

DRAFT
NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Panel
Meeting Proceedings
March 2, 2012
Barrow, Alaska

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Compiled by:
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BLM Arctic Field Office
1150 University Avenue
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Morning Session

10:00 am

Joe Sage, SAP Chair

[00:00:05.15]

Good to go?

Stacey Fritz

[00:00:07.21]

Good to go.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair

[00:00:08.26]

I'm good to go. [laughter]

Unknown

[00:00:11.07]

Pretty soon this weekend, 1, 2, 3 go Iditarod.

Joe Sage, SAP Chair

[00:00:17.13]

Good morning I'd like to call this meeting to order. My name is Joe Sage and I've from the Native Village of Barrow, Wildlife Director, and also the newly elected chair so bear with me. And before we get started, I'd like to ask my Uncle Ben to do our invocation and then from there we've got a lot of presentations.

Ben Nageak

[00:00:41.15]

Thank you very much. It is so... It makes my heart glad to see these young people here getting involved. And you're the next generation and please keep it up, and get involved in other things too. I... inaud We just had a meeting in Nuiqsut and to see the young men there and (Inupiaq) from Nuiqsut to see him lead the... his people in Nuiqsut, it just, it just really brings happiness to my heart to see all of you young people involved. You know I see myself when I was your age you know after I got out of the service to see what I would do for the rest of my life and I started attending these kinds of meetings and started getting involved in my mid 20s, and to see all of you, to see my own nephew as the Chairman of this Advisory Panel and my other nephew working for fish and game management, for your fish and wildlife, you know it's a dangerous job but somebody's got to do it and he stepped up and thank you and with that, I'll Pray

Ben Nageak
[00:02:07.01]
(Inupiak)

Ben Nageak
[00:03:32.26]

Dear Lord, we thank you for this gathering. We thank you for having the members of the panel come here and the people that are coming to this meeting to come here without any incident. We thank you for protecting them and continuing to protect them. We thank you for these young people who are taking control in their lives, in our lives here, and taking part in all the work that needs to continue as more and more activity comes our way, and we thank you for giving them the courage to speak and open their minds and open the minds of the rest of the panel so they can hear and understand what is happening in this part of the world.

Ben Nageak
[00:04:23.29]

We thank you for... on this day. In your name we pray, Amen.

Many voices: Amen

Joe Sage, SAP Chair
[00:04:34.08]
Now we have Lon Kelly

Introductions

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:04:39.10]

Hi, my name is Lon Kelly and I want to welcome you to the Subsistence Advisory Panel's meeting today. Let's see, I think what we probably ought to do is start out by introducing the panel members and then we'll go on and have presenters. I think most people are familiar with the panel, but I'll just say that the Subsistence Advisory Panel started to help BLM be sure that we're getting current information from local communities. It represents government to government consultation between the BLM and the tribal governments and the local subdivisions of state government in NPR-A villages and villages that are closely related to the NPR-A.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[00:05:38.00]

So I'll just go, we'll just pass the mic down and you can introduce yourselves and who you're representing on the SAP.

Raymond Aguvluk, Wainwright Traditional Council

[00:05:47.22]

Good morning, my name is Ray Aguvluk and at the last minute BLM asked me if I could be an alternate for Wainwright Traditional Council, so I am glad to do that and to be here.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:06:04.20]

Thomas Napageak. I am here on behalf of the Native Village of Nuiqsut and I am the new vice chairman of the SAP, thank you.

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:06:15.21]

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[00:06:20.20]

Danny Pikok, Native Village of Point Lay.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:06:24.17]

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow.

Andrew Hopson, Naqsragmiut Tribal Council

[00:06:28.24]

Andrew Hopson, Naqsragmiut Tribal Council.

Clifford Benson, Native Village of Barrow

[00:06:31.19]

Cliff Benson, Native Village of Barrow

Qinugan Roddy, Inupiat Community of the North Slope

[00:06:36.24]

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:06:41.20]

Bart Ahsogeak, North Slope Borough Planning Department.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:06:47.24]

Okay so now we'll just introduce the people who will be presenting. I'm Lon Kelly. I'm field manager of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska which is part of the BLM's Arctic Field Office.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:07:03.14]

I'm Geoff Carroll, Area Biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Brittany Retherford

[00:07:12.14]

I'm Brittany Retherford; I'm a Subsistence Resource Specialist for the subsistence division of Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[00:07:21.29]

I'm Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey.

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison

[00:07:28.06]

Ernest Nageak, Alaska Native Affairs Specialist for US Fish and Wildlife Service out of their Barrow office.

Inaudible / background

Unknown

[00:07:50.20]

John Willow??, Assistant Borough Attorney for the North Slope Borough.

Inaudible / background

Unknown

[00:08:00.11]

I'm ah, you don't [?] know me, but I am advisory to the mayor and city trouble goes... inaudible.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:08:14.15]

Do other audience members, do you guys want to introduce your selves? or would you just as soon... not?

