

DRAFT
NPR-A
Subsistence Advisory Panel
Meeting Proceedings
April 14, 2011
Wainwright, Alaska

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Compiled by:
Amber Lincoln for the
BLM Arctic Field Office
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709

**DRAFT Minutes
of the
NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Panel Meeting
April 14, 2011**

This meeting was held at the Wainwright Community Center

Panel Members Present: Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, Native Village of Barrow (Chairman); Ira Ungudruk, Village of Wainwright; Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS, Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope; Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut, Native Village of Nuiqsut; Andrew Hopson, Naqsragmiut Tribal Council.

Members Absent: Gordon Brower, North Slope Borough

BLM Staff Present: Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager; Ben Nageak, Barrow Office Natural Resource Specialist; Stacey Fritz, SAP Coordinator; Dave Yokel, Arctic Field Office Wildlife Biologist.

Presenters: Lon Kelly, BLM; Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX; Bruce St. Pierre, ConocoPhillips; Todd Brinkman, UAF; Bill Morris, ADF&G.

***Transcriptionist's note:** the first approximately 20 minutes of the meeting were not recorded and thus there is no verbatim transcript available. After the call to order, invocation, and introductions, SAP Member Qaiyaan Opie gave a brief update on the afternoon's workshop (see summary of workshop for details). Next, BLM's Arctic Field Office Manager, Lon Kelly, gave a presentation on the status of the all-NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan/EIS and described the cooperating agencies, tribal consultation efforts, and the range of alternatives currently being finalized. Kelly also updated the Panel and audience on the Department of the Interior secretarial order on Wild Lands, implementation of which is stalled because Congress denied funding. Lastly, Kelly briefly described the ongoing cleanup project at the Wainwright DEW Line site.*

7:00 PM Call to Order: Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, Chair

Welcome and Introduction: Lon Kelly, BLM

Introduction of SAP Members

Introduction of BLM employees

Invocation

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

* December 16, 2010 meeting

Report on SAP Workshop: Chairman Joe Sage, SAP Chairman

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:00:08.94

..Three wells were Aklaqyaaq #1, Aklaq #2 and Aklaq #6; those three wells were drilled in 2006 and 2007.

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:00:11.93

And uhm, there was an ice road that came from Oliktok point over to, we started with Akalak, Akoliak 1 and then did Akalak 6 and Akalak 2.

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:00:25.80

So we'll move back a slide and I'll move go back one slide, so we finished, we had 2 phases, one was to go and plug and abandon all 3 wells and then we'll be back this summer with a stick picking program to pick up any remaining debris that could have blown away or got left behind and then that will end FEXs involvement in the NPR-A.

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:00:51.82

Next slide...

Unknown

00:00:54.35

[muffled questions]

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:00:57.12

Oh, yeah, it was not an ice, it was not an ice road, it was just a road on a trail, it wasn't an actual ice road that was built

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:01:08.04

So here's the schedule that we're able to program: fall we began mobilization from Oliktok from Feb. 7. We had a lot of delays early in the program. It took over a month to get the first well plugged and abandoned.

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:01:25.97

Ah we had a lot of ice flow coming across Harrison Bay and Colville River Delta, a lot of bad winds early in mid and late February so Akoliak was completed on March 15th then moved to Akalak 6 and that completed on March 25th and then on April 4th Akalak 2

was completed.

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:01:51.55

This is what, this is Aklaqyaaq, I don't know if you can see this very well but this is what the ah, ah, the site looks like once the plug and abandonment was completed. This is what the uh, the drill after they cemented cemented the wells and cut it off and then they weld the plate on top of that so that's just and then that's uhm 36 inches and 40 inches under, you know, below the surface and then the mounting is put, there's gravel put that on top and then that settles down to approximately to the surface

Unknown

00:02:32.34

Yes.

Audience Q1

00:02:33.06

Uhm how do you pick up your mud cutting? (muffled)

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:02:39.28

Yes, everything is picked up. This is, this is, all that you're seeing here is just snow and this is gravel that's placed back, we brought gravel from Prudhoe Bay into fill back in. All the old muds, all the muds and cuttings was transported out during drilling and then all, any of the cementing or debris that happened from the plugging and abandonment was also taken out back out when they demobilized out from this winter.

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:03:11.28

Uhm. This is just, we had some, again we had some very early storm surge with overflow on the ice in Harrison Bay and then uhm big blows a lot of phase 3, I think we lost 10 days to phase 3 conditions, where we couldn't work at all

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:03:35.13

Uhm the subsistence advisor who worked on the project was Joe Leavitt from Barrow. He began the mobilization of the project and continued on the project until March 15th. He had to leave the project on March 15 so there were two weeks we didn't have a subsistence advisor on the project.

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:03:44.98

The few visitors, they hunt, they came by the project, they were all quiet, the hospitality, no one, there was a very small camp so there wasn't space available to ... [talking, muffled, can't hear]

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:04:40.78

[Muffled?] We had a comment on ... [muffled] we didn't have any conflict...we didn't have any calls or ... everything seems to run smoothly...[muffled]

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:05:09.52

Uhm this is just a message from FEX, they've had a very, they were very proud of their record that they've had here on the North Slope with the 4 wells that they've explored and installed, it's just business. The nature of the business is, they are going to take their investment, or their exploration dollars elsewhere and explore elsewhere. It doesn't mean they may not come back to Alaska sometime in the future but for right now they released all their wells. They appreciate all the hospitality that all the communities have provided and wish everybody the best of luck in the future.

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:05:47.10

And coincidentally, I mean as we're flying up here, I just put this in at the end. This was a news bulletin that came in on my phone, just as I was flying up here, and it says, the news bulletin says, FEX done with Alaska. So, uhm, FEX well which is a company that's owned by a company Dallas and Energy is for the near future not going to be conducting any more activity. Beyond the summer, there be some stick picking and final closure that will have to happen with the BLM and that will be the last time that I'll be up here representing Talisman and FEX. So, does anybody have any questions?

Audience Q2

00:06:16.04

Is there going to be any type of monitoring on the pumps later on down the line?

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:06:26.53

Well there, there's a cap and plug on them, and then they're buried under, they're 5 feet down beneath the so no, there's no monitoring of the any of the well after it's been cut off and buried. We have some reclamation requirements to fulfill with BLM, you know, to make sure that, uhm, that some of the observations, to make sure that that the vegetation comes back in. there's no monitoring on that. Is that correct Bob?

Audience Q3

00:07:13.26

When you guys start capping that well do you guys put any anodizers to keep the cap from rusting away?

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:07:25.17

No, Chip, you probably know the answer to that.

Chip Albert

00:07:27.57

No, no they don't

Audience Q3

00:07:30.34

So, when they rust away, what's to prevent it from coming out?

Chip Albert

00:07:32.83

Well they have a series of cement plugs down the formation of the hole; you know to seal all the reservoir pressures off. There's a series of them coming up the well format, and uhm, we really haven't seen much cathodic corrosion on the wells up there.

Audience Q3

00:07:56.36

And you guys do not monitor after the well is capped?

Chip Albert

00:07:58.82

No, we have a BLM inspector that witnesses this whole process and there's a series of pressure tests to make sure it's properly isolated and once it clears those inspections it's deemed plugged and abandoned.

Audience Q3

00:08:15.62

So once it's abandoned you guys do not do yearly or biyearly checks on the well,

Chip Albert

00:08:20.86

No

Audience Q3

00:08:21.69

So you have no idea what goes on after the well is capped.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:08:33.98

Chip, maybe explain to them what's in between the gas or the oil and the top of the well.

Chip Albert

00:08:39.01

Yeah.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:08:40.52

That way, because I think they are thinking there's just a cap down.

Chip Albert

00:08:44.48

The uh, just to back up, these wells that are suspended out there, where you actually have a well head sticking out of the ground, those are inspected annually, they check to make sure they're holding pressures properly and everything. These wells that have been plugged and abandoned permanently as I've said, we have a series of cement plugs 500 feet long down at the reservoir and then that each casing string so this particular well, I think for FDX, they had 3, 500 ft. cement plugs coming up the well board and then at the surface the top 200 feet from the surface down 200 feet is all cement. So, we feel pretty, as an industry we feel good, that we're not going to have any leaks.

FEX Representative Glenn Ruckhaus

00:09:32.62

And the cement plug from the original drilling, there's a 500 ft. cement plug immediately above the potential show zone where there is potential oil production. 500 ft. of cement above that, that was pressure tested, you know, back in 1987 before they left the well suspended.

Unknown

00:09:59.11

Ok,

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAI)

00:10:02.46

We can move, so we can take some more questions at the end, but Glenn and I decided to do our presentations kind of back to back, and there's a reason for that. My name's Bruce St. Pierre (CPAI) and I'm with Conoco Phillips here in Alaska. And CP combined with FEX's efforts using a single contractor to go out and do this work and uhm our point was to one, save a little bit of money, by having one outfit do the work and 1 trip out, but secondly, to minimize the impacts by having more than one road, whether it's an ice road, in this case it was a packed trail that they went out on with lowered [xx?] and that kind of thing. Basically the message is trying to do our work more efficiently, to to have minimal activity going in and out of the MPRA from the work that needs to be done and again, just to reemphasize from some of the question we've heard so far, this was a plug and abandon activity and BLM and the state whenever you have wells out there that you drill they have a specific procedure that a company has to go through to plug and official abandon the well. And like they were saying, it involves a lot of concrete or cement that goes down the well to seal the well off at large intervals so if there's any pressure or any gas or anything down below, it's sealed off. And then the only checking you do again is to go back on a restoration basis to look at vegetation, look at any impacts from surface activities. You know when the ice melts off, it can scar the tundra or have any damage around the well head, we're required to go back and do inspections a couple of summers down the road and also to make sure we do stick picking, pick up any garbage.

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:11:58.44

Before I get full blown into my presentation, which is going to be pretty quick, it's only a few slides. I'd first like to thank the panel and BLM for asking us to come, inviting us to come and give an update on the programs. I was not able to make the meeting that was in Barrow back in December but Glenn and company covered for me and so, I appreciate that invite to come and give a little bit of a wrap up. And secondly, I did want to introduce a few people who came with me and you've already talked to one of them, Chip Albert and he's with our drilling department, he's our drilling manager for CP Alaska. And so if you have any more questions about knowledgeable stuff of drilling, he's the guy to ask. That's why he's here. In the back row, I also have Rusty. Rusty is with our human relations group and he just got hired on a few months ago and he's going to be more present here. Conoco Phillips of course have got some activity in this village associated with our ambition to do some exploration activity in the off shore. Hopefully, our goal is to drill a well in 2013, but I won't talk about that today, that's another meeting.

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:13:03.01

But for the onshore piece of NPR-A, that's what we'll focus on today, what we have going on in the NPR-A as a company is actually very little at this time. We are, we use this opportunity to combine up with FEX and we plug and abandoned the Puviaq #1 well and that was the well we drilled back in the winters of 2003 and 2004 if you remember going back that far, we had over summer a ice pad, at that location and stored some stuff over the summer so we insulated some ice on the tundra and kept some equipment out there over the summer period between the two winters that we were doing the drilling activity.

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:13:42.81

Uhm what we agreed to do this year, this winter was to combine with FEX and plug and abandon our well and the three wells that they did, that Glenn just talked about, and we had 1 well to do at the tail end so, out of the 4 well program, we were the last ones on the contractors list to plug and abandon. And as we speak they are currently working on the site. They arrived around the 6th of April so it's a little over a week ago to do our well. The procedure has gone very well as far as getting the cement and pressure testing those zones after the cements in and uhm. They expect to be capping, putting that cap on that Glenn showed you the picture of on our well, during the next few days, and starting to demobilize out of the area probably by the end of the weekend, is the guess according to [muffled?]

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:14:38.23

What was my last bullet here, go back one? Yeah,

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:14:45.01

This is just a map, similar to the one Glenn showed you, the FEX well's were out here further to the west, and our well, as they're coming back they're heading to the Puviaq, and then they'll plow the road/trail? Out and we do have plans at this time to follow Harrison Bay along the water, along the edge of the ocean, unless we have some issues with ice and then we're permitted with an alternate route to go inland if we have to.
[muffled]

Audience Q4

00:15:15.68

Bruce, sorry for the interruption, [muffled] how did the plan for the Rolligon plan work out for you guys, just out of interest.

