsistence rep will write a report for us saying that we did a good job, we didn't do a good job, this is what we could do better, this is what we could have done.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:53:04.28]
They are a direct line manager. What they say goes. They are obligated to comply with the same safety standards and protocols that everyone else is obligated to comply with, but if there is concern that we're coming too close to a caribou herd, there's a hunting party, something going on there, it's not a problem for us, we do what's called an offset and we drive around and we go somewhere else. And that's the relationship that we have and that we'll continue to have to make sure that we do... minimize... I hate to use that term again, minimize the impact on the community.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:53:43.18]
We've worked on the slope for nearly 10 yrs now, each year we try to do something better, to ensure that we're taking better care of community, better care of the environment and better care of our people. We welcome the opportunity to receive your input if you have suggestions or ideas for us and we look forward to be working with you to take those ideas back to management and make sure they ... inaud

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:54:07.26]
Happy to take any questions you might have.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:54:10.11]
Questions anyone

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:54:14.02]
Yes ma’am.

Unknown
[02:54:15.15]
What are you using to tow your camp strings out?

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:54:21.28]
We actually use, and you'll have to forgive me, we've got two pieces of equipment. We have D7 caterpillars out there that we use for camp moves and we move our camp every 3 days, we call it bumping camp [?] so that we basically, there are a couple different reasons that we do it but the main reason is to minimize our impact on that particular area.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:54:40.26]
The other piece of equipment that we use is, ah, you'll have to forgive me, it looks like a giant farm tractor with giant triangular tracks, and the name escapes me, but I'll

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:54:51.02] So the D7 is on steel tracks still?

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:54:53.27]
Those are steel track and I believe they're in the process of being converted, and I can certainly get you that...

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:55:00.18]
What your talking about are probably rubber track.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:55:02.09]
Yeah, everything else is rubber track. Everything else. We don't... sorry

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:55:06.15]
You can't string some cells along... inaud... on skis?

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:55:10.16]
They are on skis and we've actually increased the size of the skis. The skis themselves are each a minimum of 4 to each 40 ft trailer and they are 4 ft wide and 10 to 14 feet long. What that enables us to do is move much more smoothly and easier across the tundra.

And we're talking about bumping[?] camp, Dave mentioned, the reason we'll do that is they get blown and then they get frozen in also. So every 3 days we push forward just to avoid that.

Yes ma’am?

Unknown
[02:55:37.12]
I noticed on your site map there's an incinerator. I wonder if you can tell me what kind and what are you incinerating and what will you do with the waste after you burn it.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:55:47.27]
What we have, I don't have a picture of the incinerator, I don't have it with me, but I'll make sure that you get it if you give me your email, we have a small highly efficient incinerator that we use on the North Slope, it's been permitted by the EPA and we incinerate nearly all of our materials

with the exception of certain metals of course, and then the debris is put into 55 gallon drums, the ash, it's taken back to Prudhoe Bay, it's sampled for TCLP [Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure] metals, and when the sample results come back then it's disposed of in the North Slope Borough municipal solid waste landfill at Prudhoe Bay.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:56:24.06]
I apologize for not having a picture of that and I'll make sure that you get one.

Same Unknown
[02:56:28.28]
Is it pretty efficient?

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:56:30.17]
Very efficient, very efficient. And we utilize that about every three days. there are some days where we use it every day. What we have to meet are called opacity requirements - and the reason we do that's the EPA's constraint, but we basically can't have any black smoke for more than 3 or 4 seconds coming out from the top of the incinerator. And when we do have an issue like that, we're self reporting, we have to record that and it's transmitted to EPA and...

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:56:58.05]
I want to take one step back and answer add to a question I answered. There was a time when ..... inaud snowmachines, we don't use those any longer. There were some maintenance issues with the Hagelands and the snowmachines because they run on unleaded fuel and have a limited range it became really a safety concern for us. When you’re running along on the tundra, you probably know, you’re going to probably have 5 to 25 gallons of spare fuel on the back.

Well we didn't think that was a good idea and some of the companies we work for didn't think that was a good idea, so we've gotten away from that. So you won't see very many of those in our programs any longer unless we...inaud existing fuels.

Unknown
[02:57:43.18]
Are all your guys' fluids colored?

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:57:46.15]
They are colored. That's an excellent question. We actually have pink dye or orange dye added to the diesel fuel by one of the contractors in the wintertime before we take delivery of that and all of our vehicles have been modified now so that we have site glasses and floating indicators in there so they are not overfilled. They are actually only filled to 2/3rds full, or 3 quarters depending on the piece of equipment. But yes, absolutely. And that's how we know if we have a spill, of even a drop that we can clean it up..

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:58:19.20]

The ethylene glycol, of course, is yellow, ATF or high po__ is a deep dark red. Last year the diesel was orange. There was a problem with that though. In that in certain low light conditions that we get in Feb or March you aren't able to see it clearly so this year we modified that again, the contractor will be adding a heavy pink dye to it. So that's just another change that came about from our experiences.

Yes sir?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:58:50.21]
I have ah, I could say an issue with oil companies and exploration companies not sharing information with each other. I mean not to the communities but with other oil companies only because it's a competition.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[02:59:21.13]
That's true.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:59:23.07]
And our competition is against all of you guys and we're basically being outnumbered. And like I said every little bit from each company adds up to a lot. And the amount of traffic that is beyond what we expected. And that's not presented in any update by any of the oil companies. None of that is presented because their main focus is to get to point A as quickly and smoothly and quiet as possible. But they don't, nobody talks about the amount of traffic that it takes to get to that area and how much traffic you guys cause just in that general area. And like I said it adds up and that's my point of view of creating a wall of noise. And you know, none of that is presented whether it's in NPR-A or in the Arctic Ocean. You talk about this little square and they talk about all the clean up and how you guys are gonna be there and how quick you're going to be out, and all the minimal impact you're going to cause but nobody talks about the amount of traffic that goes around the area.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:01:26.20]
I was on a trip, you know, last year with, you know, four of my nephews and all I saw was your mat [?] tracks and I was like, I mean it's like you’re coming up on everything. And to me, it was like, no wonder we don't see no animals around, there's so much traffic going on in the area and that was my point of saying you know you're building a brick wall. And on top of sharing information you know, to me it's like here's the NPR-A and say you're doing your little project over here and you get Linc, or, just I'm just throwing out names, but if you get another company that wants to go 20 miles NW of you and you've already done seismic research in that whole area and yet they're going to go do that exact same thing the next year. And it's the same situation in the Arctic Ocean. You have the lease sales in the Chukchi area and we've already had Shell and

all these other companies that did research, seismic research in the area and others mean that next year we're going to see another oil company doing seismic research in the same area. And that's a huge impact.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:03:19.10]
You're absolutely right.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:03:20.26]
And that creates years and years of traffic.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:03:25.17]
One of the commitments that I'll make to you is that if I do this presentation again and I hope to do it again in your community Thomas, I'll make sure that information is in there. We are at a little bit of a disadvantage because we take our equipment on a grid like a checkerboard and we do exactly what you said, you know, every 5 to 1600 feet apart to make sure that we covered that. We do try to use the same trails for our campers so that we don't go over the same places over and over and over and over and the state actually doesn't really want us to do that either.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:04:04.22]
One of the things that I would like to point out though, is that this particular year we will be using the existing ice road that's going to Nuiqsut. CH Flinthill will be taking all of our 80 pieces of equipment in via the road system that goes to Prudhoe Bay via tractor trailer. They'll bringing it down the existing ice road which will parallel the Alpine Pipeline and then it's my understanding that construction on that hasn't started but probably will start maybe this month

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:04:37.14]
End of this month... UPACK [?] hasn't even begun yet.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:04:40.17]
What we will be doing though is trying to lessen the number of trips that we have to the prospect off of any one particular road. So our goal is to come in on state land and offload our equipment here, excuse me, here, move north after this is finished on one camp route and finish up there and go out on someone else's ice road. And the reason for that, just as you said, we do have some communication with other companies that are working in there. Renaissance is obviously a company that is working in there and I have a direct line of communication where I have said to them this is a win win situation for both of us. You're going to be building an ice road, we're going to be working around your wells - they have some small project I'm not familiar with.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:05:28.29]
Polar Wells [?]

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:05:29.28]
they're going to be drilling some wells, and we have something called simultaneous operations and the agreement is to be, when it's finalized, that they will allow us the use of their ice road to leave. And hopefully that will reduce the amount of vehicular traffic because when you take 60 pieces of equipment out, in these cat trains, it is, you're right, absolutely it's a lot of impact, and noise and everything else. But if we're able to leave and get into one of the pads in the existing units, we can do our work there and get out quicker so that if you have a February / March caribou hunt, or you have March / April period, the time with the good snow, that we're already gone.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:06:08.09]
So that's something that we've taken into consideration and we've got some input from subsistence representatives in the past that if the snow, I guess it can be very good in February or March – you have better weather conditions, you have sun – that if we're not there that makes it better for everyone.

I agree with you. Impacts that are small, they do add up to a large impact. I'm not in a position to eliminate all those impacts, but I will commit to you to do what I can to minimize those impacts.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:06:39.29]
Well, are there any questions?

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:06:43.26]
No question, but I got a point. There's no oil, ahh, direct west of Nuiqsut, right at where you guys, right at the beginning of your guys' seismic.

[laughter]

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:06:55.12]
Oh you mean there's no oil to find over here?

many voices

Unknown
[03:07:02.25]
I'm sorry, the east side. Where Brooks Range did their drilling, right there across the Colville.

Unknown
[03:07:12.01]
There's no oil in the delta.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:07:14.02]
Okay. I'm going to take that back actually and let management know.

Unknown
[03:07:19.07]
That was hilarious. They went to the village, and they didn't find nothing, except water.

[laughter; voices]

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:07:35.19]
Those are permitted by different authorities, I mean they're permitted by the state to do their well development. I'm not familiar with that company at all. We're not working for them, but we have to work with them, because now we are a stake holder in this area as well. Their operations have the opportunity and the ability to impact our operations. We can't collect seismic data if they're drilling in that area. Our picture would not have a good quality picture, no one wins in that situation. So we have to work with them hand in hand to make sure that the two of us can get along, for lack of a better word I suppose, or lack of a better phrase. Which I think will be very very possible.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:08:19.22]
Well since that came from the communities, and not from another oil company, saying there's no oil... that's clear. You know, there's no oil. It's like, why explore, when we've already said there's no oil? And that's proven data.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:08:46.25]
I'll share with, and again you're saying this area here?

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:08:48.27]
Right on the east side of the Colville, straight across from the village, right by the pipeline, Brooks Range did some work and...

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:08:58.09]
We, our area, our particular box is going to be some where here, I haven't seen the data so I can... I've only seen the public document. It'll be somewhere here.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:09:06.20]
Are you guys going to be doing seismic data while Repsal is going to be doing their... what is it first stage well development? What is it south of Meltwater, south east?

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:09:24.00]
I don't know what their time line is but if they, if we were to do that simultaneously the impact would be minimal because of the distance, it's 20 plus miles.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:09:31.08]
From where you guys are going?

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:09:32.21]
Correct, correct, And we are still, like some of the other organizations here, we're still in the planning stage, the planning phase, to make sure we take all this into consideration and it's getting crowded there. I know you think it's getting crowded because we're in your back yard - without a doubt. There was a time when we were out there and doing seismic work and... we might see someone from the native community, we might see some caribou, we might see some muskox. Now we see other people. So I understand absolutely what you are saying, without a doubt, and it makes it more difficult for us to do our job, but we're going to continue to do it the best way that we can.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:10:14.08]
And I'm gonna try to make it as difficult as possible.

Randy Reed, CGG Veritas
[03:10:16.20]
Absolutely. And I have nothing but respect for your comments, even for saying that, so thank you very much. I really appreciate the opportunity to present to you. And ah, feel free, I don't have my card but I'll be here the rest of the afternoon, so feel free to ask me questions. Thank you.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:10:34.24]
Thank you
Well, Is anybody hungry? I make a motion to go on lunch.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[03:10:43.24]
So we're still going to try to come back at 1?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:10:45.29]
1:30. We could try...

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[03:10:48.17]
Okay. Try to be back here by 1:30. For those of us who are staying the pizza should be here soon. Everybody who's leaving, back here in an hour.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:10:55.19]
Alright, you guys have a good lunch.

Tuesday November 15, 2011 ~ 1:30 PM

Subsistence Advisory Panel Chair, Joe Sage Presiding

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:00:00.28]
Alright, ladies and gentlemen. We'll call this meeting back to order.

And our next presentation will be USGS.

NPR-A RESEARCH UPDATE:

USGS Changing Arctic Ecosystem: Climate change and response of key arctic fish and wildlife.

Tony DeGange, United States Geological Survey

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:00:18.20]
Thank you. This first figure kind of shows you the difference in temperature - the temperature between the last decade and the fifty previous years and it basically shows that some of the places where you see the biggest temperature differentials are in the Arctic, and including Northern Alaska, where all of you folks are from. And a few years ago - a lot of people don't know - the USGS is not just geologists and volcano people, we have a really big program with ecologists and biologists doing research in Alaska which I work for - and about 5-6 years ago we did a whole series of studies on polar bears, we've been doing work on polar bears for many many years and we documented changes in the size and body condition and survival of Polar Bears related to declining sea ice in the Arctic.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:01:21.04]
And the studies we did were both in western Hudson Bay and also in the Beaufort Sea. So based on those studies we got the interest of people back in headquarters and they asked us to initiate some new research in Alaska called "Changing Arctic Ecosystems." And this work we started it

last year, well two yrs ago, we started part of the work and then last year on the Arctic Coastal Plain, we initiated a series of studies and I'll just tell you the names of the 3 themes of research that we're doing now, these are 5 yr long projects. It's all based on ice-dominated ecosystems in AK and the first one was based on sea ice and the title of this one is "Enhancing forecasts of polar bear and walrus populations' responses to a rapidly changing arctic environment" And I'm not going to talk about that one today but I think Stacey, I think we're going to do on in Barrow maybe?

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[00:02:29.06]
Right.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:02:30.10]
So I'm working with Stacey to present that theme to you at your next meeting. The second thing we're doing which I'm going to talk about today is "Measuring and forecasting response of wildlife population to changes in ecosystem processes on the Arctic Coastal Plain." And that's of course, the continuous permafrost zone. And the the 3rd one that takes place a little further south in the discontinuous permafrost zone is "Understanding the role of ecosystem changes across the Boreal Arctic transition zone on the distribution and abundance of wildlife communities."

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:03:07.20]
So, um... let's see if I can get this to work....

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:03:14.09]
Okay, so this is really sort of a simple model of of, some of the processes on the Arctic Coastal Plain and temperature, as you all know, has a real profound impact on what happens out there. And temperature has an influence on nutrient cycling and the amount of ice that is basically there. And it also influences moisture and as those things change they're going to have a big influence on primary production, whether it be plants or phytoplankton ultimately, and the smaller critters, zooplankton, ultimately feeding into changes in animal abundance and distribution of the kinds of animals that many of us are concerned about.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:03:56.10]
So I'm going to talk about 4 studies we're doing on the Arctic Coastal Plain as part of this theme. So, what we're doing is we're basically comparing and contrasting a number of different wildlife species that have different life history strategies. And one of them are, so, basically we call it piscivore insectivore and carnivores and the piscivores are the Loons and our work is focused on three species of loons on the Arctic Coastal Plain. Yellow billed loon, red throated loon, and pacific loon, and a couple of the species are a real conservation concern. The yellow billed loon... Fish and Wildlife decided it was warranted for listing under the Endangered Species Act, although it's not listed yet but it could be down the road. They're going to be taking that up pretty soon. Shore birds are invertivores, they eat a lot of insects. and they eat a lot of insects that

spend earlier life stages in the water, such as midges and things like that. We are also studying small bodied herbivores such as geese we're doing work on a couple of different species up there and these animals really really rely on high nutrient quality of plants that are usually found in relatively small patches of habitat. And I'll show you some pictures of that later. And then we're focused also on a large body herbivore plant eater: caribou, which can forage on lower quality nutritious plants than geese but because of that they eat a lot of it and they range very broadly over landscape.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:05:37.29]
So our work on the Arctic Coastal Plain is taking place in 4 places and I'll talk about the studies in each of these. The first one is in the Chipp River area. The second is on the NE of Teshekpuk Lake, third is the Colville River Delta and the 4th is along the haul road from Toolik Lake up to Deadhorse.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:06:02.28]
This is a map that shows the deeper lakes in NPR-A and these are the lakes that don't freeze to the bottom every year and therefore theoretically can support fish populations. You'll notice that there's quite a few of these lakes and you'll also notice that North East of Teshekpuk Lake, where there are a lot of lakes, they're all very shallow and freeze to the bottom.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:06:33.28]
So this is the basically where we're doing work at the Chipp River Site and we have two sites and they're about 20 miles apart. The northern area is a little more complex, it's a flatter topography has a lot more draining lakes, and draining streams this is a little more upland, so we're basically doing studies on all three types of animals the herbivores, the piscivores, and the insectivores, the insect eaters, the plant eaters, and the fish eaters.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:07:10.03]
This is a camp we have at the Chipp river It's basically... we have a permit from BLM to put Conex out there and they were brought out during the late winter when there was snow, We use that as our primary camp Sort of bear proof. We also have I think bear proof fences at each of these sites, and sleeping tents.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:07:33.09]
And we have these Conexes at two of the other sites, on the Colville River and NE Teshekpuk Lake. At this place, again, we're focused on some of the upper levels consumers such as loons. Loons eat basically eat fish, such as ciscoes and sticklebacks and ultimately they're all dependent on phytoplankton produced in these lakes that feed into the invertebrates, such as the zooplankton and midge larvae. Which then feed into the sticklebacks and then to the loons. So we're really interested in how these lower ecological processes feed into how they feed into the

food web and how changes in temp will change that food web and ultimately how it might change the distribution and abundance of loons.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:08:33.19]
So we're looking at a bunch of different things within the ecosystem, and we're also looking at invertebrates, and how they how cycling of nitrogen and phosphorous are changing with changes in temperature so we're actually doing some experiments by creating these little houses that can look at how water temp affects the types and abundance of invertebrates. And we're also evaluating how temp affects the quantities of nitrogen and phosphorous in these systems. And we're doing some experiments where we're adding these chemicals to see how it changes invertebrate production. Theoretically, increases in temp will increase the availability of nitrogen and phosphorous and increases in fertilization, which will result in increases in both the phytoplankton and the invertebrates.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:09:26.29]
We’re looking at some of the fish species, especially Arctic Cisco, we have a graduate student from UAF who's tagging Ciscoes to look at growth rates, looking at what they eat, and we're looking at how, ah, consumption rates of loons in these lakes...

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:09:50.09]
And we're also going to do some experiments to see how temperature will affect these fish - and that's a trap where we catch Cisco.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:10:04.09]
Also at these sites, we're looking at the bathymetry, or the depth of a lot of these lakes and these lakes are adjacent lakes and this lake has four species of fish and very few invertebrates, meanwhile this small lake has only one species of fish, the real small sticklebacks, but it has lots of large inverts. and so the depth of these lakes will eventually, will impact, how important they are to different loon species.

For instance, a yellow billed loon would be more likely to be found in a lake with many more fish, where as Pacific Loons, which eat a lot of invertebrates. They would be found in the smaller lakes. We're trying to classify the lakes in these areas as to their relative suitability for different loon species based on the presence or absence of fish - which species, how many fish, etc.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:11:05.02]
And of course, we're spending time looking at where we monitoring a lot of the lakes for loon breeding including the productively of different loon species and we're relating that to the presence and absence of fish.

Also as part of this study is looking at White Fronted Geese have increased a lot on the North Slope in the last two decades, and white fronted are found in many parts of Alaska but their rates of increase are highest on the North Slope of Alaska and they're as you folks know the becoming pretty abundant, So we've been doing some studies looking at how the White Fronted Geese are using these habitats and if you look here, we can see along, so we're putting these little GPS we put a collar on the goose and it has a GPS collar on it so we can tell very fine grain where they go and get very detailed locations and what we're findings is that the geese tend to concentrate right on the lake margins and that's partly because they've created these grazing lawns, right along the lake margins and these grazing lawns are mostly made up of sedge species that are common on the North Slope and they really as you can see they really graze down, and sedge is constantly growing in the summer and it's really nutritious for these geese. So they're really focused on these areas that are really grazed down very close to the ground.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:12:50.26]
Another one of the studies we're doing on the North Slope is related to the ecology of molting ecology of Black Brandt. Most people know that the area north east of Teshekpuk Lake is internationally significant place for molting geese with lot's of White Fronted Geese and Canadian Geese and Black Brandt that molt there. And of course Brandt come from - not only birds that breed on the North Slope go to the go there to molt, but also birds that breed on the Yukon Kuskokwim delta - the failed breeders, also undertake a long migration to this area to molt during the summer, late, ah, middle of late summer. And the Fish and Wildlife Service has been flying these lakes and counting molting Brandt and molting geese for many many yrs and we divided the area up into three strata and what we've noticed over the years is that the Brandt, the western most strata in the black here, has never had a lot of molting Brandt on it and the middle strata, these lakes, has had a lot of Brandt molting on it, but it's been declining in recent years, where as the third strata which encompasses most of the coast line of this area has been increasing so there's been this shift in where the Black Brandt are going when they molt.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:14:23.21]
We also used, in a previous study that was funded by the BLM, we put again these GPS collars on to get really find grained iden- locations of Brandt and before the molt we'd see them distributed quite broadly across the landscape but during molt they really group up - this is of course when they're flightless and they really group up in really con more, relatively more confined areas. And through this work at least we found some places Brandt molted before - here and here although you folks might have known it, we didn't we certainly didn't. So that's been pretty interesting and at one of these sites we took a core and, okay, so here's one of these grazing lawns again and you can see how really low the vegetation is and we found some really large grazing lawns up on the coast of the North East NPR-A and one of these sites that the geese are now molting at we found a layer of vegetation, I wonder if you can just see it, it's about 3 1/2 inches below the surface that now has that grazing lawn on top of it. And this was vegetation that geese do not prefer to eat so a lot of us see there's been a big change. We don't quite know the ages yet and we're trying to get an age because obviously there's been a big changes that's happened relatively recently that's made it it look more suitable for molting Brandt.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:16:09.12]
And um, we're not quite sure what's going on but as you know there's been a lot of coastal erosion up there and a number of these lakes have been inundated with salt water and what we think is happening is that the salt water is killing, and you can look at some aerial photos and see that a lot of the tundra has been killed off by the salt water, and what we think is happening is that the that some of these newly saline habitats are being invaded by salt tolerant vegetation which Brandt just happen to like a lot and so we think that the habitat is becoming more and more favorable for Blank Brandt along the coast and this kind of confirms that things have changed, especially for Black Brandt on the Arctic Coastal Plain and this is basically shows you the difference in, okay, so when geese molt their feathers they become flightless, and during that period they loose a lot of weight, I mean they just do, cause they're basically expending a lot of energy growing new feathers and between the late 1970s and mid 2000s this was sort of like the difference in mass that point... oops, sorry about hat

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:17:31.24]
Ands this compares the difference between the late 1980s early 1990s with more recent times and you can see that it looks like the Brandt - and this is the different age and sex classes of Brandt - it looks like they're losing less weight during the molt than they used to. The black is the older comparison and the grey is the newer comparison. So it looks like something about foraging dynamics for black Brandt has changed and things are getting better for them on the North Slope and one of the things we're trying to figure out is why.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:18:09.01]
So we've set up some manipulations on the landscape we're putting out greenhouses and putting out some shade cloths, so we're trying to create cooling affects, as well as some warming affects and trying to measure changes and how that changes both vegetation quantity and quality because geese like really high quality vegetation and a lot of times when they get more robust growth it becomes poorer quality so we're really interested in how these changes are occurring with increases and decreases in the temperature and once we can develop some relationships and see how it's changing we might be able to predict how things will change in the future as the climate continues to warm. And you can see with one of those greenhouses just the effect of from last summer, so you had this really pronounced difference in terms of the quantity of the vegetation.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:19:14.23]
The third study I wanted to mention is the Colville River study and as you folks know a lot of the Colville River supports a really high diversity and abundance of a lot of different bird species and they go everywhere during migration for winter. You know you have tundra swans that go to the Atlantic coast, and white fronts that go to the Texas Louisiana coast, shore birds that go all over North America, Central America, and South America... Black Brandt that winter along the Pacific coast as far south as Baja. And then of course snow geese who winter along the Pacific

coast. So the objective of the Colville River study is to contrast how the species differ in their migration patterns and were using these geolocators - you can just attach them to a band and you get basically not really fine scaled movement data, you get more coarse scale movement data.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:20:14.21]
We can recatch the birds and take these little instruments off. We can look at arrival dates and nesting areas and breeding success for a lot of different species that nest on the Colville.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:20:29.13]
We're also looking at well, where do birds get the nutrients to make eggs and incubate them. Some birds get the nutrients on the wintering grounds but some birds wait till they get back to the breeding grounds before they get the nutrients. We're trying to figure out using stable isotope analyses where they do get their nutrients for breeding and so we can basically sample the birds sample the eggs, sample the plants and figure out where they're getting these nutrients.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:21:00.23]
We're looking at whether the timing of breeding corresponds to the peak quality of food, and at growth rates of goose goslings by the timing of green up.

So this is based on our 2011 data and you can see that Snow Geese tend to hatch earlier that either the White Fronted in yellow, or the Brandt in purple. So we're looking at forage quality and growth rates of goslings in relation to the quality of the food.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:21:34.28]
We're also looking at does the amount of vegetative growth correspond with the abundance and diversity of breeding birds and we can use basically satellite images that go back decades to look at the timing of green-up and also the vegetation growth using satellite imagery and then we can look at all these different places where there is good data on bird populations to look at whether there is a relationship between this index of green-up and bird populations.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:22:13.03]
And lastly on the study we're doing at Toolik Lake up to Deadhorse... We're basically repeating a study that Fish and Game did back in the 1970s to look at the quantity and quality of plant growth in relation to these forages that caribou use, and we're trying to see if there are any differences. The other thing we're doing is we're not only looking at comparing 1970s to the current day, but we're also sampling all through the summer to look at how the quantity and quality of vegetation changes over time through the summer. We'll be doing that for a couple of yrs.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:22:52.15]
So that's ah basically a kind of quick and dirty what we're doing on the Arctic Coastal Plain and I believe there is time for questions. Joe?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:23:06.23]
You had a study on the growth the growth rate on cold vs. warming temperatures, with your shading and your cones. I'm wondering, because of climate change and the difference in precipitation in the past five years and how it's been changing, will there be any studies on which areas are I should say are predicted to be more I would say the most places could have developing lakes, new lakes.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:24:05.18]
Oh new lakes? That's a good questions

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:24:11.22]
Well, because throughout the years I know that probably some of these guys, could probably tell you how some lakes used to be a good size lake and now it might be a dry lake and you know those types of changes, I'm wondering if there's going to be any types of studies...

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:24:34.13]
Yeah, actually there are. There's another fellow at USGS, his name is Ben Jones, and he's been looking at lake development and I can't tell you exactly what he's learned. But also in our Chipp River area we actually have a fellow who just studies water. Hydrology, and he's also looking at lake evolution in that area.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:25:01.06]
And the river?

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:25:03.25]
Well, I don't think we're looking at, well he's looking at the connect in the Chipp River site, one of the things we're really interested in is connectivity between the different water bodies cause that's going to influence how fish move through the system so I know we're looking at a lot of different hydrological influences to the different water bodies.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:25:28.20]
So I'll tell you what, I mean I can't answer your question very thoughtfully so why don't I go back and get some more information on this idea of lakes and I can get back to you folks so...

and I can tell you if we're really looking at that and if we're not it might be a really good thing for us to look at.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:25:47.03]
Real briefly, could you kind of go over how the field work works like what time you have people in the field and how many people you have in the field. What kind of overflights, and airplanes support them...

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:26:00.20]
Well, I wish I came prepared to answer that, but I didn't - so I'll just start from east and go west - and I can tell you as best as I know it. On the east side we have the haul road study which is two people who basically take trips - they keep a vehicle in Deadhorse and just do that thing 5 or 6 times and sample their plots during the summer.

The Colville River study, we're basically working out of Helmricks' camp and it's not a lot of... Actually we had helicopter support from Conoco Phillips last summer. But I couldn't tell you the frequency of, I'm not going to be able tot tell you the frequency of flights. Except we used a lot of aircraft last summer, I know that, but I can't tell you the frequency but I'll see if I can get that for you.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:27:02.01]
Both the Colville River and the Chipp River site, we had two field camps so there was 8 to 10 people at those two camps out there throughout the summer. And at northeast Teshekpuk Lake, we had one camp, so there were 5-6 people there throughout the summer.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:27:23.10]
But they are all working pretty much within walking distance of the camps, but they use aircraft to get to and from the camps, had to get in by aircraft and we had to remove, you know periodically camp resupply, get rid of human waste those sorts of things to get out of there. So, if I can maybe get you some more information on that, I'd be happy to. I didn't come prepared.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager [00:27:52.18]
Thanks, we we probably have that, I just wanted the Panel to kind of get an idea of the impact.