Eric Kenning, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

[00:08:22.25]

Eric Kenning, with the ASRC land department

Unknown

[00:08:26.08]

Tom ___ with North Slope Borough IHLC Planning Department [?]

Jonathan Aiken

[00:08:31.04]

Jonathan Aiken, North Slope Borough Planning GIS leadership [?]

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:08:39.27]

Well, essentially we have everybody but two here for the introductions...

Stacey Fritz

[00:08:46.00]

I'm Stacey Fritz, anthropologist with the BLM Arctic Field Office.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[00:08:51.11]

I'm Dave Yokel, my position listed says I'm a wildlife biologist but I have a new hat now, so I'm going to be the bus driver and when I retire in 10 or 20 years I'm going to move to Barrow and drive the senior bus.

Laughter

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:09:20.01]

Alright, welcome, thank you all for coming. We'll start out with approval of the agenda. Are there any changes to the agenda that we know of?

Stacey Fritz

[00:09:38.12]

One minor change to the agenda would be a brief presentation by Brittany Retherford, and we'll do that after Geoff Carroll, this morning.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:09:51.05]

Who was it?

Stacey Fritz

[00:09:54.25]

Brittany Retherford.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:10:02.18]

Who does she work for?

Stacey Fritz

[00:10:03.07]

Fish and Game, Subsistence

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:10:11.09]

Mr. Chair, I make a motion to approve the agenda.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:10:16.00]

There is a motion to approve the agenda

Unknown

[00:10:18.24]

Second

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:10:21.09]

Seconded

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:10:22.22]

Discussion, We should add on Brittany of Fish and Wildlife added to the agenda; we've got questions. [?]

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:10:36.23]

Inaudible... All in favor of approving the agenda? Say aye

Many voices: Aye

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:10:44.12]

All opposed, same sign?

[nothing]

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:10:46.08]

Alright, and next we have the approval of minutes of November 15-16, 2011 meeting in Fairbanks. All in favor of approving the minutes say aye

Stacey Fritz

[00:11:06.17]

I sent them out to you

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:11:08.24]

Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the Nov 15-16 2011 meeting minutes in Fairbanks

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:11:15.19]

There is a motion to approve the minutes...

Seconded.

Unknown

[00:11:22.21]

Question

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:11:24.19]

question has been called for??

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:11:28.15]

All in favor of approving the minutes? Say aye

Many voices: Aye

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:11:35.22]

All opposed, same sign?

[nothing]

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:11:39.18]

Alright, next we have BLM Updates. Again, Lon Kelly.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:11:55.26]

Alright, I'm going to go through... (This is Lon Kelly from BLM for the record.) I'm going to go through a slide talk here. If people want a copy of the slides they can get with Stacey Fritz and she'll be able to give you one.

So I'll start out with the integrated activity planning process. This is just an update on a briefing that I gave at our last meeting. Our schedule was originally to publish the draft plan in Late March or early April, of this year, with the final plan to be published in November of 2012, this year. And then we'd issue a decision at least 30 days later. So where we are right now is we've completed writing all the chapters and we've submitted the entire document electronically for internal review and we just got done with that last Friday. So the main review comments came from our Washington office and our lawyers.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:13:17.22]

So they reviewed it in some detail. The Washington office mainly looks for compliance with nationwide policies and complies with the direction they get from the Department of the Interior, and the solicitors are looking at it to make sure we're on strong legal grounds with all the actions we're proposing and that our analysis follows the guidelines of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:13:49.19]

Borough of Ocean and Energy Management made technical comments on many of the resource sections. Fish and Wildlife service made comments on birds and marine mammals, ah, special status species. And the State of Alaska made pretty extensive comments on all sections. These are all the cooperating agencies that had a seat at the table while we're developing the plan.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:14:22.12]

Now, the North Slope Borough didn't give us any comments on the internal review draft and of course they'd be welcome on the draft when it actually comes out.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:14:41.27]

So right now the planned timeline is by that by Monday, the planning team will have made the amendments to the internal review draft that are called for by the comments. By March 16th the editors will have combed through it and corrected all the typos... hopefully. Of course they won't get all of them. And then March 30 we publish the Notice of Availability to make it start time ticking on the public comment. Now, we've always said that our target was April 6, and it looks like right now if there are no glitches it will probably come out a week early. And if that's the case, then the public comment period would be from March 30 to June 1.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:15:39.08]

And we'll review those comments, probably select the preferred alternative and produce a final IAP/EIS - Integrated Activity Plan / Environmental Impact Statement and we'd publish November 9. And by December 14th we'd have a Record of Decision signed. So that's what

we plan to do from here on out.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:16:17.02]

So right now I can tell you that the four alternatives that are under review in the plan - there's the existing situation, which would what be... basically would be what would happen if we continued the existing management, not if nothing changed, but it would be managed according to existing plans.