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAI)

00:15:24.03

What do you mean by plan, just...

Audience Q4

00:15:25.03

...did you have snow cover on the rocks, that you might have anticipated

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:15:27.92

uhm, we have plenty of snow but on the ice route coming across Harrison Bay there was a lot of storm at the time of coming across in early February, and so we ended up with a lot of overflow on the ice, which caused a lot of problems but for the overland part, we had lots of snow cover and it was no problem.

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAI)

00:15:52.00

There was some periods of time when we had to wait to get out there. Mobilizations outlets? Some periods of time they had to stand back, just cause of storms and stuff and also they do as they go out they do a checking of the ice thickness and the [scaling?] process up ahead and there was a couple of times where they had to either change the route a little bit and make sure they were on thick enough ice, support the

Glenn Ruckhaus, FEX

00:16:20.41

Right, we had to permit a separate route cause we had to get off the sea ice, earlier, we had to permit a separate route because we were starting to

Unknown

00:16:34.52

It was challenging,

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAI)

00:16:36.52

As Glenn mentioned in his presentation, there were some challenging [muffled] faced ...once they got out there, and there were such a small group of people, cut off from any real support or infrastructure. They had a couple blows or they had problems with temperature, things freezing up and so we lost some time at the beginning. But it seems like once they got through those weather conditions, kind of got going, they picked up some days but yeah, and got back on, but yeah we were a little nervous cause Conoco was the last well to be done and as you get closer to the springtime and everyone knows the kind of ice road season ends from about mid April, like right about now, into early May depending on condition, you could be asked to be out within 3 days kind of thing. we were starting to get nervous, and wanted to make sure we got our work done before we lose the winter so to speak, but so far it's going well, like I said, we're probably down to the last 3 days, 3 or 4 days before we'll be out of there [muffled].

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:17:37.74

This map didn't come out very well but it just shows a couple of water sources that we permitted near the Puviaq site using the same two water sources lakes that we used when we were out there doing the well. And we didn't use much water. There's a little bit of water use to broadcast around the area just near the well site so we could stage some of the equipment and what not, we didn't have like an ice road or a large ice pad.

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:18:03.46

And that's pretty much it, the rest I left for questions that you guys might have but again this is an abandonment project so we were following procedures that are out there to plug and abandon wells and we've had a very good program. For ours it was a little over a week long with no safety instances and no environmental instances. So that's good news for us too. Any questions for me about the Puviaq well.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:18:32.82

Not on the well but Wainwright being the NPR-A, there's some activity going on within Wainwright for your operations here, what is happening here in Wainwright?

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:18:54.77

Well, you know, I hate to take up too much of BLM's time here, [muffled]

John Hopson, Jr.

00:18:59.28

[muffled] BLM's time is the NPR-A [? muffled, laughing]

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:19:01.08

Let me get the question, so I understand your questions. You say activity within Wainwright associated with what we're trying to do with the offshore?

John Hopson, Jr.

00:19:08.45

Yeah, and this is onshore project so, I figured maybe you should let the community know what you're doing?

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:19:08.67

Well, I'll tell you what John, We are more than willing to come back and we've had a number of meetings with our offshore operation. CP has been working with Lumik [?] very aggressively I guess in trying to establish what our plans are and we've been very forthwith about saying that we have a mission to drill this exploration well on the offshore in 2013 and there's a lot of preparatory work to be done to get to that point. And we are looking to have a home base, a place where we can change out people, change out materials and so we're working with your corporation, village corporation, [muffled....ring], supported about the fact ... about our offshore.

Stacey Fritz

00:20:05.84

There's a meeting, there's a meeting.

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:20:09.48

[muffled] discovered out there, interruption, [muffled coughing]

John Hopson, Jr.

00:20:28.73

What project is happening here right now?

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:20:30.63

oh the gravel one?

John Hopson, Jr.

00:20:32.54

yeah

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:20:33.23

well maybe I should let somebody else who knows more about that one cause I'm not personally involved.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:20:37.50

ok

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:20:38.38

but I know that there's some work done on the mine site bringing in some infrastructure around a helipad, that kind of thing. But I don't know details. I think it might be best to save for another offshore Chukchi sea type meeting. I can work with you and set up a date for that.

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:21:02.24

Any other questions about Puviaq.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

00:21:07.42

Any more questions? No,

Bruce St. Pierre (CPAD)

00:21:11.62

Thank you.

Stacey Fritz

00:21:13.57

Thank you.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

00:21:23.80

We'll move onto the next item on the agenda, the BLM update

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:21:32.24

Well, the Bureau that we met in [muffled?] gave a public meeting in Wainwright, and it was called a scoping meeting and it had briefing with everyone on this planning effort that we're doing to consolidate all planning for NPR-A under one plan. Planning area is over 22 million acres, it covers all of the NPR-A and most of the Bays, East Inlet, Peard Bay, Wainwright Inlet and eastern part of Kasegaluk Lagoon. There are 4 communities that are actually in or surrounded effectually surrounded by NPR-A, and Colville and there are about 40 more villages that depend on caribou, particularly the Teshekpuk herd and the Western Arctic Herd calving in NPR-A. This plan has 4 cooperating agencies. These people, the North Slope Borough, the State of Alaska and the Fish and Wildlife Service and DOEMRE all have a seat at the table. They see the draft documents and make comments and it's important to understand that these cooperating agencies, it's not their plan, BLM is the one to blame for what's in the plan. These people have these groups do have access and a seat at the table while we're negotiating what goes in the plan. ... in particular the NSB doesn't want anyone confused to think that they necessarily agree with everything that's in the plan. Cause they [muffled] cooperating agency but it puts them into the position to know what's going on and to influence the process.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:24:09.19

The planning effort is to combine 3 different planning areas, that we've, 2 of which have existing land use plans and the south NPR-A is an area where we started a plan and stopped a couple of years ago. So 1 plan for the whole area and it will be simpler. When, what we're doing right now, is developing a range of alternatives and the range of alternatives really focuses on the one issue what lands we should make available to for oil and gas leasing and what we should do protect surface resources. Since NPR-A was set up and established as an oil and gas reserve, mandatory reserve, one way to think of this range of alternatives is on the protect surface resources and more oil for later. That side of the range, it's what's the least we can do for energy development and still have a petroleum reserve, still meet our legal requirements under. On the other side, develop the energy now and encourage the development of energy soon, what's the most we can do legally and that we can afford to help energy to be developed in the near term. So that's, those 2 extremes are what we're working on right now, what's the range of alternatives. Right now, hopefully we'll have out to our cooperators an initial draft cut of what that range will look like and we'll work with the cooperating agencies to finalize a range of alternative which will be used to analyze the impacts, the environmental impacts of those different alternatives in that range. Does that make sense? Something you've all heard before.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:26:34.86

One of the things we tried to do in the planning process is make sure that we understand what the big issues are what questions the plan should answer and subsistence is always, after that initial question of what we're gonna, what we should lease and when and how we should protect the surface resources, we wanna talk about subsistence. Where are the important subsistence areas and how are we going to mitigate impacts to subsistence resources and access to those resources. It's pretty obvious that the key to that is local involvement and the subsistence advisory panel which these people volunteer to represent their tribal governments is a part of that, it's something we do cooperatively, we get together and talk about subsistence and how it's going to convey information to the tribal government and from the tribal governments to BLM so that we're all on the same page at least as far as what we know about what's going on in NPR-A.

Audience Q5 Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS?

00:27:47.96

So Lon, [muffled] does this panel satisfy as a government-to-government relationship?

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:27:57.14

Arguably, we don't think of it that way but arguably it could. You know we certainly are open to government-to-government consultation as of this time, the only village that has asked for government to government consultation we haven't met with is Point Hope and that's just they're strapped for money in Point Hope and it's really hard to get there in the mid winter.

Unknown

00:28:31.46

[muffled question]

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:28:33.26

? met with them. But I got iced in in Fairbanks. We had a big ice storm in December and couldn't get out so that's on our to do list, get out to Point Hope.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:28:55.09

Uhm, another big deal is special status species, you know, species that are protected by federal statutes, so we got the eiders, bowhead whales, and polar bears, the big deals there.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:29:17.47

We have an original planning schedule and we published a notice that we were gonna begin planning, we conducted scoping meetings, we sent out letters offering government-to-government consultation and we're right now working on this, developing a draft plan so the first step in the planning process is to describe the existing environment and the first thing? for the plan and we're well on the way to have that done. And then we need to know what the alternatives are, what the range of alternatives are so we can assess the impacts, on the existing environments of all those alternatives, each one of those alternatives. That's what we're looking at right now, so honestly speaking, we're probably 2 months behind what we'd hoped to be and now we're not, we were hoping to be done in Sept or October of 12 and now it's looking like we're gonna be heading toward the end of our range, January Feb of 13. We could perhaps speed up a little bit but I think...

John Hopson, Jr.

00:30:42.37

Why are you behind?

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:30:45.73

I think because the department wants to do things right and be careful. And so the Department of Interior and the Secretary, at the secretarial level is looking closely at the draft products that we presented them and asking us a lot of questions about those about that range of alternatives. And so it's just taking a long time to get departmental buy-in on a range of alternatives.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:31:21.45

It's a big problem for a community that wants a road set.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:31:29.14

I hear ya. [laughing.] All I can say is that departments are paying a lot of attention. They're trying to do a good job and they you know, they ask questions and it comes down through 4 or 5 levels and then our answers go back through 4 or 5 levels and then it takes, it took, it's taking longer than we had hoped.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:31:59.01

One of the things that, so that's about the plan. Are there any more questions on the plan?

John Hopson, Jr.

00:32:08.16

The special status species, polar being being such a big controversial issue, what's BLM doing about that?

Dave Yokel, BLM Arctic Field Office wildlife biologist

00:32:22.29

Well, we are doing our best to manage the Polar Bear according to the law now that it's been enlisted on the endangered species act. We're not entering the debate on the listing itself.

Unknown

00:32:38.49

can you speak up Dave

Dave Yokel, BLM Arctic Field Office wildlife biologist

00:32:43.94

Ok, I'm a little bit deaf in my left ear this week so I can't tell how loud I'm speaking, but we the BLM are involved in trying to manage the land in a way that does not have an adverse impact on the polar bear but we're not directly involved in the current controversy over designating critical habitat for the polar bear, that's an issue for the US Fish and Wildlife service.

Dave Yokel, BLM Arctic Field Office wildlife biologist

00:33:08.94

[muffled talking]

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:33:14.31

ok, so has anybody ever heard of the department of wildlands policy. Some people have. Apparently the funding bill that went to the president this evening, I don't know if he signed it, contains prohibitions on talking on implementing or... the secretary order that started this wildlands process, so I'm assuming the president hasn't signed it or I wouldn't be able to tell you that that policy has been canceled for the current fiscal year. So through the end of September, we're not going to talk about wildlands anymore, after

tonight. So it's kind of funny that it's happening right now when we have this on the agenda.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:34:08.29

Ok, so we're gonna talk a little bit about the cleaning up of the DEW Line station. It's really an airforce project. That DEW Line station and the [beached?] diesel tanks are BLM land. [muffled] clean it up [muffled] is largely negotiated between the airforce and [muffled] department of environmental conservation. The objective of the airforce and ADAC is to clean up the site to the standard that would allow it to be used for industrial purposes with minimal institutional controls. An institutional control could be anything from signing like "don't dig here" to fences to keep people out. So that's kind of the level of clean up the airforce is conducting right now. The beach diesel tank area that's being cleaned up, there's one landfill near the DEW Line that was removed from the inlet. Another landfill up land of there on the road from inlet to station is going to be removed and located later in this project. I'm sure there's people here who worked on the project or certainly watched the project and know more about it than I do. What I know about it is what the plan is and not much about exactly what is happening out there. So, forgive me for that. Anybody's been out to the Inlet and seen that the old dump is aware that there were acid batteries and a lot of metal in the lagoon and that was in the winter, excavated and cleaned up. The gravel from the beach diesel tank is contaminated somewhat contaminated with petroleum and that's being land, what they call land spread, so it's spread out fairly thinly on the gravel pad, being used to level the gravel pad and the hydrocarbons that are in that gravel are expected to basically evaporate and go to a level below a regulated level, in other words, it would just be like gravel and that will require ongoing monitoring until that attenuation or evaporation of petroleum contamination is complete.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:37:25.94

So this summer, Olgoonik will continue cleaning up the tank area and spraying that gravel at the DEW Line station.