Tony DeGange, USGS [00:28:00.12]
Sure

Joe Sage, SAP Chair [00:28:02.02]
And if we could get information on you know, the transects of flights, how often they are, going back and forth to get from point A to point B because we had a lot of complaints about caribou being diverted from hunters.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:28:29.12]
Okay

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:28:30.25]
So, I think that's what...

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:28:33.01]
Do you have any specific comments from your people about any of our camps? in terms of.. We didn't hear anything.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:28:47.26]
Well it might not be from your camp. I mean we're just trying to get this kind of information from all basic research studies and all exploration studies - from all the companies and... it's not just you we're trying to get this from everybody else. Because there's there has been a lot of complaints from the amount of traffic from from study groups going back and forth getting from point A to point B and I think that's what Lon was trying to...

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:29:24.13]
I'll be happy to... put that together for you.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:29:27.23]
That gets us for our next... what?

Qinugan Roddy, SAP [?]
[00:29:30.05]
I was just going to say, a program working above 69 degrees all need to submit that information to us.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:29:37.15]
We can put together a map.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:29:41.17]
And yet, we don't get any of that from all these other... inaud

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:30:01.03]
Any other questions.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:30:05.00]
Okay, well I'll be around the rest of the day if anybody wants to talk to me, I'd be happy to.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:30:09.01]
Thank you.

Tony DeGange, USGS
[00:30:11.01]
You're welcome.

background

NPR-A REASEARCH UPDATE:

Kuk and Kugra Stream Surveys Update
Bill Morris, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fisheries Biologist

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:31:22.24]
Alright well, thanks for having me back to talk to you again today. My name is Bill Morris, with the Department of Fish and Game, I work with the Division of Habitat here in Fairbanks and we're actually the entity within Fairbanks that is responsible for the industrial reviews and state Fish and Game permitting so with that in mind, if you guys have any specific questions along those lines when I'm done here I'd be happy to either answer them now or after the meeting - I'll be around today and tomorrow.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:31:58.09]
And so today what I'm going to provide is just an update on our Kuk River sampling that was conducted over the course of this summer. A lot of you were here, or, at the meeting in Wainwright so some of this will be sort of a rehash, and I'll try to go through some of that relatively quickly.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:32:18.05]
Let's see, this project is funded through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program through the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management and we have a lot of cooperators - the North Slope Borough wildlife management, BLM Arctic Field Office and then some consulting companies. MJM[?] research. Probably the folks from Nuiqsut are familiar with Larry Molton[?] and the ABR folks are probably up in Nuiqsut right now.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:32:48.27]
Okay so just quickly I'll kind of go through the purpose of this particular project was, show you

some of our sampling areas, areas we've already done, areas we have planned for the next couple of years - go through a little bit of our sampling program. And this is the first year that we're actually on the ground in the Kuk River out of Wainwright and so we just got back from the field about a month and a half ago so we still have all of our data to go through, so it's just going to be real basic information that I can provide.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:33:23.04]
Well basically what we were looking to do was establish a baseline condition of the fish populations within the Kuk and Kugra Rivers, and we're going to focus looking specifically at population characteristics, not so much at how many fish of any given species are around but more of those characteristics that define the population so things like weight and length relationship, age relationships, age at maturity relationships.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:33:52.24]
And these were all things that change with changes in the environmental. whether they be natural or man made events, oil spills, warming water. And through part of the project, of course, we wanted to identify important habitats for the different species within the rivers, as well as collect some baseline environmental data some real basic water chemistry and water quality data, and invertebrate - aquatic invertebrate and primary productivity information and I mentioned that the onset here that one of the things that my division with Fish and Game does is a lot of the industrial reviews and permitting of different projects. And so, ooh, back up there

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:34:55.04]
Okay, so that last quote there is just the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:34:59.14]
Basically the permitting authority for Fish and Game as it pertains to water bodies all comes from this Anadromous Waters Catalog, so if a water body hasn't been surveyed legally into this catalog, we don't have any authority to be able to provide the proper protections to fish and fish habitat.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:35:26.13]
So that's a big part of what we wanted to do and this just shows you Wainwright - the Kuk and Kugra areas, right here. Now what you'll notice here - all these little dots and numbers, those are all water bodies that have been sampled and put into the catalog. We put this project together you can see there really hasn't been much of anything done in the Wainwright area.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:35:50.21]
At this stage with some work that commercial fisheries has done this has expanded some, I think Rich will talk a little bit more about that. So we put our program together to go and do a

systematic look at these drainages. We wanted to look at the Lower Kuk and then the Upper Kuk. This is some work we did with the North Slope Borough in 2010. In the Upper Ivisaurik

And so in 2011, this past summer, this is where we spent all of our time conducting sampling in late June and July, early July. And again, in August. In 2012 we're going to move into the Upper Kuk River, around the Kaolik and Ketik Rivers, and then in 2013 and 14 we will be working towards the Kugra River and Kugra Bay over by Peard Bay. One of the interests there actually came from folks in Barrow because there've been people heading down into that area targeting Chinook Salmon for the last several, I guess 7 or 8 years, so we're going to take a more detailed look and see what we find in there.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:37:01.16]
And so our sampling essentially consists of fight nets, or just a live catch trap that we put out, we do a little bit of gill netting, which I'm sure you're familiar with. Those are for our fish that we retain the stomach samples. This is another type of gear we use, this is a hoop trap, which is kind of the back side of one of those fight traps they work pretty good for Tittaaliq [Burbot] which we are hopefully going to get into on the Upper Kuk this year.

And most all the fish that we catch are just identified, measure and then released. Some might get a small number tag so we can track them between sampling areas. A few fish from each of the different size classes of all the different species that we find in big numbers

did you have a question? no, okay

will be retained and we'll actually age those fish in the lab and for all those fish we end up detaining we go ahead and analyze the stomach contents to see what the fish are eating. We assess their stage of maturity and we also collect some genetic samples. A lot of you have probably seen these from different areas. This is what that little back tag might look like. Look like a little... Ours are all grey, they'll have, these will all say Kuk River, ADFG on 'em, with our phone number.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:38:29.17]
There's also a small radio telemetry component to the project that we're doing. It helps us identify different habitats that are important to these species. Spawning areas, wintering areas, allows us to spread our work over a much larger area because we can't physically get to all the places that these fish may be in and out of in any given year.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:38:56.02]
So for radio tagged fish, this is an Aanaakliq [Broad Whitefish] from the Teshekpuk area. What you'll see if you catch one of these fish, you'll usually see just a little red line in the belly here and you'll see this thin antennae coming out. In the Wainwright area this year we only tagged a handful of salmon, that's a different kind of tag, you can see it right at the end of this, of this

PVC tube, and that's just placed in the fishes stomach because the salmon are moving back in, they're not eating anymore.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:39:33.01]
And so the other sampling we do while we're out at all of our different sampling areas, I mentioned basic water quality data - very basic stuff, we're just looking at how much oxygen is in the water, the pH - the acidity of the water, salinity, and water temperatures. Those data are collected at each net site each day. For aquatic invertebrate samples and phytoplankton samples we don't collect those at all the different net sites. We distribute those between all the different unique habitat types that we sampled. And we're also conducting bathymetric mapping so we can estimate volumes in the lakes and some of the bays.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:40:17.00]
So from this year, this is just a quick map of the Kungok River?? showing all the different areas where we collected those invert samples and phytoplankton data. So we had 8 different sites and they're arranged from some of the smaller creek sites to out in the main bay. We also focused on these spits that are out in the area. Anybody who's been out on these rivers knows that those spits are very prominent feature out there and so we wanted to make sure we sampled those areas both for invertebrates, water temperature, as well as fish.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:41:03.05]
These are our fish sampling sites. We have about 30 different sites that we fished with fight nets and a few gill nets. and again they range from all the creeks to the bay sites.

And I guess as far as what we've found so far I can tell you that over the course of the summer we ended up capturing about 14,000 fish between our July and August sampling periods, all but 340 of those fish were released.

The take home message that we got, and this is just numbers of fish in each of these... the take home message here is there are a lot of least ciscoes and kalisuk??. And they were followed up by I guess our next most common species was you'll have to help me if I'm wrong here - Nataagnaq - Arctic flounder. One of the more interesting things that we found, that even folks in Wainwright didn't expect was the presence of these guys. We actually found quite a few... pacific herring were actually spawning up in the upper part of the Kungok River.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:42:22.13]
This isn't as surprising but we did find rainbow smelt, the algonik??, up in the same area. And just to show you, this is our sample area map, so we did pick up those spawning condition smelt and herring at several of these sites out in the main bay. It was this site right here, we're catching them very very consistent and over the course of our sampling period from late June and early July. The fish went from basically ripe, ready to spawn mature adults, to spent and just spawned adults, so they definitely spawned. Both of those species spawned right in this part of the river

and folks who've been here before know there's a big mud flat here as the tide goes out and there's just one little channel right in here that backs up to all this and that's where those fish were and for the pacific herring, you know, there wasn't any vegetation in the bay, a few of them spawned on our net, but that was about the only thing available.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:43:29.25]
And so in August, the salmon were running, we caught about 90 pink salmon, 15 Chums and one Chinook salmon we radio tagged a few of those. 13, I think, of the Chum and 1 Chinook salmon. We conducted one radio tag relocation flight on Sept 3 that actually got cut short by bad weather and then we finished up on the 4th and we relocated 17 of those 25 fish. Most had moved out of the area we tagged them in and headed a considerable distance up the Kuk, and most of them are up the Kungok River.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:44:15.15]
And the weather from that day did unfortunately result in an incident. We were flying in under the fog, trying to get back to Wainwright and we popped around a corner just exactly on top of some hunters, I think some of them might be in the room. And it was an unfortunate event that did happen - we were on our way back to town.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:44:36.23]
So this is just a summary of, it's not a really good map, but these were the relocations for the spawning salmon. This red dot is where we tagged fish in the Kungok River, and these are all the different relocations from Sept 3 and 4. So a few fish were, a few of the fish were, did go up and ah presumably spawn in the Upper Kungok River and then the, I'm not going to say this one right, Mikigailik?

Unknown
[00:45:09.11]
Mikigailik.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:45:12.06]
Mikigailik

Unknown
[00:45:13.04]
Yeah

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:45:14.16]
But the vast majority of the pinks and chums we tagged all moved into this region of the Kungok River. And this one, waaay, you can barely see it down here, was all by itself, just exactly as far upstream as it could have gone. I don't pretend to know what that fish was doing.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:45:38.10]
It was actually right in here that we flew over some hunters.

And so I guess just a brief summary... we caught a lot of Least ciscoes in the Kuk River this summer, rainbow smelt and pacific herring spawning areas found in the Kungok River, as well as we were able to document pink and chum salmon. We never did relocate the Chinook Salmon that we tagged, so it may well have moved on to where it was trying to get to when we caught it.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:46:09.08]
And so far all this information is, as far as these these rainbow smelt are considered an anadromous species for the purposes of inclusion in that anadromous waters catalog I was talking about. As are the Least Ciscoes, and I didn't mention that we did catch a handful of Tiipuq, Bering Ciscoes.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:46:32.18]
And they're also anadromous so all those data were synthesized and submitted for, they're all nominated for inclusion in the Anadromous Waters Catalog as well as the specific salmon spawning areas which just basically provided a little more information on work that Rich with commercial fishermen had done recently.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:46:56.02]
And so we have three yrs of work left for this particular project, one left in the Kuk River and then 2 yrs in the Kugra and we'll be producing multiple tech reports associated with this work and we'll keep submitting everything we find to the catalog for nomination and we're going to keep going back to Wainwright and make these presentations up there too, since that's where were basing out of. And again exactly the same as I said last time, we're always looking for input from this panel, folks who live there. I... my phone number's here, and my email address. I'm always working so...

Here I'm just showing off with those little inflatable boats that we brought out there this year with jet units. I tell you what, you can get to some pretty sweet places with those things.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:47:56.12]
Are there any interests in doing studies on the ocean side?

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:48:02.21]
I know there is work happening on the ocean side, we don't do it, and I don't - trying to remember - there's, there is a group that's been doing some offshore salmon work, I am not really familiar with it.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:48:21.12]
The reason I say that is because like I said earlier this morning, we're dealing with marine mammals that are now getting sick and we're... and just this year we're finding out more, and we just don't know you know a pinpoint of where the source is. It might be in the food, or it might just be in the water, or it just might have been something temporary that they were exposed to... but having a ocean side study I think would be a real good idea, only because the ice is receding for one, and the amount of traffic we're going to be dealing with in the future... My real main concern is the food source for the marine mammals. That's, to me, that's... it's a real deep issue for myself, personally because you know I have kids... I just love whale meat and seals and walrus, you know. They eat it as much as I do, and to see them... We have sick marine mammals nowadays and we need to find the source I should say. So that's why I was asking that question, if there was any studies on the ocean side.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:50:02.18]
I'm pretty sure it's a group with NOAA National Oceanic... ah... I'll say administrative [National Oceanic and Atmosppheric administration... that has been out there at least the last 7 or 8 yrs and I think most of that has been on the north side of things, but they've done some work, I thought as far down as Wainwright but I'm not real familiar with it. Craig George with the Wildlife Management definitely has been working with those folks and so he could actually get you in touch with the right people for that.

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[00:50:41.05]
I know they found some all along the west coast even, like near Savoonga and then they found some near Canada, like even to the east coast of Canada. There were some, like, some of those seals that were.. or walruses that were... defective. But I don't know if there was a study.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:51:04.25]
They had sores around their eyes, and their hairs were, they were basically bald and

Unknown
[00:51:16.18]
I got one like that... inaud

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:51:24.27]
So yeah, my main concern is, well I should say, studies on fish of course, on both sides, in the rivers and the oceans, and also water content is a real big, big thing. So I thank you for your presentation. Are there anymore questions?

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[00:51:48.07]
During the study, the size of the grayling - on the western part, the graylings are much bigger. And then I mean, the western side, the eastern side are bigger, but the western side are smaller. Why is that?

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:52:12.12]
Well, um

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[00:52:14.01]
Like Kuk River and you go up to Kugra and Kugururok?? and they're a lot bigger there than in the Kuk and Pt Lay.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:52:24.13]
Yup, and then if you go even a little further south down around the Wulik river and the Kugururok?? creeks and the Noatak River, you get back into big grayling again and I think it all boils down to food availability and age. One thing we did find looking at some of the fish that we had the opportunity to have aged already from the Kisaralik River. Those fish were considerably smaller than the same fish, same species we were catching further north up around Barrow and Chipp River but what we found was that the ages, the age at maturities were very different, and so what was happening essentially is that the fish are just growing much smaller in those areas. What we've seen just looking at the invertebrate data is that probably just better food availability in particular drainages that grow bigger fish - lack of wintering habitat could be part of it, especially in the Kuk river, 'cause those grayling need fresh water, very fresh water and most of the Wainwright inlet there is very salty - it's a way up the river and so it's easy to overpopulate those river habitats.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:53:56.09]
Yeah, it just mostly boils down to food availability and the length of the feeding season.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:54:05.24]
Any more questions?

Alright. Thank you Bill.[??]

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[00:54:11.02]
Thank you.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:54:14.14]
Next... Shelley?

Shelley Woods, UAF
[00:54:22.02]
Hi. I need to get this in here -

[background]

NPR-A REASEARCH UPDATE:

Subsistence Use and Knowledge of Salmon in Barrow and Nuiqsut
Shelley Woods and Courtney Carothers, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Shelley Woods, UAF
[00:55:12.17]
Alright. Glad we figured that out. I'd just like to say that I'm really glad to be here. It's good to see some familiar faces from the North Slope. I've been working up there for a couple yrs now, on a master's project, so I've gotten to know a few people and I'm just presenting what results we've come across so far from our interviews in Barrow and Nuiqsut and so our project is titled - this [slide] is incorrect, a big bad mistake, but - Subsistence Use and Knowledge of Beaufort Salmon Populations." And my advisor, Courtney Carothers, is also here - some of you might know Courtney.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[00:55:47.04]
So, I'm really glad to present to you guys - I'm excited about our results. So here's a brief outline We're going to talk about the objectives of the project, and why this project came about, what we did, and some of the results, and you can see different categories of results and I'll go into those with a little more detail, and some overall conclusions.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[00:56:07.25]
And so one of the objectives was to build relationships and really just learn about the North Slope and the people and what subsistence is used, and the project was the result of a call for proposals from the Coastal Marine Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks which is BOEM and UAF kind of partnered together to work together and so we're documenting use and knowledge of salmon and trying to understand cultural context for these observations and how knowledge should be used and just in general trying to figure out the politics of the North Slope and see if... we needed to find out some answer for questions, who do you go to, who do you talk to, what's appropriate according to you guys. And I'd just like to say that I'm just presenting what I heard from interviews - so none of this data is my information, it's coming from the people that we talk to and so I'm preaching to the choir , but... and if you guys have any comments, definitely feel free to chime in.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[00:57:16.00]
So like I said the Coastal Marine Institute is the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, in cooperation with BOEM which is formerly MMS... and so the reason they had this call for proposals was because there is reported to be increased salmon catches and also off-shore leases sales are going on and the literature about salmon on the North Slope was inconclusive so people say a lot of things - they're increasing, they're not increasing, they're there, they're not there, and so, they're spawning, they're not spawning - people really don't... haven't documented exactly what the people think and I think that's what our goal was and also there's a complementary study in the Chukchi Sea area by ADFG and Brittany Rutherford's project.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[00:58:00.04]
So, here's me, at the NSB arch, hanging out, interviewing... but this whole process started as a literature review to kind of see what data was available, and just to get an understanding of what research has been done and we focus on Barrow and Nuiqsut - we chose the Beaufort Sea region in particular because we didn't see a lot of information coming out of that region - regarding salmon and subsistence use. There are some scientific studies, but we figured that talking to the people and getting traditional knowledge would be a really important aspect of understanding the system.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[00:58:41.02]
But Barrow and Nuiqsut participated - we went to the Councils and asked them for permissions and got letters that said we were allowed to interview their people and it was appropriate for us and we got a lot of really good input from the North Slope Borough Fish and Game Management council and the Kuukpik Subsistence Oversight Panel, and a lot of other organizations, and so in a couple yrs were did about 35 semi-structured interviews - so we sat down with elders and fishermen and local experts and just talked about you know what you guys see in regards to salmon, when did you start fishing, how long have you been fishing, when do you go out, what do you catch... Are there any new species that you've noticed, how many of those do you get? And so it was really open ended, people talked about whatever they wanted to talk about, which was great - we learned a lot about the people on the North Slope and a lot about Barrow and Nuiqsut in particular and now we're going through and analyzing that data qualitatively and so we had all those interviews transcribed and we're going through with a fine tooth comb and analyzing that data and we'll actually go back to the communities and present the information and make sure that it's appropriate before we publish any of it because we don't want say something that was not true, that we misinterpreted, so we want to make sure you guys have a lot of input on what we're presenting - because it's your data, it's not ours - we're just there to kind of facilitate.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:00:10.20]
And also we're going to report back to the funding agencies and we have permission, from a few of the elders, permission to archive their interviews with IHLLC because when we first started

the project we went through and asked if they had any fishing specific interviews and they really don't have a big catalog of fishing specific interviews and data and so we - us, and them and elders - all saw it would be a really good idea to keep that for future generations, to let people know how things are changing over time. Salmon may be a big part of that, but we're not sure yet.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:00:43.23]
And so, the first big group of data was just geographic distribution. Where people are finding salmon, are they are spawning, and like I said the literature is pretty inconclusive and this is just a diagram of the Anadromous Waters Catalog but just to give you an idea of the area where we're working from Barrow to Nuiqsut in that range. And there's you know camps and stuff all along there so we try tried to get a good representation of people who came from different rivers, fish in different rivers and Elson Lagoon and up the Colville.
Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:01:18.21]
So there's me and Matue?? Some of you might know him. He's pretty awesome. We learned a lot about the abundance of salmon and that in general that people are saying that catches of salmon are increasing in the last 15 to 10 yrs. And some people maybe say it's kind of cyclical, some people say yeah, there's lot's more now, some people say there's not as much now but in general it was that the salmon are increasing.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:01:46.09]
The data from that graph, it's the best available data from the North Slope Borough. They take, they have log books that they send out with fishermen every year and they fill them out and get ‘em back and so this is a just a kind of a quick snap shot of the catches of salmon and it might not be that salmon are increasing but that people are reporting them more?

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:02:06.26]
But I think I said that's just kind of an idea of... you know, it's a pretty jump, regardless of the situation

And one thing that was always true was that, you know, salmon are there, but fish, you know, fish are a really good resource and they're always around so that was one of the things that I thought was really important. It might be cyclic but fish are always there for us.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:02:30.07]
So the second thing is identification and in Barrow we heard a lot about the two different names for salmon pikalugaruk?? and amatuluk?? - Chum and Pink Salmon, but they use those names pretty freely with Silver Salmon and King Salmon. And naming is kind of a tough thing...

Unknown
[01:02:51.08]
Yeah

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:02:51.21]
- it's hard, but that's what we found in Barrow. And then in Nuiqsut, there was talk about some of the trout species ikilukpik?? and the salmon are also called that same name sometimes so naming is really difficult. And one fishermen said you know they all look the same to me, so... that's one thing we wanted to bring out - that the data need to be looked at at this scale. It might not be that important to some people to identify them down to the species, as long as they can eat them, that's the important thing.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:03:26.07]
So different ways of getting salmon are through gill nets and rod and reel, and there are some fishermen in Elson Lagoon trying to catch some stuff. People aren't necessarily going for salmon all the time, but they pretty much they get whatever they can eat and that's fine. There are different ways of processing. People eat them fresh, or they freeze them. Or dry them, smoke them also, and they can be baked boiled grilled and some people take them to the restaurant and have them make sushi for them. which sounds really good.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:03:59.23]

So this fishery in Elson Lagoon, and here's a diagram I made up of different net locations in Elson Lagoon and there can be between 20 and 30 gill nets every year. It depends on the weather and how many fish people are getting and if they have enough fish or it depends on a lot of different things but it's a really important family activity because you can just drive out there with a 4 wheeler or a truck and go check your net a couple times a day, once a day, whatever, and have a lot of fish to share with the community.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:04:31.26]
So, one thing that also came out was that cultural transmission. So salmon might not have been as important as other species like Whitefish, which, like I said I'm talking to you guys who gave me the data so it seems kind of ridiculous to me that I'm telling you what I found... but.

A couple of people said things like my girlfriend is from Nome and she taught me how to filet salmon or, I'm from Wainwright so that's how I know about what species of salmon are available. And someone else was talking about how going into the military they learned how to eat salmon and now everybody's going for salmon. Casting is more popular now that it's warming up. And so all these things are cultural transmission of these different fisheries into this area.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:05:17.17]
And so salmon can be traded for other goods, like walrus, whale, berries, different things that people might not have available, but salmon might be easily accessible to them, and there's also, we heard of people selling plates of salmon on the VHF - sounds pretty good, ten bucks a plate, get some salmon. And one thing we learned was that the... as the Fish and Game Management Committee... When we first was on the project they making sure to include in our interviews what people think about commercial fishing. Because salmon is really kind of, you know, it's really shaped a lot of the communities in different parts of the state. I'm from Bristol Bay and we have a big salmon fishery there and it's a part of our lives, and you know I call it salmon fever you know and I think salmon fever is just starting to hit the North Slope and things are going to start changing, but one thing that was really interesting was that they wanted us to see what people thought and over all people don't want commercial fisheries in this area. You know they want to just be able to catch those subsistence fish to share with their families and people in their community and that's really important for them, so that's one thing that we're definitely going to mention... as a call from the communities.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:06:31.27]
So here's Nuiqsut on a beautiful day this summer. And people talked a lot about environmental change, and length of seasons changing, and weather changes, and ice conditions changing, so the thickness might be changing for different periods. So say you went fishing in October every year and now you can't go fishing until December in some warm years that's kind of it's a really big change to your pattern you might not have fresh fish for thanksgiving if you can't go out until December so these are really big changes in people's lives.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:07:03.24]
And also the permafrost can be thinner in some areas - we heard that from a few people. In general, nothing can be predicted, that was one quote I really enjoyed. That, we'll see what happens, just look outside. If you want to predict something look out side to see if you can see for the day, was pretty much the message.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:07:23.03]
And so also erosion. We talked to a fishermen who had to move his fish camp multiple times because the bank eroded so fast - he put it a mile back, and then he had to move it again, and it's he kept having to move his ice cellar and he just gave up after moving his ice cellar three times, he just, he was telling me he's going to try to do something else.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:07:44.11]
Also water level, especially by Nuiqsut where you gotta get to the Colville by the village, and you can't get through that every time if you have a big boat so that can be a really big hindrance on fishing activities. and also dangerous conditions, high waves b/c the ice is further out, thin ice in warm conditions, and high fuel prices should also be included. Paying lots for gas is going to

limit how far you can go you might have to stay closer and that might have an impact on what's around where you usually fish and hunt so people talk about going over by Helmricks' to go fishing in Nuiqsut and maybe now they can't because it's so far away and gas is expensive. Everybody's pretty much saying the same things with regards to environment and the costs of fuel.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:08:35.22]
And so at fish camp, people generally are spending less time at fish camp, is what we heard. You know there are some families that are going out and spending a lot of time, but because of jobs, and you know in some areas there's a lot of development by your camp and you don't want to go hunting out there for a few months, if there's a drilling pad. That was really interesting.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:08:58.06]
And also people are learning about salmon fishing. This is a picture of someone who's pretty new to Barrow and he's been fishing out there since he got there, and it really helps him feed his family. And it's a really good way for him to get to know people, because they're all out fishing together and he can talk to fishermen and get to know them, be friends, you know that's a big part of living in a community is really feeling a part of it and so I think it's really interesting that he gets to be a part of the Barrow community because he can fish with them and even share fish with people. And also young people are getting involved a lot. You hear about people bringing young people out to the camp and I think fishing is really important and it doesn't really cost a lot to buy a net, you know get a cheap boat, you know anybody could do that.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:09:45.07]
And for us young people, we might not be able to get a big fancy boat, but we can get a river boat, or go somewhere on a four wheeler in a lot of instances and that's a really big deal. And so, one thing that's really interesting to me is motivation for fishing and a couple interviews with whaling captains it's their responsibility to feed their crews and their village and a lot of fishermen keep big frozen gunny sacks of fish around in their ice cellar or in their back yard and if someone comes knocking on the door they're like hey you guys got any food, oh yeah we got fish! So that's a really good way for people to share with the community. It's pretty easy to keep a sack of fish in your yard. You don't have to baby it or anything and it's pretty good food for everybody.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:10:31.20]
And then economics. One lady we talked to said that "just recently when I went back to fishing subsistence, not too long ago, I'd say about three years ago now that I went back to fishing - the price of food is just outrageous up here." And so, it really helps her feed her family and she's in Barrow so she can drive out to her fish net and her and her brother share a fish site - she has the truck and he has the net and so you know they help each other out and it's an easy way for her to feed her family now.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:11:02.02]
So in conclusion salmon catches are cyclical but people are saying their abundance is increasing and Chinook and sockeye are relatively new species and they genetically tested sockeye and they are present on the North Slope. And species identification is not inclusive in reports, and large chum are often called king. We ran into that a lot, when we were meeting people at the boat dock that are coming back from fishing -- "hey, what'd you guys get?" and they'd show us - "we got some kings" and I'm like "I wanna see em! I was really excited - I hadn't seen a king up there yet, and it was just some big chum and they were BIG chum, but...

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:11:42.09]
And so one of the most prevalent topics in the interviews were non-salmon species, which really goes to show that salmon are not that, not as important to most people but to some people they're a really important food source. And sometimes they're considered a pest if there's a whole lot of pink salmon around. You know, there could be 20K pink slmn around and you don't want to catch all those, you want to catch other species - well it depends on what your preference is but some people thought they were kind of a pest, so fishing is a really important subsistence activity especially in the face of rising gas prices... inaudible

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:12:16.14]
And I'd just like to acknowledge BOEM for their support and the North Slope Borough has played a big role in our study and helped us out a lot and other partners such as native village fo Barrow and Kuukpik Subsistence Oversight Panel, the Native Village of Nuiqsut, ADFG and also ___ Takuluk, Craig George, Josh Lincoln, Joseph Akpuk??, Eli Edward, and Jimmy __ and all of our informants, really helped us out a lot.

And also to ___ for letting us come to his __ this summer, it was really fun.

[laughter]

so - thank you. And... I think that's it - does anyone have any questions?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:12:56.28]
Any questions from anybody? No? Thank you.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:13:04.26]
Yeah

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:13:07.15]
And before we go on to our next one, I'd like to call for a ten minute break.

background

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:25:40.19]

I'd like to call this meeting back to order, thank you.

Next we have Rich. Where's Rich?