There are three alternatives that vary between being extremely favorable to energy development which is one of the major purposes of the NPR-A and being extremely favorable to surface resource protection, at the expense of some energy development, resource protection being another purpose of the NPR-A. Right now there's no preferred alternative so you'll see alternatives B, C, and D. Don't assume that "C" because it's in the middle is preferred. The preferred alternative for the final could be developed from any combination of the range of alternatives in the draft. So does any body have any questions on the planning process?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:17:43.03]

Okay, On the Annual Lease Sale Program, we have presidential direction last summer from President Obama, to conduct annual oil and gas lease sales in the NPR-A and secretary Salazar, who is the Secretary of the Interior, said when he heard that made that, made shortly after the president, made his announcement, Salazar confirmed that we would be doing that and on June 21 last year, BLM published a call for nominations upon that. When we did that, we were asking industry and interested parties to identify areas that they thought should be available for lease and make comments on terms and conditions of leases and areas that they felt *shouldn't* be made available for lease.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:18:43.25]

And in September, we made a draft determination under NEPA of adequacy, which basically says that our existing plans adequately address the impacts of the lease sale that we're proposing. And in November of 2011, we published a detailed notice of the tracks that we're going to make available for sale and then December 7th we conducted the lease sale.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:19:25.19]

Now, the state held a lease sale on state lands the same day, and I'll show you the results from their sale where they impact or could impact the NPR-A. So this map shows the situation before the lease sale. All these cross hatched, dark cross-hatched sections are released tracks, and all of those blocks are leases that have been relinquished or expired.

These other tracks that are colored are the current leases in the NPR-A so at our meeting last night at our workshop, you know it was asked how many leases had expired or had been relinquished and you can see that it's over half, like we said last nights

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:20:31.15]

So the preliminary sale results and the they're preliminary because we haven't actually issued the leases, but these red tracts are the ones we sold and the purple, all this, with numbers, those were the tracts that were offered, so some south of Nuiqsut over on the Colville, and one kind of out in the middle here, and then some in the up creek tracts in the uplands above Umiat.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:21:12.19]

On the state side, on their Beaufort Lease Sale, they sold a parcel here in Harrison Bay, a parcel here in Smith Bay. So right offshore of NPR-A. On that, there's a little parcel here too[?]

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:21:47.15]

Also sold ah... This is Nuiqsut right here so they sold some parcels along the Colville, here are the legends big enough that you can see who bid on those parcels.

Have you seen that long enough?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:22:14.13]

So we're also going to have a lease sale in 2012. And so, this month we should actually issue the leases the piece of paper that actually conveys the leases to the successful bidders from the December sale and then in April, we'll do that same call for nominations and comments that we did last year. In October this year we should conduct the sale - it'll take, it should take you know we'd take bids and see if there are any successful bidders and then we reset and do it again in 2013. So are there any questions on that annual lease sale program?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:23:04.07]

Okay. There's one thing that our State Director asked us to publicize, and that's ah... He's been asked by the Department of O SCI - this National Ocean Policy Draft Implementation Plan, which is out for public comments. Originally the idea was that the comment period would end in February but it's been extended to March 28th. And so we don't really have much to do with it, but while you're here we thought we'd let you know - if you want to comment or just read that, National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan... the address, or the URL for that would be www.whitehouse.gov/oceans

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:24:09.04]

Ah, Chair,

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:24:11.00]

Yeah.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:24:12.04]

Lon, I had a question. On your BLM lease sale on the Colville Delta, is there a guideline for distance of any activity from the river? Or is that just in the permitting process for the North Slope Borough?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:24:34.13]

No, there are set backs - but I can't tell you just what they are. Do you know off hand?

Stacey Fritz

[00:24:41.15]

[quietly] I have the ROD.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:24:45.05]

Setbacks on the distance from the drilling activity to the Colville... on the BLM side for the lease sales?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:24:59.26]

On the BLM side, hang on...

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[00:25:01.21]

I believe it's two miles from the bluffs.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:25:05.29]

We'll look it up on the break, should be able to figure it out.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[00:25:12.00]

That's to protect the nesting peregrine falcons.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:25:16.24]

Yes.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:25:20.13]

You can. Let's see if I can blow this up. I don't know if I can blow this up but I can try...

You can kind of see here that there really aren't any federal leases right at the delta. Those leases that were near the delta have largely been transferred to Kuukpik. Surface and ASRC Subsurface.

So the current federal leases, the ones that we just sold are south of Nuiqsut

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:26:10.13]

Yes.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:26:14.26]

Did I answer your question?

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:26:17.07]

Yes, well, I wasn't too concerned with the delta, just the Colville itself.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:26:23.29]

The Colville, yeah, okay

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:26:26.11]

inaud... 2 miles within the Colville Bay, to preserve the...

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[00:26:33.26]

It's not the bank, it's the bluff

Thomas: Yes

Dave: So where the bluffs are above the river, then the two miles starts counting there.

Thomas: Yes, okay.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:26:51.05]

Bart Ahsogeak for the record. This thing's on your website right?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:26:58.20]

This - the maps that I showed, the lease sales? They're from our website. And the state maps are from the states website, but this slide talk isn't on the website

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:27:14.03]

Do you have a hard copy?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:27:16.01]

No but we can get them to you

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting.

[00:27:19.08]

Colored, right

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[00:27:20.13]

Oh yeah. We're all about our...