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

00:37:36.72

Shane Walker and I and somebody else from [xx?] will be back next week to talk about that with some people.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:37:51.46

To do a compliance inspection. You're not planning a public meeting?

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

00:37:54.75

I mean a compliance.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:37:59.27

What's the plan to be done with that cleanup? What's your time timeframe? For it to be used.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:38:11.31

It's largely, oh, it can be used, we expect that the pad and the runway will be used this summer.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:38:19.89

The rest of the DEW Line site, I mean we hear stories that they're going to knock down buildings and now what's your time frame with this.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:38:29.37

They are obligated to do it, and as far as we're concerned, the sooner the better, but it's dependent on funding, Airforce funding.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:38:40.95

It's the access of Superfund, why can't it be used when it's such a high interest for national interest and [muffled] for oil and gas here.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:38:51.37

uhm, the vast majority of cleanup except for a very few hotspots is not eligible for that superfund, funding. it's all being cleaned up under what the airforce calls, formerly used defense sites. FUDS funding. And so I'm really talking out of (unclear), cause I don't know about the department of defense budget but we have meetings every 2 or 3 weeks on the phone with the airforce and AEDC and I'm pretty sure the airforce has a big deal of uncertainty on what kind of funding levels they're going to have. They took a big hit in construction and I don't know what impacts this new budget resolution will have on their plans for clean up. They've got their, I know that they've had indications without a budget, that FUDS funding was gonna be available to expedite the cleanup to actually haul a lot of gravel off and haul the contents of that other land fill off and demo those buildings We haven't negotiated the demolition of the buildings or the use of the land filling or removal from the hole area, building debris. That hasn't, they don't have a plan for that that's been approved by BLM or AEDC. Did I answer the question?

John Hopson, Jr.

00:40:44.03

Yeah.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:40:48.81

Ok, now I got these research updates and Todd are you first? So that was it for my BLM update, do you feel updated? Does anybody have any questions about BLM activities or just questions about BLM can talk to me, talk to Ben, while we're here. We'll be here some of the day tomorrow. We're happy to talk to you about anything to do with BLM. You know, we don't get out to the villages that often so take advantage of us while you have us, not too much advantage. But we want to make the most of the trip. It's really good to be here and thanks for that.

Todd Brinkman

00:42:17.23

Hello everybody, my name is Todd Brinkman I'm a wildlife biologist from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I'm [staying?] to give you an update on some of the research that we've been doing here in Wainwright for the last year and a half and we're also doing this research in Kaktovik and then Venetie and Fort Yukon. It's called the Subsistence Resource Availability Project. I'm gonna tell you all about it today but before I begin, I wanna thank you for inviting Stacey and everybody, I'm honored to be here and I also need to thank the hunters. In each community we work closely with 15 to 20 hunters and I'm basically summarizing what they told me. This is kind of their work. I'll get started here. As you know in out on the land, our environment is changing very fast around us. In the interior of Alaska, we're seeing an increase of forest fires. Throughout the North we're seeing erosion and the permafrost melting and we're seeing dramatic changes in our sea ice conditions and it's becoming rather evident that the future conditions are gonna be quite different than they are today. So the questions of our research how are these changes affecting the availability of local resources that hunters depend on and also how might these changes affect hunting opportunities into the future. So those are kind of our main questions that we're dealing with.

Todd Brinkman

00:43:54.33

When we started this work about a year and a half ago the first question that was asked was how is this going to help our communities, how it is another researcher coming in annoying us, going to help our communities. Well, there's a lot of ways, first of all we're documenting knowledge of hunters' interaction with the land and how that interactions is changing as your environment around you changes. We're also helping to identify what subsistence resources maybe vulnerable to the changes that are occurring right now. And then another one, there's a lot that we don't know and by bringing what we know as scientists and coming and talking to local hunters about what they are seeing we get an idea of what we don't know but maybe what we need to know to anticipate some of the changes that maybe occurring.

Todd Brinkman

00:44:44.21

So how do we go about doing this? Well the first step we go in and identify communities that maybe interested in participating. So we talk to several communities and everyone that we talk to said yeah we're interested I think we'd like to participate. so we're working

as I said, in Wainwright, Kobuk, and Venetie and Fort Yukon.

Todd Brinkman

00:45:08.96

So what we do in much in these villages. We work with the tribal council and also the local village support and they help us identify [muffled] and they want to sit down and talk to us about the availability of their resources and how are they changing, so we sit down with 3 to 4 hunters at a time and [muffled] hunters anywhere from 3 to 5 times. The next step is we don't go into the community and say this is what we'd like to study; we go into the community and ask them what is important to you. So, in wainwright, the species that we talked most about was we talked about caribou and bearded seal, bowhead whale, ducks and geese, beluga and some fish species. After they identified the animals they wanted to talk about then we sat down and we really tried to understand how the hunting system works, when does harvest occur, what is happening to the local population size. How do you access the resource and where is the resource? There are different kinds of years, different times of the years. But we're also really focused on this, how are the environmental factors, the changes that are occurring around me, affecting each one of these. How's it changing when you're harvesting or how you are accessing the resource. Those are the types of questions that we sit down and discuss.

Todd Brinkman

00:46:34.99

So, what do I mean by availability. Well we define availability as having three parts. It might be hard to see on the screen but, of course, for a subsistence resource to be availability first you have to have enough of the resource to support a harvest. Next, hunters have to have access to that resource and because these resources are moving around throughout the year, they have to be in the right place at the right time. if all those come together, the resource is available. SO after we went over how the hunting system worked around here, I put together this report. So this is like a summary of what hunters told us, and we brought it back and we said, here's what we heard from the conversations that we had, did we get it right?

Todd Brinkman

00:47:27.36

And they said, yeah you got this right and then they'd say, no no no, this is wrong here, here, and here. So we'd correct this and then we'd move on to the next step. Like even this report, we documented the relationship between the hunter, the land and the environmental change. So like just an example with Bowhead, hunting opportunities a lot of the hunters told us that Bowhead were plentiful and even increasing. And they talked about how also when and where the leads are opening is changing. They also talked a lot about weather and sea ice conditions. and we did this for each village so I'm just giving you some examples for Wainwright but a lot of the hunters were talking about these changes with the sea ice particularly how you're seeing less multiyear ice, it's getting thinner. It's becoming a little more challenging because you're spending more time searching for a good landing for the whales. And also talking about some of these leads are widening and you're getting windier conditions, which might be making the seas a

little rougher when you're trying to get your whales. And here's just another example for caribou, we talked about on those warm days, the c are coming to the coast and we're seeing more of those warm days, warming temperatures, and they are seeing this happen more often, which can be good because they come to coast, you might not have to go as far, but then they also talk about other changes like an increase in winds, caribou coming to the coast that good but the wind, it's windy out there so boat conditions can get rough. But for those hunters who might be going inland, that wind might be a good thing because there's not as many bugs to deal with. So these are the types of relationships that we documented in this report.

Todd Brinkman

00:49:17.03

The next step, which we're just moving on right now, is where we start to discuss what the environment might look like in the future. Ok, so if the weather continues to change into the future how it's changed over the last 10-20 years, what kind of affect does that have on hunting operations. So we start talking about potential changes, no one knows what's gonna happen but using the best available data we've got, they made some of these predictions about what weather might look like in the future. This map is probably really hard to see from back there but here's 2005 temperatures. So the average temperature in January around Wainwright was somewhere around -4 -9. So they're predicting, based on some of their projections, that when you're children's grandchildren are out hunting on the land, you may be seeing temperatures above 0 in Jan. So they're expecting a lot of warmness. so we'll talk to hunters about this saying do you see these sort of changes, do you think this is possible, that the land may be warming like this and we'll talk about all sorts of different environmental variables, whether it be freeze up, thaw date, rain, sea ice.

Todd Brinkman

00:50:32.55

Here's some sea ice projections, there's a lot going on with this map but the point is, that here's September sea ice, this is about 3-foot ice. This is around 18 foot ice, again we have another 16 here, they are thinking that there may not be a whole lot of sea ice in that September month and what is there may not be very thick so there's a lot of changes going on.

Todd Brinkman

00:50:59.12

And then this wetland, which is hard to see, that was the average sea ice between 1975 and 2005. So, there's quite a bit of changes going on and we're really interested in working with communities to find out how it's affecting hunters.

Todd Brinkman

00:51:16.77

So the final step is to kind of think about the future and if these weather patterns continue to change we can work with hunters to know the relationships between the weather and the hunter now so if the weather changes like this how will hunting opportunities change.

and we're just getting started on this work but so this is real preliminary but based on what hunters told us, we kind of project our data into the future and so far it looks like for a lot of the species, water fowl, beluga, caribou, fish based on what all hunters told us, we don't expect too significant change but there maybe a decrease in availability of bowhead and bearded seal. So the next obvious question is why, well it's not because of population size. The hunters we talked to said the populations are plentiful, almost every resource that we talked about are plentiful or increasing. However, the issue seems to be these environmental changes are affecting access, access is becoming more challenging. [muffled] This is like how I talked about with the bowhead whale with sea ice conditions.

Todd Brinkman

00:52:32.14

And this is a quote from one of the hunters or two of the hunters that we talked to and it kind of sums it up well. It says, it seems like our storms are keeping us from whaling so our supply and access is dependent on the weather now. Sometimes we have lots of open leads, lots of water to use but too much wind, lots of whales but we can't get to them, the water's too rough. SO these are kind of the access issues we were hearing from the hunters.

Todd Brinkman

00:52:58.77

I just have a couple more slides, I want to point out that no one knows what's going to happen in the future. No one can predict, the best we can do is use all the information we have as scientists and talk to hunters on the ground about what they are seeing and make our best guess of what the most likely scenarios will be and think about how we can prepare for those future scenarios and hang on to what's important to us, the aspects of the culture that are important to us. And it was very evident talking to every village that we work with that hunters are very proud of their ability to adapt to change, they've been doing it for 10,000 years. They face a lot of diversity and they work through it.

Todd Brinkman

00:53:39.92

Just as an example, I was here shortly after the first fall whale was harvested this year and it was really exciting to hear the hunters talk about, so things are changing and obviously hunters are adapting to those changes so it's not doom and gloom. And one hunter said jokingly, with everything that has happened, who knows what will happen in the future, we may be using remote control boats with cameras on them to look for whales. We laughed when he said that, because technology is also moving very fast. The boats are bigger, stronger, ATVs are [muffled].

Todd Brinkman

00:54:17.34

So just to recap the lessons learned, well, things are changing and they're changing fast. Summarize, all the hunters we talked to said, the temperatures are increasing especially in the last 10-20 years. Seeing increases in water temperatures, later freeze up, earlier thaw. Some of them may be linked to animals, hunters talked about them arriving sooner.

Thinner sea ice, less multiyear ice. Smoother ice, less pressure ridges out there, harder to find good landings, they talked about more shore erosion, less shore fast ice, permafrost melting, might be one of the causes of shore erosion. They're seeing some shifting in where the animals are particularly the animals that are more dependent on the sea ice, such as your seals and your walrus. More wind, stronger currents, not everybody said it, just when you get wind it seems like it stronger wind. Talk of new species. [Muffled phone ringing] xx? talked about seeing xx? in recent years. Fewer polar bear. [muffled?] All this is in the report.

Todd Brinkman

00:55:34.38

But it's important to talk about expectation. In our research we're apprehending? ...environmental factors and we know that there's a lot more than just this. [Muffled] For instance a lot of the hunters talked about the economics that [Muffled] overwhelm them. Fuel cost, So this wasn't an aspect that we were looking at but there is talk about kind of a phase 2 of this research that would not only list the environmental but then start to consider potential economic changes.

Todd Brinkman

00:56:11.53

So thanks again for taking time to listen to me. If you have questions or comments I'd like to hear them and if any of you want to get ahold of me in the future, I think BLM probably has my information otherwise, it's right there.