NPR-A REASEARCH UPDATE:

Assessment of Pacific Salmon Resources in Alaska's North Slope
Richard Driscoll, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fisheries Biologist

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:26:06.05]
Hi, I'm Richard Driscoll. I work for State of Alaska the Dept of Fish and Game, Fisheries Division. Been working the last few years working on a basically putting together a genetic base line for salmon from Pt Hope, east to Wainwright.

background

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:26:53.17]
Basically we're just trying to look at documenting salmon species present in the rivers between Pt Hope and Wainwright and get an idea of abundance, get a kind of subsistence harvest levels and actually determine whether juvenile salmon are actually, if the eggs are surviving as juveniles and out migrating or if these fish are just moving into new areas and dying off every year. And then establish a suite of index streams for continued monitoring over the yrs. We are looking at how these populations are continuing or growing or increasing or what have you.

long pause some background noise

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:28:00.24]
Okay, sorry. Last couple fields seasons working in Pt Hope, Pt Lay, and Wainwright, we've been trying to get local people involved in doing the sampling. Also been working with the Subsistence Division [names] _____They have a fisheries knowledge collection all through the villages. Also working with access to the subsistence harvest of those villages also. Try to get an idea of timing, how many fish are actually harvested, uses of those fish, types of gear used to catch those fish.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:29:02.12]
Doing that we want to look at getting baseline sample for genetic purposes of these fish., so we're trying to get 200 samples of each species from each river in order to produce a baseline.

Then if a fish is caught on the beach in Pt Hope or at the Kuk Lagoon you could look at that baseline and see where that fish actually going, which river system it was actually from.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:29:36.16]
And then we're also conducting aerial surveys every year to try to get distribution estimates.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:29:58.07]
___ is looking at local and traditional knowledge, and also at salmon species harvested and also salmon species harvested. Right now we're just looking at salmon but we're putting in for funding for a more broad look at all fish

inaudible...

It'll be standing on this same project. And same thing, run timing, gear types used, inaud, harvest levels, distribution of salmon spawning locations, inaud, any kind of wintering habitat, changes in salmon usage...

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:30:59.03]
This map shows a genetic baseline for chum salmon. And basically you'll notice that this area is all black, so we're trying to fill this part in, that's what we're trying to do.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:31:31.18]
This slide shows some of our sampling procedures. Generally we just need, we don't need to kill the fish, we can capture fish and just take a measurement, take a scale sample and then a small little auxiliary clip that with genetic proportion, so these fish can actually be captured and released without much harm. And any fish that we do capture we generally bring back to the community.... inaud

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:32:11.25]
And this is just an example of our '09 efforts and overall between the Colville... inaud over all you know a hundred samples for that year, so it's sort of a slow process to set up and get it going. We've got one person in Pt Hope working on sampling. We still don't have anybody in Wainwright or PL as far as doing the sampling. We're always interested, if anybody's interested in this kind of work

Inaud, baby crying, hoping to hire for the summer.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:33:11.03]
Some of our sampling inaud site down on the beach, handful of fish... inaud... nice chum we caught there at the inlet.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:33:49.09]
So to expand a little on what Bill was taking about - that waters catalog... Anytime we're finding fish in these rivers and we're finding populations of spawning fish, we're updating this catalog and that really does have a... it helps a lot as far as permitting goes if there are documented areas, they get a lot more protection than if they're not.

Unknown
[01:34:27.09]
So were these salmon tagged? were they tagged?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:34:32.09]
These aren't, these are just, we just catch them on a gill net or... carcasses that we get a lot of our samples from. They aren't tagged or anything, they're basically just subsistence caught fish.

Same Unknown
[01:34:47.07]
Were any of them, did any of them have any type of worms?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:34:50.11]
Generally we don't have to cut into the fish, so we don't generally see any of the internal parasites or anything.

Same Unknown
[01:35:01.29]
Like I've seen with the Arctic Cisco and they've got all the worms sticking on them

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:35:06.20]
Nope, we're just looking at salmon

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist [I think]
[01:35:14.08]
Inaud... parasites ... very very common... see a lot of cysts around the stomach, is that what you're talking about, on the inside?

Same Unknown
[01:35:25.11]
No, they're like worms that are sticking on the body.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:35:28.25]
.... very very common. We see them all the way from the Sag all the way over...

Same Unknown
[01:35:35.23]
But it's not a problem?

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:35:37.13]
inaudible

Same Unknown
[01:35:42.14]
Thank you.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:35:43.14]
We have heard people saying that there are quite a few worms inside, we just haven't cut into a lot of fish. We do hear people say that they see a lot more of that.

And that's part of what we're trying to document... inaud any kind of lesions or...

Same Unknown
[01:36:09.29]
Yeah, they seem to stick out, at least an inch and a half.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:36:16.06]
The ones that actually stick out of the fish? That's a parasite they pick up in the near shore and that will usually kill them.

Same Unknown
[01:36:28.01]
So is that an unhealthy fish to eat?

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:36:30.03]
Well, you're not going to get that parasite... inaud I personally wouldn't eat that fish...

inaudible

Same Unknown
[01:36:53.23]
Thank you.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:37:01.03]
Okay, so the other nominations, observations made in 2008 really expanded a lot of this area,

especially the Kuk... And then over the years I know that Bill has collected a lot of samples this year. I'm going to have a few more... inaud ...slowly building that base up, learning where the fish are, whether they are spawning or just passing through is a pretty different thing.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:37:52.08]
And then the other thing we're working on is collecting juvenile salmon and trying to get a handle on are these fish spawning, breeding, surviving - out migrating, or are they straggling and just dying.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:38:24.01]
So, in order to sort of get this basic index of streams set aside, we're looking at the species present, timing inaud...

in general this last area, aerial surveys are generally the best in terms of covering the whole area. Towers, weirs, sonar, there's other methods to do it but generally they have to have camps with people... somewhat more impact in some ways, and less impact in other ways.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:39:11.24]
And then monitoring these streams each year just to see what the changes are and see what the fluctuation... climate change, water levels, weather conditions.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:39:26.23]
So in 2008 these are the aerial surveys that were done. And if you have my handouts there - you have this. This shows generally places where fish were documented and these surveys were, you know, August 11 and 12, and then other surveys done 23rd, 24th of September, and then in that time these other surveys were done to, in the eastern part...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:40:07.26]
You said these are aerial surveys?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:40:10.06]
Yeah, they were all done with a fixed plane, in, I believe, a 180.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:40:21.21]
So these slides are showing, in 2009, that those flights we... takes a year to get the elevations data.

So in 2009, we're still showing, for pink salmon, nothing in the Kuk River and then all these green dots are just showing that fish are present. They're just there. They're not spawning, they're

not necessarily rearing, they're not doing anything else they're just there.

So in 2010 after these nominations went through, this whole area, the Kuk, K__ pink salmon, and then the red dots are showing the spawning areas, areas where we know they are actually spawning, as well as migration corridors and... going through that area.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:41:21.06]
And this is also showing for Chum salmon. Right now the main difference has been in pink salmon, that we find. We are finding a chum here and there... inaud... in some of these areas and also Coho Salmon. We only have one spot here by Pt Lay and actually found some this year on the ___ River, so this spot here.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:41:59.28]
Is there a time of year?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:42:06.21]
No, these are just over two years. The actual surveys...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:42:12.20]
Was it in like August, September

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:42:15.10]
Generally August, September. Probably mid August to mid September, somewhere in there.

Unknown
[01:42:23.06]
That's when all the fish start spawning?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:42:25.14]
Yeah

Same Unknown
[01:42:26.00]
See a lot of them up ... schools and schools of pink spawning, all dead all over

Yeah... yeah.

So the main thing with this

inaudible, baby crying

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:42:59.07]
inaud ...showing the Anadromous Waters Catalog streams... inaud... and this here, the updates

inaud

a lot of these go further up than they used to, we find fish further up the river...

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:43:35.16]
This is a little hard to read, but in general, in August of 2010, this was an aerial surveys conducted and then petitions for these surveys. A lot of times we'll have bad weather, so these ratings will change... If a poor survey finds 300 fish it really means more fish, you just couldn't see them.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:44:07.17]
Where as this year, in Sept surveys were all really good, really good conditions, so these were much better, better counts.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:44:25.18]
So that's basically my portion, that portion of the study. Are there any questions?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:44:33.29]
You were talking about expanding your surveys. Trying to find ways to provide more information about all fish in the areas. Back in March we had a North Slope science initiative in Barrow which was about a week long back in March and one of my main goals since I started as Fish and Wildlife director, was to create our own scientists and biologists, on all subsistence issues that we strive on. And that basically opened up a lot of doors as far as studies go. I'm going to have, I was supposed to have a meeting with Glen Sheehan, he's a director for BASK [Barrow Arctic Research Consortium] in Barrow and they're generating a lot of money themselves, but nobody knows who these scientists and biologists are, and what they're doing.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:46:05.02]
And that's been our big concern for a long time, because as of right now, we get more scientists and biologists through BASK than we do... And they're a lot more than the population of itself - and that's on a yearly basis. But I'd like to keep in touch with you and we'll try to get a hold of all tribal council members from all the North Slope villages and try to generate this idea of creating our own scientists and biologists so that we don't have you know whoever this person is from university that we don't even know, and which we might not even benefit from - when we could actually create our own scientists and they're the ones that could be, I mean, that's where we live. That's our lifestyle.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:47:14.08]
mostly inaudible agreement

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:47:15.22]
So I like the idea that you're willing to expand your studies vs. just focusing on salmon itself when we could be focusing on all species of fish, whether it's in the rivers or the ocean itself.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:47:36.16]
And we do hear that a lot. A lot of people are sort of walking in each other's footsteps, but not in the traditional sense. A lot of people doing the same thing at different times, so yeah that would make a lot of sense to me. Have people who are there anyway doing it... inaud... traffic.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:47:58.11]
Yeah hopefully one day, some of the people that are sitting on this panel will be one of the scientists and biologists for their village including the panel members themselves.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:48:13.25]
I don't know, yeah, for the sampling that makes a lot of sense

inaudible

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:48:34.11]
We've been dissecting these animals since we were born, including our ancestors. We take pride in our elders and the people who subsisted before us. Like Bart, and all our uncles and grandfathers and fathers, and we take pride in that, we take pride in their knowledge. And our only downfall is that traditional knowledge wasn't documented back then. And to me it hurts. I wish it was documented, that way I would have been stuck in that library every single day of my life trying to gather all the information I can but, you know, - it happens, it already happened so we have to look to what we can work with now and look to the future to benefit our people, vs., benefiting the knowledge of an oil company that's trying to strategize to get from point A to point B to get what they want. And we're only fighting for our own food, so I like the idea that you want to, you know, expand your studies and try to find ways to, you know, help the economy itself.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:50:10.12]
Yeah... baseline information...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:50:22.15]
Were you finished or do you have another part?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:50:25.07]
Well, I have another part - Brittany Rutherford did a subsistence fishery

Unknown
[01:50:30.01]
Joe?

Yeah

Unknown
[01:50:32.06]
Before you go on, you mentioned you know you want to start a local base for fish studies within the North Slope... Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope has some, I believe two, Fish and Wildlife tribal grants to do fish studies in Barrow and Nuiqsut and both of them have declined.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:51:07.13]
Well I would think that the only reason for the decline is because the scientists or biologists that wasn't going to do the studies or something like that I don't know where the project was going to be based from or who was going to study.

My main goal was to five to ten years down the line from now, if we do, or when we do, I should say, have our own scientists or biologists, you know these projects will be a lot more easy to deal with. Because not only would these sci and bio be guided by our own people but they would also gain the knowledge of today's technology by dealing with these studies, so thank you for that contribution.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:52:28.03]
And that was the North Slope Borough that declined?

Same Unknown
[01:52:30.25]
No the ICNS.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:52:33.14]
Oh, Okay.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:52:38.14]
Well anyway... yeah

Unknown
[01:52:43.03]
Where do you get your maps?

[01:52:44.49]
These? That's um,

Same Unknown
[01:52:47.01]
Where did you get them?

USGS.
USGS?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:52:51.29]
Topo maps like that are on line. Through the University of Alaska... inaudible, you can actually download them.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:53:07.26]
Is this ah three mile boundary ah the state?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:53:14.08]
Ah, it's the water, outside waters.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:53:15.19]
Yeah that that's state waters.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:53:17.22]
Yeah

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:53:17.18]
Three miles, is that three miles?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:53:19.20]
That may not...

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:53:20.29]
Or is that like a two mile... what's the state...?

Unknown
[01:53:23.07]
Three miles?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:53:25.22]
That may just be water. It's um, that map is probably from the borough.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:53:32.29]
Okay, I know that, I'm just wondering if that's just state waters and I know it's all federal waters...

some quiet discussion

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:53:49.10]
yeah those maps are actually ... most of them you can find on line. Especially the USGS inaud

Any more questions on that part?

Unknown
[01:54:23.01]
I got a question - are you going to be doing any sa... on the Colville? Or is that just the west side of the slope?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:54:36.10]
Yeah, for this project we're just going to concentrate on the west side. We need to get additional funding for the east. There is a lot of people interested...

Same Unknown
[01:54:54.23]
So, what's you guys are doing and that other guy... met him as well that I was just talking about that fish on the slope or in our area, oh that's ABR, ABR's not here. ABR's doing research on our salmon, or Cisco, right?

mostly inaudible discussion of who is fishing on the North Slope.

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:55:56.25]
If I can make a comment, the studies that are going on in the summer time are using fight nets - the big fish don't get caught in those so chinook or sockeye or chum... those fish we don't really have a good idea what's going on with those fish so this probably doesn't I don't know, correct me.. inaud... research needs are, but that might be something... inaud

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:56:20.17]
Yeah, we did that, actually ran into that trying to get subsistence caught fish. Most people have whitefish nets so you know we caught some kings but it was like something around the eyeballs

[laughter]

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:56:34.20]
We need to maybe get, supply nets to people so that they can then ---- inaud

Same Unknown
[01:56:45.29]
Thank you

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:56:49.17]
So the 2010 update of the spawning sites for pink - it's not to say they don't extend any further west, it's just we haven't seen them in the Colville and those other rivers, is that right?

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:57:01.28]
Um

Shelley Woods, UAF
[01:57:04.11]
You know that nice map that updated all the newly identified spawning areas? I'm just wondering ... inaud

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:57:17.07]
That was just Rich's work. The catalog can be effectively update anyone out there who is doing work on subsistence fish and any... it just needs to be documented that ... look at it and to say oh, it looks good and to send it through. What Rich has shown is just from your project...

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:57:43.18]
Yeah. It does actually expand east I just sort of clipped it off...

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:57:49.18]
There are additions almost every year... inaud... Wainwright ten years ago, so .... get those gaps filled... and all the projects.... development... from meetings in Barrow with game advisory boards...

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[01:58:46.25]
I guess it would be that would be the Army doing that survey on the fish at Umiat for the PCB - in the burbot? But while we're on the subject of salmon, we have thousands of salmon that are up the __ river, and when they're spawning you just see them dying in the Colville. Just my curiosity to see if that would be a good idea to put that in next years project?

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:59:14.29]
There has been a lot of interest in doing some contaminant sampling, stuff like that... inaud always want to hear about... a lot of people young and old alike, when we introduce ourselves and say we're looking at salmon, people say, oh, contaminants. I say, no we're looking at genetics.... inaud on a lot of minds.... we're out there collecting samples anyway... I know North Slope Borough is doing some work.

Unknown
[02:00:07.03]
inaudible comment, questions
as recently as just a few years ago.... inaud... we picked up some samples... for specifically... hydrocarbon... metals

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[02:00:34.09]
Where would that be collected from, I mean you guys are getting the fish from Fish Ck or Judy Ck, where would those contaminants be coming from?

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[02:00:46.25]
Well, the technology that they are using you know, they get the sample, ship it down to Miami for a lot of years and they're able to kind of grade the contamination and they can figure out if somebody spilled a can of gas there recently or if it's an old source, like an oil seep, like the one some of the ones in the upper part of the Kuk ? river. So you can tell, figure out what the source is.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[02:01:17.20]

Thank you.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[02:01:24.16]
Any questions?

Okay, well this portion is a little more my area of expertise, I guess, I've been working with Brittany for a while now Brittany is out of state, so she wanted to be here but couldn't make it, so I told her I'd go ahead and go through some of her work.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[02:01:57.26]
This is a community update we gave to Wainwright this I believe August. Seems like... inaud

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[02:02:21.04]

This has been a collaborative project from the beginning. Fisheries and Division of Subsistence, It's been funded by the state, you know capital improvements project funding. Brittany has put in for some NSF funding that's partly expanding the current work, I don't know if she's heard back from that yet - if that's going to happen or not.

Richard Driscoll, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[02:02:58.29]
But the idea is to expand upon work that’s already been done

Richard Driscoll is extremely difficult to hear.

NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Administration
Janet Davis, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:18:55.02]
Well I don't have a power-point presentation for you. In fact this is very impromptu. My name is Janet Davis. I'm the program lead for the NPR-A impact mitigation grant program and with me here today are Pauletta Horn [?] and Judy Haymaker who are also grants administrators and the way we found out about your meeting was Pauletta had read the paper on Sunday and saw that this was going on and we are always interested in ways that we can expand our knowledge base about your concerns and this to understand a little bit more about the kinds of projects that you submit for funding through this program. So I'll tell you that today is the deadline for applications to be postmarked and so I'm sure those people that are writing grant applications in your communities have done that.

There always very good about getting those applications to us timely.

And we expect that we will by the end of the week know exactly how many applications we've got. Our task then is to read those applications and make sure that you've submitted all the necessary resolutions and whatnot but we don't determine what gets funded. We convene a application selection committee - three people that are familiar with the types of concerns that are part of your life on the North Slope and living in the NPR-A

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:20:44.14]
And so they read those applications and score them and rank them and provide that list to our commissioner and then a determination is made about which project can be funded and generally you'll receive a letter indicating that the projects have been funded. The types of grants that have been funded over the years are provided in a report that our division is required to submit to the legislature within ten days after they convene.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:21:19.06]
So in January, I'm not certain what date they convene this January, it's usually around the 17th or so, or around the 27th or so.

This report will be due. We brought a few copies - it's also available on our website. Each year we put the new version of the report on the dept website and this gives a little bit of an overview of the programs and the statutes, the gov, programs it also has, the bulk of it is actually a listing of all of the grants that have been funded since the program began receiving money.

So starting in Fiscal Year 1987. Many of these projects are in regard to Subsistence studies so it's very appropriate for us to gain a better understanding of your concerns, they also can be for local gov't operations, or a police van in the communities, it can be for health assessments, just a wide variety of projects that are available.

The funding level changes, of course, because it's based on the lease sale and so some years we've had a large amount of lending available and other it has been less that what was expected. In fact some of you made me aware that last year we had anticipated about 5M and only got about 3M and so that was a difficult year for this grant program

I think the largest amount of funding that we saw available was about 28M or, 25 M in 2003. It varies a lot, and again it's not something we really know - how much we're going to be seeing because those payments for those leases... it decreases annually on those lease inaud, as you may be well aware.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:23:40.26]
So as I said what we are tasked with is administering the grants after they have been awarded. We're also tasked with preparing the application packet and distributing that and we have on occasion done application workshops where we go to Barrow and make sure that the municipal employees that are going to be completing these applications, and have knowledge and have

training in what we're looking for in the applications -- what we have seen the selection committee be most interested in seeing in the applications.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:24:18.18]
And, then once those awards are made then we are going to negotiate and write those grant agreements with the municipal entities.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:24:33.19]
The activities that are eligible to receive NPR-A grant funding are limited to 3 categories: Planning; Construction, maintenance, and operation of essential public facilities by the municipality; and Other necessary public services provided by a municipality. So a lot of the subsistence projects that we see come through Planning, or they may come through Other necessary public services that are provided by the municipality... North Slope Borough does have a Wildlife Division, so you might see some of those in there.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:25:09.12]
Examples of types of projects: resources protection, to ensure the continued viability of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources; alleviation or mitigation of adverse social or cultural impacts; health needs, as I said we've funded health assessments, we've also funded clinics emergency med facilities, that type of thing; waste disposal systems; water quality improvement systems; housing needs; recreation needs.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:25:47.06]
NPR-A may funds may not be used for the retirement of municipal debt. Usually people are happy to hear that. There are no federal regulations that prohibit the award of new grants for the same purposes as existing grants so many of the projects are ongoing we've seen projects funded for ongoing wildlife studies and that can go on year after year so you can build on the studies that you've done on one grant.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:26:22.05]
and that's kind of the duties that we do. Does anyone have any questions about the program?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:26:31.01]
So could you talk a little about where the program came from, and the monies, or proportion of lease income and what communities and governments are qualified to apply for them?

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:26:52.00]
Well in federal statute the NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Program was established. And that was, it requires that 50% of the monies received through these leases are deposited into this

impact mitigation grant funding. And the communities that are eligible actually, the way the administrative code reads is that " A municipality that can clearly demonstrate that they are adversely affected by the oil and gas exploration activities within the NPR-A and we have mostly found that those communities are eligible based on that criteria are those communities that are in the NPR-A. So that would be Atqasuk, Wainwright , Barrow, the North Slope Borough, Nuiqsut and it was determined several yrs ago, in 1987 that Anaktuvuk Pass' subsistence activities take place in the NPR-A and they would also be eligible to receive funds. It was determined that even though other municipalities, as a municipality are eligible, they would have a difficult time in showing that they are severely or adversely affected by the activities in the NPR-A.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:28:29.15]
For example, the municipality of Anchorage might have a difficult time showing that they are severely impacted by these activities, whereas Nuiqsut, who are right there on the cusp of that, those severe impacts would be relatively easy to illustrate in their grants applications.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[02:28:50.28]
Or Kaktovik, 091[?] Are they included?

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:28:55.09]
Well Kaktovik has never submitted a grant application as a municipal entity. Because of the way the statute's written they could, but past experience has indicated that they would have a difficult time demonstrating that they are legible - eligibility is to show that they are severely adversely impacted. So that is why we've not seen applications....

Any body have any other questions

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:29:31.02]
Has Anaktuvuk actually gotten grants?

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:29:35.06]
Anaktuvuk has not received grants. If you look through the book it identify all of the recipients and going back as far as I've been associated with the program since about 2005 and I've never seen an application from them. Pauletta and Judy have been involved with the program longer, have you ever...? [no audible reply]

Unknown
[02:30:04.18]
Might mention that historically because the North Slope Borough has often been the umbrella org

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:30:11.27]
Right

Unknown
[02:30:12.09]
to apply that funds that come from the impacts grants to the North Slope Borough may offset some expenses that they would have been spending for example in Kaktovik, Anaktuvuk Pass, and Pt Hope. And so event though those communities may have a difficult time competing for a grant, because the North Slope Borough gets the money, some of the money that would have gone there could be offset so therefore they benefit

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:30:41.24]
They do benefit

Unknown
[02:30:42.03]
They benefit from the grant because some of that money that would be spent in NPR-A is spent outside because it's made up for them.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:30:50.04]
Exactly. Especially those that have to do with subsistence in those outlying areas the borough does submit applications, it's part of their borough powers, much of that, the public safety and the wildlife studies. So you're right, they do benefit form those even those they don't directly submit an application.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:31:22.28]
But a tribal government wouldn't be a municipality and would not qualify.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:31:28.13]
Correct, they are not an eligible applicant. A tribal government is not. Yes?

Unknown
[02:31:33.04]
What's the limit for one of these?

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:31:38.05]
There is no limit that you need to submit with your application. You decide what your project is, and develop a budget and that is something you submit in your application. It has to be a fairly well supported budget. The review committee is pretty good and looking at those budgets and picking them apart, you know finding out where there might be some inflated costs, or things

that hadn't been considered as well. I've seen applications where they say this project appears that it would need such and such, but it's not in the budget.

So as I said the amount varies so much. There really is no cap to the amount that can be applied for. I'm not certain how many open grants we have - do you know how many?

Unknown (Pauletta or Judy)
[02:32:38.17]

For the North Slope Borough I have 18 grants, and then with the City of Barrow I have 8 grants with Wainwright I have 10 and... that's it. And with the North Slope Borough I mostly work with the wildlife department and the fire rescue department and the telecommunications and in Wainwright I do the government operations and the youth recreation program. With Barrow I also do the government operations and also do the recreation facilities.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:33:34.07]
So I think we probably have upwards of 60 active grants right now. And those go back some of them quite a ways back. Sometimes it takes quite a bit longer to complete it. In fact, I think we had a grant not too long ago, it was a wildlife study. It was on caribou migration, and they didn't migrate so they weren't able to ... isn't that...

yeah

So there was some difficulty getting the data to do the study, and so of course, we are going to extend the grant terms, so if they'll have ample time to complete those projects and get that data. I do know that the wildlife projects and subs study projects are some of the highest scoring projects that we see because the committee is able to see that they truly reflect that there is an impact that can be illustrated in the application and supported and that is the purpose of the funding is to mitigate those adverse impacts and we see that those types of projects are scored very well.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[02:35:08.14]
The caribou didn't migrate?

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:35:11.08]
I think that was, what, a couple of years ago, seems like, they didn't have things didn't happen the way they anticipated in the grant application. And so they had anticipated doing the study at this time, and of course we asked when they submit a report to indicate if there are any problems, or why this activity that they had anticipated doing and requested reimbursement for didn't take place.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[02:35:36.17]
There are several thousand of 'em by Toolik Lake.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:35:40.18]
They didn't go where they had anticipated, I think was the thing, or it was a bird, it was...

[inaud comment from other admin]

They didn't follow where they... so the activity didn't happen the way that they'd presented in the application. And they're required then to provide some explanation as to why that didn't happen, and if there were problems, and if there were things that we needed to be aware of that, the reason that they weren't requesting reimbursement that quarter. You know if you can't do a certain activity that you'd anticipated then you're not going to be submitting a request for reimbursement - you shouldn't be. You wouldn't have an y back up documentation to support that. Because we do require back up documentation, and we monitor that to make sure that they are allowable costs and that the grant activities as scored and funded thought the process are actually taking place, and not some other activity.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:36:44.21]
We want to make sure that the goals of that grant are being met.
So if it takes a little bit longer because certain activities don't happen as anticipated we need to have an explanation.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:37:01.02]
We had some projects that have taken 10 yrs long or close, so definitely if it's a five yr grant that's twice as long, so we need to know what the problem is so we can, 'cause like I said we have to submit a report to the legislature.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:37:19.19]
Plain and simple, global warming.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:37:23.15]
Well, and I think sometimes that's a valid explanation that your submit to your grants administrator that we anticipated such and such, it didn't happen and this is why we didn't get inaud - we just need to have good communication, that's the key to successful grant management is that we have good communication with the people out in the field, doing the work, and they're conveying that information, even if they're not the ones submitting the report, that they're conveying the information to those people who are submitting the report to us.

Are there any other questions?

Yes?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:38:11.16]
If you're in a small municipality and you have a small capacity to do this kind of work as far as grant writing, would your office help people put together a grant? and if not, are there non-profits or somebody else, like somebody elsewhere in the state government that has successfully dealt with more remote communities putting in grant applications.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:38:43.26]
We do a workshop every two years we go up to Barrow and do a workshop where we walk them through the actual application and the most important things that need to be in there. And we do not help them in actually filling out that application - it would be a little bit of a conflict there and we don't quite have the workforce to do that.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:39:09.09]
But you can call, usually the person who's writing the grants is fairly familiar with the grants administrators in our office, we only have four administrators that work with the NPR-A program and they are all in the Fairbanks office. Kimberly couldn't be here with us today but she also administers grants.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:39:29.25]
I think probably the smallest community we work with is Atqasuk. And each yr they submit an application, they are able to do that. The grant that they receive most frequently is for local government operations and that is an eligible activity and it's just a matter of them putting the budget together and they actually can convey quite well the impact in their community. Increased meetings is something that we've seen in their applications as to why they should have assistance with their local government operations. We know that, from the industry, do go out to all these different communities and it does take it's toll on their community facilities, and if they can demonstrate that, which they have been able to do they can receive funding for their local government operations. And like I said the amount of funding has been going down, did drastically go down this last year and so many grants did not receive the full amount of funding that they'd applied for. So budget modification was definitely had to be made. I don't believe any of the wildlife projects received funding this year. It was a priority to fund local gov't operations and that was the stance that was taken because of that reduced funding.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:41:10.06]
I really don't know that to anticipate the funding level will be this year. A few years ago we had a special funding cycle - we received $14.6M after the fact, extra, and I think there were a lot of projects that were funded that were outside of that, we never got any local government

operations applications in that round. We did see a lot of specialty projects that came through, capital projects.

Yes?

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:41:44.16]
Have you always had enough grant proposals?

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:41:46.23]
Oh yes. Yes. We always receive proposals for local government operations from Atqasuk, Wainwright, City of Barrow, and Nuiqsut. North Slope Borough does not ask for those funds but the bulk of their funds are for wildlife studies, police, fire and rescue, communications - which are really important in that, you know fire and rescue and communications because there is so much activity out there, then many times they can be the first responder and they have been able to illustrate that in the apps very well. They've gotten several grants where they are trying to improve their communications network to support the amount of activity because of the oil and gas exploration.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[02:42:49.01]
So the borough doesn't get their local office...