Any other questions?

Alright, well, thanks a lot for that. Mr. Chair, should I just pass it?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:27:39.24]

Yeah

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:27:47.14]

Mr. Geoff Carroll

Next we have Mr. Geoff Carroll.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Field Activities Planned for 2012 in NPR-A

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:28:31.00]

Alright, good Morning everybody. I'm Geoff Carroll, I'm the area biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Stacey asked me to come over and kind of give the panel a run down on Fish and Game's planned field activities in the NPR-A during the coming year. So here we go.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:28:57.18]

I work in conjunction with Lincoln Parrett. He's our Arctic Caribou Specialist so and I like to take pride, I met him coming up as a student intern he worked for me for many years and he graduated and now he works in our department a caribou specialist. And I also take credit for Ernest, I had him as a student intern for several years back when he worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service[?] Anyway, I've done pretty well in that respect.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:29:32.08]

Okay, I'll start out, I guess the idea, I think the information you want is what do these yahoos do out there all year, and what areas are they likely to have aircraft flying around and having an impact on local hunters, and you know are they doing a good job ... inaud... animals out there.

Basically I work with land mammals on the North Slope. Okay, so start out with what we do with relation to moose. Every spring we do a count along the Colville River and tributaries there. Basically every year we do a - we call it a trend area count along the Colville, Anaktuvuk, and Chandler Rivers, and every third year we'll do a full blown census. We try to count every moose on this part of the North Slope. So, we usually do that in the second week of April, this year we're planning on starting on April 10th. Basically we go in and count all the moose and in particular we count all the calves and we call that our recruitment number, so that's how many have been added to the population as adults. We fly those usually use 2 Supercubs to run the surveys and we base out of Umiat.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:31:07.18]

Okay, then the next survey that we'll be doing in relation to moose is, ah, we do calving surveys. And basically we go in and radio tract and look at all the collared moose. We have and look at all the collars we have radio collars on about 30 moose in that population, and basically we just see if they have zero calves, if they have 1 calf, or if they have twins. So those are important numbers as far as calf production. The number of twins is particularly important because that's a pretty good indicator of the condition of the moose. You know, when the female moose are fat and happy, they tend to have twins. When they're having a rough time,

not getting quite enough to eat, a lot of times they'll have one calf or if they're really having a rough time, they won't have a calf at all.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:31:57.09]

So that's usually, oh about the second week of June that we usually fly those. And we'll generally use a Cessna 182 aircraft flying out of Umiat to do those. Okay and then one more time on the Moose, really we try to count them twice every year. We keep pretty close track of those moose and again we go in and try to count all the moose from the Colville ranges and at that time the bulls have their antlers so we can get a good count on how many cows, bulls and calves we have at that point. Usually we do that in the first week of November and we do that using a Cessna 182.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:32:44.22]

Okay, so this is what we're seeing with the moose population. The results of all those surveys... The bad news is that they declined by over 50% since 2006, and it's a rapid decline - see if I can explain. Those two lines... the one kind of purple pink colored one, that's the number of moose that we counted in the surveys. That darker colored line is the percentage of calves that were in the population, had survived the winter. We call those short yearlings. And that's our recruitment rate. You can see that back in the mid '90s our calf production was down to almost nothing. The population went through a very serious decline. Since then it's kind of clawed its way back up growing kind of steadily up until a few years ago and now it's taking another nose dive.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:33:54.00]

We studied that a lot, the first decline it looked like there was high incidence of a couple of diseases - like elellosis and brucellosis, among other problems. This time there was no sign of disease but there seems to be lots of predation. Initially there were some nutrition problems, which kind of turned more of a predation issue with lots of wolves in the area. The good news is that I think we've bottomed out - you can see that during 2009-2010 there were again almost no calves by mid winter, but in 2011 the calf numbers started to look a little better and we counted a few more moose in the total population. So hopefully, this will continue as an increasing trend.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:34:52.25]

Okay, so then moving on to wolves. We do what's called a harvest...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:35:00.06]

Question on the moose... How is the tagging process on them done?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:35:06.03]

The tagging process on moose?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:35:07.25]

Yeah, the moose collaring

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:35:09.20]

We put collars on, let's see, in 2009 and 2010, we put collars on moose each of those years. We figure we have enough collars on for now so we didn't put any collars on last year. We're not planning on putting any on this year.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:35:27.23]

And we're they tranquilized?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:35:32.25]

Yah. Yeah, with moose the method we use is we use a helicopter and a tranquilizer gun, and yeah, basically fly up to the moose shoot him with a tranquilizer dart and it works as well as I can imagine. About six minutes later he's laying down on his stomach - a kind of vertical recumbent position and then we go and take blood samples hair samples fecal samples and put a radio collar on them and get as much information as we can, see if they have diseases and things like that. And then there's another drug called a reversal agent and 5 minutes later they stand up and walk off. It works pretty slick. We, ah, you know, we didn't have any capture mortalities or anything. It was... all the moose that we caught and collared survived so... inaud

[bad buzz over follow up question]

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:37:04.28]

It, that, yeah, you wouldn't want to eat a moose that had been tranquilized right after it was tranquilized. That stuff is metabolized within a few days and it would be okay then but really the regulations state that we can't tranquilize moose during the time when there's a hunting season so that why we've never used tranquilizers for caribou because there's hunting year 'round. With moose we do all our capture work right after the hunting season so that should eliminate any chance that somebody harvesting one shortly after it's been tranquilized. inaud...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:37:49.21]

Geoff, we have Danny...