Audience Daniel

00:56:30.12

Nice seeing you up there.

Todd Brinkman

00:56:31.48

Nice seeing you Daniel.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:56:36.25

I got a question, you show us a slide of 2005 and 2065, using of ice chart in Arctic ocean, most of us didn't have too much history books before and stuff like that, not recognize the arctic ocean of its depletion do you have ice charts 1940s, 1950s, 1960s of where the ice had been before or of changes from then and today.

Todd Brinkman

00:57:17.30

I know that they have real good data going back to at least to the 70s and I think before but I'm not exactly sure of the quality of the data before that. [But xxx?] has something I can look into it for you if you want to see the stuff.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:57:32.92

And if there is any information on ice depletion it would be probably 18 late 1800s to 2000, I mean 1970.

Todd Brinkman

00:57:49.19

I don't know for sure. But if this is information you want, I can look for it. I'm not a meteorologist

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:58:00.41

[muffled] final information for years? And science today is telling us that we have ice depletion and I never go into too many history books of ice depletion and stuff like that up to today and recognizing the ice chart, what is depleting in our arctic ocean, they're speculating that there might have been sea ice lost in the past and if it had ever come back.

Todd Brinkman

00:58:38.92

that's a good point, that's actually something that hunters talked about where they talked a lot about these changes that we're seeing, they talked a lot about it just may be cycles. We may just be going through one cycle that will turn itself around and we don't know, we're just using the best information we have to predict out so far and the farther we try to predict the messier it gets.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:59:05.95

Yeah, it gets messier for us. [laughing]

Unknown

00:59:15.85

[laughing]

Audience Q5 Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS

00:59:17.13

So the white line that was from 1970s.

Todd Brinkman

00:59:23.82

This is the white line, is the average, the average ice extent. If you take the ice extent between 1975 through 2005 you take the average and that's the average extent of the ice between those years.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

00:59:49.46

Any more questions for Todd? Thank you, Todd.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

01:00:07.61

Bill, [muffled setting up presentation, casual visiting.]

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:00:49.83

Well hello my name is Bill Morris, ADF&G with the department of Fish and Game. Thank you for the opportunity to come and talk with you. I know that some of you I've seen on this panel before. I guess I'll first mention, Dave mentioned he couldn't hear about of one ear, well something happened to me I can't hear real well out of either, doesn't leave me with a lot of ears, so feel free to holler at me if I'm too loud or too quiet cause I don't have any idea.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:01:16.74

Well, I'm gonna do a little different from Todd, I'm gonna talk to you a little bit about a project that's brand new, that we have coming up starting this summer in the area. So we're gonna look at fish species in the Puk river drainage here. and it's a cooperative project with BLM arctic field office, as well as the north slope borough, wildlife management, consulting company is one, mgm research, some of you probably know Larry Wolf he's been working up here almost for about 30 years now. The project is funded through coastal impact assistance program, through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and so basically what I wanna go through is sort of the purpose of the project that we have coming up and show you our proposed, our sampling areas for the next few years and you'll see that the 2010 is there. We were out on the Ipusaraq with the North Slope Borough a little bit this past summer.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:02:23.14

Some of the specifics of our sampling program we have an idea of what we'll be looking at, what we'll be doing. and then give you some of examples of the previous work that we've been involved with the North Slope Borough predominately with the northeastern portion of the NPR-A, around Teshekpuk Lake and Chip and Meade rivers.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:02:52.14

Ok, so the purpose of this particular project is to basically try to establish the base line conditions for the fish populations in the drainage. We're gonna focus more on populations characteristics more so than actually numbers of fish. If we look at things like size and weight relationships, and sizes and lengths with relationships to age those tend to change with changes in the environment and so those are types of things we can look at within a fish population and be able to actually look at changes over time.

John Hopson, Jr.

01:03:30.11

How many years does it take you to get a basic, because in one river the fish may be this big and another species is either smaller or bigger

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:03:43.56

Right, and we've already seen that with, just thinking about the Least Ciscos. Least Ciscos we've looked at up say the Chipp River, they mature and a much, they mature much older, than the ones we already found here in Iparasuq, which gives you some kind of an idea of productivity in those systems or growing systems so a white fish up in the Chipp river might take 10 years to mature whereas a white fish here which appears to be more productive at least for that species. These fish mature at a younger age and these fish also seem to get larger faster in this area. And so one of the things about look at the ages of the fish as you do it as you go through all these different population characteristics, if you capture a fish that's 15 years old, you actually have 15 years worth of information to look at and so that's some of the stuff, specifically we'll be looking at here.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:04:54.03

We'll also be collecting some other baseline environmental data basic water quality, things fish care about how much oxygen's in the water, salinity conditions, water temperatures. One of the important things that will come out of this work is the changes or additions to the states natural water catalogue. I'm not sure how many of you are familiar with that document but basically the state's legal document that lists streams and lakes that have anatomous fish, like white fish that go between the ocean and fresh water, salmon, and water bodies that have that designation receive additional protection under state law and so if we look at a map of current status of the anatomous catalogue and this is all cluttered with numbers for a reason. And so you can see, well right here, is Wainwright, Cup river, Kougarok and you can see there's not a whole lot of activity going on here as far as the catalogue is concerned. Basically it indicates that those water bodies haven't had a lot of research in them and at least right now, don't have any protections under state law.

John Hopson, Jr.

01:06:14.05

What, the map there, how will that benefit Wainwright if you just left it as is or if you designate it as more waters like the other rivers here, I mean what protection are we protecting them from, us who eat them?

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:06:30.70

No, the way the statues work is our statues at fish and game are not associated with, you know it's not a yes or no sort of thing with industry, what it is is an identification process so if all the rainbow smelt that folks here like to catch all spawn, and I'm not saying I know this, but if we if they all spawn right there in that one spot what this catalogue does, is if we have that designated if there was gonna be some development in that area we

could all point to that spot and say well, just move a little bit this way or don't build your bridge or your road across this exact part of the river move it a 1/2 mile this way. the way our authorities work is it's more or less it's not a yes or no industry, it's just making making it so that we can make informed decisions when it comes to industry.

John Hopson, Jr.

01:07:36.01

I just, in my mind, it just comes to me as another piece of red tape I have to go through, you know.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:07:44.53

Well, part of the way it works, is that if, if, since Bruce is sitting here, if Conoco-Phillips were to come here today and say we want to do something right here and I'm not saying anything like that's gonna happen, [laughing]

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:08:01.38

[muffled] That's no place to go near the river. You can't work on that river. Not where the fish are most productive.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:08:17.32

But what does it allow us, well first thing is if a company like CP showed up and did want to do something here in a place where no body had any data they'd then have to go spend the money and time fo4 or 5 years 2 or 3 years and collect those data first to support the environmental documents that they're gonna have to do anyway. So in that respect we'll be out ahead provided some of that information had been done.

John Hopson, Jr.

01:08:45.84

So how many of our rivers are you studying because we have multiple rivers within the food system.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:08:56.54

Yep.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:08:56.59

Others might be also creeks going from wainwright to the beach, a lot of us travel through the land when there's high-water or little bit of water going through the little creeks or what not, little fish are invisible.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:09:14.89

Oh yeah

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:09:14.89

I understand these and these are vital important areas too right around the boundaries where all the waters going, where it's not marked in your map

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:09:39.05

We heard the same things from folks in Barrow when we were out in the Teshekpuk area and not surprisingly that's exactly what we found when we put radio transmitters on these fish one of the things that became most obvious was the very significant use of very small streams by a lot of fish.

Audience Q9

01:10:02.15

[muffled ? outlying villages and not here in Wainwright?]

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:10:10.33

I'm sorry my hearing's not so good today

Audience Q9

01:10:12.73

And uhm, what you going to put your papers together and there's not much studying going on over here and then you? [some? Out] to study our village. [muffled]

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:10:31.50

That was not my intent.

Audience Q9

01:10:33.95

[muffled you map of ?? you do a lot of study off site. Why not here in Wainwright? What's going on over here. Things are happening. [muffled?] There's hardly any study going on over here.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:10:55.50

I guess what I was referring to was a little bit of work that that we were involved with with the borough last summer I guess most recently that I'm familiar with. There hasn't been a lot right here recently.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:11:08.38

That river [muffled] data all the way to 1960s they might have done studies in the past

before, in Wainwright area and we requested for fish studies from the past but it had not yet been given to Wainwright to view. The studies in the past, or studies have been done in the past, fish studies.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:11:41.20

In my research so far, I haven't found a whole lot done in the area

Audience Q5 Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS?

01:11:45.83

What is the main reason that there's so little study done in the Wainwright area?

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:11:52.09

I'm not entirely sure, I've been around the department for about 15 years and in my tenure, I just started working in the north slope borough this [muffled?] lake and area 96 and what we've been doing and when money becomes available and where the interest lay at the time, we started in that area just [muffled?]

Audience Q5 Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS?

01:12:19.49

What are your plans on being here for in the future or

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:12:21.90

This summer

Audience Q5 Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS?

01:12:25.79

This summer you plan on doing this work.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:12:27.14

Yep, and in 2010 well actually that fits perfectly into this. This is the upcoming plan. Last summer we were in this area sampling and over the next two year we plan to be in this part of the Kungok. This one I'm not so sure how to say it, I've got a detailed map here. Anyway, this is where we were in 2010 and you mentioned the small streams and what we do in our program is we set our specific net sites up to focus on where the small streams enter the big stream as well as sampling in the larger systems. So that area we looked at last year just a little bit and so this summer the plan is to sample all the small tributaries associated with the Kungok, as well as the main river habitats. Then we'll go across the Kuk over into the, this one a tough one for me, Avalitkok. And these tributaries, main river habitats and then some discussions with folks from Wainwright and with search and rescue it seems like this is the place we want to focus, a fair bit of effort on, it's the upper Kuk. Folks are telling us about more salmon moving into these rivers and spawning, a lot of grayling lot white fish and burbot in that area. And so we'll

spend the 2012 specifically looking in that area and I know folks Barrow are going down to the Kugrua, I'm not sure about folks from Wainwright, going down to Kugrua to harvest Chinook salmon periodically so we have plans right now to spend some time between 2013 and 14 doing a similar program up there. And so just quickly to give you a fell for what we'll actually be doing, our fish sampling basically employs mostly all live capture gears, fish traps or fife nets or hoof traps. This is a little bit of gill netting and sain netting. I don't know how many of you are are familiar with fife nets, I'm sure a lot of you are familiar with fish traps but this is a [base ? version] of a fish trap. We run a 100 or 200 foot net from shore out to the fish trap. this is kind of what they look like, it's one way to set them up you can also set them up these wings or block an entire small stream if you wanted to. We check these nets everyday once or twice. This is a hoop trap, these work really well, really good for burbot. You put a little bate in the back of that fish trap, drop it in a deep pool with a bit float on it, burbot can't stay out of them.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:15:31.87

There'll be a small component of this project right now we're planning on doing a little bit of radio telemetry where we'll put radio tags on a few fish. This is the tag. This is a fish just after it had the transmitter planted. Once you'll see a month or 2 or 3 you'll see a small red line, it becomes hard and it does leave a little scar and you'll see an antenna and so for the radio telemetry component, from speaking with folks here, the current plan is to look at grayling, white fish and burbot. And because of the folks talking about increase salmon encountered and salmon, some salmon will be radio tagged as well. And what we're able to do is radio tagged these fish, it's basically allowed us to fish those net for an entire year, with those radio tags we can figure out where those fish are summer and winter. And so we're able to find their important habitats, like spawning wintering habitats.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:16:47.09

But for the majority of our work each fish is just identified, measured and released. Some of them might receive one of these tags, individually numbered tags, all these are tags, pretty small. Some fish, each specifies from all the different size classes would be retained to figure out some of the populations parameters that I was talking about earlier, so we can figure out age, length relationships, maturity, as well as look at stomach contents to figure out what fish are feeding on. And for the salmon we'll pull up some genetic samples. It's just an [xx?] with those little tags on it.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:17:39.95

Some other information we collect I mentioned a little bit, we do a basic water quality at all net sites everyday because all even daily changes from water temperatures, to phs and slough use change what the fish do. We also collect invertebrates and all the different representative habitat types, we're basically collecting fish food. We also grab water samples of basic productivity within the water columns so we can compare habitats.