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:42:54.02]
The borough does not get...

most of the grants are to... inaudible [comment from one of the other admins]

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:43:00.22]
So anyway, as I said this was quite impromptu, we hadn't really anticipated.. we just anticipated visiting.

Somebody else had a question?

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting [I think]
[02:43:12.20]
Yeah, might be stupid, but... NPR-A is federal land and then the stake holders are the tribes. Well, are these funds going to the state?

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:43:27.12]
They're not, well they come to the state and the first priority is for grants, to support and mitigate the impacts, and so we do see that all of those funds that are available for grants...

I'm talking about the tribes
Well, the tribe is not an eligible applicant.
Its all federal land.
And
The people were there first. I don't understand.

Janet Davis, ADCCED

The way the program was written and the regulations that govern it have identified that municipalities are the eligible applicants. I'm not certain what the decision making behind that was, but I do believe that by providing those services that are available through the grant funds they anticipate the tribes the people that live out there that are part of the tribes out there. It goes through the municipal entity, but hopefully it is benefiting the tribes as well.

Unknown
[02:44:54.18]
I was just going to say that the law provides the funding to the state of Alaska and the borough and the municipalities are extensions of the state so therefore it stays within the state gov't frame. The tribes are not part of state government - they may be federally recognized. Now that doesn't mean that the other 50% that stays with the federal treasury may not get funneled to the BIA and others that then become grants to the tribal governments, but it terms of money that comes to the state, it stays within the state system and that means boroughs and cities - municipalities.

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:45:37.28]
Right, those political subdivisions of the state. You're right, and I don't know what happens to the other 50% that goes to the treasury

Yes

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:45:53.29]
Can a tribe by resolution, by collaborating with a municipal gov't be able to share some of the funds in the village?

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:46:07.27]
We have not, there isn't a mechanism for a cooperative agreement or a co-applicant. I'm sure you could have, you could show support through letters, but you could not be a co-applicant.

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:46:30.06]
Yeah, I mean like if the tribe went to the city, let's say Wainwright, and they want to renovate their tribal office, by resolution can they go that far.

Janet Davis
Can they use these funds to renovate a tribal facility?

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:46:54.12]
Yeah by resolution or a letter of support

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:47:00.25]
Well, it would have to be for a facility, you know public benefit. We do see in rural areas that tribal facilities, that are open.. I'm not sure. We have not seen applications like that.

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:47:24.24]
But is it possible?

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[02:47:27.26]
The city of Wainwright would have to apply for that grant. If the Wainwright tribal council wrote a letter to support them?

Janet Davis
They could write a letter to support the, but the funds, the eligible entity and responsible party would be the municipality.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[02:47:58.05]
And that building would be the municipality's building? rather than the tribal? If they were to apply for it what would they? Is there any way it could be donated to the tribe if they were to do that? Or would it have to be the City of Wainwright's building?

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:48:14.03]
Well, you know, I'd have to review that. We have other federal programs where they can be by resolution a cooperative agreement, you know a period of 20 yrs, or whatnot. It hasn't come up for us in this program - it would be something that I would have to make sure that I researched and be able to answer you in ah, more affirmative, be more sure of my answer. We haven't seen it. What we've seen is the...

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:48:46.06]
Well, it would be for the villages, they work together

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:48:49.10]

Right, they do... We understand that, Pauletta's been to Wainwright just last year. And Judy has traveled to Nuiqsut and is anticipating another trip soon. We try to get out there so we can familiarize ourselves with the people we're working with, face to face and be able to resolve concerns and provide assistance. Anybody have any other questions?

Well, thank you. We appreciated the opportunity to come to your meeting, it was interesting for us, and please feel free to call our office if you have any questions about the grant program.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:49:38.15]
Thank you.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[02:49:40.00]
Thank you.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:49:46.20]
Alright, was that it for all the presentations?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:49:53.09]
For today, I think. Let me just mention that in the NPR-A PA, NPRPA, where it talks about giving it the 50% to the state it says that they'll give the 50% of the income from sales, rentals, bonuses, and royalties on leases, 50% of it goes to the state for planning public facilities and other necessary provisions of public service but priority will be given to use by subdivisions of the state, so that would be the borough and municipalities and that carries through to the borough, I mean the state statues so when the state wrote their statutes and regulations, I think it was coming out here is that the tribes, if the tribes have ideas, they have to work with subdivisions of the state to get those ideas implemented, but any municipality that can make that case that they are directly impacted by NPR-A leasing is eligible for to apply for those grants. Right?

Janet Davis, ADCCED
[02:51:23.23]
They are. It's making the case that is difficult... inaud.

Alright

a little more inaudible discussion - matching funds...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:51:46.04]
Is that it?

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator

[02:51:46.28]
For the presentations - but if we wanted to get to community concerns today, we can do that. If people feel a little too fatigued... but that was what was on the agenda, community concerns for the end of the day.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:52:01.19]
Okay. You guys want to do those concerns and get it over with?

Yeas and yeses all around.

Community Concerns: SAP members discuss issues, concerns and questions specific to their regions
Subsistence Advisory Panel Chair, Joe Sage Presiding

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:52:13.28]
The next on the agenda, will be the SAP members discuss issues, concerns, and questions specific to their regions and we'll go down the line and go ahead and start with Ira.

Ira Ungudrak, SAP
[02:52:37.09]
My name is Ira. I'm happy to be here. I was here, I mean not last week, at the last meeting. I enjoy these presentations that are being done and I appreciate the updates and share, I'll bring it back home and share it with community members who might have wonders or something what we might need direction in some areas. I don't have any concerns or complaints, or... Our hunting grounds are the best in the slope I believe and it's always going to be that way. And currently we're possibly going to have some off-shore drilling next year, in the Wainwright area and it's going to be, I don't know, you know, time will tell. It's going to be different. We got all kinds of activity happening, with Shell and Conoco up there. They got equipment up there, they're leasing land and everything - you know pretty soon they'll be building fences with barbed wire, you know.

Ira Ungudrak, SAP
[02:54:07.23]
I don't know, some people at home are against it and some people are for it. I mean today’s age, the younger people what we depend on. Today, you know, subsistence is always going to be a strong traditional value for our people. You know, we depend on the foods in the ocean and on the land and in the rivers. And seeing these presentations of the studies that are being done kind of makes me feel safe to eat, continue eating them. I mean we haven't found anything serious, you know - that's good news, right? I'm pretty healthy, I eat a lot of Inupiaq food. Got to stay warm in the cold Arctic. I'm happy to be here and good to meet some people, see some familiar faces from the last meeting, good to listen with those other people inaud I enjoy it, thanks.

Qinugan Roddy, SAP

[02:55:38.04]
Okay. My name is Qinugan. I live in Barrow. I The only thing is we have a, my family has a cabin, it's like 25, 30 miles south of Barrow and we usually get there by boat or snow-machine and this last summer we had just a lot of traffic, just air traffic and they were just flying really low. We didn't see a lot of caribou. That kind of, um I think we maybe got one or two, we usually get a few more. But that's, you know, just something I'm concerned about.

Andrew Hopson, SAP
[02:56:27.21]
Andrew Hobson, with Naqsragmiut Tribal Council. The big concern up in Anaktuvuk right now is caribou migration. We don't know if it's industry or low flying, or just - the migration isn't coming through. I seen it get later and having to travel a lot further and further. Just really hurting for the caribou migration and it didn't come through. That's probably about all the community concerns from Anaktuvuk.

Price Leavitt, SAP
[02:57:18.20]
Price Leavitt, ICAS. This is my first SAP meeting and I'm glad to have heard all the presenters from the industry and the federal agencies. And I also thank BLM for funding our panel. I'm pretty sure it's definite that this panel will be funded by BLM to voice out and get the tribes will be integral in going forward on the North Slope. And Lon Kelly inaud when this meeting first started this morning I asked him what specific issues were going to be the topics for the day and he said just general concerns on NPR-A, right? And since this panel is based on the subsistence lifestyle that you know we depend on for our families on the North Slope I want And to mention that subsistence is protected in the NPR-A by two federal laws.

Price Leavitt, SAP
[02:58:55.03]
And one of them is under the National Petroleum Reserve Production Act, 1976 section 104B. The purpose of this law according to the panel, is any exploration within the Teshekpuk Lake area containing significant subsistence fish and wildlife values shall be conducted in a manner which will assure the maximum protection of such surface values to the extent consistent with the requirement of this act for the exploration of the reserve.

Price Leavitt, SAP
[02:59:44.22]
That is one of the federal laws, The second one is under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 Section 810. BLM is obligated to protect against impacts to subsistence resources and values that might be caused by these decisions.

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:00:18.24]
You know the different presenters had you know talked about fisheries, caribou and I guess those were primary the inaud for us we would want a minimum, I'm talking about ICAs, we would want a minimal of 5 yrs of post development monitoring of caribou and waterfowl distribution and behavior to be conferred in any area that there'll be any development on.

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:01:09.23]
There are so many issues that I can go on highlighting, like in the comments that we had made in the North Slope Borough, but I think these are the core concerns that I want to voice out and I want to thank you for, Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator pushed me to come up here and I'm glad I did.

Unknown [Peter Panik?]
[03:01:41.09]
I don't have any concerns.

Cliff Benson, SAP
[03:01:45.11]
One of my concerns is what my sister in law, you know Qinugan, had said earlier, we, our family, it's a real big family that we have, that I was married into with my wife that she has. There's like 20 something people within two families. My mother in law's sisters, they go out hunting and we go to the cabin and you know we were up there for two weeks and there wasn't much caribou around and like she said we usually catch about 10 or so within that 2 weeks time that we're up there and there was a bunch, you know, mainly two choppers that kept flying around. The private one, that green one that I believe that BLM was leased out. I went and talked with Ben N__?? to try to figure out who was doing what was going on and it was the end of July and went into the next month when that was going on and me and my brothers went out in a boat to try and catch caribou and we seen three tiktisuk??, 3 caribous that were good size that we were going to harvest to have, you know, and this green chopper came in close and low and they just flew, I guess a shorter route from what BLM / Ben told me that they have routes that are close to the shore to be closer to the shore line when they fly from Chipp River and back to Barrow they are supposed to be on the coast line - they were about 5 to 10 miles in inland from the coastline, you know, so , that really made me frustrated and mad to the point where I almost shot at the chopper. You know, because we were out there for 2 weeks you know we spend a lot of money on food and gas just to be out there to try to catch our native, you know, our subsistence food and here comes this chopper.. Just flying along and it doesn't even... you know they probably could have seen the boat and us on the ground and of course they would have seen the caribou over there and they just flew right over us and you know the caribou were gone.

Cliff Benson, SAP
[03:04:14.29]
That was a... it was a pretty poor season for us, this summer we only had caught like 4 caribous. It just, it was real hard. That's one of the biggest concerns with them flying over more inland where they should've been more out on the coast line as stated in their permits, and from what I've investigated for myself. I guess that's my biggest concern.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:04:46.20]

Where did you say your cabin is?

Cliff Benson, SAP
[03:04:49.04]
It’s ah, Nialuk. It's... I can use this map - right around here at the mouth

[place names, quiet discussion]

I could tell the choppers were coming from the Chipp area. The green one and the I can't remember the tail numbers. The green one and the blue one, that I believe is BP’s or something. A real fancy blue and white chopper they got in the hangar up there. That's one of my biggest concerns.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:05:35.19]
Thomas Napageak. I'm the current chairman of KSAP, the Kuukpik subsistence Advisory Panel, Vice President of Nuiqsut’s Whaling Captains Association, and also the City Mayor, and I guess I have a few concerns. From the south I hear traffic that's at Umiat, where all the moose are staying further south. The air traffic from Conoco Phillips - they're always over their si-, their limit on their flights, their planes and there's all this activity going on with the wildlife or, sending out extra, you know, switching out their employees on almost a daily bases and that's just the caribou, as for the fish. I think, yeah, you guys are doing a good job, getting those surveys done so we can know exactly where they're spawning and how many types of fish. The clean up at Umiat is one of my concerns because I live on the Colville River. I'm getting a lot of caribou, I've seen a lot of caribou with paralysis, and these abscesses, which is pretty scary to be seeing.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:07:19.09]
Whaling. We're always interacting with agencies that are traveling from the Beaufort and Chukchi that are diverting our bowhead whales. I've seen several hundred whales diverted by one Canadian barge back in '05, that's my first year as a whaling captain. I guess that's about it. Mainly the caribou that's stuck at Galbraith Lake right now, several thousand of them, and the bow hunters they should recognize that us Inupiat do let the first herd pass by because that's the one that all the rest of the caribou are following. They're following the first herd that passes by. That first herd doesn't go by, then they're all going to [Inu for follow??] that same way the first herd goes by. That's where the communities on the north slope suffer for their subsistence harvest.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:08:26.19]
You know, if the road to Umiat goes in, I suggest that Anaktuvuk ask to put a spur road so they can be connected to the Dalton Hwy and economics for Anaktuvuk could change. You guys could be cheaper and maybe Anaktuvuk Pass could become the hub for the north slope by having everything trucked to Anaktuvuk and transferred from there. That's just something you guys, your tribal council should look into is getting a spur road if this road to Um goes through. It's

better to be part of it than letting it pass by, you want to be a part of it so your people can go there if Umiat has a spill, you guys can respond and know what's going on in that area. That's just my point o f view I think your TC should look into that. Only if the road goes through. You know I oppose that road too. But you know all that air traffic that does go through diverts all of the moose, and what say flies through there or... No sense being in the heart of the industry and... You know I've earned my wings of being a leader to support the community subsistence wise, economically wise, it's beneficial for the majority of Anaktuvuk to get jobs. [audible exhale] Yeah, those are my concerns. Thank you.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:09:55.24]
Bart?

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[03:09:57.14]
Good afternoon my name is Bart Ahsogeak. I work for the North Slope Borough Planning Department Permitting Section. I guess my concern would be right between the North Slope Borough and the North West Borough. It's about the migration of caribou from the North coming down through the mountains, over by Noatuk. ?? And that's where our paid guides go meet up with their clients and then people talking that they're diverting the caribou the other way. So if there's anyway somebody could help - stop letting these guys be there during the migration, that would be beneficial to both the North Slope and Northwest.

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[03:11:08.25]
The other part that really... permitting is about Nuiqsut's upcoming exploration. And there's a lot coming up this time. and the working relationship between the permitting agencies... we need to make an improvement on, fast track these permits. Ever since Parnell took away that, what you call that,

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[03:12:02.27]
Coastal Management Plan

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[03:12:04.09]
coastal management... just kind of huh. all the other agencies say huh. We don't know who's going to be taking the lead. That's the way my feeling is. It keeps going on. Here comes all these oil companies, here we go, here's our chance...

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[03:12:30.07]
Now they're looking at the delta. Delta's the most important... it's just like, where all the animals are. This is the biggest river and they're going for it, so just... that's about my concerns. And I'd like to thank for Public Lands for the planning dept. and we needed our what you call these guys? I want to thank the inspectors [??] They're the one's that __ they got two __ monitors at

Prudhoe. And I think they got two in... inaud

And the other part I think, we heard all about this fish study, caribou study... What, to what point is this study. My point is if Fish and Wildlife could state that all these ice roads coming down at the delta __ tell me that they're diverting all these fish or displacement. That's one of my other concerns is that... why don't we come up with ice road... inaud so the fish can go through. The fish are moving from the delta to the east because of too much activity.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:14:26.17]
A bridge crossing would have to go across the Colville delta with Repsal. It has to be bottomed out. When one of the rigs is too big it can't ekut?? unless the entire Kuk is bottomed out and that will divert inaud.

Unknown
[03:14:42.11]
Ekut?? means cross. Cross over.

[inaud comments and laughter]

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:14:56.12]
Repsal was doing the port wells this winter and one of their rigs is too big and can't ekut. It can't cross the river unless the river is bottomed out. And right now I want to say there's 40 + nets, maybe ten of them at Nuksigat?? which is at the delta right by Helmricks and they're getting I don't know maybe a thousand fish a day, maybe more, 12-1500 fish in those 10 nets. That's just qaataq?? alone, Arctic Cisco, the kunisa?? are probably double. And there's maybe 30 nets that from Nevalet?? to Nuiqsut and it's of course it's going to be slow towards, right now at Nuiqsut, but you know the beginning of this month, starting of last month when the ice was two or three inches when they went to start putting nets out everybody was getting hundreds of them right now. So this year our Arctic Cisco is pretty good.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:16:00.19]
But it is taking forever for the snow to come up and the ice to thicken. It's only, I want to say at least 10" in the Colville, 10" to a foot, it should be at least 16 inches to two feet. And we shoulda been able to drive our new trucks home, but still can't.

[laughter]

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:16:19.13]
Who's your buddy at Conoco Phillips? the fish study guy?

Unknown
[03:16:24.03]
Larry

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:16:25.13]
No, he was, this was...this is what I just heard. inaud... it was a fish study by the guy who helps __ check his nets.

Unknown
[03:16:36.28]
That's the ABR guy

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:16:39.07]
Anyway, my buddy just got operated and he can hardly move so a local guy take care of him and this guy came along and said can I take care of him? ... 'e said okay! The first day he came back "we caught a lot of fish." We got another problem, the string broke... there goes the badge. ??

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:17:08.14]
I think that's why a local, one of the local employees say a lot of the villagers are really not into letting them help anymore. They were really, cause they're doing an awesome job, helping villagers checking their kuveruks?? and take samples and take out all those fish.

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:17:33.06]
This time of the year it's not about fish. That's always going on, it's a year round thing. So... Nuiqsut is well know for it Quaaktaq. It goes all over Alaska, the natives just love it...

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:17:49.26]
Send me 10,000 pounds to Barrow!

[laughter]

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:17:56.02]
That river is really important, just...

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:17:59.28]
Lots of fish.

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:18:01.12]
Anyway, there's a planning commission coming up to Nuiqsut on the 15th next month for Ripsaw and Pioneer, on the something project

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:18:17.11]
Yup. They don't think they can make it unless they use the pioneer road through the delta ‘cause that's bottomed out, it's four feet for maybe a couple miles out. So... They're so new to Alaska

Unknown
[03:18:36.28]
Just so you know they did pull that base tower ?? with the communications inaud... the one that was crossing...

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:18:50.11]
oh their proposed roads

Unknown
[03:18:55.02]
yeah that whole side

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:18:58.04]
so were they going to come in from that, from Nigalit?? back towards Helmricks?

Same Unknown
[03:19:04.25]
They're going to start, you know where the Rubrick Island is? [??] They're going sto start right about there on shore and take that four foot contour all the way out and around. So we're still working to get them to look at things like flows, through that road.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:19:25.16]
There's still that one main channel that's almost 6 to 8 feet, where arctic cisco...

Same Unknown
[03:19:31.14]
usually deeper even and so it's not showing up right now in the current bathymetry but it sure looks like the kind of thing it probably clears itself out each year, the channel restricts. And so that's one of the things our office is working on to try to make sure they're not... we can't, we won't, we will not ever permit that river being frozen solid to the bottom.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:19:59.27]
Yeah, If they're still going to go around, they're still going to have to block off that Nigliq channel to go across it, just to get back on land. I mean it's they it was brought up to our village and that's still a concern. If you know what's happening in December or January, there're still villagers, there still are citizens of Nuiqsut that still are fishing. So Yup the concern is that we give out fish to every community on the slope and Fairbanks and Anchorage. I just brought 50 lbs of Arctic Cisco here, everybody likes it... I just had sushi! laughing

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:20:46.01]
Alright. My name is Joe Sage, as you already know. I'm from the Native Village of Barrow and it's mind blowing just to see much activity has developed since... well basically since I was born. And I'm always talking myself I wish I was born 50 years ago instead of just recently because I would have said no a long time ago. I would have done whatever I can to stop this development, because today I'm having to deal with all this development impacting the way I eat my food. On a daily basis. And that's real hard, you know. We have to deal with all this, and that is impacting the way I feed myself, the way I feed my kids. I grew up a traditional life style with my grandparents I grew up on all the animals that we subsist on we still do it today but yet its becoming a real challenge. And for me, to be so young and finding it to be a real challenge to actually subsist on the animals that migrate to my backyard, it's it's it's sad to say that as of right now we probably can't stop it. Only because of dollar signs. Only because... Rita from Denver needs a ride to work; because of oil and gas.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:23:36.08]
It's people like that and the rest of the lower 48 or anywhere else in the world, basically the whole world because we have international marketing now here on the North Slope. And they're impacting our lives. Real lives. My kids lives. That's basically saying you know you're not going to eat caribou today because they never showed up. That's like me telling you what to eat on a daily basis. That's That's.. you can't really replace that, it's hard. And I have to deal with that every day. And my kinds are going to have to deal with that 30 yrs from now. And by that time who knows how much more traffic is actually going to be on the North Slope at that time. Is there going to be a road, we don't know. A road to where? That's another think. We already have a road to Prudhoe Bay and every single yr they have a road to Nuiqsut. There's a pipeline right now connecting from there to the original pipeline built 30 yrs ago. And they're talking about what they want or need to do to keep that oil flowing through that pipeline, only because of dollar signs that's needed for the rest of the world.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:25:48.05]
I understand the rest of the world needs oil and gas. I just wish that they could keep it to a minimum to where we can slowly go through this and slowly develop for the future. Rather than all 50 oil companies, or so whoever knows how many there is, coming all at once and bombarding the whole country. They're basically killing off my food. And that's that's a huge

impact. And that's hard to sit in this position and oversee the NPR-A and basically know that there's almost nothing we can do to stop it.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:27:23.15]
And 20 yrs from now, when my kids are adults, that grew up with me teaching them how to hunt their whole lives, it scares me to say that they might not even show up, 5 yrs from now. Only because of the amount of traffic that is going to the whole North Slope . Not just the NPR-A, I'm talking about the whole North Slope . Not only on land, but it's in the ocean too. It started just from Prudhoe bay, just like I said, and now we have this huge web of transects. Left and right, left and right; testing, testing, testing every single yr. And it basically went out already to the ocean and that's impacts on fish and impacts on marine mammals, and the impacts on caribou, everything, everything, it impacts on migratory birds, everything. Everything we subsist on is a huge impact our people 20 yrs from now.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:29:17.25]
The reason why I'm saying that is because I've been going to these meetings since I started this position and it's very very overwhelming to deal with because it's constantly us fighting for our food. I can't become a vegetarian. There's no way possible. That's like telling a vegetarian to survive in the Arctic. It can't happen, it's not going to happen. See what I'm saying? It's over whelming and I try my best every time to try to keep my emotions inside only because I worry about my kids and at the same time I have to be professional for... to what we call, huh, working together. I've herd that term for many many years, work together, work together, work together, work together. Work together on what?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:31:00.00]

Work together to develop our lifestyle like home in Barrow, just in Barrow itself? For dollar signs? It's like saying okay we have all this money coming in for economic development. But what are you going to do with the money. I, I'm going to make a personal study of how much it's going to cost one person to subsist on the animals and it is going to be documented and I guarantee you it's going to be thousands of dollars to live a subsistence lifestyle. Does that money come back to us, yeah, somewhat through our jobs. But there are so many people moving to the North Slope it's hard to keep a permanent job and a subsistence lifestyle at the same time.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:32:27.07]
Because like myself, I'm finding myself having a hard time to find time to go hunting and live the subsistence lifestyle just to keep my freezer full of muktuk, of fish, of caribou, you know those things. Just to keep my freezer full I'm finding a hard time to find the time to go and get the animals. And yet, Rita from Denver gets to go for a ride. inaud... Easily accessible, anything she wants. She gets to buy veggies and she gets to buy salt and pepper, or whatever they need, to cook whatever they want to put food on the table for their kids... inaud.... And yet, our own people sitting right here, we're fighting left and right, wherever we can, to keep exploration and

traffic to a minimum so we can feed our kids our own food. And to have this bombardment of all this traffic here on the North Slope. That's basically telling my kids, no, you can't have your way. Why? Because who knows by then they might not even show up again. What are my kids going to eat then?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:34:46.18]
See I'm trying to impact in your minds what we have to go through so that you can share to other people to other companies and hopefully you can represent and say, you know what, I don't see it happening because it's too hard to live that lifestyle. Like I said I grew up living a traditional lifestyle and it's scary to say my grandkids might not even get to see that. I can go on a 20 mile trek and you're going to see tractors, going by with their transects of seismic research just waving to say hi.

Unknown
[03:36:07.00]
A lot of them don't even wave. I've driven by a lot.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:36:12.09]
If I may, Mr Chair, that's why Nuiqsut wants that bridge is because if they ekut?? Nigliq channel and do satellite CD5,6, and 7?? that's between Nigliq and Fish Creek, we're going to have air traffic back and forth, back and forth and we're not going to be part of it. If we could... The bridge, they'll make a road to each satellite, Nuiqsut will be connected. We could have our own Alaska Clean Seas in Nuiqsut, we can expand our airport, we can become a hub for the oil industry. Nuiqsut can benefit for jobs, hunting wise, use that road, go up Fish Creek... something inu... hunting. Mainly that the air traffic. That air traffic is too much. And it's, we're going to watch and we're not going to be part of it. It's um, that's the only reason Nuiqsut, we support that bridge is cause we want to be a part of that development that's happening in our backyard. They're gonna, they want to put HDD, that's that pipeline under the bridge. And we're just going to watch them... something inu... and the pipeline's going to be right in our face, and we're not going to be able to do nothing about it.

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:37:47.00]
So it's beneficial economically and subsistence wise for our community. It will create a lot of jobs for people who live on the slope. and in Alaska, Alaskans. Yeah, I just wanted to say that.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:38:13.07]
And I talked with Lon just briefly and we're talking about the amount of traffic on the North Slope and in international waters, and and,... what my concern is the amount of traffic that's going to basically quadruple not only in the ocean, but on land as well. And we need to , as a panel, as tribal members, as subsistence users, we need to figure out the best possible ways to minimize - I can't say eliminate because it's too late. What we need to do is minimize the amount of traffic that's going to be on the ocean and on land as well., because like I said we have

so many oil companies, scientists, biologists, anybody not from there going through there on a yearly basis, and it's basically year round right now. And I like what Lon was saying is to try to minimize the amount of traffic. Make them share. Make them, the oil companies, share their knowledge. I mean yeah, it's a competition, but yet, they can share, I mean it's like these guys said earlier today, there's no oil right there. What's the point in going there anyway? It's that simple. And I know my, I know myself personally I'm going to get on Shell's case and BP's and whoever's case and say 'hey you guys need to share your knowledge. If you guys want to minimize impacts on our subsistence lifestyles, share your knowledge with the next oil companies. Inaud It's like Shell, you know they have this big lease sale in the Chukchi Sea They've already contacted... Share your information with the next oil company. Inaud...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:41:27.06]
you know, stuff like that. And that's what we can do, in the future, from now on is to just to try to just minimize the amount of traffic that we have to deal with as subsistence users. And that's what I wanted to say.

Unknown
[03:41:54.01]
Well said.

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:41:57.16]
I have a question for Thomas. When I was at Nuiqsut last summer, I saw your buried natural gas pipeline had surfaced from the

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:42:13.17]
the Kuk

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:42:14.13]
yeah the river. Will they be able to...

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:42:16.22]
it's still there

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:42:17.22]
So what about, your saying they're going to build a pipeline under the river at Nigliq River

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:42:28.14]
Yeah

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:42:29.24]
And... then is there a camp that's going to do the same...?

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:42:37.11]
That pipeline, the Nat Gas pipeline is, that... I don't know what that one - it's a pipeline, but that's not the natural gas pipeline.

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:42:47.17]
Oh, it's not? I thought...

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:42:48.19]
No, it's weird, the wells do have natural gas. ?? But it is a, it's some kind of line.

Price Leavitt, SAP
[03:42:54.06]
Yeah I thought it was ... inaud

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:42:55.20]
I thought it was in winter. It looked like they worked on it last winter, but I don't think they ever finished it. It's still sticking out a couple feet right there at Kuk, in the middle of the river. It's still three.

Unknown
[03:43:16.14]
I have a question.

Different Unknown
[03:43:19.06]
If I may I might be able to help a little bit there, you know that part where the Hutu?? came around

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:43:25.07]
Yeah, that's the one.

Same Unknown
[03:43:25.19]
And it just eroded out the transition. And so last yr what they did, the idea was to come in and cut that exposed part out and then removed it and put a new line in deeper, but what happened was that they didn't put the new line in deeper, so it's been repaired but they were not successful

removing all the old pipe yet and I think part of public works plan is to get back out there. Ah, was supposed to happen this summer and

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:43:51.18]
try to use that thing

Same Unknown
[03:43:52.20]
Correct, try to get it out again. Yeah but now it'd be a navigational thing

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:43:56.11]
Yeah you can't use that to navigate b/c the river’s so shallow, you could fall straight back into dark.

[laughter]

Same Unknown
[03:44:04.22]
It needs a gas line.

agreement

Earlier Unknown
[03:44:08.00]
No no, I'm fine, just...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:44:11.22]
Anybody else?