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[00:37:54.24]

Geoff, you mentioned you're doing a survey on caribou - do you have a map that can show us where you're doing that count?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:38:05.05]

Yeah, we'll move onto caribou here pretty quick - just talking about moose at this point.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[00:38:11.11]

You mentioned you're doing a survey in the Colville River - you don't have a map that can, you can point out where you've been doing the survey, and counting moose how many

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:38:26.07]

Yeah, I don't have a real good map on that. I think we'll get to a map here pretty quick and I can point out where we did the moose counts when we get to that point

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[00:38:37.26]

Thank you.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:38:38.13]

We have Thomas, then Bart.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:38:41.01]

My question was do you have a percentage rate of where the caribou is... migrate south, and what percentage migrate from the coast ...inaud

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:38:53.13]

Um, well, can we wait till we move on to caribou, let me finish up about the wolves?

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:38:58.25]

Yeah, that's my question, about the moose. Do you have a count, or a percentage of how many moose might move from the Colville further down?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:39:11.06]

Yeah, my impression is that moose don't really migrate. All of the collared moose that we look at year after year are in the same spot, yeah, they stay in pretty much the same area year after year. We do occasionally have a moose that kind of takes off on a walk about, but most of them stay right there pretty close to the Colville. Some they move off into the hills and little side drainages. Some farther than others. But there's a few of them, they'll just take off and show up in Atqasuk or Wainwright or we had one show up in Barrow. And that's usually a one way trip, and we do have a special season, for the villages, if a moose shows up out here starting the first of July it legal to harvest a moose. We ask you to call in and get a harvest ticket, just to let us know about it.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:40:15.17]

And well, while we're on that subject, the board of game didn't, even though there was a, you know, a pretty, you know, there's been a reduction in the moose population, we had a Board of Game meeting in Beetles this fall and none of the moose regulations were changed even though we are documenting a decline in populations.. inaud..

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:40:36.23]

The season for Nuiqsut is still first of August through mid-July, and you know still have summer season if the moose show up in villages, and the winter season on the Colville too, so none of those really changed.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:40:58.09]

Which kind of, our, ah, we had trouble this fall, in August during our moose season we were, a lot of our moose were staying further inland with all the construction going on at Umiat with Linc and we tried to get our moose hunting season extended for another two weeks because - the impact we were having, no one was able to hunt those moose because there was so much air traffic. Is there anyway we could have a , ah, put that in some type of writing where during our season there should be less activity during our moose season?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:41:50.21]

Well, you know, that's.. Yeah, I mean I'm not quite sure what all the panel is capable of doing. You know I don't know if you could...

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:42:02.11]

Recommendations.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:42:03.15]

make a recommendation to, you know I'm not even sure who, you know in that case you would make it to Linc Corporation. or whatever. You know I don't know if state agencies can maybe require less activity during the moose hunting season. Another approach to that though, is, I talked with Eli about that, and the next Board of Game meeting there could be a proposal to extend the moose season for two weeks, especially if the moose population is starting to recover, could probably make a pretty good argument for that. I know personally, it's staying warmer for so much longer. Used to be it was usually snowing and cold by the first week of September. And now you can have the warmest weather right up to mid September, and that's one good argument to extend the season.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:43:03.24]

Bart

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:43:07.10]

I see that you do a lot of study on the west side, and what about Kuk and Tukuk Rivers? The Kuk and Kulatak? ??

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:43:22.17]

Kalik, and Kuparuk? We have moose there too, and you're right, they do show up in July cause the mosquito drive them, to the ocean.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:43:31.21]

Yeah, when we do the full blown census we fly those rivers too, we count those too.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:43:38.25]

Okay, one more question. What about the enforcement?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:43:43.23]

What's that?

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:43:45.05]

Enforcement. Violators like... rides, and drop off.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:43:54.07]

Yeah, I don't know, you know. Enforcement, ah... bottom line there's very little enforcement on the North Slope. You know it's kind of a blessing and a curse. You know we don't have people up here looking over our shoulder all the time, except right around Barrow during waterfowl season, but, um...

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:44:11.25]

I'd just like to point out that you've got a lot of biologists in every department, all the agencies, but why is it that we don't have the game wardens, that's - we got a lot of guides out there dropping of moose hunters, bear hunters, fishers, and... that's one thing that's gonna deplete the, our subsistence stuff. And, in fact, migration of caribou has been rerouted 'cause of these guides don't know the migration route. You know, that's another topic, I don't even want to talk about it, just...

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:45:21.06]

Yeah I, the enforcement people are an entirely different branch...