Audience Q10

01:18:10.99

Can I interrupt you right there. Do you study algae?

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:18:12.02

Yep. Yes, that's kind of what I was getting at there, with that's our phytoplankton samples here. From what we just saw here, we didn't have a lot of rock in our sample areas, I know there's rock up there, but so we used phytoplankton samples of algae's, algae growing rock as our surrogate, I think we get a little better data if you can sample right off of rocks, but you gotta have a lot of rocks for that.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:18:47.90

And so these are just some examples from the most recent work we did, in Teshekpuk area. These are just our fish sampling sites from 2003-2005. All the Igloguak? we tagged, were tagged right at the outlet of Teshekpuk lake. The next figure is just all the relocations for fish tags 2003, 2004 and so again, we tagged them in here and over the course of those 2 years, those fish used parts of just about all of the Ikpikpuk and Chipp rivers, they were all over the place, in summer fish just spread out into the small shallow streams and lakes and midsummer into the fall fish swim way up the Ikpikpuk river to spawn and then drop back down beneath the Delta areas for over winter. Folks in Atqasak who saw us give a presentation on that work and wanted us to put some tags on their fish one year, tagged just 10 fish, right here in the lower Meade and we followed those fish over the next 2 years and actually found out, that or found that some of those fish had moved from the Meade river up the Chipp into the upper Ikpikpuk and had actually mixed with in with Teshekpuk tagged fish spawning and so it was the first time those 2 populations documented in lakes together. Folks from Atqasak hadn't wanted us to do that we wouldn't have known. We collect the xx? data, which helps us, identify potential winter habitat so this is the map of depths for Teshekpuk Lake, the red is shallow habitat and darker blue you get the deeper the water. A lot of our tagged white fish ended up wintering right in this area. Not so much in the big lake, which isn't what we really expected to see.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:20:57.10

Just a quick look at the kinds of information we get out of some of those other environmental data collection efforts. This is from the algae collection stuff actually. This is just the concentration of chlorophyll data in the water after we extract from the water sample. These 3 sites are sites from where we collected those samples from Teshekpuk lake itself, these 2 sites are from shallow tributaries to the lake and what we see is the shallow tributary systems are roughly twice as productive as the lake habitats and that fit just perfectly with all the fish capture data. Most of the fish were associated with the small tributaries and not so much the lake.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:21:45.86

That's basically what I wanted to cover, you got 4 years of work coming up in the Wainwright area, we'll produce a lot of reports of this stuff. The main thing from my perspective right now is to make those changes to the [awc ?] and that water catalogue. And I hope to be able to come back here, if you'll have me, and present the work that we're doing, I'll let you know how things are going. And I'm always looking for input, this is a good time, we haven't actually done anything yet, I'd really like to hear from people, my email address is there, my phone number's there. I've got some hand outs together that have my email address and phone number. I've already spoken with a few of you but feel free to call and if anybody has any more questions, I'd be more than happy. I'd like to pass these transmitters and bags of stuff around, too.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

01:22:47.01

You got a question.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:22:49.30

Go for it.

Audience Q6

01:22:50.09

Ok, just a comment, we have our Kuuk not 'kuk': Kuuk. We have our river, our river is Kuuk [muffled] once it's, once it's frozen, we go beyond, to xx? [muffled?] river, over there. Way up there fish from our river ?

Audience Q7

01:23:28.71

I saw the paper today that a coastal impact assistance project was recently funded for an off-shore fisheries project at Admiralty Bay focusing on the fish that use, andromonous fish that use the Topagoruk, Inaru, Meade River drain into that area. Are you involved in that?

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:23:47.31

Yeah, that's us again, it's the same group of people, and that one we had hope to get both that project and this one started this year but funding shot up for that one, so that project won't start until next year.

Audience Q7

01:24:02.59

So you're geared up to some offshore, near-shore/off-shore research

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:24:07.94

No, I shouldn't say offshore, that's our object, we're not doing anything offshore other

than a lot of the species we work with go offshore. Other than getting there, we'll stay on-shore

Audience Q7

01:24:20.56

OK

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:24:21.70

Uhm, you got to use traditional knowledge first before you start any kind of study. You got to find out what kind of fish all the species of fish that we got in our rivers, creeks, ponds, lakes and what not in the Wainwright area, you got sit down and pay the elders. You get some knowledge from the elders first cause living here in Wainwright you get to learn that fish migrate in different time of the year, each little different specie of fish, there's a certain time they migrate, the red fish and the white fish and what not. And you got to get all that information first from the elders and what not and your fish studies is gonna go good, you got to incorporate traditional knowledge to your work.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:25:26.86

I absolutely agree, we started doing a little this year, we're hoping to do, or last year, we hope to do a bunch more of that before we ever hit the field here in the next couple of months.

Audience Q11

01:25:37.83

I was just wondering is your data available online. Your final data?

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:25:44.28

Yep, it's all on our website and in the state library [muffled]

John Hopson, Jr.

01:25:50.19

Was that your 2 drums of gas that fell in our lagoon?

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:25:51.46

I can't hear you.

John Hopson, Jr.

01:25:54.75

Was that your 2 drums of gas that, was that your 2 drums of gas that fell in our lagoon last summer?

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:26:01.35

Ah, they were associated with us.

John Hopson, Jr.

01:26:04.86

So how much in fines did you pay?

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:26:07.72

Yeah, I don't know, I don't know what it ended up being, I think search and rescue dealt with it.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:26:15.65

When you spill one tablespoon of oil or gas in to the land or ocean, one tablespoon could destroy how many acres of property? Yeah, you drop 2 drums, you guys got to be more careful on what you are doing, it's very important. You guys got to have more respect? [muffled]

John Hopson, Jr.

01:26:41.00

One way you can mitigate is to hire local people to help you instead of flying helicopters all day long.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:26:46.81

That's part of this years plan

John Hopson, Jr.

01:26:53.18

Just nasty...[muffled] gas in our lagoon. We might stop your project next time you screw up.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:27:09.18

I understand

Audience Q5 Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS?

01:27:11.19

That has me concerned now, I heard the gentleman back there mention the Topagoruk River, which happens to be where I grew up. My family's camp is on that. What methods of communication do you use to make the either Native allotment owners or the people that use that area for subsistence, what methods do you use to make them aware of your studies. And do your studies involve a lot of helicopters?

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:27:40.45

You know over the past years, there's been varying amounts and we've been trying to reduce it and you know coming up here, the plan is basically to just get gear dropped off here, so in the past things have moved from Barrow to field sites. And, you know, the wildlife management department does most of that sub data, not talking about the fuel, but most of the, sets up the PSAs and talks to the local fishers and landowners. Usually we're working with folks and we end of being [muffled?]

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

01:28:30.07

What time frame are you doing the surveys?

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:28:33.11

Well, [muffled] more information from talking to folks here, but right now the current plan would be to, we basically cover most of the open waters [muffled], so we'll try to do some work pretty quickly after ice goes out all the way out through, just about, freeze up.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

01:28:55.25

And is there going to be any kind of communicating with the locals here, you know like, deposits or anything, like a daily journal.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:29:09.43

It would be something, I don't know if it would be daily or not, but as frequently as folks needed us to, and if folks wanted something daily then we could come up with a way to do that. [muffled?]

Audience Q13

01:29:35.83

What do I do if I get a fish with a radio, what do I do with the fish.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:29:46.73

If you get one that's actually tagged, or has a radio in it, we'll have a protocol set up, probably through the borough, contact somebody at the borough, and I'm sure there'll be a reward.

John Hopson, Jr.

01:30:00.04

Have they been proven to be edible?

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:30:02.64

Uhm, I don't know, I've eaten them but...

John Hopson, Jr.

01:30:05.62

Not the tag but the fish. [laughter]

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:30:17.36

You know, I've eaten them, the first one I ever had recaptured someone was eating while they called me and told me about it. We don't use anything that's harmful to knock the fish out but you know, if I catch a fish that's got something weird with it, it's not gonna be my first choice so to eat, so that's why we would offer to take those from folks. You know, we're gonna be tagging a total of 40 fish I think, each year so it's gonna be pretty minor number of fish. We've tagged hundreds and hundreds right in Barrow, Inakulok fishery, and got a total of 3 or 4 ever captured, we're just tagging a fraction of that here.

Audience Q13

01:31:10.24

How do I kill the radio?

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:31:13.32

Hammer would probably work pretty well.

Audience Q13

01:31:17.21

What if I tried to eat the radio and you keep track of me? [laughter]

Audience Q14

01:31:34.58

What if I eat one of those fish, gets in the system.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:31:39.44

It comes out the other end, yeah we found these in fox dens and bear dens.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:31:58.52

You cooperate your work from the early days, I don't know how far that you could go back with your fish studies, go back to 1960s 1950s. All the fish studies and what not and incorporate them in to your report for Wainwright.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:32:16.78

Yeah, I'll definitely go, that's part of our process is to go back and find whatever we can find to incorporate, yeah. If you have anything in mind, if you're aware of anything, when we get together sometime and try to track them down.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:32:35.14

[muffled?] yeah, we need that collecting data from the past, it's all true

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:32:43.71

Yeah, I agree with you

John Hopson, Jr.

01:32:46.50

As much as we need the information, you guys got to be careful with your operations. Or we will ask that you shut down. If you're gonna do more damage to our streams you shouldn't be there. It was just a slap in the face to the whole community when that happened. You guys should be careful. You guys got off pretty easy last time.

Audience Q11

01:33:24.48

I was just curious if you have to write a project proposal for each year of work that you're gonna conduct.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:33:30.81

No.

Audience Q11

01:33:34.37

OK, cause ok, I thought it would be good to share project proposals with communities as you're developing your project and then you could have input that way

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:33:43.67

Yeah, no, that'd be a good idea for sure, yeah, we don't normally do that.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:33:54.27

Will you be doing the biological studies to right, or somebody is gonna do the biological studies on the fish study what kind of contaminants they got, and what they've been eating and...

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:34:09.80

Actually we had some discussions about that with folks from the borough and we might be able, we'll probably be collecting some samples for them to possibly do some hydrocarbons, hydrocarbon analysis on.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:34:25.45

[muffled ?] DEW Line up there and I don't know how much contaminants that's been released from that DEW Line up there.

Audience Q15

01:34:40.16

Lou? would be interested in historic radiation, or he could be involved in migration fish species, especially that data from next year

Audience Q16

01:34:53.33

Has anyone ever used the, those pilots as to look into their charge, cause one summer I remember a pilot flew on a calm day, it was a calm day, it was glass, and he knew noticed there were all kinds of ripples in the pond, in the lake and he turned around and went back to see what it was, he thought they were seals in the lake. They were not seals; they were fish. And he amazed to see how much fish there was in that lake. Did anyone ever look into that? The gentlemen there mentioned bush pilots in the 50s every since those twin guys crashed right there [muffled?]. Anyone ever done any kind of study in that area.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:35:57.03

Maybe, but not that I've seen, I've read a few books that were actually, folks who were bush pilots up here who have some stories of that kind of event so I suppose that would be a place folks could to go and try and get some of that information. I have not seen anything consolidated that way.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:36:24.16

Because pilots have a birds-eye view

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:36:25.77

Yes.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

01:36:29.67

Are there any more questions?

Audience Q17

01:36:32.93

Just a comment. As long as the streams are navigable, fish will go to those ponds.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:36:41.73

If the what...

Audience Q17

01:36:44.38

The fish will go to those ponds or lakes as long as there's a way to go to them.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:36:52.15

Yeah, we haven't restricted ourselves, just the things that obviously [muffled]...

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:37:03.50

...[muffled] climate change, for the past few years, we recognize that in the fall, we lose? lots of our waters and our rivers and what not, and that's gonna be vital information [muffled?] cause of climate change and less water in the village and what not and shadow grass [muffled?]