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:44:16.05]
Before we adjourn, I'd like to say thank you all for inviting me. I'm not going to be able to attend tomorrow morning. I have a family emergency. So, again thank you for inviting me. This is my first BLM Subsistence Advisory Panel and I definitely will be attending more.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:44:35.22]
Alright, thank you. Thank you guys for showing up. Thank you for all your information it's very much needed and we're going to need more. You know we need to know everything that's going on. Inaud... our backyard. Inaud and representing inaud..

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:45:03.15]
If there's no other business Mr. Chair, I'd like to make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:45:06.06]
There is a motion to adjourn the meeting all in favor say aye.

Ayes all around

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:45:10.28]
All opposed same sign

Thomas Napageak, Jr.
[03:45:13.00]
inaud

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:45:14.14]
Okay. Have a good evening and I'll see you guys tomorrow morning.

[background]

Wednesday, November 16, 2011 ~ 10:15 AM

Subsistence Advisory Panel Chair, Joe Sage Presiding

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:00:00.26]
Good Morning. I'd like to call this meeting to order. It is about 10:15 and before we get started I'm going to ask Ira to do our invocation this morning.

Ira Ungudrak, SAP
[00:00:14.03]
Good morning everybody. I pray for forgiveness everyday, so here goes. Heavenly Father I ask for forgiveness for my sins. I pray for the staff members here and the SAP committee and ... inaud ... in Jesus' name, Amen

All: Amen

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:01:22.22]
First on the agenda we've got Melissa.

Foothills West: Update on the Road to Umiat Project
Melissa Riordan; US Army Corps of Engineers

more information: http://www.foothillswesteis.com

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:01:28.15]
Should I start?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:01:30.20]
Yeah, go ahead and introduce yourself. Some of us might not know you.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:01:36.07]
Yeah, I think a lot of people don't know me. My name is Melissa Riordan and I'm with the Army Corps of Eng, with the regulatory division and I was invited by Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator. She called last week to say there was a request to talk about the Foothills Transportation Access project and I'm assuming because there are a lot of subsistence issue concerns with this particular project and this is a SAP meeting.... So I'm... thank you for inviting me. I don't really know what you guys want to hear. I put together kind of a quick presentation of where we are and some of the results for the scoping and I just thought I'd explain a little bit about my self, and introduce myself and I don't know to start of if you have some ideas or suggestions or questions you want to hear. I'm certainly willing to, you know, answer any questions.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:02:35.12]
We'd first like to know what the plan is for this exploring and from there we always come up with ideas about whether it's going to have a major impact or not on our subsistence lifestyle so...

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:02:58.11]
Right. Okay, well let me explain a little about who I am, what I represent, and explain some of the players that are involved and then talk about where we are in the project and you can certainly ask questions as we go along. My presentation isn't that long and I put it together kind of quickly, so... we'll just leave it at that.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:03:24.21]
So, my name is Melissa Riorden and I am a project manager for the regulatory division which does permitting for wetlands and waterways. And, what does that have to do with this project, this is a project about a road from the, that's being proposed by the DOT from the Dalton Hwy to Umiat, that's how people look at it pretty much. And because the whole area is almost all wetlands and there are major water crossings for this proposed action, we are the lead federal agency. Well, what does that mean? I'm just going to go..

I put this map up of the project. You know, so this is what I'm talking about. This is the Dalton Hwy, coming up here to Galbraith Lake. This is the Ekiluc?? River, and then it's crossing all four rivers and coming over to Umiat here. This is Anaktuvuk Pass, and what's interesting about this map is land ownership is part of the issues. Here you've got, this is a lot of state land here, this is all state land, this is grey 'cause we kind of consider this project area. And this is over here, the NPR-A / BLM land, this is all BLM land here. This is Arctic Slope Regional Corporation land.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:04:57.05]
You know, so land issues are a major about who's going to be involved with a project and so, there's the applicant who's proposing the road: the Department of Transportation. I am not the Department of Transportation. I am not, or my agency is not proposing this road. However, because this whole area is almost all wetlands and there are a lot of rivers they said we have the greatest jurisdiction, therefore you're going to go and do the EIS, the Environmental Impact Statement, for this project, which is of the NEPA law [National Environmental Protection Act]. So we are initiating this. If an applicant is proposing a major action and then we're going to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with that impact. So we are the lead fed agents because we have the largest jurisdiction of all this area - most of it's wet, as I said, and EPA [US Environmental Protection Agency] used to do this kind of thing, they used to have another part of the Clean Water Act, just to confuse things. But they no longer do that anymore, so the Corps of Engineers is now becoming the lead federal agency for big environmental, a lot of the larger projects that are going on in the state, and that's just recently.

Did you have a question?

Unknown
[00:06:15.21]
I was just trying to compare what your roles would be in NPR-A in you Record Of Decision in your EIS. If it was our action, our Record Of Decision would probably be whether or not to build the road. But I'm assuming that your Record Of Decision is whether or not to grant the permit for the wetland fill, or?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:06:36.26]
Well there's the LEDPA and also you know the No action alternative that is still a part of the process. But also the Least Environmental Damaging [Practicable] Alternative is part of our regulations that we look at. And we can either deny that permit, modify it, or, ah, and look for, by modifying, modify what's being proposed - to be able to find that least environmentally damaging alternative.

Unknown
[00:07:09.20]
I guess my point was the decision to build the road or not, assuming you permit it, is still up to the applicant

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:07:18.14]
To build?

Same Unknown
[00:07:20.20]
Whether or not to actually build the road.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:07:23.00]
Yes, we don't ... we just issue the permit and it's up to the applicant, the State of Alaska, the Department of Trans to actually build it. We aren't building the road, we're not designing the road, we're not proposing the action itself. We're just issuing a permit that would allow them to do that if that's what they decided to do.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:07:46.00]
But you brought up the LEDPA so, that means that you are going to make a determination in the Record Of Decision about looking at a number of alternatives, what is the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative, right? and you have no choice but to take to take that route.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:08:10.15]
That's correct, it is. That is absolutely correct. You know where NEPA is more of a procedural law, the actual issuance of an Army Corps permit, you can actually deny a permit.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:08:24.28]
Well you would have to, is that correct? You would have to deny it if it's not the LEDPA?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:08:31.00]
That's right.

Unknown
[00:08:32.23]
What does LEDPA stand for?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:08:35.14]
The Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative. It's a mouthful, don't you love it? [laughter]

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:08:44.03]
Anyways, um, so the other reason, so we, so trying to explain what our role is, as I'm representing the Army Corps of Engineers and then the land owners which we also then asked people on, for a NEPA document, or an Environmental Impact Statement, who would be the cooperating agencies. And we ask agencies that have jurisdiction that also have a expertise so when the State of AK came to us with this proposed action we then sent invitations out to all the federal agencies, as well as the North Slope Borough and even some of the tribal agencies have asked if they wanted to be cooperating, which they can, they have not said that they would and we've invited North Slope Borough as well.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:09:37.04]
So the people that have signed on and agreed to be cooperating agencies are BLM, and BLM has land here like the first 8 miles of this proposed action is BLM land and so they have jurisdiction there and the other cooperating agency on this project is DNR, the Dept of Natural Resources, and they're with the State of Alaska. And as you can see, most of this land is State of Alaska land. And um they also have a lot of expertise. So there's a lot of permits that they would be issuing if this road was, if it was permitted, and so they're involved and also they have a lot of expertise as well. And it's a bit confusing because you have the Dept of Natural Resources which is cooperating and you also have the Dept of Transportation which is the applicant and they both are, um, represent the State of Alaska.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:10:35.18]
So, um, you know I don't know if you guys have any questions, but it's different. So we've got the Dept of Transportation, they're proposing this project. And those, and so, and we are not proposing to build this project, we are just reviewing the environmental impacts associated with their proposal.

Unknown
[00:10:56.12]
Do you have to review each of the alternate routes that they have conceived of?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:11:01.26]
Yes, and I did put some things about alternatives in my presentation So we will be talking about that. Yeah?

Unknown
[00:11:12.06]
That's my question, what are the proposed routes, and then what's the time frame?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:11:19.19]
Right. Yeah, so I'm going to talk about time frame, and there are some routes that we brought up

in scoping and then there are additional routes that came out in the public scoping comments that we are going to be considering in the EIS

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:11:38.17]
Can the Corps permits put restri- ah, conditions on the use of a road, like seasons of use or putting, ah, trying to consolidate traffic so it doesn't happen that certain times of year or goes in convoys instead of in dribs and drabs.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:12:04.03]
You mean, you're talking about management alternatives?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:12:06.22]
I'm talking about, yeah, the use of the - so you build the road and one of the impacts is that people are going to drive on the road, and you could mitigate some of those impacts perhaps, by putting guidelines on how that driving on the road occurs. Is that doable?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:12:26.08]
That's a very good question and I would say that did come out of the scoping and I have it in my mind as a management alternative and the problem is is that we're not land owners, you know, as far as writing it, and that's, I, you know it's something that we're going to consider - you know what are our options? What kinds of controls do we have to be able to do that? And you know, and what I can say at this point is I don't know, to your question, and that it certainly needs to be looked at as possible mitigation options where people who do have jurisdiction - the state or the North Slope Borough, has jurisdiction to be able to manage how traffic is able to go on this road. Right now it's proposed as a public access road. And everybody knows, I mean the state has... and I think it's right that they should say it. It's it's this is... Here, I'm going to go on to what this project is about.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:13:41.21]
But you know this is a project to develop oil and gas resources, they want to facilitate the development of oil and gas resources so in a lot of ways you go, well, why isn't industry building this road, why can't we close this road, it's industrial and the state said we might be doing a partnership of having public funds involved therefore it would be open to the public, and then there are all these issues associated with opening access to the public, And so, I guess getting to your point, as far as controlling access.. You can look at the example of the Dalton Hwy, where it was originally proposed, as I understand it was going to be a closed industrial road and it was opened and people on the North Slope are still upset that the Dalton Hwy was open to the public.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:14:39.08]
So at least they came forward and said that we're going to say that the possibility that this might

be a public access and be able to evaluate those impacts, So we are certainly going to evaluate the impacts of this being, having public access.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:14:57.06]
So if the Corps hasn't made a decision on whether or not they could... because the use of the road is an impact... it's at least a cumulative impact, of the issuance of the permit and what I heard you say, I think, is that the Corps hasn't determined yet whether they can, has mitigation in the Corps permit and they can't, they haven't determined whether they can require as a condition of that permit some kind of management activity or management action on the road.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:15:39.29]
And that this is will be evaluated and right now we're starting to do the draft EIS our environmental document and we're starting to put, to bring in the information about what are our mitigation options. Can there be control methods put out. Is that a management alternative that can be, is reasonable and feasible for us to consider. Yeah?

Unknown
[00:16:09.11]
Pubic access to the trans corridor is one thing. I can't see your land ownership map from here but but it seems to me that the owners of the land surrounding that corridor might be able to have some input in terms of access off that narrow corridor. For example, is there not ASRC land very close to that corridor, who may not be able to have some restrictive authority in terms of activities that are occurring off the public access corridor that are available for people who use that corridor.

Now, yeah, you're talking more about the... This is the ASRC at this end, and BLM at this end, and then you've got state having a majority of it. You know, I think all these land owners have, there's a possibility, can they put management controls, you know, is that something that's going to come forward out of this process?

Unknown (Nq City Admin??)
[00:17:17.10]
Well, not so much controls over the trans corridor itself, but they do have authority over access to the land off the corridor. And then one of the concerns in our community is that you'll have all this general public up there putting hunting pressure on land. How do you control that? We're dealing with the ASRC land, they can control that.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:17:41.13]
'Cause there's a trespass issue, right?

Unknown
[00:17:43.05]
Exactly. So there's one thing making it a public transportation corridor, but then the access off

that corridor to the surrounding land is something that might be managed much more effectively than access to the road itself.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:17:58.23]
I see, at least in that area where Arctic Slope owns where the corridor is proposed right now.

Different Unknown
[00:18:08.29]
So, while I would expect through the public scoping and comment period that there are going to be a lot of requests and concerns about mitigation that needs to be applied. I guess I would expect that there would be an alternative that would you know depict what this mitigation is that you know many of the cooperators might agree is necessary. And I... would you?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:18:38.14]
Yes, I agree you know that for each of the issues, you'll see some of the issues that came out of the scoping - we're going to have to come up with mitigation measures. And that will be presented in the EIS.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:19:00.01]
So anyway... This is a lot of information, you can't see it very well, I can tell. This, this has to do with what is the purpose of the project, what does the state want to do, where are the resources that they're trying to get to. They The, This is the Umiat oil field, this is the Gubik, these are like, known reserves, so the state has said they want to support the development of oil and gas resources in this area, that this is an gas and oil rich, it's actually primarily a gas rich resource area. The only known oil in the area is in Umiat that I'm aware of and they say that they want to cross, these are kind of like these, um, geologic formations that formed here and there's pockets of gas that are aligned here, and these things here are lease sales, and so they want to, you know they feel like a lot of this isn't being developed because of limited access, and the cost of doing ice roads, and the remoteness of these resources. So this is, you know, they're trying to get off and develop these areas along here and then there's the Umiat airport. And the other things that's on here is this Foothills Province area we spent a long time going, they said they want to promote oil and gas development and we're like where? For what?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:20:41.19]
They said, then they finally got 'em to say the Foothills province area its actually a geologic formation area that they describe and they say this, these, this is the area we want to target and this is, and we want to do it west of the Dalton and we want to target these lease sale areas. So it took us a while to say okay well what are you guys going after?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:21:08.08]
And then are there alternatives to get there? Different ways that you could still meet your

purposes of your project. So I just put that up there to give you some orientation. And it's the Foothills Province, I'd never heard of that before.

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[00:21:27.22]
I had a question about the lease sales. The lease sales are the red boxes up there, right?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:21:33.15]
yeah

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[00:21:33.19]
and I don't see a whole lot of color, like any strips indicating there might be something there to go after, underneath the lease sale areas.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:21:47.08]
What do you mean go after?

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[00:21:48.24]
I guess I'm just wondering, they want to go to the lease sale areas, but it doesn't look like actually where the lease sales are there is anything to get, it's all farther to the left or to the right.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:22:02.00]
Well I guess the, those are active lease sale areas and based on speculation and geology and so they've gone and the have these active lease sale areas as I understand it, and so what they're going after, the concept is that there's something here, maybe there's pockets of gas in here, and then there's some other pockets of gas which almost correlate to these lines

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[00:22:28.15]
Okay, so it's a best guess.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:22:31.21]
Oh, yeah, this is. It's speculative. You know I think the oil and gas industry is speculative. And you know what they know about the geology today and then people go out and try to get those lease sales where they think there's a high probability of you know potential, these are potential resource areas. And these are more known, 'cause I guess they've done, they actually have drill log data and stuff.

Unknown
[00:22:57.22]
I've heard that there may be language in the upcoming EIS for all of NPR-A regarding the potential corridor connecting the Northwest NPR-A all the way to Umiat for a right of way for a remote pipeline that may facilitate the Chukchi Offshore oil?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:23:17.14]
Yeah

Same Unknown
[00:23:17.29]
So, when we look a this and we see this picture here in front of us, are we missing a bigger piece that might eventually connect this all the way to the Chukchi Sea and to an oil pipeline that would meet at Umiat and then go down the TAPS?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:23:34.02]
We're going to look at that as a reasonably foreseeable action. I mean, it's an unknown. The Chukchi Sea's potential out there, there's a lot of unknowns right now - aren't they in exploration development? I mean, I think you guys know a lot more than I do. But there is a potential line - if you go through Wainwright through Umiat and on to the Dalton, you're at TAPS and that's potentially a very large oil resource so we are going to be discussing that in the EIS as a reasonably foreseeable action.

Unknown
[00:24:07.17]
Is it in the Corps' authority to say we want more than speculation before we decide to approve this, that we want to know there's a meaningful resource there? - and we're going to wait until we find out there's something there worth doing before we say yes?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:24:25.29]
I think it's that's a difficult one to answer. I, because at one level it's the resources at the sea... it's almost like, someone was explaining it to me like, if somebody wants to put a subdivision in, they'll put a road, and they want, they own this land and then they want to develop it and then they want to put housing lots around it to sell. That's kind of, you could almost look at it that way. and that this is speculative. I mean, I think that it's true this is a gas resource area, so it is a question - what there's no gas line. But, um...

Same Unknown
[00:25:13.03]
It's that... There are other analogies though, I mean you don't have to say yeah, because these are public entities this isn't somebody going to build a subdivision, this is a public entity and another public entity. Can you say "no, it just doesn't make sense?"

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:25:28.01]
One of these alternatives... inaud... maybe we don't maybe we just develop Umiat airstrip area and then just put some spur roads off of that, just these known resources, and we wait on this big project.

Same Unknown
[00:25:42.20]
And can your LEDPA... can you make a LEDPA recommendation that that is the best way to go?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:25:50.01]
I can't answer that at this time. I just, in that, it has to be really thought out, it's not, 'cause then you have a prediscisional, really, cause it's a, it's complicated. So I would just say that's part of the process of our evaluating it.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:26:12.05]
So how soon do you think you'll be making a decision?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:26:17.00]
Well, we're way off schedule already, so....

[laughter]

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:26:22.19]
In that, so this set a very aggressive time schedule to get the draft environmental document which is a lot of work, out next summer, approximately and we haven't even started it because of a variety of issues with getting information and doing contracts with the, we have somebody who's writing the EIS for us, they're called AECOM?? And, 'cause it just takes a lot of people to put all this information together.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:26:54.28]
And, anyway, so we're already several months behind, so the, I think that the original time schedule, if you were to look on the web page was, 2013 for the ROD, you know approximately two yrs from now - and it’s at least 2 1/2 yrs from now, that we would get to a decision.

Unknown
[00:27:20.27]
Does it need more capital appropriations to finish off the draft EIS or is that money basically in the bank already from the $8M that was appropriated last year?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:27:31.02]
It's my understanding that DOT has the money to do that, 'cause you remember that going on earlier this summer?

Same Unknown
[00:27:39.06]
Yeah.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:27:39.21]
Right.

Same Unknown
[00:27:40.09]
Well, 'cause they gave it $8M and my understanding was that was enough to complete the entire EIS, not just the draft EIS, but I thought it was enough money to finish up.... inaud

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:27:50.09]
And it's not about, it's not the money issue, it just has to do with contracts. The, who's doing what and negotiations back and forth.

Same Unknown
[00:27:58.19]
And then, do you know when the scoping report is out yet?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:28:00.19]
Well, I'm going to show you some draft, it's not out yet, but I am going to show you some results from scoping, that we got out of scoping. I think you'll be interested. So the answers no, it's not finalized. As a matter of fact...

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:28:16.13]
I can hand some of these out... This is, we haven't gotten to this, but just hand it out.. I only brought 15. Why don't you guys...

Unknown
[00:28:22.12]
Should give it to the SAP members first.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:28:24.00]
Yeah, let's do that, that's much better.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:28:50.05]
Anyway, this is the alternatives we went out with during scoping, I think some of you were participating in this. And this, so this was a remember I showed you that project area in the Foothills Province area and these were corridors, this is Pump St 2, kind of more of a direct route, here. And then there's to Pump St 3, here, and then what was actually proposed by DOT. And that's what we went at scoping with, and... So we were looking at some other, and seeing if there's less, so if we got something out of scoping that said they supported another alternative for whatever reasons maybe we'd have less impact to wetlands or major water crossings or would it have differences on subsistence, you know what comes out of the process. So we put some possible alternatives out there during scoping.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:29:58.15]
Okay, so we went out to scoping and this is where we are in the process here. We went to scoping and we're going to put a scoping report out which you guys were asking about. And it's going to consolidate... and what I just sent out to you was kind of some, a breakdown of, there's 1683 individual comments received on the project and then it kind of just breaks down what are some of the major issues that came out of scoping.. And this will be a public document. We broke all the comments out, and you can see how we brought, broke the comments out and it's going to be very transparent in that way, and then all of the comments that we receive will be available for public viewing.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:30:54.22]
And I guess, you know, this is the dra... this is, there, this is just a major milestone to get this done you know we're talking about this and looking at alternatives looking at what are the resources out there and what are the environmental consequences.

[quietly] Keep going backwards. I really want to get this right. Scoping Results.

Okay Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:31:22.09]
Okay so then we broke it down into percentage of what were the major issues that we, ah, received, you know the most in terms of numbers. And you know, I thought it was interesting since this is a SAP committee, that of the nine major issues that were identified, six of them are related to subsistence issues. So I just thought a lot of the presentation is about how that relates to subsistence issues and to kind of break them down. I basically in this, um, I just printed out, this is a draft -- you'll see like chapters and chapter numbers and figures don't match up - please ignore that; it's a draft thing. But the you'll see more of a break down for what some of the major headings are and how we describe them and that's pretty much what I have here. And then I'll go through each one of these and I think that economy and cost benefits, oil and gas and mineral resources, and water resources including rivers and wetlands were the three that I considered weren't necessarily related to subsistence. Of course, water resources and rivers and fishing is all very important to subsistence resources ultimately.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:32:50.12]
So for biological resources the comments that we categorized as biological resources half of those comments were regarding caribou and commenters were concerned that the project would alter caribou migrations and use areas and to the detriment of caribou. So this is obviously a major concern that the public has and will be addressed in the EIS.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:33:21.13]
Land use and management, I think we've been talking about this already in some of the comments - the concern about opening the road to the public and impacting subsistence harvest and hunter competition. You know this is, it's a very different, as far as the potential cumulative impacts with it being a public access road, we're well aware of that.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:33:48.01]
I would think that in reality wording that statement right there differently and more real would be the right way to do this. I mean it's just saying that comments were concerned about opening the road to public and impacts to subsistence harvest and hunter competition. The reality is there were more concerns about cutting off a food source, for survival. And the lifestyle. And, and tradition. Because Anaktuvuk Pass it's it's they never moved there over a hundred yrs ago, just to move there. It's because that's where the caribou pass

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:35:02.27]
Yeah, um

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:35:06.10]
And for this road or any development towards Umiat would basically cut that off. Not only food source for Anaktuvuk Pass, and their hardship for trying to survive the winters, you're talking about the food source for the rest of the North Slope .

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:35:33.28]
I...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:35:34.06]
And on top of that you have your crossing rivers, or what, I see four of them, I think. But that's fish for people that live in Nuiqsut. You know they go, fish go up that far to spawn, and that 's a food source. And, and to see that actual statement right there I don't think that'd be even close to what we're really dealing with, the reality of it.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:36:19.11]
Yeah, and I, I um I agree, I think it's a, you'll see on the other ones, it's how we split it up. You know, um, you'll see it's the social cultural and human health impacts, that's what we call it so we broke up what you're saying about you know you're affecting food source, it's your culture, other communities so it's having major impacts in the community on their health and their culture. Things like that and in the next couple of slides I think some of that's captured. I mean, these are just little snippets, it doesn't do it justice, but we've broken it up in, we just break it up into all these categories, and so what you're saying is all very true and all very related and I think that that's why you know there's nine, six of these categories all re... all have to do with subsistence, so human health impacts social and economic impacts there're there, what you're saying, it's just we break them out into all these different subjects. And it's just a I guess it's... just the nature of the beast of us breaking things up into subjects. [laughter]

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:37:45.06]
That's, you know, you can break it down to categories and whatever you want, to basically find an alternative. To me, to us, to the people of Anaktuvuk Pass, there is no alternative. You're basically cutting a lifestyle off. That's who they are, especially Anaktuvuk Pass. That's their main food source. That's just like us on the coast line, our main, one of our main food sources is the bowhead whale and we're going to do whatever we can to keep that going.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:38:39.28]
okay

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:38:42.08]
And, and to have development you know exploring the Arctic Ocean, that's the same situation, you're cutting off our food sources, they're cutting off who we are. And, and yet, everybody that's dealing with these oil companies and explorations all they see is dollar signs. All they see is economic development for their own good. They don't look at, 'oh... well, it seems like Anaktuvuk is slowly dying off, I wonder why...'

And and for you to have the control of that decision. I want you guys to think about the lifestyles that we thrive on every single year, and take that to heart.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:39:59.20]
This is, it is very serious.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:40:02.08]
and we're not only talking about our selves, but about Andrew's kids, and his grandkids, if he gets so older. They they, like I said yesterday. We can't be vegetarians. And to see this road, and natural pressure from not only the state but the rest of the world. To go ahead and try and do

this. It's a scary thought of what's going to happen 20 years down the line. Like I said yesterday, Prudhoe Bay started as just a little speck of area, where they found oil, and it generated, of course, you know, I guess you could say rural economic development for the whole North Slope but the plan was to just do Prudhoe Bay, and it spiderwebbed left and right, and now you're crossing the Village of Nuiqsut. And this is just another one that you guys might want to start just at Umiat, but 20 yrs down the line they're going to want to go like this...

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:41:45.01]
If the resources is there, yeah. I mean, I think that they say that they want to promote the development in NPR-A, which is from Umiat.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:41:56.03]
And what I see you know at Umat the development there, they're basically cutting off the livelihoods of Anaktuvuk Pass, the tradition... the migration.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:42:19.04]
right.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:42:19.11]
That's I mean to have that decision, you know. Just because of pressure from the state and the pressure to look forward to what's there and what it can you know develop, you're always going to have that pressure because that's the rest of the world. You need to find more oil, you need to find more resources, you need to do this you need to do everything to keep that oil pumping through that pipeline and what they don't see is the lives of over a hundred yrs of tradition and knowledge and cutting that off. So, for this road to happen, that's exactly what's going to happen. They're going to shut down Anaktuvuk Pass and the lives of that village.

You can talk all the money you want but money can't replace who they are. And that that that's the impact. It's not impacts on subsistence, it's THE impact.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:44:09.09]
Well, I take what you seri- we are going to take very seriously what you're talking about. And I think that we will try to make a fair and balanced decision. I mean, we understand that, it's very apparent that this is you know the major issue on this project, I'm not going to... so there's some alternatives that we're considering that came out of public scoping that maybe would help, like we were talking about some management issues, maybe controlling access, you know these are some of the things we'll be considering. And also the no action, too. I don't want to take that off the table either, and what you're saying is very true, and I think it will be reflected in the document. that we produce. So, you know I take your words to heart and it is a serious situation.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:45:14.28]
And with all the presentations from you know the companies involved in this whole situation, even the state and fed governments, they, they, all they do is look at whatever they need to do to get there. There's no 'oh wait a minute, let's talk to Anaktuvuk Pass to see if they're okay with this.'

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:46:02.01]
I think the state, when they first came to us they were aware that subsistence was a major issues. I don't know what efforts they will take to, or what efforts they can, you know, I'm not quite sure how that will unfold with the state and if they can do something - they are major land holders here and also the applicant. we'll see what unfolds with that. But I think they are aware but how much and to what degree and how that will unfold I think, I, I can't answer that right now but I think that voicing your concerns and continuing to say that it's important does make a difference, so. And you know perhaps the SAP you can be more involved in the process. I mean that's one of my questions here. Is like well, how can we bring... I've never been to a SAP meeting before you know, subsistence is a new issue to me, I have a lot to learn and what can we do to invite some participation so that maybe there can be better outcomes.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:47:25.24]
So I you know, that's

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:47:30.25]
I would, well, since you're bringing that up - on not really knowing the impacts of livelihoods - I would invite a great number of subsistence users that survive off of caribou that go through Anaktuvuk Pass. I would go to the village of Anaktuvuk Pass numerous times, get to know who they are. Get to know what the tradition behind Anaktuvuk Pass is, and still is today. What food sources that they use. That go through Anaktuvuk Pass. And like I said, they didn't... Anaktuvuk Pass was, they moved there over a hundred yrs ago, I don't know exactly when they moved there, but they moved there for a reason - because there's a food source.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:48:57.29]
And it never fails. It's a migration route, just like the bowhead whale. They have their yearly migration routes, and through traditional knowledge we know exactly where they're going to be at what time of yr. But for Anaktuvuk Pass according to what I've heard, that's changing, because of the amount of traffic going through the whole North Slope basically. You have your trophy hunters, trophy bow hunters. Our tradition is to let the first herd of caribou pass. Let them go first, cause they lead the way. But trophy hunters, they don't see the impacts of actually shooting that first bull because it's the leader. And what's going to happen if the caribou start to go through, and all they see is a big wall of traffic, a road,

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:50:41.06]
hunters

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:50:41.27]
noise. All because of oil . What's going to happen to the caribou then. Just that simple fact that there's traffic in the area, they're looking at the rest of the year, the whole next year of hardship trying to find caribou, trying to find a food source.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:51:21.05]
Yeah, I, I um, I hear what you're saying and this is a serious issue and we're going to try to articulate that as best we can and to find ways or look at alternatives and evaluate it and come up with a decision. I could say, you know, go through this that a lot of what we've, that there's a lot of recognition about what you're saying and that the we're going to have to address this.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:51:59.06]
Is there an alternative for replacing over a hundred yrs of tradition?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:52:08.05]
Well, I mean, that, that's not

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:52:10.23]
That's not possible.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:52:12.23]
Right.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:52:14.06]
You guys need to think about stuff like that when you have the power to say yes or no. Look into the hearts of these people look into their eyes, you can see the hurt, the pain, it's a scary thing. It's not good. It's like telling them and their kids thy might not be able to survive fifty years down the line. And that what a lot of these companies are missing. They didn't want to see the faces of Anaktuvuk Pass, the faces of Nuiqsut, I've heard in all these meetings and since I started going to these meetings you know just following my mom and dad or my uncles, my grandpa... all I've ever heard is we need to work together.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:53:41.16]
And I've always been confused by that. Because working together means ‘yeah, okay, go ahead let's do this.’ You might... They might benefit from this. Benefit what? Nobody knows but dollar signs.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:54:13.05]
Yeah, I mean at this, ah, the way it's proposed right now right now, I don't see many benefits for Anaktuvuk Pass.