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:45:26.06]

We understand that.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:45:26.26]

...than we are. You know we ask for law enforcement but you know we have limited funding., I guess what I'd like to say is we have limited enforcement and in some respects it'd be good to have more, and in some respects, I don't think you'd want it. I know some guys from Barrow who've been to Umiat last winter, and had to deal with some enforcement guys down there. It turned out just fine because they had the permits and everything they were supposed to have, but anyway, I don't think it's something we want to have someone checking moose all the time. inaud... It's probably not going to change much... inaud...

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:46:14.26]

I guess what I'm trying to get at is, there's violators - where do we go?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:46:22.12]

Where do you go? Well, any violations, I guess you call me, or call the North Slope Borough, Department of Wildlife Management, or you know we'll get you in touch with the enforcement

people. I mean when there are incidents, they will come up you know but, it's a little late then. I mean the closest enforcement guy is located at Coldfoot, they're coming from Coldfoot or they're coming from Kotzebue, so, you know, it's a long way away we don't have... inaud

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:46:59.25]

That's you know, we need to learn the process, who to talk to, before it's toward the summer when everybody's out camping and then here comes the chopper making the migration route, mess up and then here we are left with... But you know, the point is, who do we report it to? with the complaint.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:47:38.04]

Well, I mean, again, I think the department, they have pretty good tabs on who's out there with permits, and who's flying around out there - Fish and Game Department, North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, you know, the Native Village of Barrow, you know, I think we're all willing to try to you know, if there are people flying around out there interfering with people's hunting I think we're all willing to try to figure out who it is. I mean, often it's not, you know I mean sometimes it's industry, sometimes it's somebody from one of the borough departments doing this or that, Sometimes it's fish and game people doing wildlife surveys, sometimes it's the fisheries people...

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:48:23.29]

I just wanted to put it out, just so these guys know, you know, the people are complaining and I want to let them know what to do.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:48:37.16]

Yup

Gordon Brower

[00:48:38.22]

Yeah maybe I can shed a little bit of light on that too. Now the NSB Planning Department does a lot of permitting for, even for, you know, census surveys, of animals, different bear types, summer studies... It depends on what the nature of what the complaint is. Whether it's a Fish and Game violation for wonton waste, or if someone's out there guiding without proper documentation or something like that, there's different things you need to be able to distinguish what kind of complaint and then know the folks. If it's related to our permits, or BLM permits or their authorizations and they have some directions and guidelines for operators or industrial folks to abide by. Our own practice has been to try to limit the interference, you know we can't completely do away with it, but our way has been to be inclusive, using a subsistence representative to help guide where peak subsistence use is gonna occur at what period of time

and try to get folks who are knowledgeable about that and steer your projects away, with a route that will be least impacting. So there are ways of doing these. They're not perfect. We do get a lot of complaints about air craft and a lot of times it's either Fish and Wildlife Service, or it's Alaska Department of Fish and Game doing something, and we we've done our part to try to limit the impact, but... In one case, I think Eli was, had made a complaint about these summer studies in the Alpine area and around Nuiqsut and the NPR-A and it included over flights and helicopters for stick pickers to clean up what they had... the residual debris that may have been left from summer studies. It turned out the Subsistence Rep was always being left behind at the helipad. Our recommendation would be using your subsistence reps to communicate effectively and that seemed to work pretty well. If the Subsistence Reps know what to do, and what their duties are in terms of assisting, you can start to see the benefits of that Joe.

I had one question.

Stacey Fritz

[00:51:28.07]

Gordon, can you state your name for the record?

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:51:30.06]

Oh, my name's Gordon Brower, I'm the NSB representative on the SAP, and I apologize for being late. I had to go to a preassembly meeting this morning and I just came from Nuiqsut last night, so. But ah, earlier was talking about moose, and did we, I think sometimes I think maybe I don't need a permit to harvest a moose because I'm a native person and that if it's open I can harvest a moose and its the right time and the right animal to harvest, the ability to harvest that, do I still and individual folks, people go, yeah, you should have a moose tag for subsistence, but I'm not always that clear, so if you could shed some light on it. And also if your surveys included the Upper Ikpikpuk 'cause there's quite a bit of moose in that area as well, and ah, I have plans to go harvest over that way.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:52:40.29]

Um, yeah, legally everyone is required to have a hunting license and a moose harvest ticket to harvest a moose. So, you know licenses are available at the Fish and Game office, or the internet, or the AC store. The AC and I, you know, have moose harvest tickets. We always try to have them up at the Nuiqsut AC store so you might set up over there but if they change the management and I don't hear about it and suddenly everybody's having a hard time getting.... But yes, everyone is legally required to have a hunting license and a moose harvest ticket to harvest a moose.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:53:24.22]

And then the second question about Ikpikpuk area. A few years ago, maybe 10 years ago being in the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory council there was a delineation of West 156 or something like that sand you can harvest on this side but you can't harvest on that side and I think they did away with that because the moose population finally jumped up...