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:37:46.12

Yeah, things are definitely changing. We've seen more, several years even when we were working the Ikpikpuk River where, any of those fish in Teshekpuk Lake that spawning areas were on the upper river, 2 years just in our 5 year study where they couldn't do it because the Ikpikpuk was dried up.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

01:38:11.66

I got a question, I know when people are trying to harvest a fish, as much as they can, you know all they can, while they're out there and before they start laying their eggs, people like to get fish with the eggs. On your locations, are you going to, I guess cooperate with the community, like for say they want to go a little bit, they want to go to their usual harvesting areas farther up and your nets might be deterring, you know the fish, from their harvest, is there going to be cooperation for you to move somewhere else if needed.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:39:05.51

Yeah, definitely and that's the first step when we're selecting where we're gonna fish nets is talk to folks that are there and find out when they're gonna be there and when it's alright for us to be there and when it's not.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

01:39:20.69

And that's one of the reasons I brought up, is there gonna be a daily communication with the community here so that you'll know if you know, Jack or somebody might be going up there the next day. It'd be good for you to step aside for a while and move to another location while they're doing their subsistence harvest.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:39:48.96

Yep, that's a good idea.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

01:39:54.63

Any more questions?

Audience Q18

01:39:59.94

And you know, when these guys were doing the presentation at the beginning, oil on this and that, we didn't say nothing. We ask questions, but when it came to him and him, we talked as much about resources, we asked questions, we made comments, cause we know, were are there. And we know that there's oil up there, well, just show respect for our land and that's the way we've always been doing it. And that's something that you guys need to remember. Thank you.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

01:40:51.06

Any more questions? You eat a lot of fish. You're a big boy. There must be a lot of good fish up there.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:41:05.25

We got lots of moose in Fairbanks.

Unknown

01:41:09.29

You gonna be here at Christmas time, you'll make a good Santa Clause

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:41:11.97

Well, give me a few more years to gray up a bit.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

01:41:21.58

Is that it, anymore, thank you Bill.

Bill Morris, ADF&G

01:41:27.32

Thank you very much.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, SAP Chairman

01:41:32.38

And before we move to the next item, there was a call for a 5-minute break.

April 2011 SAP 2

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman

00:00:00.79

Representatives and community updates

Lon Kelly

00:00:03.97

No, I think that was next, I think we're right on

Stacey Fritz

00:00:07.62

It's next, yea

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman

00:00:08.96

Next, so [muffled]

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

00:00:15.77

Good evening, most of the DEWline sites in xx? have already been cleaned up. They just now doing the [handling?] at Oliktok. And at Umiat, they're still trying to figure out the main old naval site. We gotta work that [xx? in xx in Umiat] because there's no road to that place and the most of the stuff that they have now, eroding fast to our river would cause some problems. But I hope that in the near future, hopefully this coming season that they will clean up the whole, the dumpsite of Umiat. 50 years they've been up there and what we regard of that time when we first find out that some of our fish have been contaminated especially the burbot what the elders like to eat. Burbot liver.

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

00:01:36.33

When the Alaska Health Consortium did the final [sought/part?] of the study they had all the village at first, you cannot eat no more that 6 burbot per year, because of the contaminates of the Tiktaulik River had PCP and DDT. Known side would be from the Umiat side, that comes down the river from Umiat, even though it might be 45 miles up the river it still affect the whole river system. And the BLM is part of the Umiat and I hope that in the near future that the whole area should be cleaned up and put away. And we will never see it again.

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

00:02:45.19

I hope they learn their lesson of the past, (unclear) site along, all over the state, especially BLM land. I know there's still a lot of drums that have never been picked up. I hope that they pick all of them up. All along the coast, up river, downstream, and near the

mountains but our main concern at that time was where it come from. Until we found out it was the old DEWline site with that we had talk with the airforce and they started cleaning up all the old sites and they're still working on them.

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

00:03:47.02

The village still waiting for CD5 to start but the federal come and had to stop it cause the sensitive area. The Colville River, is one of the most sensitive area in our area because it's one of the largest river drainages, of the river.

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

00:04:24.40

And I hope that in the near future that any other fish studies that they had come up with along all the rivers that [putting in your town?] will have more partner understanding and have a quick resolve of all the sites, especially along the DEWline sites. We know that DEWline sites have been contaminated with some stuff but now that DEW lines are gone, [we want to ?] clean all of it, but they left something behind our food chains have been disrupted, especially some of the caribou that I've been getting in Nuiqsut. We have summer time when there's a lot of migration, the caribou along the way get sick. We don't know and what but the oil industry is out with the [cost?].

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

00:05:44.06

This winter is the work that we have seen [the arctic case?] when you come to 30-40 below weather, you come to the ground level. You cover the whole Colville River area, where we are. They come up to the ground level, that's when a lot of young kids get respiratory problem and illness and had to stay home. We know that Prudhoe Bay is aging and they still never change all those that they put in 30-40 years ago. Have want them to modify the main area even though they say the pipeline is not hardly been used, we still seen the affect as it rains in the summer from Prudhoe Bay itself. We don't usually see that 30 years ago and now it's causing more problems after the aging of the pipeline and also the aging of the facilities. We now, seeing and hearing more pipeline rupture in Prudhoe Bay area more oil spill coming from the pipeline, from the aging of the pipeline. And some of that stuff go to our vegetation and some go to the lake at our fish bearing lake, I hope they would, I hope that they would do a better job and try to keep our land in the right track. Thank you.

Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS

00:08:09.62

I'm Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS again for the record, first and foremost I'm going to tell you a little about myself and what brought me to be seated here amongst you. I thank you for inviting us to your village, it's very good to be here I feel very amongst family. I come from Leavitt and Minneaoiks [?] so I feel very welcome here, thank you. Growing up in Barrow, I lived as we all have here a subsistence lifestyle. I grew up on the Topagoruk and [Q?] River went whaling ever since I was a very young age. Never learned how to make [xx?] but I sure know how to be out on the ice.

Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS

00:09:12.25

And my life experiences growing up where I am, I'm very honored to have the opportunity to come to work for ICAS. I am now the natural resources director. ICAS right now is involved under our 638 contract managing our Native allotment that we have with ICAS and our lands. I also administer different grants with the Environmental protection Agency. We have an EPA employee here in Wainwright, as well as PT and ANP. All of our work plans for the current grant that we have right now, Phase 1, we're in capacity building but our end product is going to be a regional conservation, community conservation plan, which hopefully soon Raymond Uloolook is our EPA liaison here or officer He'll be kind of gathering knowledge and using all of the knowledge industry and science has already provided amongst conducting his own knowledge just in traditional hunting knowledge, traditional subsistence areas. I know the main thing that intrigued me to work for ICAS in the mission statement it clearly states to what we has always been innate as an Inupiaq, state that we are the Stewards of our land, we're here to protect our natural resources, our environment and our subsistence way of life. First and foremost that is why I'm here. I really appreciate being able to work for ICASS. I've only been onboard since the beginning of December and in that little time, I've had so much open dialogue and communication with different agencies such as the BLM, [?] MRE, different oil industries, Shell, Conoco.

Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS

00:11:24.17

Right now, I'm figuring out how to piece this puzzle together, it can be very confusing at times to understand you know, why are we at this SAP meeting, why are we going to this public scoping meeting next week, what's the purpose of all of this. So I can tell you right now that as an ICAS employee, my goal is to kind of decipher that and make our tribal members from ICAS and our communities aware of the ongoing activities of the industry and the scientific community with all the research that's being done. In Barrow, currently we have a lot going on with off-shore development as you're well aware, and with that brings a flood of scientific research being done and it's very important for us to open up the doors to communication and to know what's going on, know who, what, when, why, where, how's that going to affect us. How's that gonna affect our affect future, how's that gonna affect what food is on our table. And I know ICAS right now, speaking on behalf of our ICAS government, we are trying to be proactive in basically opening up dialogue and communication not only with the agencies as I'm here sitting on the SAP panel for the BLM but opening up communication with villages that are within ICAS region.

Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS

00:13:12.26

Other than that, let's see the work that's going on there. We have some little small grants that we're running. We have an energy block conservation grant that we're doing to help protect the environment. We want to get into studying sigluaqs in their thawing and figuring out how we can keep them cool in the summer months, now that they're thawing a lot more and doing studies on that, we're very activity involved with that.

Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS

00:13:52.54

And that's about all I have to say for my report for ICAS, I'm pleased to be here, this is my first SAP meeting, sitting on the panel. Thank you.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman

00:14:08.65

Thank you Qaiyaan.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman

00:14:10.77

My name is Joe Sage, SAP Chairman, Native Village of Barrow, wildlife director. I am the chairman of the subsistence advisory panel and it's an honor to be here amongst you guys and just recently in Barrow we had the North Slope science institute conference, back in March. And it was a lot of information; it was 3 full days of scientists giving up all the updates on what's been going on and in the whole North Slope basically. And that information basically is not yet available for the public but as soon as I get the information I will, I will give that information, it will be available to you guys if needed as far as research going in the Wainwright area.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman

00:15:28.43

And uh., one thing I wanted to mention, you know we brought the same issues up on, you know, what's happening while these researchers are out there, or these oil and gas explorations are doing seismic surveys, and you know just basic research in the area. The Native village of Barrow had received a tribal wildlife grant and that is a \$200,000 grant for 2 years but that can also be extended depending on how much progress you did within the first year or two. In the tribal wildlife grant is through the US Fish and Wildlife service but it provides money for the communities. You know, a lot of people come up with the what about hiring locals. Well, this tribal wildlife grant can do that, through your traditional council and I can give you the information on our grant administrator at Native Village of Barrow and they can give you all the information you need to pursue this grant and that's a real good tool to use for hiring locals and the main points on receiving the grant is used for conservation efforts on endangered species in the area and it's also education and monitoring species of concern. and those are the main points that they will be able to grant you the tribal wildlife grant. So, I don't know if there's any council members here in Wainwright but if you can give their information, I can give them the information they need to pursue this grant.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman

00:17:56.89

And as of right now, the Native village of Barrow wildlife department, I had created a young hunters program. I started this last, before last summer and we were able to hire 2 wildlife technicians and 2 high school interns. And the young hunters program was just basically survival education efforts for the younger generation. My main focus was to

basically, get the kids out of trouble, weekends and everything in Barrow, we have a lot of people, lot of younger kids that are moving away from traditional ways to technology and that is actually the main reason I started this young hunters program is to try to eliminate you know, their efforts on you know, games and internet and cell phones, and you know, trying to get them back to enjoying our traditional way of life and this tribal wildlife grant actually helped me create that program. and I will continue myself in Barrow just to generate ideas and what you guys can do to hire local people and these people that are hired through this grant can actually go out and monitor these people that are out there doing research in your area so you can eliminate stuff like accidents and people getting in the way or not knowing what kind of aircraft is flying in the area. So that tribal wildlife grant can help you guys, you know, like I said, hire locals so those are the 2 main things that I wanted to bring to you guys. So, quyanapak.

Ira Ungudruk, Native Village of Wainwright

00:20:22.06

Hi I'm Ira for the record [muffled?]

Ira Ungudruk, Native Village of Wainwright

00:20:26.46

Well I work for ICAS, too as a village liaison. I coordinate with our local council, and yes, we have a council. Some of them are involved with other organizations and it's kind of hard to get them together but I do a lot of resolutions by phone call and we ratify them later. Yeah, just seeing everybody's representations you all are aware of what's happening here in Wainwright, I thank Todd and everyone else for coming and sharing their presentations. This is my first meeting and I'm just all ears trying to fit into the puzzle.

Danny Pikok Jr., Point Lay

00:21:15.04

Dan Pikok from Point Lay and I'd like to share what's going on in Point Lay area, I'm sure you all are aware of the activities that happened last summer. The coal mine shut down and the off-shore seismic testing, they're out there all summer through fall, and first time I did a lot of hunting with a friend and first time I hear, he say look, our land is empty, no caribou nothing, hardly anything, not even wolverine, it's just odd. And we look at each other, yep, you're right. Our land is bare, there's nothing out there, no sign of caribou and we need to hunt in Wainwright area just to find caribou, Avvaq- and now there's no caribou in Avvaq because it's just like we're chasing them away from Avvaq, each time we go out, they're going a little bit further out. And I belief it's all because of all the activity that happened and having that haul out, walrus haul out was a big deal and we see lots of polar bear in that area just hanging around seal, that haul out behind, and it's just, you know, first time for Point Lay, all the years I live there, you go a little ways and you can get caribou anytime of the year. This year it's just empty. You know I'm concerned; we're all concerned, even the oil industry was concerned. They donated money for us to afford the gas to go further out to get our caribou and it's just, it's changing and we need to voice our concerns and I thank Wainwright for inviting us here

to voice our concerns. We all got to work together. We need that communication, it's very important. And industry's coming.