Andrew Hopson, AKP (Naqsraġmiut Tribal Council)
[00:54:21.10]
Look at it this way, if I were to come in to your work place, you probably like your job and do it very well, day to day, got your routines and if I were like the big brother of your company and start pushing you around, take all your electronics away and you wouldn't be able to do your job very well, right? You'd be suffering without the, your computers and electronics and every thing you save in computers nowadays. And this time, during this time we depend so much on electronics, I don't know you wouldn't be able to do your job very well and you'd be frustrated and blowing smoke out your ears, and building this road to Umiat would be like taking everything, caribou, fish, moose, sheep, taking it away from us and we're a small community, like 350 people or so and there's not much jobs, we have to, we're paying $8.50 per gallon of gas and our migration hasn't come through, they're coming in later and later. We're having to travel further and further and further, and having this road going through to Umiat would be taking everything that I need to survive, and my kids and their kids, and that’s, it's not replaceable you know what I mean.

Andrew Hopson, AKP (Naqsraġmiut Tribal Council)
[00:56:13.18]
It just kill us all off by, hurt us 'cause we depend so much on subsistence b/c we're such a small community. Like Joe was saying we didn't settle there just 'cause it looked like a good place to settle. We're nomadic people. We followed the migration and the history of that place is known for the caribou and the migration and we didn't just move there just to move there, 'oh everything looks good maybe we'll move here.' No, we moved there because we depend on the caribou it's our lifestyle, and that would just be really hard. Like we know that the road to Umiat is all about money, the exploration, getting that money, and the state they, you gotta come to Anaktuvuk, you have to literally live it. If you want to... if you came into my village and lived there, lived with us for say a month you're attitude would change after living with us for a month, and I think that would probably change your mind into not having this road go through- but it's... This really would affect Anaktuvuk big time.

Andrew Hopson, AKP (Naqsraġmiut Tribal Council)
[00:57:52.07]
People just don't understand what we, us and other communities like Wainwright , Barrow, Nuiqsut, everybody depends on subsistence and that would just take everything away from all of us, all the communities 'cause we're all tied in together.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:58:11.08]
And, you know I've been learning that in working on this project and it's been, you know, very, and those scoping comments are just huge. It it it's the majority of what's discussed in the scoping comments and so we you know I am, and the Corps, we're definitely listening to what you're saying and it's very apparent that it's a major issue, especially with what the state is proposing to do. Yeah?

Steve Hartmann, BLM Fairbanks District Office Manager
[00:58:48.00]
Comment, I guess a comment about... This is a formal advisory panel and, you know, your concerns were articulated I think really well and it makes sense to me you know to make a formal recommendation as the advisory panel on what your concerns are which you just articulated. In other words to have a formal record of, you know, what your position is on the project. Something to consider.

Pete Dronkers, NAEC
[00:59:30.08]
The Tribal Council in Anaktuvuk has a resolution opposed to the road - has that been registered in this EIS process as a comment?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:59:41.16]
Oh yeah, there's Nuiqsut is also formally, as far as what we've been doing with you know government to government. Yeah, both Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk Pass.

Pete Dronkers, NAEC
[00:59:52.15]
So that is reflected in the EIS?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[00:59:54.29]
It will be reflected in the scoping document, that'll be there.

Pete Dronkers, NAEC
[00:59:57.18]
Okay

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:59:59.12]
And what about Atqasuk and Barrow, and Wainwright ?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:00:04.11]
As I recall, they had... as far as a formal resolution that they're against the project? They submitted scoping comments and I also... and all of those will be absolutely yes, they're in there but as far as like resolution, so and, it'll how it came through on the process. Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut had a formal resolution that they were against it.

Dave Arnold, City of Nuiqsut Superintendent
[01:00:35.03]
Yeah. I'm the city administrator from the City of Nuiqsut I'm the one who wrote the resolution. I think the points are exceptionally well made and I wanted to make a comment. One is that Nuiqsut in general sees themselves as industry partners. One of the reasons for that is because industry made the attempt to understand the issues in the community and made a true effort to partner with Nuiqsut. The Kuukpik Corporation had agreed with Conoco Phillips. They benefit from that association, as long as industry does not step on the subsistence... supporting subsistence issues, the community is very much in support of industry. However, they are violently opposed to the new road to Umiat because of the wide range regional impacts of that road not just in the Foothills area which is part of the subsistence hunting area for Nuiqsut but the hydrologic impacts of that further down slope are enormous and as a result you've got a community, Nuiqsut, who generally sees themselves as a true partner with industry, very much opposed to this. And from my sense of what Anaktuvuk Pass is experiencing is basically there, it's a mandate they're being dictated to, they're not being considered in terms of process; nobody's coming to them explaining you know, from day one what potential benefits could be to the community. There may be no benefits to the community, but they're not even consulted.

Dave Arnold, City of Nuiqsut Superintendent
[01:02:32.08]
In Nuiqsut we are consulted. We were consulted from the beginning and you're getting better at cooperation, My suggestion would be that if industry is interested in partnering with Native communities the way they did with Nuiqsut they need to start that process rather than dictate. So they go to the government, the Dept of Transportation to support the initiatives and then basically it's a mandate that comes down and all that's left for Anaktuvuk is to react the best they can. So what kind of power does Anaktuvuk have against government's at the level of the state and the federals?

City Administrator, City of Nuiqsut
[01:03:09.13]
So that's the difference between the two. So here you have Nuiqsut who's basically a partner with industry violently opposed to the road to Umiat.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:03:17.29]
I don't know, I mean, the industry isn't coming as the applicant. It's the state that is coming and I don't...

Dave Arnold, City of Nuiqsut Superintendent [01:03:24.10]
why is the state?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:03:25.09]
not partnering...

Dave Arnold, City of Nuiqsut Superintendent
[01:03:26.04]
Because they're selling leases essentially. I mean you've got the leases, who bought the leases?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:03:32.08]
Well, industry has purchased the leases.

Dave Arnold, City of Nuiqsut Superintendent
[01:03:35.19]
They're still open aren't they?

Previous Unknown
[01:03:36.27]
So industry's trying to get the road built to access those leases. Right?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:03:42.16]
Right and you, we don't even know, that even if they built the road, you don't know that they'll necessarily go, I mean, it's, you know, that's.... you know, what are we seeing the most as far as investment and whose, who's, you know, how, there isn't industry going necessarily going 'okay you build this road we're going to do this.' I mean there isn't that kind of partnership that's going on that's going on with the state either.

Dave Arnold, City of Nuiqsut Superintendent
[01:04:09.14]
Right, in my mind I see the difference between Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk was that Nuiqsut is included in the process from day one and Anaktuvuk... inaud...

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:04:25.03]
yeah

Dave Arnold, City of Nuiqsut Superintendent
[01:04:25.08]
inaud... my observational perspective and that this... inaud ... Alaska Native Communities

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:04:30.02]

And I don't know, you know, the state needs to be partnering better with you know the local communities. What we can do is facilitate and, as far as what the issues are people coming together on how they would like to see, you know what there's... how someone that, like maybe the SAP can provide ways of... things that they'd like to see things changed or done differently so it is more of a beneficial, that partnership that you're talking about looking for partnership benefits... alternative- I mean, so it, the EIS can be a way to voice those opinions and ideas. But the Corps cannot go out and partner with Nuiqsut on, you know, because we're not proposing this action.

Dave Arnold, City of Nuiqsut Superintendent
[01:05:27.01]
No, look, you, no, I'm not suggesting that the Corps partner with anybody.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:05:29.28]
right

Dave Arnold, City of Nuiqsut Superintendent
[01:05:31.10]
What I'm saying is that you know the Corps is the permitting agency, the Alaska State Department of Transportation is the one interested in building this road, but basically the road is an industrial development in an area where leases are already sold. Okay so you know it's a matter of those interested in committing those leases going to the community from day one and talking to them and getting a sense of things. I'm not saying just be... I'm not saying sell your souls as a partner or they're going to buy it, no, but you're not even part of the process, you're being completely ignored in the process. That was not the case in Nuiqsut, and it was a different reaction.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:06:12.18]
I'm just trying... go ahead.

Dave Arnold, City of Nuiqsut Superintendent
[01:06:17.03]
While you finish that up, I’m still waiting. I have a simple question but...

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:06:21.22]
Go ahead

Price Leavitt, SAP
[01:06:22.13]
My, like what he's talking about impact the development of AKP what has happened ever since this corridor / haul road was built, there's a migration were diverted by guides, takin’ first bulls that are guiding the caribou. In that case they didn't get any caribou coming through, so ASRC had charted a plane to get some caribou off Wainwright and Barrow, that's where there was

impact... inaud... that's the avenue we're looking for, it just, these people are... I don' t know what's going to happen yet. So how do you, with all those funds, with all those funds there should be some funds set aside to help with the charter.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:07:44.20]
Cause it would be location.

Price Leavitt, SAP
[01:07:48.08]
It has happened a couple of times

Andrew Hopson, AKP Naqsraġmiut Tribal Council
[01:07:50.14]
Yeah, it's happened a couple of times, we had to get from Wainwright to Nuiqsut and like I said we depend so much on the caribou and the migration didn't come through a couple of times, and it didn't come through this year either. and, the, we' wee hurting so bad we had to call up ASRC and have our other community members send us a plane load of meat. We were the happiest people in the world when that plane came in. Man, we were... serious, cause that's food. That's how we survive. And I never thought I'd be so happy to get caribou off the plane, cause usually I can just hunt just right, right there.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:08:41.18]
How can we? Okay, it sounds like you're opposed to this. It's not something that you want. And so how do you go further into doing that and how can we make this not happen I guess is the question.

Pete Dronkers, NAEC
[01:09:01.15]
I have a thought on that actually. This is really about Governor Parnell in a lot of ways. And this is not something that the Dept of Transportation necessarily is pushing themselves. This is really all coming from one person and this is Governor Parnell and he is so motivated to build this road and to build a road into the Ambler mine district and to build a road wherever there is money to be made, and it seems like he's in control.

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[01:09:34.15]
Okay, so how can, should we just make a petition to do it? or

Pete Dronkers, NAEC
[01:09:38.12]
There's a lot of ways it can be done and I'd be happy to talk with you later about some options.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[01:09:44.25]
Mr Chair?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:09:46.27]
Yeah, go ahead.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[01:09:48.06]
I have a procedural question. I'm still curious about LEDPA. The E in that stands for environment, the E in NEPA stands for environment, and NEPA uses the term the human environment. Is that the same environment you're looking at when you're looking for the least disturbing and practical alternative, or does your law define environment differently looking at different aspects of it?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:10:21.16]
I think at this particula- typically when, because we're the Army Corps of Engineers we are looking at aquatic resources, because that's the resource that we, you know, protect, but if there are other overriding human impacts, that are greater so, say, well in this case, say if it's a subsis - we have an alternative that's going to have more impacts to wetlands but ah, or, have, yeah, more impacts to wetlands but it has a lot less impacts to subsistence because of the overall riding issues we might consider that particular alternative the LEDPA.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[01:11:01.01]
Okay. thanks.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:11:04.13]
Lon

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:11:05.22]
I'm just thinking out loud but it seems to me that the Subsistence Advisory Panel is you know is formed and primarily deals with trying to come up with better ways to deal with and make less impact-full the impacts of oil and gas development in the NPR-A. So, it seems to me that in the role of the Subsistence Advisory Panel since BLM is cooperator on this process and on this EIS, it would be very appropriate for the subsistence panel to advise BLM in their role as cooperators on this EIS to be aware of and advocate for the subsistence users in the North Slope communities and their perception of impending impacts from the use of the road. the construction and use of the road. So that would be something that you can do right now, is advise us to do that. The thing that Steve talked about is crafting your basically you don't work for us, right? You're an advisory panel, you can write letters and express your concerns and beliefs directly to the Corp and directly to DOT. Those are the two things it seems to me that you can do.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:12:59.24]
You can also, like you and I talked about, you can look at mitigations on the way that the road might be used if BLM could advocate for, as a cooperating agency. As a cooperating agency, BLM has a seat at the table. We don't have the decision, but we should be able to influence and at least get the ideas on the table and make sure that the ideas don't get there, I mean that they do get there and don't just get forgotten after this meeting. and so that those are the things that I can think of that I, that we can do as a panel. You know as far as participating in political process as individuals and as villages and indicating to industry how it might be in their interest to have more outreach and more presence in the village, like Conoco has in Nuiqsut. That all kind of has to happen when you go back to your organizations that you're representing here. The various governmental organizations. Does that make sense?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:14:25.10]
Well I'd rather instead of writing a letter to DOT and whoever, I mean just like this guy said might have to go straight to the source, and talk to the Governor himself.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:14:39.17]
Well, you know, you are semi autonomous, you can do that, and we can help.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:14:44.24]
It's like, he's only one person, but yet that one person could be responsible for lives.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:14:56.22]
You know we'll have to look into the charter, the details of the SAP charter.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:15:08.14]
As as the SAP, you know we might not be able you know to get him to our table, and try to convince him. You know it could work, but you know to come from the villages that are impacted to have them, at least submit a letter to the Governor, inviting him to talk to them personally.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:15:45.14]
Yeah, and BLM might, we could probably help with getting a forum together. You know, provide a place to meet, probably fund some travel. If the governor were going to, or if the state were willing to have a workshop on... you know I don't think the state is going to be withdrawing their application. But I do think that they would have to consider you know routing alternatives, various use limitations. Seems to me that you could argue, you could wonder if the use was limited if the use was limited in such a way as you know there were periods of time where use

was extremely low, or didn't happen every other day, or something like that except in emergency, that you could get those caribou through undisturbed, more, at least more likely.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:16:49.07]
So maybe if, maybe the state would be willing to work on their application and think about that. Maybe not. Maybe a road's a road to them and it has to be open all the time and it has to be open to the public but we don't know that, I certainly don't know that - and I don't think you do.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:17:10.10]
No I don't know that but I think that bringing those ideas to the table are very important and it it it will get that conversation going, and you know things might change - you know, get the proposal to look different than it's initial. That's part of the process. You know, what we're talking here are possibilities of you know avenues that we work on to get ideas out on the table getting things changed from what was initially proposed. And so you know I if you want to write a letter to the Governor, but I think that what Lon is proposing is very constructive and could be useful as well and would be useful to us, as well.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:18:00.20]
That's like the way I see it, you know, he's doing whatever he can to get to the source. I think it would be a good idea for us to do the same thing. Whether it's through the panel itself, through the tribal governments, through

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:18:26.09]
all of it

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:18:27.01]
the mayors and villages. I think we need to do whatever we can to get the message to the State of Alaska to to Governor Parnell. I mean he's doing whatever he can to figure out what needs to be done to get this road done. I mean why not do the same to get to him?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:18:59.14]
I mean as far as I know, I've only heard this road proposal from the partners that have to deal with this road, and I haven't heard anything from the State of Alaska . I mean where is the State of Alaska in this in this whole panel meeting?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:19:26.15]
Oh, in this meeting here, we didn't invite the state - that might be something you guys want to do.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:19:34.17]
I think that would be a great idea.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:19:37.12]
And like you said an invitation to the state and arrange that And then maybe you can..

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:19:48.01]
You know, we could figure out when their deadlines are and what their plan is as far as meetings go and see what we can do to get the State of Alaska at the table and talk to them personally rather than trying to find alternatives.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:20:14.17]
I think all of it, I think there's multiple avenues to pursue. I mean I do like what Lon, I mean in my role, in that this, for the EIS I saw it as a constructive way to get some of these issues right on the table and finding ways to address them in different ways, so I invite you to do that... or encourage you.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:20:44.07]
And certainly to to get in contact with the state and have direct dialogue with them, I think that's a good idea too.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:20:53.29]
I mean we, we're the ... inaud... subsistence user. We are the lives of the North Slope, and for us to speak to the State of Alaska, you know personally it would eliminate a lot of your headaches if we ever put a stop to this.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:21:20.06]
You bet.

[laughter, inaud comments]

Dave Arnold, City of Nuiqsut Superintendent
[01:21:27.04]
One last comment and I'll shut up here, just for the people of Anaktuvuk, there are higher authorities. I don't mean to upset anyone here, but you've got a congressional delegation, you've got Secretary Salazar and a Dept of In, who's very sensitive to human beings as being a component of the environment. We have worked with Salazar directly, and he's come to Nuiqsut on tours and issues we have dealt with he is very sensitive to understanding that humans are a

component of the environment, and so you know I'm not big for circumventing chains of command and going over people's heads but I just want you to be aware if you're not already aware that there are higher layers of government that you could go to. The congressional delegations - it's one of their responsibilities, and if you need to Secretary Salazar has always been willing to listen to the issues that we have faced on the North Slope.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:22:27.16]
Thank you. Lon.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:22:31.04]
I think what we can do is, I think, if you can reiterate when you give us your recommendations, which is not on the agenda for now...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:22:43.02]
yeah, yeah.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:22:43.23]
that we should um, use our role as a cooperator on this to make sure that the subsistence concerns that we've heard are brought forward and that, we look at all avenues to mitigate impacts and select the most appropriate route and seriously consider the no action alternative if the impacts to subsistence are unacceptable. Somehow I doubt we could, we, you should, give us that recommendation ___ and then we'll work with you if you want to write a letter as the subsistence panel, you know we'll provide communications channels through Stacey to make that hap - help, help, help that happen...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:23:49.08]
You know, send letters out as a panel, we'll have to check the byla - the, don't even remember what we call it, the charter and make sure it's within the realm of the charter but we'll help you do it if we can. And ah, I do think that one of the things we always close on is the idea that you know there's a lot of information presented at these meetings. And in particular when we have one away from the villages there's generally, when we have it in a village there's one village that's been attentive and they know what was said but all the other panel members have to take it back to their organizations and their villages and so, everybody on the panel needs to recognize that.

Stacey and I just spoke and she's willing, very willing, to help and do what she can as far as communications and helping understand the bureaucracies involved and that's basically what we can do. We can't really at least I'm pretty sure we're not really going to be able to help you write to the secretary or something like that.

[laughter]

but Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:25:13.21]
but we can certainly you know provide the logistical support

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:25:23.10]
Yeah?

Larry Landry, NAEC
[01:25:25.11]
Those of us who hunt in this part of the world know that the hunter competition everybody's worried about is huge and I wondered how you're going to document that and present that in the EIS.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:25:39.16]
I think it will be voluminous, [laughter]... I just, 'cause it is huge. and that's why I guess I was thinking... yes, how will we present that...

Larry Landry, NAEC
[01:25:50.19]
How will you document? What kind of information will you gather to make your point, or to study.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:25:57.08]
You know there's there, we have multiple experts, I guess, certainly subsistence. There's subsistence reports and then we have um, and there's multiple sections in the EIS that, I mean we have to talk about it from the biological standpoint as far as what the biology is and there's certain consultants that are experts on biology, and migration, and the different herds that are in the area and we have both the cooperating agencies have experts from the North Slope Borough... Yes, did you want to say something?

Unknown
[01:26:40.17]
If I can just add it when you're done??

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:26:43.17]
Okay. And um

Larry Landry, NAEC
[01:26:45.00]
I may not be being clear. I am talking about the number of hunters that are on the road system and how severe a threat they pose to the concerns they're raising. You know, how many people

are going to be using that road, just a rough estimate, because it's going to be a lot.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:27:06.25]
Well I think that there, you know, we'll have some numbers based on that but I think it's going to be similar to the Dalton and that's currently being used. But ah, maybe you want to say something Bill.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:27:19.11]
No, yeah, Bill Morris, Fish and Game here in Fairbanks. Of course there are numbers for all that inaud... broken down by how many folks... the numbers will be available along with the subsistence division community harvest information.

Dave Yokel, Arctic Field Office wildlife biologist
[01:27:46.11]
Yeah I would add to that that to take those numbers and apply them to this road you'd have to make an assumption about what the board of game will do with caribou hunting regulations or any species hunting regulations along this road. They could choose to treat it like they do the Dalton Hwy, they could choose to make an area closed to hunting, so nobody knows, nobody's brought that question up officially, I'm sure, it's a little premature.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:28:25.26]
It is premature. Yeah, Bill?

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:28:26.28]
Just from discussions from some of the caribou biologists that are responsible for paying attention to the Teshekpuk caribou herd, primarily the herd more recently has been moving into the Anaktuvuk Pass area. You know, but that herd is one of the most heavily exploited caribou herds in existence, and probably not likely to be able to sustain a lot more harvest, so the department will very likely - absolutely would have to address harvest of that herd and that road if this road were built... it would be increasing access to that exact herd... inaud... so it is something that the department will certainly consider, is considering, but again, you know this is a work in progress.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:29:23.19]
And the department’s a cooperating agency, so I think that they'll have a lot to say.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:29:30.15]
And some other things the department's working on, you know, I guess when we comment on the problem during scoping to the Corps of Engineers, it was it was indeed subsistence issues were the big deal. And we do have some of the caribou biologist are specifically looking at

trying to figure out what indeed might happen with those migration routes. We actually finally have many many years of data looking at how satellite collared caribou have reacted to the Red Dog road, to the Haul Road, a couple of other facilities and infrastructure associated with the oil field and so that analysis is getting underway right now with, we finally have a good data set to look at. I think Lincoln?? was up in Anaktuvuk Pass talking about that this fall, this summer.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:30:38.27]
Yeah.

Larry Landry, NAEC
[01:30:39.25]
One last question... DOT surveyed a route that would go from Umiat north to the oil fields this summer and I didn't see that on your...

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:30:48.04]
That's cause yeah, I haven't finished my presentation,

[laughter]

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:30:54.04]
but I'm gonna, [quietly] oh it's been locked.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:31:03.27]
I'm thinking I'm just going to go to this these this is all in your handout and it's actually more specific and um, I'm not really going to read, you know it's talking about subsistence, the potential to deflect caribou in Anaktuvuk Pass and talking about social and cultural systems and ah affecting traditional lifestyle uses, what recreation will do, and human health and the detriments of not having subsistence foods. So we were very concerned about... Now part of, we'd talked about coming out part of the NEPA process is the scoping and out of scoping there were other, several alternatives were identified that could meet the Foothills transportation project... and this is the one that I think people are thinking about.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:32:02.08]
This came up and this is the Spine Road up here, it comes off the North Slope and then it's ah, the furthest south of an existing road and it would be coming from North to South instead of what they are proposing of crossing the Itkillik?? and then coming here, so they have very common alignment here. And this came out of scoping and what's interesting about this particular one is that it controls access because it's on, this is closed, it's closed for industrial use and it doesn't bisect the migration. It's

Dave Yokel, Arctic Field Office wildlife biologist
[01:32:43.27]
Ehhhhhh.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:32:46.05]
I know, so it does, I mean it's still there, right but it's not necessarily

Dave Yokel, Arctic Field Office wildlife biologist
[01:32:50.19]
Well if you're talking about Teshekpuk that's probably just as bad if not worse, if you're talking about the Central Arctic Herd, it may be a little bit less impact.

Bill Morris, ADFG Fisheries Biologist
[01:33:00.28]
That guarantees you're in the range of the Beaufort pretty squarely.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:33:09.15]
And so you know this becomes... I guess it's again more of a control access issue of what occurs with this particular alternative and it's one that's come out of scoping and that we're seriously going to consider to see if it's a reasonable feasible alternative. So this is something that's very different and off the map than what we originally presented to the public.

Dave Yokel, Arctic Field Office wildlife biologist
[01:33:34.20]
So if you analyze that alternative will you in anyway address the legal issue of whether or not you can build a road with public funds that would be blocked from public access somewhere prior to...

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:33:50.06]
Well, these are the issues, this is like is it feasible to do this alternative? So these are the things that we have to look at.

Dave Yokel, Arctic Field Office wildlife biologist
[01:33:57.08]
And we might not know the answer to that until it goes to court.

Unknown
[01:33:59.25]
It's been done. There's sources of public funds that have been used to build a private road.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:34:05.24]
And I think it depends on what kind of pubic funding it is and what the sources are. We're just

starting to dig into this issue. And what, will they allow access, you know Conoco Philips.

Unknown
[01:34:19.03]
BP

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:34:20.03]
mmmhmm

Unknown
[01:34:22.13]
inaud... that's how they built the red dog road.. inaud... that can be a closed road and the state can actually make money if...

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:34:48.19]
Right so it's a partnership, more of a funding partnership?

Unknown
[01:34:54.02]
Yeah well once the bond gets purchased by the company, they take over all maintenance and all the expenses of the road... inaud... but they actually made money on the state project.

Unknown
[01:35:21.07]
Do you have a website for that?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:35:25.04]
A website for that? No, but... I'm trying to think if it would be in the sco- yeah, I think in the scoping report when it comes out, which is going to be on the website it should be there. And you know I mean I would give you this, but it's this isn't necessarily that we *will*. Like there are certain things that we have to answer to see if it will be reasonable to carry it forward into the EIS, but

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[01:35:55.05]
Well you haven't formally chosen the alternatives for analysis yet?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:35:59.14]
That's right, exactly right

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[01:36:01.06]
So I mean, if it was us and we hadn't formally chosen our alternatives for analysis, at this stage we wouldn't be putting it on the screen at a public meeting because it's not public information yet, until the draft is issued.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:36:12.26]
Well, I guess I kind of saw it as, yeah, maybe I'm being stupid [laughter], but um, you know that this came out of scoping, this is a comment and it's an alternative that we're going to consider, we're not saying that we are, but and we have to go through a process and then, if we do not consider it we have to state why we're not going to consider it - why we're dismissing it. But it is an alternative that's come out of scoping and I felt that people, it has a lot to do with the comments that came out of scoping and it addresses the access issue, so for the audience, I thought

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[01:36:56.14]
Oh, I wasn't objecting to it, I still am curious about, your process vs. ours and that kind of thing,

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:37:04.18]
So how soon will this be available?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:37:07.04]
You know, well we've been saying... before Christmas?

Unknown
[01:37:15.14]
Which year?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:37:17.15]
Yeah

Unknown
[01:37:18.10]
I'm got a very general question about the purpose of the meeting and sort of where the checks and balances are on this sort of EIS process are. We've just found large new reservoirs of oil in Cook inlet, there's a lot of oil in existing oil, a lot of it is gas in existing oil field. And DOT is saying that the development of a minimal oil field and gas of an unknown quantities... At what point do you say 'the local communities are opposed to this, the conservation community is opposed to this, it's a lot of state money, we just don't see the purpose, which is highly speculative, is compelling, or that the need is compelling at the present time. Is that something that your agency... Does that fall to your agency?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:38:12.21]
Well I think we have to see if the alternative meets the objectives, you know it's throughput to the TAPS, can they still meet that purpose and need you know through other means? You know if they were to just develop the area you know maybe there's an alternative that we're going to look at maybe we would be looking at Umiat and developing out of Umiat and not doing a complete ro- I mean, I think that, I guess I feel uncomfortable answering that because it's - predecisional, but we have to weigh those things, yes, how do we meet the objective of what they want to do, and ah, and... you know, part of it is developing the resources and how can they do that within, you know, and what makes sense of doing that. You know Umiat and Gubik is something that's obviously of interest and then the other resources but I think the point... Go ahead

Unknown
[01:39:16.03]
Oh, I didn't want to interrupt you,

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:39:17.24]
Yeah

Unknown
[01:39:17.20]
You can finish your thought.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:39:21.20]
It does put parameters on what the object... Yeah, go ahead?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:39:25.03]
I was going to say is this is, these aren't just people putting lines and saying this might be a good route, and this might be a route, and yet it's not accessible to the public because it's you don't have the answers to why these alternatives are there, and the impacts of these alternative routes and stuff like that. So I would suggest, I'm sorry to cut you guys off, but I would rather have a more confirmed... more confirmed answers to why these routes are in place the impacts, on the environmental and stuff like that. You know I'd rather have it in black and white, rather than saying well this is the route and now all of a sudden you just generated

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:40:25.20]
more confusion maybe

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:40:27.11]
more confusion and

Unknown
[01:40:28.15]
just blowing air

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:40:30.25]
you know more questions and stuff

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:40:30.00]
Blowing air. [laughter] It's a little more than blowing air.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:40:35.09]
So I'd rather wait

Unknown
[01:40:38.20]
Well it's hot air today

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:40:39.11]
until once they have more answers to the roads to Umiat, then at that time, then you know we might, since we've already talked about it, you knew we're opposing this, you know we're going to go through the actual process to you know try to find a way to resolve this whole thing so we might not even have to deal with this. We don't know. As of right now, I want to say thank you for your presentations. I don't know if you're done, but I'd rather, it seems like these are all alternatives, comments, concerns, and yet, nothing is still in black and white, because they're still drawing lines.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:41:40.10]
Yeah

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:41:42.08]
So, I don't know if you're actually done with the actual presentation.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:41:48.27]
Well maybe it is a good opportunity to wrap up. I think that... Your point's well taken in that we're just, it's still at that kind of conceptual point and I just presented what came out of scoping,

the idea being that we understand that subsistence is a major issue on this project and the reason I put this alternative up there is that it comes out of, it's part of people's concerns about access and public access and it's something that we're considering. And you're right, that decision hasn't been made and it's not black and white and I think more importantly of what you were saying in trying to use SAP and say something to the Governor, say something constructive through BLM as a cooperating agencies is really something constructive that came out of coming here today, and

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:42:46.17]
And I appreciate your presentation and the information you provided to us, you knew we now have a picture of you know what the plan, somewhat plans are for the state to basically they're doing whatever they can to get to Umiat, and that's one of the reasons that I actually called for this extra meeting this morning was to get the information to bring it to the table now, because before this meeting you know, the road was, it wasn't part of this meeting. You know, and I was like, no no, it's too big of an issue and everybody knows about it so I figured I come from the community and I wanted, you know, the panel to know what the plans are to try to get to Umiat, so I appreciate your presentations...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:43:58.05]
Joe.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:43:59.17]
Yeah

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:43:59.15]
Bartley in the back has been just.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:43:59.19]
Oh, sorry.