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:53:51.16]

Now, you're right, that is the cut off for that summer season, the one that starts the first of July. It's just, ah, it's kind of oriented toward the villages and is, you got to be west of, yeah, longitude line 156. On the Upper Ikpikpuk - it's like the regular season that starts on the first of August. And yes we do count moose up there and it would be legal to go there and harvest moose.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:54:23.12]

Starts August first?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:54:25.13]

Yeah

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:54:25.29]

And ends? September?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:54:29.22]

What's that?

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:54:30.22]

When does it end? September?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:54:32.17]

September 14th

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:54:35.28]

We can extend that to like about September 30th.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:54:41.19]

Yeah, well we can make a proposal at the next Board of Game meeting.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:54:47.29]

That was actually one of the suggestions by Nuiqsut, to extending it. They were saying a couple more weeks but just...

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:54:56.21]

Yeah, in Ikpikpuk too, as soon as it breaks up and you get into the dry part of July, you can't really go up anymore, but around August and September the rains come again and the rivers get really full and you can suddenly go a hundred miles up the Ikpikpuk again and do your harvesting, so it's good to recognize what the season does in terms of being able to harvest.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:55:30.16]

I know Francis harvested one in the Upper Ikpikpuk last year, so...

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:55:36.22]

Oh, yeah, I know. We were staging fuel for him.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:55:41.04]

So when is that next Fish and Game meeting?

Unknown

[00:55:44.08]

Should we move on?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:55:45.03]

When was that - when was the next meeting? For Fish and Game?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:55:48.10]

Next Board of Game meeting, it'll be in two years.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:55:51.29]

Two years?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:55:53.16]

They're following the fall... they're on a two years cycle. I believe that one will be in Kotzebue.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:56:04.03]

So we gotta wait two years

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:56:05.25]

Yeah, that's the way that works.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:56:09.19]

Huh. Anyways, yeah, go ahead and move on.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:56:16.02]

Alright, the next species we keep tabs on are, we do wolf surveys. Mostly we count them in that area, kind of the same, the kind of core moose area, that's the area where there are a lot of wolves too, up in the Colville, the Killik, the Itkillik??, and Anaktuvuk Pass, up there. We'll be doing wolf counts right after the moose counts, April 13-15. Basically we fly through an area with a couple of Supercubs and try to count every pack of wolves that are in there...

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:56:55.08]

So, this is kind of the results of our wolf counts. The dark line on the bottom is the number of wolves that we see per hour during the surveys, and again the top line is the number of moose. Anyways, that kind of what we're seeing out there. The number of wolves really increased in that area in you know 2005 to 2009 and a lot of the local hunters kind of targeted those - guys from Barrow went down, Anaktuvuk Pass, Nuiqsut, went in there and harvested a lot of wolves. And you can see the number of wolves that we're seeing in the surveys that we've seen in the last two years have gone way down and I think that's probably a big reason why the moose numbers have started to work their way back up. With, we have a lot more moose calves survive the winter with fewer wolves, so anyways, the bad news is you guys might not see quite as many wolves down around the Umiat area as you've been seeing the last few years. But hunters always do better than I expect, you know, local hunters hopefully get down in that area you'll come up with some more wolves. But anyway, that's... we don't do real extensive wide wolf surveys so we don't have good numbers for out on the coastal plain in that area, but I don't know, people tell me they're seeing quite a few around, so...

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:58:39.13]

Okay, now we'll move on to the surveys we're going to do in 2012 with caribou. We have two herds within NPR-A that we keep pretty close tabs on. The one I've worked with all my career is the Teshekpuk herd. So what one... throughout the year we go out and do radio tracking surveys. And those basically are calf survival and adult distribution surveys. Last summer, Lincoln and some of the others on this... started a calf survival study. And we went into the calving area last summer and put radio collars on 70 calves and the idea is, well several things we want to look at.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[00:59:40.20]

I'll show a figure in a little while that shows that calf survival has been on the decline for the last 20 years. We're having fewer and fewer caribou calves survive each spring, or through the winter. And so this study is to look at why, you know, what's killing those calves, why fewer of them are surviving. Also, we're looking at... Well, I jumped into this too soon because I want to put some maps up. The calving area, where calves are being born has been kind of changing the last couple of years and we want to see if calves that are born in the, what we call, the traditional calving area are more likely to survive than calves that were born outside that area.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:00:29.19]

So anyway, as part of that study, we fly... Well during the summer it's about every two weeks, about once a month in the winter... But we're going to be flying surveys that's a March, May, July, a couple times July, August, September, October. Yeah, we'll be flying regular radio tracking surveys, those are pretty you know, don't have much impact on the caribou because we're flying at high altitude and listening for the collared caribou. We can hear from the signal those collars give off whether those animals are alive or dead, so we're just looking to see how many caribou died during the coldest of the year. If one of the calf caribou is dead then we will go down to look and determine the cause of mortality.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:01:27.06]

So, like I say, those are we're doing them monthly, sometimes a couple times a month, and a lot of those will be flown out of Galbraith to Umiat and Barrow. I mean, we have to go to where the caribou are to fly our surveys and we can't always anticipate that...