Danny Pikok Jr., Point Lay

00:24:17.11

Just listening to the radio, KBRW, the people that are studying the waters, they're amazed to see how much life there is out there. They're even talking about sending fishing fleets out there. They want to go get our crab, there's crab out there. It's happening and this panel is, I'm really really happy to be a part of this panel. I just, you know, I want to use my voice to share what the local folks are concerned about and communicate with the industry. It's very important and I thank you for having me. And you have a nice hotel and good food, quyanaq. Good people. [laughing]

Unknown

00:25:22.97

You can stay longer!

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:25:23.88

Do you ask the panel question, as you're going along for each village or?

Unknown

00:25:32.84

Yeah, yeah we can do that.

Unknown

00:25:34.30

It will be at the end, there's community updates.

Unknown

00:25:40.60

After we're done.

Andrew Hopson

00:25:43.43

Andrew Hopson, Andrew Hopson with Naqsragmuit Tribal Council. We're opposing Nunashut Coal Mine located 45 miles NE of Anaktuvuk like at the top of the mountains. And I don't know who was exploring for the coal mine or the coal and they were saying they found a big chunk and then they did some testings and they found out that it was like the size of a football field and like 10 feet deep or something but we're opposing that coal mine because it's so close and affecting, if we had a coal mine there, it's so close to the village, just north, real impact the fall migration and our fall migration over the years has been getting diverted further to the east or to the west and we've been travelling a lot further and further for tutu and not really bringing home as much as we used to. It really hurts when you travel out long distance and you go home empty handed.

Andrew Hopson

00:27:22.94

That's pretty much all I have to say.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman

00:27:38.12

Now we'll move on to community concerns and questions to the panel or information on [muffled?] issues

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:27:59.64

I got a question, this one would probably go to all of you guys but to Eli cause he's the [xx?] among a lot of oil industry around them and lots of activity around Nuiqsut. And it's always good to know, I know you guys are advisory panel, I mean advisory panel here and I don't know if you guys go in the field. Will you guys are in the field as being advisory subsistence panel if you guys are in the field or do you have observers in the field where activities are cause it's always very good to know when you have observers when they make reports when you have them kind of activities like in Eli's case, like yesterday, they observe real close because they're around oil industries. Does this advisory, subsistence advisory, got observers that are observing what's happening out there. And giving going back and giving you reports of what's happening out there, where the instillations are activities are. are you guys finding out what kind of impacts that are going on cause of these activities? Or are you guy, as subsistence advisors, out there in the field watching all this or do you have a lot of people who are giving you this information?

Ira Ungudruk, Native Village of Wainwright

00:29:54.97

Well, as of right now, the majority of us are pretty much new to the panel and we're gathering all the information as much as we can. and it would be good to make that recommendation to have money to sponsor

Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS

00:30:20.90

Just to address your question. I'm Qaiyann Opie, for the record, the objective of our panel here is to raise those issues and concerns. We are your voice. We're the subsistence users voice. We want to hear, go to IRA in your community in Point Lay, go to Mr. Phillip? for your community and we're here to raise those concerns issues and bring them to the agencies. If you want somebody out there to monitor, we don't do the actual fieldwork, I have in the past, and I have most probably have in the past, and acted as the subsistence advisors. I know Andrew has, I have acted as a subsistence advisors for a scientific project years back, but if it's something that our subsistence users in our communities want to have somebody out there, that's where we come in to make a recommendation that this project has a subsistence advisors and have the criteria of, [muffled] having that communication, being experienced out there to cover all [what you were talking about?] [muffled].

Qaiyaan Opie, ICAS

00:31:44.87

So if that's something that the community wants, we're here to be that voice to talk to BLM, to talk to Conoco and tell them this is what we want. So being in a sense acting as a middleman to address those concerns of our people, we're here to act as your voice.

Audience Q1

00:32:08.91

In Nunilchiq, we have [xxx?] [muffled? Native subsistence panel which is different from these, like we are a?] nonprofit, and every year we hire some subsistence reps to monitor the permits that they've been giving out by the North Slope Borough [facing xx?] in our area. [xx? some other scientific fieldwork that they do in the summer make sure that they hire a local who are our eyes and hears and make sure they do their job right. And it's [working?] pretty good.

Enoch Oktollik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:32:54.76

The reason I asked that question was for Point Lay made a report that there was no caribous going to Point Lay and I guess you hunt NW caribou herd or you might even hunt the Teshekpuk caribou herd if they go further west. But I know you hunt the NW caribou group and I don't know how you could, like Eli, they got an advisory, their own village advisory panel they put out, they hire people out to go monitor. I didn't know if you got such money like that to try to find out how come these caribous are not going to your direction. and I feel for your community. How could Eli, I mean, Danny, how could he get that kind of resource to try to find out what's happening out there or get kind of funding to monitor what's happening in that area from this advisory panel.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman

00:34:14.06

I can somewhat answer that questions. at the North Slope science initiative they had last month in Barrow. That was one of their main concerns that the community had as far as monitoring what kind of research is going on in their village areas so, we made a recommendation was to hire a point of contact for each species of concern in their village. Like say for example, Barrow, there would be a point of contact person that has all the information on walrus and where their haul outs are and where they're going and all their research and exploration, where they are and feeding areas and stuff like that, and that person would be the main contact person for all the information you need. Say you want to go to this person and want to know about the haul out in Point Lay that person will have all the information on who's doing research on the walrus, so hopefully in the near future we will have these people lined out within the next year or so. We made it so that it will be done right away so that if I want to find out something about wolverine in or caribou in Nuiqsut, I would have a point of contact person to talk to that person, say hey, "what kind of research is going on and how is it affecting caribou".

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman

00:36:23.22

So hopefully within the next year or 2, we'll have those point of contacts in place so we can have that information for you guys.

Danny Pikok Jr., Point Lay

00:36:38.23

There is an opening, that's funded by the borough. I think it's a subsistence research assistant for Point Lay. I applied for that position and I haven't heard anything from the Borough. So there is a work in that field. That's a contact. There should be an opening in each village in that field. I know there is one in Point Lay but I never bothered to look if there is an opening in Wainwright, Barrow, and Nuiqsut. I think it's titled subsistence research assistant.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:37:39.56

How much, how many different regions does BLM manage land.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:37:52.22

In Alaska, how many different regions do you guys have land you're managing?

Lon Kelly

00:37:58.04

The BLM manages lands spread throughout the state but our organization is broken up into two districts, one which is headquartered in Anchorage and one in Fairbanks. And those two districts are further subdivided into 5 field offices and we are one of those 5 field offices. So I'm not sure, what you mean by how many regions.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:38:24.94

Well what I'm getting at here is you have your newsletter and it's talking about your NPRA plan and you're scheduling meetings in Fairbanks and Anchorage which gives others regions and other people throughout the state a chance to comment on what's gonna happen with my area. Why don't I get dates and meeting times of different regions so I help go dictate what happens in their area. I don't like it when you guys have meetings about our land in Fairbanks and Anchorage because that gives other people throughout the state and the rest of the nation an opportunity to dictate what happens here. It's not right.

Lon Kelly

00:39:20.36

I, you want me to respond to that, it's not a question, it's a statement.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:39:26.94

It's a statement, yeah, it's not a question. I just don't feel comfortable with BLM or any other agency having meetings in Fairbanks and Anchorage that dictates what happens in our water or on our land and yet you don't give me the opportunity nor the schedule to go comment on other parts of Alaska that you manage land on. I don't get that, I don't receive.

Lon Kelly

00:39:54.88

You mean you don't have it sent to you. Is that what you mean?

John Hopson, Jr.

00:40:00.84

And yet this is posted statewide, this is talked about even in the news

Lon Kelly

00:40:06.85

So...

John Hopson, Jr.

00:40:08.20

And it gives tree huggers and land lovers an opportunity to dictate what happens what me and my animals and my land. And then they create rules that affects us. It's stupid.

Lon Kelly

00:40:25.22

I hear what you're saying, let's look at a couple things. One is public meetings don't dictate anything.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:40:37.49

Well the comments that are made at a majority [overlook?] and they do dictate what happens in reports that are given out.

Lon Kelly

00:40:45.13

I disagree, it's not majority rules in land management. We don't take a vote and we have meetings in Washington, DC.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:41:00.72

You have some conference, of some kind.

Lon Kelly

00:41:04.64

Yeah, we have a job to do, and we try to make the decisions, we try to gather information from these public meetings but it's not a vote, it's not a democracy.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:41:12.23

So, why can't you just have the meetings on the Slope that are affecting the region and if they're serious about their comments they'd fly up here

Lon Kelly

00:41:24.55

We could do that.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:41:26.08

Why do I have to fly to Anchorage to go comment on another region's area.

Lon Kelly

00:41:30.88

We could do that, we might get sued and we might lose if there's a constituency for any area and BLM in Alaska, for a big land use plan like this one, like the eastern interior plan, we always have a meeting in Anchorage and a meeting in Fairbanks as well as, you know when we're having public meetings, as well as meetings in villages. There's no right answer, there's no right answer about where you should have a meeting. You know, there are 43 villages that use western arctic caribou herd caribou and you could legitimately schedule a meeting in any of those villages. So, I'm not saying that we get it right and I'm not saying that having meetings in Fairbanks or Anchorage is right, it's just a tradition. We do have meetings, I've been to 1 meeting in Washington, DC, NPRA planning. There wasn't a Native person who attended that meeting at all. But I can't, all I can say, in those meetings, we gather information, and we listen to what people say and we try to do what congress has asked us to do the best we can based on all the information that we gather. And I think you can look at the decisions that we make for NPRA and you can see that for 6,000 people living on the slope. Living on the slope,

Unknown

00:43:22.35

7, 7000

Lon Kelly

00:43:25.62

We... their voices are very affected and are listened to a lot. In terms of what we do, so I'd say you have to look at what we actually do, look at where we do our day-to-day meetings, look at where we have these meetings and ask yourself whether somebody from Fairbanks or Anchorage or Washington, DC is really dictating, dictating what happens here. And I say in terms of what you see actually happening, from my point of view that, that's not the case.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:44:07.72

The reason why I want to disagree with that is because in certain parts of the NPRA there's a lot of concerns about maybe the fish and maybe the caribou and yet, activity continues where there's interest. I for one would like to see Wainwright move forward in developing itself, I for one would like to see offshore activity happen to create what we need here but when you have concerns in different villages that maybe affected it still continues. Or an activity may be stopped because of 1 village concern and then we see this all the time in Anchorage or Fairbanks when we attend these meetings. And we hear the comments that they're making and we read them as well when we get the reports. It's just not right in my opinion that you have meetings in Anchorage or Fairbanks that is going to affect the people of the North Slope and that's why I have to disagree with that statement. I don't want to go on a debate with you, I can stay here all night if that's what you want but that's where it would lead, back into a debate. I just want that out there.

Lon Kelly

00:45:52.86

Ok, that's fair enough.

Terry Tagarook

00:45:58.15

Terry Tagarook, also known as Qaqsu. It's all politics that's all it is, you know, the federal has always run over us. No matter who they are, they have always done that. It started with BIA where, you know, and it's still affecting now. It's a, going back to Eli on the DEW Line clean up, the Air force will deny having cleaned up their mess when they dismantled these DEW lines. They don't clean up outside of their boundaries where they buried all those old drums. And that's the case that was [xx?] in Icy Cape. They just cleaned within their boundaries that was there but they don't clean outside of their boundary. They'll deny it. And what's happened here, the [xx?] here, they buried all that old drums and then it got rough and exposed all those rusty drums. That's where all those maybe contaminants were buried. Going back to Danny, what month were they hunting caribou? July, August?

Danny Pikok Jr., Point Lay

00:47:38.12

After, in October, after freeze up, after the rut season.