Bartley Kleven, Linc Energy
[01:44:03.04]
No it's fine, you have the floor. Just wanted to make sure that we got the word out to folks here. I work for Linc Energy, I'm a permitting manager. You know these leases in Umiat... that project must be a stand alone project and business decision for us. Because we recognize how far away this road is from a Record of Decision. We have, we are not in conference with DOT, we do not have a dog in that fight. We are looking at this as a business situation and we can not depend on that road. If the economics in Umiat do not work, they do not work, but they do not depend on that road. So just so you understand that when you are talking about purpose and need in particular, that's what triggered in my mind. We cannot depend on that road being built

and we're not for our project, and we are just in exploration... inaud... when we decided we wanted to try to go ahead and get that developed -- we are not depending on that road.

Pete Dronkers, NAEC
[01:45:32.06]
Would you be willing to say that publicly?

Dave Yokel, Arctic Field Office Wildlife Biologist
[01:45:34.14]
She just did.

Bartley Kleven, Linc Energy
[01:45:36.01]
We have.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:45:39.00]
And that's consistent with what I've heard from Linc.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:45:44.07]
Well, I don't want to, I mean thank you for that information, but, to me, that would generate a lot more questions.

[laughter]

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:45:55.26]
But I don't want to go that route as of right now, and and I would rather that you all meet with the people of Anaktuvuk Pass.

Bartley Kleven, Linc Energy
[01:46:10.10]
we are

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:46:10.28]
repeatedly

Bartley Kleven, Linc Energy
[01:46:11.21]
We'll be there Tuesday for our first visit.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:46:16.07]
and to Nuiqsut

Bartley Kleven, Linc Energy [01:46:17.27]
We planned to be there last week we got weathered out

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:46:20.24]
Atqasuk, Wainwright, Barrow, the whole North Slope, you know, give them all your plans, with or without the road.

Bartley Kleven, Linc Energy
[01:46:32.24]
We talk without.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:46:35.23]
I mean, just development itself I mean just the amount of traffic that's trying to get there, even if there's no road there the amount of traffic to get there is still an impact

Bartley Kleven, Linc Energy
[01:46:55.09]
And we have to figure out what we have there and if that is an economically viable, and that, then the next step will be... but in the mean time I have heard and listened and we will see you on Tuesday, I hope.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:47:11.10]
Thank you. Yeah, go ahead.

Pete Dronkers, NAEC
[01:47:14.04]
One thing I want to put in context was what Jon had said earlier about the resource, and I looked at some old data from the USGS about oil resources there and it's very hard to say exactly what it is but the numbers that I looked at that show that the oil in place there might only be enough the national need for oil for nine days. So the way I look at this brings up a bigger issue about what exactly we're doing as a country when we're even thinking about sacrificing something of this magnitude, there's something that in the grand scheme of energy consumption in this country doesn't really mean that much. Nine days and then it's over with if that oil were to be burned nationally. It's just, is it worth it? It's not, this is not going to change our energy picture yet the consequences are high and it's all about this road and so I would just ask people to think about what this really means in the greater scheme of things. Is it getting us anywhere as a nation? I don't think so.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:48:22.15]
Thank you.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:48:26.23]
Thank you.

Thank yous all around

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:48:29.24]
Thank you for all the information.

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:48:32.04]
Thanks for inviting me I really appreciate coming by.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:48:34.10]
Oh yeah? go ahead.

Unknown
[01:48:36.05]
I don't really understand how any of this stuff works, but it seems like this presentation was held in public - I mean is it, can it just be burned on DVD or copied off so at least they can have a copy of what was on the screen?

Melissa Riordan, USACE
[01:48:49.02]
I don't think, just for the general, I would just prefer it not be, because all of that information you're going to get will in a final form with it's out of the pub, it's an abbreviated thing that's coming out, the scoping report and I just prefer it to be more final version.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:49:06.20]
Yeah, I'd rather have it in black and white, and more confirmed rather than you know what you just presented. But we have a picture of what the plans are so I thank you for your participation and I know it took a lot of time, but you know this is you know

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[01:49:27.25]
If you want to go to closing - I know that Andrew's going to have to leave here in about five minutes.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:49:33.05]
Okay

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator

[01:49:35.08]
So, I don't know, but it depends on the panel...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:49:38.09]
Well, what about the rest of us.

Unknown
[01:49:41.23]
Can't let her off, she's the next presenter.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[01:49:43.21]
No, I'm totally happy to do my slide show.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:49:45.14]
We just thought that if Andrew has to leave...

Andrew Hopson, SAP
[01:49:47.18]
Oh, don't let me stop you guys...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:49:49.07]
Maybe we could hear his, you know we'd like to hear whatever it is that he has to leave with us before he goes. But it's your meeting and we can always talk to him on the phone.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:50:04.05]
Yeah, if you wanted to say anything Andrew...

Andrew Hopson, SAP
[01:50:08.10]
When I first got on the SAP, the Subsistence Advisory Panel, I really didn't want to be on the Subsistence Advisory Panel, or the tribal council but my uncle Timothy kept telling me ‘go to another meeting, go to another meeting.’ And now I just want to stay on the tribal council as long as I can. I'm learning to enjoy it and real happy that I came here to this meeting, and ah, look forward to seeing you on Tuesday. But, yeah, I just wanted to thank everybody for having me here.

Thank yous all around

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[01:50:58.18]
For the rest of us I guess we could call for a quick break, a ten minute break and we'll continue on with Stacey, the final show.

[background noise]

NPR-A RESEARCH UPDATE

Land Use Values in Modern NPR-A
Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator, Arctic Field Office Subsistence Resource Specialist

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:08:43.24]
I'd like to call this meeting back to order. Up next we have the final show, the last hurrah.

Unknown
[02:09:00.07]
The best for last!

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:09:01.18]
Ahh, don't get yourselves... But thank you very much. I am so honored to present to the SAP. Just a little bit, I don't have, haven't written any reports on my research this summer, haven't actually had time to do much with it since I got back. But, as you know Ryan and I went up there for a month with our canoe.

Just to give you a little background you see Raylin Brower here is holding up this book "Wainwright: Land Use Values Through Time in the Wainwright Area." And she told me this book was part of a 105C Series, and it's called that because Section 105C of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 required this inclusive analysis of resources within the NPR-A, including a comprehensive account of Inupiat dependence and livelihood historic values, and activities on the land. So basically what happened in the mid '70s was a whole crew of archeologists and anthropologists, Bart was involved with this, went out, traveled all over the land and documented all these traditional use sites and how people were using them and gathered that history which was invaluable to everybody in the North Slope Borough, Anthropologists, historians, etcetera.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:10:24.22]
My contention was that it's been 35 yrs since that happened and that there have been very significant changes in land use on the North Slope. Transportation methods - nobody had 4 wheelers back in the '70s, snowmachines are much faster and more numerous, there have been

many social and economic changes in the past 35 yrs. There have been a lot of climate and environmental changes that have changed the way people use the land.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:10:54.00]
So I took this book as like my background and guide and wanted to go visit just one area where there's a high concentration of camps and cabins to interview people to stay there for a while to just observe how land use values and practices have changed. Just the big picture of what I observed is I think what everybody know: that more people have jobs and they have less time to visit the land and so when the do go out the have to go out faster and come back fast and that is actually the #1 thing that seems to be changing land use.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:11:31.18]
So I know this is not great, I don't actually have a digital map accessible right now. Here's the Kuk River. The Wainwright River, it's about what Ira, about 45 miles up to this place that's called Kangich.

Ira Ungudrak, SAP
[02:11:48.22]
Kangich.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:11:49.28]
Kangich. So throughout several hundred years, thousand years Kangich has been a historic village and meeting place for the Kuukmiut and Utukokmiut, the people of this region have gathered there and people from Wainwright would line, with their dogs or with sails their umiaqs up to Kangich and stage them there and then take more-shallow-river-canoes up these much more shallower tributaries of the Kuk from there.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:12:21.01]
But that's not what people do anymore and the most interesting thing we observed is that most of the people who have a boat have one boat and it's an ocean going boat and a river boat so because it's not strictly a river boat, they are really limited to how far up river they can go because it's often very shallow - the water level goes up and down a lot. So when it's deep people can get out to these other traditionally used areas like Uyagaagruk – very shallow to get there and so actually the use of these other areas, very valuable tons of caribou lot’s of resources, is declining because people don't have the time to wait for the water to get deep to go out there. So that's one major finding that that's what's really changing use of the land.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:13:11.22]
So I asked people a lot of questions when I was out there. But really what I'm going to do is just show you some pictures. I asked about how technology was changing the use of the land, the number of animals, the kinds of animals and fish that are harvested, their personal values,

shifting economic circumstances have changed, fuel prices, I mean, I think, a lot of people told us that to get up and back from Wainwright to Kangich to the mouth of the Kaolak - a hundred bucks, at least. At least a hundred bucks.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:13:44.06]
So serious money and definitely a lot of people whose family combine and pay their gas and send one young guy up to hunt. So erosion and other environmental and climate changes are having less of an impact than along the coast. Erosion long those river banks is normal and there's always been erosion problems. I don't know if that's exacerbated. Ice storms build up, I mean ice dams, and then there's major floods that wash out a, large parts of the bank. Other social reasons, so actually I talked to Ira a little bit about this, a lot of people, when they went up to build their modern frame cabins, and let me back up and just say that in a way it's been a building boom in the last 35 yrs. There are 60 to 70 or more framed cabins that have been built. Many families are on their second, third, or fourth cabin. You know, they got old and their building new ones or they have four or five cabins... There've always been dwellings. There used to be tents or semi-subterranean frame/sod houses. And now people just build frame cabins on top of that in the same area. So it's exactly the same sites being used, it's just new technology, frame cabins that are being built.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:15:04.24]
I asked people about contamination, a lot about building materials, a lot of questions about building materials. Wanted to document all the new camps that have been constructed. Very interested in the local use of coal mines, so... I'll just start the slide show. Please just stop me at anytime if you have a question, or I'll stop it if I have something to say, but I think mostly I'm just going to let the pictures speak for themselves.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:15:28.14]
I had a question

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:15:29.04]
Yeah?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:15:29.16]
Is there a, is there a hydrology monitoring system on the River

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:15:40.07]
On the Kuk?

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:15:40.23]
Yeah

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:15:42.00]
Not that I know of and you know Ryan and I interviewed every person about the tide in the Kuk, people call it a tide. I mean certainly the Kuk is like a coastal water body, when the wind is right the water is backed up into the Kuk and there's jellyfish and seals. You know, 20, 30 miles up. And then other people were explaining to us that it was the moon, or that it was the wind. You know we were never able to actually correlate wind direction and I'm sure the timing is off, you know when it backs up up river. But it seemed very mysterious and everybody had their own reasons. Basically water would just go up and down and things would become accessible or not.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:16:29.27]
The reason I ask that is because they have one on the Chipp river and we just go on the internet

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:16:37.02]
Yeah, go on the internet. Exactly.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:16:39.27]
Once it starts to rise, that's when we can go way up Chipp River, you know, 13 by boat, and there's even 26 footers that go up to Chippna??

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:16:52.18]
Yeah, and you can do that

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:16:55.13]
Or Chipp 6, if that.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:16:55.24]
on the Kuk if the river, if the water's really deep you can go way up the tributaries.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist [??]
[02:17:00.09]
Well, I think that it's actually our gauge, it's actually further up the Ikpikpuk.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:17:03.27]
Yeah, it's way up

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:17:06.14]
And, but the reason that gauge is there and the federal government is paying for it is because water levels on the Ikpikpuk may influence oil and gas infrastructure in the near future, that's been part of what we've been doing for the last 15 yrs, planning for oil and gas but right now in the Kuk, that's not an issue for us so we're not out there gauging the river.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:17:33.28]
Well if they're talking about building a pipeline from Wainwright to the actual pipeline then why not put one there now?

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:17:44.02]
Because it’s too much talk at this time, and not enough action.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:17:48.15]
Right

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:17:49.04]
Shell is, Shell is doing studies along the coast there, but as far as we permitted... we haven't permitted any water level gauging station. I think Shell are doing biological and anthropological studies along the, right along that wind ridge [?] coastline.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:18:09.04]
Well, I'm not talking about oil and gas development, I'm talking about the benefits of the hunters.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:18:17.03]
It would be great for the hunters to have a gauge.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:18:19.26]
You know, they can easily go on the internet, once it starts to rise, okay now it's time to go.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:18:25.27]
Yeah

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:18:25.29]
It's a good time to go up there.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:18:28.11]
And it costs people money

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:18:28.17]
And that's why we use it all the time

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:18:30.21]
Well, because people are like let's see if we can make it and then they're just burning out their props.

Unknown
[02:18:35.16]
Yeah

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:18:35.07]
Yeah. You could eliminate that problem.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:18:37.29]
Exactly

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:18:38.20]
If you had that system.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:18:39.14]
Well if any North Slope entity wanted to put a gauge out there, I'm sure Lon would entertain a permit.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:18:45.13]
Yeah, I was just thinking that it sounds like a perfect application of impact funds.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:18:50.11]
Yeah, NPR-A impact funds, Ira.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:18:53.23]
There you go.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:18:55.07]
And I guess I'll just, ah

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:18:56.12]
I mean it wouldn't cost a whole lot for one gauge, it wouldn't cost a whole lot, I think we can...

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:19:03.00]
Yeah and they can, I mean just like I said we use Chipp River all the time and of course it's going to cost us a couple hundred dollars to get there, but when we know exactly when the water's rising, it's very beneficial.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:19:18.25]
I don't know about the Chipp, on the Kuk and it's tributaries, it seems like it changes very quickly.

Unknown
[02:19:24.16]
yeah

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:19:26.00]
It' , I mean so you can go ‘oh, it's deep I can go way up’ and you could be stuck.

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:19:30.12]
And the next day it's just shallow.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:19:32.11]
Exactly there's islands and sand bars everywhere.

Unknown
[02:19:36.21]
Do they go together, Avalikuk?? and the... do both rivers rise at the same time up there?

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:19:42.16]
No. Depends which way the wind is blowing

many voices; inaudible

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:19:51.10]
When it's raining.

Unknown
[02:19:52.15]
Oh when it rains.. inaud

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:19:55.16]
And it start coming out again.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:19:59.27]
Yeah, that's how we are with predominant winds and stuff like that you know it's better for us to go up Meade River at one point and then at another point it's better for us to go up Chipp River

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:20:12.10]
Right. Yeah, so actually Bart is the expert here, he's been up this river for, generations. So, and he was corroborating my other main finding - important subsistence use tool. The modern fishermen on the Kuk have almost completely switched over to the toy kiddy fishing poles. Everybody prefers these - they also have the nice little (blinking lights). I started interviewing everybody we saw – "Is this your preferred fishing pole?" Yes. They cast just as well catch just as many fish, way easier in the boat, they were giving us, people were like "here" giving us their old normal sized fishing poles, they're like "here..."

Unknown
[02:20:55.22]
You gotta know how to do it, it takes a little practice but then you can you guys all know how to do it.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:21:00.01]
I found one of those back in the 1970s and it was my favorite rod for quite a while.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:21:03.25]
There you go, yeah. Okay, so I'm going to start this. That's Raylynn Brower, she was camping at Anaqtuuq when we stayed there. Right next to Ira's grandpa's cabin which is one of the pictures in this book. So, she was an amazing hunter and guide.

[02:21:29.26] MUSIC

that's actually back in Barrow before our trip started

There's Jona and Willy as we're getting our canoe ready

Willy's trying out the kayak.

and here's right in Wainwright inlet... We're getting ready to go

that's our wood stove

our canoe

there's Ryan gathering coal at Aluakpak, the coal mine, the historic coal mine

Jason Ahmaogak stopped by to say hi.

This is his cousin

Ryan Tinsley
[02:22:06.01]
Oh man, the light is really bad

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:22:07.16]
the light is really bad, yeah

historic three wheeler

Unknown
[02:22:10.10]
historic three wheeler

[laughter]

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:22:16.07]
Lot's of tutu antlers.

Akpik.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:22:23.02]
Let me pause it real quick here and say I'm holding up my cell phone here, Ira can probably tell me where I'm at...

Nasiġruġvik?

Ira Ungudrak, SAP
[02:22:32.26]
Nasiġruġvik.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:22:34.10]
Nasiġruġvik. Which means? Bart?

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:22:37.22]
Where you look or highpoint.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:22:39.25]
A highpoint, so people used to go there obviously to scout for game, people now go there to see if they can still get a few bars on their cell phone, from town - it's the last, it's the furthest spot from town where you might be able to. So if I had a ladder, actually, I would have been able to use the cell phone. I had two bars.

Oh no.... Sorry hold on just one second...

MUSIC
[02:23:10.12]

Unknown
[02:23:12.08]
Must have hit stop instead of pause

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:23:16.07]
I guess so... Can I fast forward?

Ryan Tinsley
[02:23:19.25]
Oh, that's bad you got two photos of me.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:23:22.14]
Alright alright, we're almost there. Always remember to hit the play ... space bar

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:23:42.11]
It was not a great cloudberry year, but there were still, you know..

Ryan and I were there during August which is really peak, peak caribou season. Here they're working on a dock at Anaqtuuq, with Terry Tagarook, Qaqsu?? Gareth...

Amazing sunset, that's our tent.

The cabin with the caribou drying on the side of the cabin

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:24:22.26]
You can see the net set in the river.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:24:29.01]
So every place I went I would just give one of my cameras to kids there and let them also document everything that was going on and so because of that I have a lot of pictures. That was Raylynn's grandpa.

her first ptarmigan

Kids in the cabin with their grandpa eating popcorn

So yeah, this is one, that's Ira's grandpa's cabin with one of the oldest sod cabins next to it, here's a picture of it in this book.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:25:11.10]
That's actually Bob Shears- it's so impressive that they carried that dog up and down the river

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:25:22.15]
This is the creek that even local people say they can't pronounce the name of.

There's the kiddy fishing pole

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:25:41.07]
So this is actually right near Kangich, the traditional village.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:25:54.12]
Ryan and Qaqsu working on the roof there. That's also at Anaqtuuq.

Raylynn very excited to try out the kayak.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:26:05.24]
This is actually where Wainwright has the cultural camp, so they get about 20 or 30 kids that come out here every day to Ben Ahmaogak Jr's cabin. And they have like a subsistence hunting / fishing camp that they do there and just let me pause it

MUSIC STOPS

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:26:23.03]
And just say, that cabin is very interesting it's not where it used to be because... it's a climate change exacerbated problem, but the land was sliding down into the river underneath that cabin so they actually moved the whole thing about a mile down the river.

MUSIC
[02:26:39.19]

She's a serious fisherwoman and of course there's the kiddy pole.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:27:27.04]
Picking, picking berries.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:27:33.07]
That's actually up the Ketik, the Ketik River, a very shallow river and this is actually at, you know, this place has a name...

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:27:45.06]
Kaolak

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:27:46.07]
Yeah now it's Kaolak. In the book it has a different name and nobody uses that name but a few people have heard it, for this point of land that's formed by the Kaolak and the Ketik, it's at the confluence of these rivers.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:27:57.08]
Here's Ryan with Sonny Nashaolook and they are replacing the roof on his cabin. Sonny's wife Donna out picking akpik.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:28:10.17]
So Sonny and his family bought this cabin from a Driggs brother... Albert Drigg’s older brother,

for a snowmachine, he got it for a snowmachine. The roof leaked, so that was one of our main projects while we were there was basically putting a new roof on the Nashaolook's cabin. And actually that's Brittany Retherford, the Fish and Game employee who Rich was talking about her yesterday. She came up with Rich.

Actually that's their guide, there, Mike Tagarook, is their guide.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:28:53.09]
I have a spam theme, relates to... Actually had my office inside our tent. And there's Ryan putting up the ventilator, the nostril in the cabin. That's a coal fire burning in our wood stove. You can see these boats are navigating normally a very shallow part of the river.

Unknown
[02:29:12.21]
Those boats are stuck.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:29:13.11]
Yeah, they're probably stuck.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:29:16.20]
That's HarryTazruk's cabin

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:29:24.08]
Just to indicate that - $13.49 for a jar of mayonnaise, somebody gave that too us. Here's some other friends from Wainwright coming up to go hunting, there's Josh.

Loading up some caribou... We're at a very high, a very high spot, I don't know if it has a name Ira?

Up by John Hopson's cabin in that big bend. You can see.,.. that's John Hopson's cabin.

Ira Ungudrak, SAP
[02:29:49.17]
Qiu?

(note- it was not Qiu, it was cabin #20 on the map, up the Kaolak)

He built that cabin using the garage doors that he recycled from the power plant.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:30:05.14]
And so I think this is a weekend so there's a lot more people on the river. These are all people

running up the bluff to hunt caribou from there. Josh got a caribou.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:30:24.20]
Agnes is I think 18, she's got the heart there... And just

[02:30:33.18]
MUSIC STOPS

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:30:33.21]
Josh there is, I don't know what the word for this is you guys, what the Inupiaq word for that is... stomach filled with some of the stomach contents...

Ryan Tinsley
[02:30:43.19]
Like they cut the liver and kidney in little pieces and stuff and the other organs and put it in there and then take the stomach juice and ferment it.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:30:51.25]
Fermented for a couple days and it's really ah, very very popular with the elders but an increasingly small number of people. So it's definitely one of those subsistence foods that's very important because it's fermented subsistence food that actually provides a lot of nutrients that you don't get in any other kind of food and in particular a taste for fermented food in on the decline, which is unfortunate nutritionally.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:31:19.14]
So Josh still prepares this for elders, but I don't think that there are any young people who eat this and there are probably all kinds of enzymes and nutrients in there that are important.

Unknown
[02:31:29.09]
Josh, he doesn't eat it.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:31:31.05]
No, he doesn't eat it.

MUSIC
[02:31:32.18]

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:31:43.22]
Everybody is constantly scouting for caribou. There's Josh, Josh is making...

Unknown
[02:31:50.08]
Uqaq and ummam.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:31:51.28]
Uqaq and ummam soup. Heart and tongue soup which is a traditional dish you make when you first get caribou. These guys are happily going home after a successful hunt, building construction going on there. Albert Driggs is building a new cabin. I didn't have a great camera this morning and I think about 2 or 300 caribou walked through camp. People were delivering caribou to us, so we had caribou meat hanging. That roof, making great progress on the roof.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:32:29.19]
That's actually... so...

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:32:35.28]
Everybody uses, the roofs are really important, right, because everybody uses their roof to scout for caribou..

This is Billy Bodfish and his cousin Derek and his wife Lisa and their babies, that's Sarah.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:32:59.24]
So here just let me pause it for just a second.

[02:33:02.17]
You can see the fanciest ventilator probably on the entire Kuk River, is the one that Ryan put on there and he also put in a sunroof, a window in the roof and
here's Melvin Nashaolook putting the plexy glass in.

That's the nostril.

Unknown
[02:33:33.03]
... have a generator out there?

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:33:35.24]
Scouting for caribou

Unknown
[02:33:36.29]

inaud...
Suffering with the lack of generator quite a bit..

Ryan Tinsley
[02:33:40.07]
...using hand tools...

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:33:44.22]
That's a lot of ketchem?? So, they got a thing of Kool-Aid - you can't see the price on there, it's $9.

$9 for a little jar of Kool-Aid. John Hopson Jr and his family...

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:33:58.14]
This is that pile of caribou antlers behind the late David Bodfish Sr.'s cabin. A bunch of Cisco.

MUSIC STOPS

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:34:10.08]
I really wish that picture was more centered. It's one of my favorites. You can see Derrick there has an AK 47... He has crosses on his glasses and a can of Spam, which, like I said, Spam to me is very interesting things because you can actually trace the history of US militarism by tracing the consumption of Spam. Everywhere the US military has been, people eat Spam. And so of course Wainwright had a large DEW line site and a large military presence and I don't know that that's the only reason they eat Spam there, but it's very popular.

MUSIC
[02:34:41.19]

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:34:51.18]
It was deep enough that we were able to get the boat, we all got out and pulled through a very shallow spot up there in Kaolak. While the guys are hunting, mom's fishing.

This cabin...

MUSIC STOPS
[02:35:07.03]

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:35:07.18]
Bob Shears and ah... Ahmaogak, what's her?

Unknown
[02:35:11.00]
Maryellen

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:35:11.19]
Maryellen, thank you. Just waned to point out that one of those ice damns that I was talking about. You know they invested, I don't know, hundreds of hours of labor into building an ice cellar at this place and the very next year there was an ice damn that brought the water levels up so high that it flooded that ice cellar, so it was a complete loss.

Ryan Tinsley
[02:35:32.04]
It flooded the cabin

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:35:33.01]
It flooded the cabin up to like the cabinets and everything, yeah.

MUSIC
[02:35:37.10]

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:35:41.05]
Yeah, it's always a bummer when you shoot a caribou and it runs into a lake, but luckily if you get your boat hook out you can pull it out of the pond, which is what these guys had to do. This was an extremely fat caribou.

Unknown
[02:35:59.03]
Geez

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:36:02.03]
They were very happy about it.

There's Billy tasting a bite of the kidney, right?

[many voices]
Yeah

Kidney... Very happy with this bible, that's called a bible, very fat bible.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:36:12.21]
He's stuffing it with other fat and nunmuking his tuttu back to the boat.

Field work, charging all the various electronics off of this antique generator that I then destroyed.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:36:36.03]
These guys were amazing caribou hunters. They were up and down the river every day... Scouting for caribou, catching them - netting them, in the river.

The Bodfishes at the Bodfish cabin.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:36:48.19]
So Fred and Michael here

Pause that...

MUSIC STOPS
[02:36:53.01]

What Michael Tagarook was doing here was changing his prop, which a lot of people do. They'll get up river using their good prop, usually maybe titanium?

Ryan Tinsley
[02:37:04.17]
Stainless

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:37:04.29]
Stainless... thank you Ryan, and then they switched to what an aluminum

Unknown
[02:37:09.19]
Yeah, one that won't cause damage to the motor, it'll just - cause the stainless steel is so hard when it hits a rock it'll cause a shock to the drive-train, but with an aluminum one it'll take a dent and it won't be so violent...

Unknown
[02:37:23.29]
Yeah, it has some give.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:37:27.06]
Right. And it's cheaper?

Unknown
[02:37:28.23]
Yeah, a lot cheaper.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:37:28.29]
So it's like people are not as, it's significantly cheaper so people are like, you know, less worried about damaging these props.

MUSIC
[02:37:40.15]
Caribou. Skin, skin covers over the boat. A stash of caribou there on the bank. That's actually one of the oldest frame cabins there on the left, still in use every once in a while

That's the only one that was there when Bill Schneider went out there in '76, the only frame cabin that was there in the area.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:38:07.04]
Umiŋmak! (muskox)

Ryan Tinsley
[02:38:14.10]
It was so hot he just stayed there for a couple days.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:38:15.09]
He just sat there.

This is going up the Avalliq.

Ryan Tinsley
[02:38:21.28]
We just about caught it with the canoe, if we'd paddled a little harder we could've grabbed him with the canoe.

Unknown
[02:38:27.02]
Awesome.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:38:28.26]
It was pretty impressive traveling up the Avalliq in the canoe with no other traffic. The number of caribou we saw was just astounding, and then this monster just ran right by us...

Ryan Tinsley
[02:38:42.14]
He just walked right up to us.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:38:45.05]
Yeah. So this is actually like another little village, Uyagaagruk, there are 7 or 8 cabins there. But like I said it's very shallow to get there and so it's less used.

MUSIC STOPS
[02:39:00.04]
There's a boat there, and a gentleman, but he's an older gentleman and doesn't have a job, so he is able to just go up to his cabin and stay there for months at a time.

Tex?

Yeah.

Ryan Tinsley
[02:39:09.16]
It was crazy, this ... as soon as we started going up here we saw a lot more caribou, and then the sails on the boat, you'd think they'd be scared but they never seen anything like it so they just run along side us, looking at us, where did you people come from?

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:39:23.02]
I think they were very curious about it.

MUSIC
[02:39:26.09]

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:39:37.27]
So, definitely there are...

MUSIC STOPS

sorry to interrupt again, but there's people who have a cabin, had a cabin at Uyagaagruk who are now building cabins, you know, right on the Kuk itself because they can always get to that cabin - they have a full time job, they cannot wait for deep enough water to get to this spot

MUSIC
[02:39:56.20]

Insect relief, it was a very hot day, actually

Greg Tagarook Jr.??

MUSIC STOPS

Greg Tagarook Jr. posing with an oar that belonged to David Bodfish Sr. that I found on the banks of the river and returned to his family.

MUSIC

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:40:38.11]
Albert Driggs Jr or the 3rd. That's his caribou.

That's all lumber that I found on the banks of the river.

With Alva Nashaolook.

Unknown
[02:40:55.04]
That's cool.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:40:56.19]
Yeah.

Ryan and Melvin building.

Alva skinning a squirrel with kids, showing the kids how to skin a squirrel.

Ryan demonstrating how the nostril can also be used as a lookout seat.

This of course, cause I gave the girls the camera... so they took thousands of pictures.

And then I actually had a printer with me in the field and photo albums so we would, with the kids, choose whatever pictures they wanted and make photo albums there at the time so that everybody went home with a photo album of their time at the camp.

Unknown
[02:41:40.23]
Awesome.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:41:41.12]
Here's the Bodfishes. They're actually preparing to move the cabin built by David Bodfish in probably 1987, David Bodfish was a much better carpenter...

MUSIC STOPS
[02:41:55.04]

actually, that's an interesting picture that hole there, that's a hole in the koichuk the arctic entryway, that a bear went through and then he went out the front door, so they had to remove the entire konichuk jack up the whole cabin...

MUSIC STARTS

and try and haul it back from the bank because the bank is eroding so severely that it was threatening the cabin and of course everybody there remembers how far out the bank was when they built the cabin it was another 30 feet further out.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:42:38.00]
That's another, that's the ventilator.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:42:50.04]
Got some grayling here. This guy has got his boat really tricked out, I guess he's a mechanic.

MUSIC STOPS

So here's the gals with their photo album that they made... They took hundreds of pictures and we selected them, and I did this with the kids at the other places too and it was, it was, you know I think it was definitely worth the effort to bring the printer and all the paper with me, and the ink, ‘cause the kids really liked that.

MUSIC

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:43:12.01]
And they provided me also with a lot of pictures.

So that was the Bodfishes coming back after moving their cabin, and here's the Nashaolooks getting ready to go.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:43:30.15]
Okay, see by this time the roof itself was finished, but by the time we left the colors had started changing. Ryan... that's the bench he built of all the drift lumber that we found

MUSIC STOPS

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:43:40.25]
This is amazing. Panik, is that your grandpa, Panik isn't it? ??

Peter Panik
[02:43:46.11]
Yeah,

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:43:47.11]
Well, he has satellite dish on his remote subsistence cabin, so he can watch satellite...

MUSIC

Back at Anaqtuuq, Jason, Qaqsu, these guys were checking on us on their way back up.

This is a well known landmark, the red rocks here and there's also a search and rescue cabin. So we spent the night on our way back at this little search and rescue cabin. It has really interesting rock formations around there. They used to make dye from these rocks.

That's all coal, pulverized coal.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:44:49.09]
This is actually a coal... I don't know if you'd call it a coal mine, but it's an area where people bring big bags of coal and then they run it through this sluice box sort of thing, it's not really a sluice box, and it sifts out the small pieces so that you just end up with big chucks of coal. So I don't know how often people still use it, Ira, do you know?

Ira Ungudrak, SAP
[02:45:12.00]
Yeah, they sure do.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:45:12.20]
They sure do?

Ira Ungudrak, SAP
[02:45:13.08]
Yup.

MUSIC
[02:45:15.20]

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:45:21.03]

Stash of coal there, this is a little bit closer to Wainwright .

That's an entire spit of coal. And there's the DEW line site on the way back into town, and here we are back in Wainwright.

And then in Wainwright talking to people about their cabins.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:45:53.24]
Local ivory carvers, and one of the biggest polar bears...

MUSIC STOPS

That's an average size polar bear on the left. This is particularly gruesome, I know, but they're partially decomposed and an especially large polar bear skull on the right.

[a few musical notes]

Applause

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:46:20.04]
Thank you.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:46:20.22]
That's the first presentation we clapped for.

[laughter]

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:46:29.00]
Well, I can tell you that for me going up there and camping was... one of the greatest trips we've ever had. It's a spectacularly beautiful place. So what I intend to do is take the map digitally, take the large cabin/camping map, or make make a Google Earth map and take a lot of the digital images of people and places and put them on the map so that it's like a subsistence resource map of, but it's totally cultural - just social people and their cabins on the map where they're located.

Unknown
[02:47:03.02]
You could do that with Google Maps.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:47:05.13]
Yeah, Google Maps, Google Earth I was thinking, yeah. And then go back and get, so not only actually old traditional place names but you know place names change, they reflect current use of

the land and so that's something that should also be documented.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:47:23.21]
Is there, ah, pictures from, you know how at NARL they have the mosaic pictures of the land? Back in the '40s, 50's You know when they started taking pictures at DEW line sites and stuff like that.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:47:41.29]
I'm not sure which mosaic you're talking about

Unknown
[02:47:43.29]
Aerial photos

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:47:45.15]
Aerial shots

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:47:46.21]
Yeah, yeah

[two voices, inaudible]
Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:47:51.11]
Over the years.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
That would be beneficial for you guys too, that way you could see the change. You know it might not be much in some places, but other places you might see quite dramatic change.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:48:05.29]
Quite dramatic, yeah

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:48:07.26]
That'd be a good idea.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:48:12.20]
Aerial photos? okay.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:48:12.18]
mm hmm

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:48:16.19]
Show ‘em that, this one right there, that book.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:48:23.11]
Native Livelihood and Dependence: A Study of Land Use Values Through Time:" This is actually, so the BLM and the North Slope Borough worked together, hired all these anthropologists and archeologists and they went and did one for each community and then they has a synopsis reports with maps.

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:48:42.18]
Do you have an extra copy of that?

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:48:44.15]
That's a good question, do you need a copy?

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:48:47.22]
Show it to Joe.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:48:49.23]
I'm sorry, you haven't seen it? And then there's maps.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:48:52.03]
I'd love to have a copy

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:48:52.29]
Love to have a copy. Okay, copies.

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:48:55.24]
Look at the front.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:48:56.12]

Oh, that's Bart on the front.

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[02:48:59.17]
Me and Mike.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:49:01.19]
Oh, Uncle Louie. Oh.

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[02:49:12.25]
Hey Stacey

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:49:13.21]
Yes.

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[02:49:14.05]
How would one go about getting copies of those books?

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:49:17.28]
They're way out of print.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:49:19.13]
They're way out of print?

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:49:20.22]
Yeah.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:49:21.13]
It's true... you know we could probably try to...

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:49:24.17]
Nothing was digital when those were printed, that's, I mean...

[Many voices]
Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:49:29.17]
If you look around... We've thrown away lot of those over 20 years

You're kidding me.

[many voices two inaudible conversations]

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:49:48.22]
You guys should take another picture in the same place

[many voices two inaudible conversations]

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:50:07.17]
Rather than try to print them. Printing is a nightmare.

Unknown
[02:50:15.02]
So which, who is charge when they make new maps - BLM

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:50:20.19]
Camps and Cabins?

Unknown
[02:50:21.28]
Is that BLM?

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:50:22.06]
No, it's the North Slope Borough Planning Department, so it's actually Jonathan Aiken. So the problem is, and that's one of the things I was trying to do is get updated GPS coordinates for each map, for each cabin, so what I did get I sent to Jonathan Akin or actually Cindy, our GIS person here did that and you know they are supposed to be constantly updating them. But then they kind of run out of money every summer and so Wainwright is a little lower on their list, you know and I wanted to at least make sure that the search and rescue cabins had the proper coordinates. And of course like so that people can load that information into their GPS nowadays.

Cliff Benson, Native Village of Barrow
[02:51:01.14]
That's one thing that I notice around Barrow, you know I travel a lot around there and when I first started traveling I'm going this way, I'll put this cabin on there if I'm going to go there for emergency. And you know I've had all those in there and then I'm like, alright I'm going to go to this place, and then when I went there I was a bout a mile and a half off from where I should've been.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:51:25.18]
So...

Cliff Benson, Native Village of Barrow
[02:51:26.16]
So each place that I go to I go right to the doorstep and put that mark right there.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:51:31.09]
You should share that information

Cliff Benson, Native Village of Barrow
[02:51:33.06]
And then I've got most of all the cabins within about a 30 mile radius of Barrow that I know actually, that that's actually where they are.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:51:43.20]
You know, Jonathan Aiken would really benefit from that data, 'cause he's just gath- he's really eager to get that data from people.

Unknown
[02:51:49.22]
Yeah

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:51:51.13]
And like I said I think it's super important for modern search and rescue efforts to have up to date GPS coordinates. What happened originally when the North Slope did the Camps and Cabins Map, they sent the map out to everybody, just tell us where you cabin is, and people just wrote it on there. And then also, they put it into GPS um, when they used a different, help me out here Susan... before they switched to the modern GPS.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[02:52:17.13] Yeah, they changed the datum.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:52:20.12]
They changed the datum and so everything is like at least 250 feet off, or something like that. Yeah, it's actually... it makes for a lot of confusion actually.

Susan Flora, BLM AFO, Hazmat Specialist
[02:52:32.15]
Yeah, that's exactly right.

Cliff Benson, Native Village of Barrow
[02:52:32.14]
And then also another thing in my long times of traveling you know my first, even from these places that I went to and marked myself aright on the doorstop I never went back for four or five years, and it was about a half mile off. And that's something that I find on all.. it's pretty much the same direction on all the cabins.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:53:01.22]
The things about that is it's because the North Pole is actually moving a certain amount of degrees every single year and that's why the GPS coordinates might be a little off.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:53:14.14]
Well, it's doesn't really work that way.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:53:15.07]
Some are like 5 miles off.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:53:18.23]
I think mostly it's because they switched the datum that they use for GPS coordinates and so when they did that, in like, when did the, I don't know if that's because GPS used to be a military classified kind of system.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:53:32.15]
No, no, there's countless different projections of how to take the world, which is a globe, and put it on a flat map so there's all these different projections and different datums doing it. Different ones are better for different purposes, so everybody has their way of doing it.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:53:51.17]

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:53:52.08]
And that is why they had on some of the maps, they have the actual compass right there and it shows you know on the legend, you know that they give the year when it was made

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:54:05.01]
That's the declination, and that as the magnetic North Pole the geographic North Pole, that affects your navigation with a compass but not with GPS, 'cause GPS doesn't care about where the North Pole is, it just cares about where the satellites are.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:54:28.17]
Well, I mean this is something we could talk about for ever...inaud

[laughter]

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:54:38.04]
Yeah, we're kind a...

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[02:54:40.04]
Well could I clean up one point Mr Chair, while we're talking about forever... Lon and I have another meeting at 2 oclock.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:54:46.29]
Okay.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:54:49.13]
Well, I think we're good to go,

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:54:51.07]
Yeah, we're good to go now.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[02:54:53.06]
Unless you guys have like recommendations unless you want to do that more formally we can work on recommendations but do you have any...

Recommendations from the SAP to the BLM Authorized Officer

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:55:06.06]
Well, the proposed road to Umiat would be priority number one. I guess we could figure out what the schedules are for for the State of Alaska and try to see if we can come up to the table on the proposed roads and alternatives and voice our concerns at the table. I think that would be priority number one I don't know if anybody else has any ideas.... on what we can do to bring ourselves to the table physically with the State of Alaska so that we can voice our concerns and support Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut and your villages, represent your villages to find the right language to oppose this.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:56:55.16]
Well, I think we talked about going beyond opposition because that's only going to go so far. You need to get... It's possible that they would deny the permit, that's possible, you also want to be at the table in the room proposing mitigation, proposing use limitations, and you know how that road would be managed and which alternatives are environmentally preferable. That's important. Because the decisions will be made at much higher levels that anyone in this room and anyone that's been in this room in the last few days.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:57:51.26]
So I think, I mean what I'll what I can offer is to have Stacey work with the Chairman and then coordinate with the rest of the people to get a sense of the subsistence advisory letter, that you can send out as a panel to whoever would be appropriate, and then you can take that letter as a model back to your governmental organizations and they can see what happens with that.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:58:33.04]
Then, Stacey can work with the, ah, has agreed to work with our liaison on the EIS that the Corps is doing and make sure that she's up to date on what the you know what the proposals are and how the process is working. There are some confidential, you know while things are being debated they're, we have to as a cooperating agency we can't just tell her everything she might know, but at the same time it is a public process and we can make sure that we get the concerns of the panel into the formulation of alternatives - at least on the table. You know, it's not our document but we do have inaud to the process and Stacey can be a liaison between the panel and the writers of the EIS so that we can offer those two things.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[02:59:42.14]
You had something?

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[02:59:46.04]
Yeah, I just wanted to... just another thing to, that I would like to get some action on is the just the low flying aircraft. I don't know who they are, but just all, I don't know how we can, just, I know that they're not supposed to be flying under what is it 500' or?

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:00:12.20]
There's no hard rule about that

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[03:00:16.25]
Inaud... isn't there?

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[03:00:19.25]
Can I just say something here. What seems to be confusion... BLM, when we charter aircraft or when we give a permit to somebody to do research on the North Slope we have that as a best management practice or a stipulation saying 'these are the rules that govern how you should fly your aircraft.' But the number, the percentage of aircraft that's flying on the North Slope that's related to a BLM charter or a BLM permittee is very low. And there's no way that we, that BLM can regulate private aircraft or

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:00:55.18]
and even if we say you have to fly 2000 feet over the ground say if you're going over a caribou calving grounds, we also have to say you have to say, but you have to fly within safe practice so if the cloud cover is at 600 feet, they're going to fly below that.

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[03:01:13.12]
So do you know who regulates that? Is that the FAA?

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:01:16.13]
No, the FAA does not regulate flight out of, or over open country. No one does.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:01:21.25]
No, no.

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[03:01:23.20]
There's regulations.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:01:24.16]
No, the FAA regulates air traffic to the extent that we can't regulate aircraft.

Okay, yet there's only a couple places, and the only one I know of for sure is the Grand Canyon in Arizona where the land manager has anything to do with air traffic. Because air traffic is so keyed?? to commerce the FAA holds that real closely. The FAA can close air space or, you know make limitations, you know on the kinds of aircraft that can fly in an area. And they can, like around the White House, you can't fly around the Whitehouse, just period, it doesn't matter who you are. So the FAA can do that, and only the FAA can do that.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:02:22.09]
What Dave is saying is they don't do that. There are no restrictions on altitude, anywhere - anywhere not associated with airports, air traffic in Alaska. I don't think there are any FAA

restrictions on altitudes. Even over Denali Park, they've been trying to get restrictions on aircraft altitudes for years but all, the last time I looked the only thing on the charts was a suggestion that they maintain at least 1500 feet. So does that answer the question?

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[03:03:07.25]
Well, I just, we need to figure out who does it 'cause it deals with our subsistence hunting with the caribou, and it just...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:03:20.07]
Well, what we do is, we have some, we have quite a bit of control with our own people. You know we're not going to compromise safety, but with our own people, and with the people we write permits for, you know we can dictate how they fly

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[03:03:39.11]
So is that in your guys' permit?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:03:41.27]
Yeah, we have guidelines. And we also most most of the... as far as I know, all the aircraft that we fly or that we permit, particularly helicopters, were tracking those flights and we get the flight lines at every landing and take off at the end of the year from their GPS. Most of the time we can look in real time or look back historically like a day or a week when somebody has a particular complaint, we do that at our Barrow office - on the days when the computers work. You know, we have a lot of information and that's what we can do and if people aren't following the terms and conditions of permits that we issue we can deal with it.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:04:40.11]
Now, the DC6s that were mentioned going into Umiat... at the airport, you know, state airport to airport... we don't have any hammer – zero that we can do about that. I can't think of how we might be able to do something.

Cliff Benson, SAP
[03:05:01.06]
It's just mostly the concern about what was going on in the Chipp River area and the Teshekpuk area.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:05:07.05]
Yeah, And we were - you know we did have a large subsistence, I think two , Subsistence Panel workshops that were dedicated to this issues. and we can do that again, because it is, it keeps

coming up and the main thing that we can do is we can catch people who aren't following the guidelines if they are permittees and we can change the stipulations.

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[03:05:42.25]
So what can the hunters do, like if they see a low-lying aircraft that is diverting caribou away?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:05:56.24]
If they can note the date and time

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:06:03.25]
and coordinates

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:06:05.00]
Well, in the general area, then we can tell that if, ideally, for a lot of aircraft we can tell during the, right then, or after that, whether any of our aircraft or flight following we're in that area and what they were up to. How high they were flying and where they were going. And that would b e valuable to us to know if they're causing problems because maybe we need to change the change our guidance or maybe we can talk to those people and make them aware. But if it's Hageland or,

Cliff Benson, SAP
[03:06:48.11]
It's just mainly the green chopper. And BP’s little chopper

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:06:53.12]
Okay

Cliff Benson, SAP
[03:06:54.13]
I know that that's a private one but when I talked to Ben he said that one was being leased out for calf... they were doing calf, they were doing calf caribou counts or something like that.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:07:09.05]
You know what that was Dave?

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:07:11.18]
Well, Fish and Game had an R44 that was either yellow or orange this summer

Cliff Benson, SAP
[03:07:17.01]
Well, it was a green R44.

many voices

... retired pilot, he has his own private charter through there....

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:07:29.12]
Now I have an opinion about all of this too, because I fly around in helicopters - that's how I do my job. And I'm very sensitive about your issue here, you know, I've been listening to this for 20 yrs. It's not a new issues. And I try to avoid.... I have to fly low to the ground to do some o f my work. I try to avoid subsistence cabins, if I see cabins, or if I see a boat, if I see a person, you don't always see people. And you can affect caribou while you're flying without having any intention of doing so. So, I can speak for my self only. I try to minimize my own impact on subsistence hunters when I fly but I can't guarantee that I'll have zero impact on subsistence hunters. You have to do your job, and I have to do my job and there's an inherent conflict in both of us doing our jobs perfectly 100% of the time. And that's where we try to work together to reduce the number of times we cause a conflict.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:08:49.06]
I think what we want to do, if we can some data about who,, what, when, and where.... you know we can try to build up a level of trust. I know all our staff are real... I mean I just had the Secretary of the Interior and they wanted to fly lower and we were going by subsistence cabins on Teshekpuk Lake and I said no, we can't, we can't do that. You know we have to stay up here. And that's just the way it was. And we take it seriously. That doesn't mean that flying at 1500' you're not gonna scare caribou. And certainly in that plane going over 200 miles per hour you don't have a lot of time and also your kind of in a toilet paper tube, whatever, [laughter] you know, you can only looking out the side. Maybe the pilot sees stuff, but we don't have a good view.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:09:50.04]
I mean if you can get a description of the aircraft. Colors, if you can see the n?? number that certainly identifies it but that's not always possible to see.

Cliff Benson, SAP
[03:10:01.21]
Well he was low enough to where I did get the tail numbers

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:10:03.21]
Well write it down You can write down that and the day and time and approximately where you were...

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[03:10:08.10]
You called Ben?

Cliff Benson, SAP
[03:10:10.05]
Yeah. I talked to Ben.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator, SAP Coordinator
[03:10:11.21]
With the number and I tracked it down and it was a private pilot private plane out of Cantwell, they lived in Cantwell.

Cliff Benson, SAP
[03:10:21.24]
Oh, that was a different issue with the um, that was more from Nuiqsut with that blue plane that was flying around. The moose hunters, those were the moose hunters that were game hunting up, they came up more north. This issue is with Choppers in the Chipp area, Barrow.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:10:44.18]
What I would suggest is I mean it's just generating ideas in my head, You see just like you know the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission we have a conflict avoidance agreement with oil companies, you know saying we're going to be hunting in this time and they sign their agreement to where they know we're going to be around during that time and we could see what we can do to come up with an agreement with you know the projects in the future and have them and hunters communicate what time of year they're there or have them at least try to agree to communicate with our local search and rescue dept and ask them if there's anybody going to be in this area at this time and try to avoid being there at that time.

Yeah, I know what you guys are going through. I've been there myself and you know I was out hunting and sure enough there was a low flying plane and I was like come on man I'm trying to I spend $90 - $150 just to get out there and and there's a plane and you don't see any caribou and I just basically wasted a day of work and that was during the weekend during my time off and I didn't know when I was going to be able to get out there again.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:12:53.02]
And you know it's, we gotta try to come up with this kind of agreement with with with the projects in the future and at least try to have them you know they're coming down, just like you said you have a job to do and to try to come up with an agreement and say at least have you communicate with local search and rescue are there going to be weekenders or anything like that while I'm there during this time. You know you could do whatever you can to try to avoid physical eye contact, so I think that would be the best route for...

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:13:44.07]
That makes me think of one thing we could do to mitigate it a little bit, just for our own aircraft, is we could go back to the Sunday day off instead of the wed day off. We have to give our pilots one day off every week and it used to be Sunday but some of our staff complained that it was hard to get logistics work done on a Sunday morning before going up because we usually do our staff transport back on forth on Sundays when the helicopter's not flying and so if Lon could consider that and we're not the bulk of the air traffic out there, but that's one little things we could consider doing.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[03:14:33.11]
Is there anyway that we can do some kinds of outreach campaign to all the helicopter companies that service the North Slope?

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:14:43.07]
We tried to do that with the people who fly up there before, not the vendors.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:14:49.03]
Not that we have to give up, I mean we there's not going to be... I'm confident that we've thought about this long and hard and that there's no silver bullet and I'm also confident that we haven't thought of everything and done everything that we can do. So, we'll give it some more thought, you guys give it some thought, and we can set aside some... or we can propose an agenda for one of our next meetings that we take this issue up again and we show you the kinds of thoughts that we keep cause we keep records of the flights and particularly north of 69 the 69th parallel, so it's north of Umiat. And because of the special status birds up there mainly I guess we keep track of every flight-line and every landing and we can show those maps and we can show you the capability we have with our automated flight following and there might be some security issues with it, though we can probably get you access through search and rescue or something to those automated flight following websites that'll show you where every aircraft we're dealing with is doing that automated flight plan which is the vast majority of them

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:16:29.09]
But I think what you're going to find if there's a green helicopter that's doing bad things that's not out, so all we can do is say, well that's not ours and that'll help you run down whoever's it is and maybe you can go talk to them and talk some sense or consideration into them. But....

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:16:56.25]
Well we we communicate with search and rescue all the time, letting them know exactly where we're going you know, if we're going to be there for a week we'll let them know we're going to be there for a while, approximate a week, you know, weather permitting, but we are always communicating with search and rescue and letting them know where' we're going to be and how

many people are going to be there. And you know I think it would be a really great idea to suggest to all these project in the future you know try to see where they'll be and communicate with them and try to avoid physical contact with each other. Cause, you know they have a job to do. Our job is basically to feed our people, but then again, you go to these meetings - that information is valuable.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:18:06.15]
So for our use in discussing this internally if you're going our hunting for the weekend you probably go out Friday night and come back Sunday night.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:18:16.23]
Most likely

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:18:18.18]
So maybe Saturday would be a good compromise, when most of the businesses in Fairbanks are still open on Saturday.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:18:28.21]
Yeah, the most people go out on a Saturday.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:18:31.00]
And that would be the one day that would be the biggest relief from us

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:18:37.24]
Well, and if we know prime use areas. I mean, you can imagine a kind of a, I don't know, a counterterrorism unit with all the cabins lite up or if there were people that... [laughter] and we'd stay away from those

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:18:59.04]
We’ll put those moose light, we’ll put those on the caribou.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:19:02.14]
Yeah, so you can imagine something like that and maybe we need to work towards

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:19:08.18]
A no fly zone

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:19:11.01]
Yeah, work toward something that'll work that and at least and I mean our object would be that you'd at least be pretty confident that if aircraft were bothering subsistence hunting that it wasn't on purpose and it probably wasn't something that BLM had a hand in. And that's kind of as far as we can go. If your organizations want to look at getting restrictive airspace through FAA a that's a whole ‘nother thing and I don't know how that would work.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:19:50.26]
Well I don't know about restricting areas, I was just thinking about at least have them communicate with the Search and Rescue dept and at least get information on where people are before they actually start planning.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:20:14.17]
FAA doesn't really have any airspace really set up like that where you have to communicate with anybody who's not FAA.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:20:25.15]
And we, we've experienced difficulty communicating with Search and Rescue - in an emergency. You call up and you get the custodian or something, it doesn't work.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator, SAP Coordinator
[03:20:43.17]
What percentage of the aircraft flying everyday is BLM or BLM related

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:20:47.12]
Oh, hell, I don't know it's not the bulk of it.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[03:20:54.10]
It's not, I mean it's a small percentage, or

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:20:58.14]
You're talking about NPR-A BLM or BLM permitted activities

Right

It's probably enough to make a difference, but it's probably not the majority

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator, SAP Coordinator
[03:21:10.11]
No even a majority.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:21:12.22]
I mean usually you're not thinking about Hageland or ERA or something doing their flights between Barrow and Nuiqsut.

Cliff Benson, SAP
[03:21:20.10]
No they stick to a pretty straight flight path and they're above the clouds and what not, so

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:21:27.11]
Well, they're below the clouds a lot

Yeah

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[03:21:31.08]
But they fly straight and fast and if they frighten caribou it's not going to bother em for very long, just a few seconds. and their gone

Bartis Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[03:21:40.24]
My experience with unknown flights... It's like you get a call from Kaktovik there's a 185 on the spit taking pictures of polar bears, he calls up to see if they have a permit, who are they. and the other part is these guys complaining against this plane that's going around dropping off guys and all that stuff, that's the experience we're having on the haul road. That's more the norm , so check with the state if they got the different guides they permit. But if they're on private lands and then you want to make a complaint you could take some picture, write it up, write down what happened. And then if you go to Barrow you're supposed to give it to the state trooper, but if you give it to the state trooper there, he'll say, it's not me. You got to get a biologist state trooper. I ask well, where do they have that? 'That's in Prudhoe.' You got to go all the way to Prudhoe or they send you to Prudhoe, and then the troopers says you got to take it to the person you're complaining about and then that's the citation that you'll appear in court, that's the only way it works.

So , but there's so many agencies that are giving permits ANWR NPR-A State... that are not really working together.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[03:24:07.26]
Joe - Bartley has something to say

Bartley Kleven
[03:24:11.06]
I was just at Umiat for a grand sum total of two hours there were two helicopters and two jets there, we had one jet. And we utilized one of the helicopters that was already there to make a 15 minute circle around, come back land and took off. But I was very surprised. This was probably august September time frame. One jet was North Slope Borough folks, with somebody... it was business, they were just doing business. And the two helicopters that were there I believe were doing baseline studies for DOT, and then we'd gone up to look at Umiat without snow. And what I would target is the people paying the bills on the helicopters. That's what target. That's not only a problem here, we have the same problem in other places in the state too. People out trying to hunt and people zooming in. There are some good things - I know there are some best practices out there, and it's kind of a more voluntary thing - you know do you know you're bugging us when you're doing this. So, I can that's the one things that I've seen and it's pretty affective because I don't think anyone wants to bother or hassle hunters. Everybody likes to get out and be there. So it's not an intentional thing, but more of a dunder head, you know not thinking.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:26:01.28]
Anything else

Unknown
[03:26:04.29]
I'm hungry

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:26:07.14]
I know, we're starving. Well, thank you guys. Thank you everybody for showing up. And thank you for bringing the Umiat project to the table. That was very much needed.

Unknown
[03:26:25.26]
That's at your place

Ryan Tinsley
[03:26:30.19]
Well that's actually personal property, so if you want o raffle it off you're welcome

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:26:37.11]
And I will defiantly keep in touch.

Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator
[03:26:41.21]
Yeah, we'll write some letters

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:26:44.21]
and write up some language on this project. And Is there a motion to adjourn

Qinugan Roddy, SAP
[03:26:56.24]
I make a motion to adjourn

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:26:59.00]
There’s a motion to adjourn

[several seconds]

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:27:03.17]
All in favor of adjourning the meeting say aye

[Aye all around]

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:27:11.22]
All opposed, same sign

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[03:27:14.12]
Alright, thank you guys. I'll see you guys in the next meeting