Audience Q3

00:47:47.62

Do you know if there's any activities west of Point Lay that might be affecting the caribou migration from [xx?]

Danny Pikok Jr., Point Lay

00:47:56.37

There's no activity, not after the coal mine shut down.

Audience Q3

00:48:01.69

But what about Red Dog, do they have any activities that might be doing, which we don't know about?

Danny Pikok Jr., Point Lay

00:48:08.37

They may.

Audience Q3

00:48:10.90

What about these helicopters that are always flying. Do you know when they'll be flying? What season, what time of the year. I know we always tell our people, with the federal subsistence board, when I used to be on, we say this to them, and Dave knows it, "Don't disrupt the migration of caribou herds". And make sure the first one pass through, if you don't let them pass through the first time, they'll go another way and they won't come by and you'll always have to go further out, like Danny was saying. And don't get Andrew mad or else he's gonna block the path and no caribou come up, I'm just kidding.

Audience Q3

00:49:02.34

But that's the respect that our ancestors and elders taught us, they know, they have to let the first ones pass through the pass so they can come up through the slope. We showed that respect and that is one thing we need to teach our young people. I forgot what else I was going to say but I think that's, minimizing the helicopters and planes that are flying during migration that will help. And the group right here are just forming. You are the voices of our villages, Make them hear you. Make them hear you. Let them listen to you.

Audience Q3

00:49:52.70

And if we had all of these villages represented on this panel that would be more power and that way, you tell them this, you can't do this. You can't do this this time, we have our seasons, you got to remember, each season is different than ours. Point Hope is a little bit different season for hunting, it's not the same for all of us. Remember the Duck In of the 60s when they tried to close down the duck-hunting season when we were young, you know, there were (unclear). The game warden came and people got ducks from their cellars and turned them into the game warden and that was when they finally realized that the season on the Slope is different than the seasons further down south. So this is something that you need to let them, let the people, let the federal, let the state, this is what we need to do and this is what this village wants. You guys are our voices and I thank you for being on this panel. Quyanapak.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright,

00:51:25.30

I lost touch with the subsistence advisory panel for all the villages, could you guys state your mission statement or do you have it on hand, your mission statement advisory panel. Or do any of you guys remember your mission statement?

Unknown

00:51:48.42

Not me.

Unknown

00:51:51.61

Beginning of... what I read this information, actually, we were just forming and I've been meaning to work on that.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright,

00:51:59.42

About this subsistence advisory panel for the villages was set up?

Unknown

00:52:07.18

Probably in the 90s, yeah.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:52:09.08

In the 90s? And what was their mission statement?

Unknown

00:52:11.97

That was federal subsistence board.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:52:14.23

No, this one was formed, back in the late 90s.

Unknown

00:52:22.70

1999

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:52:24.38

Yeah, I was a part of that when we first formed this.

Unknown

00:52:25.08

We just happened to be new members.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:52:31.33

We just worked today, in the workshop, in the charter, kind of the job description. You know in the bureaucracy a mission statement is kind of a fashionable thing to have and I don't think we have a mission statement, you know a pithy one or two-sentence statement

of what the subsistence advisory panel does is 4 pages of what the mission is and what the subsistence panel does. And we worked on that today, updated it. And if the subsistence panel would like to work on a vision statement or mission statement, or something like that, which probably you've done before in other organizations, we could do that too. But so far as I know, we don't, you know, like, in our organization, we've got a mission statement in our entryway that tries to say what BLM's about, real in a couple of sentences and we don't have that with subsistence panel.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:53:43.28

[muffled] These guys were put in the group and they come to us and they'll report to us pretty much have some kind of mission to go tell us something.

Unknown

00:53:55.02

We talked about that today, like Lon said. We had it in our workshop were we would, we want them to be the ones to tell us what they would like this this group to do. This panel to do, since they're new and we can [xx?].

John Hopson, Jr.

00:54:25.76

The state of Alaska needs to follow the same stipulations that the industry has when with helicopter flying. When they were doing their project last summer, they had search and rescue flying for them and they were just constantly flying back and forth, back and forth with no real oversight of them. They come and go as they please. and they use the North Slope Borough as an excuse. We need to make sure they have the same stipulations that the industry has when they're flying, when they're doing projects in our rivers cause they're scaring the animals away. They can't just come in and go anytime they please, because they're using search and rescue. So when you're looking at their permits for work or permits for studies, you need to make sure that they have the same stipulations that the industry does. At certain times they can fly at a certain height, what they can and can't haul. I mean they just goofed up throwing 2 drums in the lagoon and it spread all over like mad, when that fuel spill happened last summer. You guys should find a way to get the state to comply with the same stipulations that we're putting on the industry. They're good standards and it works. We need that to happen because they are affecting our hunting, when they're flying up the rivers, to and from Barrows straight flights when they come here and go back, and they fly straight back to Barrow. They're just doing whatever they want and it's not right. They have to have the same stipulations the industry does cause it's work.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:56:31.52

We don't

John Hopson, Jr.

00:56:31.84

They're doing work within the NPRA

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:56:34.39

Right and that's a good idea. it's just that you know the quickest way to get that done isn't to put all the state activities, which are legal for the state to do, try to get that under BLM management. The quickest way to do that is to work through search and rescue and through fish and Game because I guarantee you, neither Search and Rescue, Fish and Game, nor the Borough, none of those people want to cause problems so it's an informational thing that the villages should, I mean, we're, we go to great lengths with all the permit, when we issue permits, all the permits we issue, they consolidate all the flights and make sure everybody has the rules about the flights and about the behaviors and to count it up all the accumulative impacts of all the flights we can, we can chart those which we do and count up all landings, if a flight goes high, and it's one of ours, we know, we have satellite tracking, you know, we can say, take a call and say who it was, what airplane it was, if it's one of ours but we don't regulate the state governmental activities when they're doing their legal mandated work and we don't manage point to point. So if somebody takes off from the airport here and flies to the airport at Barrow and they don't have a permit from us and they fly up 50 feet, we don't have any authority to regulate that, and we don't.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:58:35.79

Have you got no co-management policy or?

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:58:41.68

Do you mean co-management with Native tribes or?

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

00:58:44.74

From this group, what you're talking about.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

00:58:50.43

This isn't that.

Unknown

00:58:55.18

Nope, every [addatum?] as an organization, they started this process years ago. It's call Flag Following. Every flag that the BLM either their own plane or they contract with, they have a program where we can follow them. Each plane that is out in the field we can follow them and every 2 minutes they give us where they are, that information, so I have at my computer, I have it on, especially in the summer, because that's when most of our flights are, I can turn that on during the day because a lot of the flights are during the day

and everybody, rests at night. So all that activity, when it happens, when somebody calls, I can say which flights are in that area by just watching it in my computer.

John Hopson, Jr.

00:59:55.10

That's all good and dandy but we've got to find a way to [muffled control?] the state. They just come up and do whatever they want whenever they want. And yet, it's on land that BLM manages, even if they have the authority, they should be following stipulations that we set out on industry.

Stacey Fritz

01:00:11.87

I think Bill would like to repond.

Bill Morris

01:00:16.55

Yea, look what happened last year obviously is not excusable, there's no excuses for it but it wasn't, I gotta to point fingers, the state was helping another entity to a project and that was the unfortunate outcome on that and I can tell you that now that it is a state project that all of the same restrictions that BLM applies to anybody else are, we're voluntarily doing all of that. We've already filed all the paperwork as far a numbers of flights, landings, timings, basically every flight fuel handling, fuel containment, handled and that's what we're gonna abide by.

Unknown

01:01:10.91

and this time you were [muffled come and see xx?] to my office, right. [muffled?]

John Hopson, Jr.

01:01:30.56

The other question I have is on the muskox. It's in here, Thomas [Admoraq?] had brought up the issue on the muskox and they scare away caribou and we see that here as well. Caribou do run away from them and they do off track them quite a bit. When I first saw them, when I first heard that, I had to ask a few people in town, what they know about muskox and they said they're not native to the North Slope. They were planted here to see how they would survive in the arctic. Because it's such a big problem and the numbers are going up, Wainwright is not allowed to hunt muskox. Is there any way to get the state or the federal government to allow us to kill them off. They do push caribou, they make them go a different route. We see it. Legally we're not allowed to hunt muskox, according to the federal Fish and Game.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

01:02:41.61

I think it's just let the calf [and muffled?]

John Hopson, Jr.

01:02:45.98

I guess what I'm asking, how do we find a way to displace them from our area, a lot of people say they taste good but they're a big problem if you want to hunt caribou.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

01:03:01.24

In the past if not in the present, the state Board of Game has a passed a regulation that if there are muskox in causing trouble in the area of your village, you can call the area Fish and Game biologists whose Josh Carol in Barrow and get a permit to harvest those muskoxen that are in your area. Now I think that regulation is still in affect, but I don't remember. I mean, what I'm saying John is I think you can harvest those with a permit issued at the time Josh Carol.

John Hopson, Jr.

01:03:46.14

We can't, we tried, and we can't legally take them. They won't issue us a special permit for our unit 26A.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

01:03:56.82

I don't have the state hunting regulations with me right now. I didn't come here to Wainwright this week to discuss the state's hunting regulation, but if we can look at a set of those regulations and in fact, if you are right, there is no regulation, then you need to go to the State Board of Game and express to them your need for permits to take muskoxen in these emergency situations when they're causing these problems.

John Hopson, Jr.

01:04:24.91

So I guess then my comment to the state for you to realize it's not just industry that's creating a problem, there's other factors like the muskox.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

01:04:35.60

I have realized that for 20 years. It's not [brand?] new.

John Hopson, Jr.

01:04:40.34

But we don't see it in the reports. All we hear is industry did this and industry did that, industry did this and that but you don't ever see it in the report that muskox were the problems as well.

Lon Kelly, Arctic Field Office Manager

01:04:51.53

I don't know what report you're talking about.

John Hopson, Jr.

01:04:52.57

In any report, or any documents that we see, so it is a problem and we need to figure out a way to get rid of these things. they don't belong up here.

Audience Q4

01:05:14.33

There should be policy made with the BLM wildlife department that any outfit aircraft, like we're seeing wings, the owner of Era was taking out sportsmen hunters. There should be a regulation made during where the caribou move, how should I put it? where they, where the caribou migrate that any aircraft or any sportsmen should not interfere with the migration. if you guys as a panel could put out a proposal to FAA or to the wildlife or to the state that certainly would help in the migration of our caribou. I've seen discovery channel, Wings, the owner of ERA was taking out sportsmen hunters and the sportsmen hunters is just, in my eyes, is just one person who will take this biggest animal to make himself feel like a man. But there should be policy made in any migration of animals that no area flights, no sportsmen hunting during migration of any animals. There shouldn't be. In FAA terms, the FAA, if you go below 1500 feet, it's illegal. If you have to go below 1500 feet, you have to let FAA know. That's my suggestion.

Terry Tagarook

01:07:33.56

The comment I'd like to make is a carry off. What we need is communication with the different entities from our panel right here. We need to listen to everybody and everybody's concerns. Communication is very important. Thanks a lot for coming.

Unknown

01:07:47.40

Thank you Terry.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman

01:07:58.28

Any more questions.

Enoch Oktolik, Mayor, City of Wainwright

01:08:04.23

[muffled?] I sort of tumbled what I was gonna say for a while but you guys have been elected for something. You guys are from each village, 1 from Nuiqsut, couple from, 3 from Barrow, 1 from Anaktuvuk, 1 from Point Lay, another one from the Mountain Range, and 1 right around our neighbor down there in the heartland of Wainwright right there. But you guys are put in here on the panel, advisory panel, try to get some observers. Observers are good. Monitoring is good for our lifestyle cause we want our children to generate or whatever, what we felt in our past for food for hunting and you guys take it in heart that's the reason probably you're put in there as subsistence advisory panel to try to make it so that there's food for others into the future. Maybe that's how come BLM is put in there to put this panel together so you could be all equal and justice for all of us, under one nation we stand. Thank you.

Joe Sage, SAP Chairman

01:09:45.13

Alright, is that it. Any more questions?

Unknown

01:10:02.42

Quyanaqpak.

Meeting Adjourned