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:01:50.03]

I had a question, Chair?

Stacey Fritz

[01:01:52.04]

Can you state your name for the record every time you talk?

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
 [01:01:55.24]
 Okay, for the record Thomas Napageak.

Stacey Fritz
 [01:01:57.12] Thanks

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
 [01:01:57.18]
 How high do the Cessnas fly during the [quiet talking] How high do the Cessnas fly during the... duration of the surveys? on the caribou?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG
 [01:02:16.27]
 Well, we like to fly real high because the higher you fly the more range you have with the radio collars, so a lot of times, it's 3 or 4 thousand feet.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
 [01:02:27.27]
 One other question. Ah, has there been any diversion on the migration while you guys are doing your surveys during ___ down around the rondak?? area?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG
 [01:02:42.08]
 Well, I don't, you know I don't think, I don't, I mean, that's a real tough question. It's really...

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
 [01:02:54.21]
 What kind of precautions does the, your department, what kind of precautions does your department take during this particular survey?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG
 [01:03:06.14]
 Well, our main precaution is that we're way up in the air so a lot of the caribou don't even know we're flying by, so that's the main thing. You know when we go down and look at course for mortality we kind of do it as quickly as possible and make every effort not to disturb the movement of animals.

Unknown
 [01:03:26.24]
 Geoff, I got a question, ah, Mr. Chair?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:03:30.29]

Yeah go ahead.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:03:31.11]

Gordon Brower. Going to just follow suite like everybody else. Many times we get applicants from various different agencies in including Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, when they're doing their surveys, like marine mammal surveys, bird flu studies, and various things. Do you come in with your requirements to get permits to do your fly overs and do your studies?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:04:06.19]

You know, I don't think we historically have done that very much. I know last year we were notified that we should do that and we did. And we'll do that in the future. You know, I think that most of the last 20 years we've just kind of gone out and did our surveys. And ah, yeah...

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:04:27.18]

Yeah, a lot of the permits, Gordon Brower again Mr. Chair

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:04:30.26]

Yeah.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:04:30.28]

A lot of the permits that are issued by various departments for studies do include some guidelines to help minimize interference iwth subsistence activities, but we also need to make sure that your needs to assess and do your counts are met. So, I would advise continue doing that and being able to work with permitting agencies

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:05:02.24]

Okay, we'll do that.

Well, I don't know why this nice colorful map... stuck it in there, not sure what's going on with that. But basically it - these are as of a couple days ago, this is where most, well I mean, this is where all of our caribou with satellite radio collars are. You can see that for some reason this year the motherload of the herd is right up there around Anaktuvuk, the east of Anuk. Fortunately the others are all kind of spread around in other places so we're seeing a fair number of caribou here in Barrow, you know there's Wainwright, Atqasuk all winter, some around Nuiqsut. Anyway, when we fly our survey, we basically have to fly to where these collars are

so that determines where we'll be flying.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:06:08.26]

So, well anyway, of all the work we do, these are probably the least intrusive.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:06:16.09]

Joe Sage for the record. There's in the past couple years or so, there's been a lot of complaints you know different kinds of aircraft flying low and disturbing caribou while there out hunting them. And we spend hundreds of dollars just to go up Chic river, or Kuparuk... You need, anywhere, I mean you have to go at least close to a hundred miles round trip and that costs a lot of money and that comes from hard work by our local people, you know, by our hunters, and what I'm trying to get at is, ah, our one question is are you doing your aerial surveys when the migration is moving closer to the coast line, where it's more easily accessible for us? And also is there a way where you can avoid doing your surveys when the migration is moving farther to the coast line where it's more easily accessible. Is there a way you can basically hold back and until they actually head back farther south?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:08:07.26]

Well, I guess yes and no. We, you know, of course, any time that we see hunters we do everything we can, you know, to not interfere with people that are hunting. I'm sure there are time that mistakes have been made and you know flying around out there it's hard to tell where somebody is. We try to avoid that as much as possible, but you know specifically you're talking about when the caribou moving out up by the coast line. We can talk about this more a little later, but when we do a photo census of the caribou, think of Teshekpuk area, that 's usually like mid July. We specifically want to photograph them on the days that are the... buzzing... bunched up along the coast. And so I mean that's, just because of the conditions we're sort of forced to interact - cause that's when you can count them.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:09:14.11]

And ah, so we do I mean as quick we have a radio tracking plane go in and locate the radio collars and then have a photo plane come over and makes a... sometimes it takes 3 or 4 passes to fly enough transects to photograph all the caribou in a bunch but you know we're in and out pretty quick on each bunch of caribou. You know we have to do the photo census when they're bunched up and they're often close to the coast like the Teshekpuk herd. But again, we try to, you know, if there's somebody hunting you know we certainly try to avoid interfering with their ability to hunt

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:09:58.26]

Well

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:09:59.20]

Mr. Chair

]Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:09:59.24]

Hold on. With today's technology, they're now able to take picture from satellite, take pictures of whales and marine mammals that are you know quite clear, and they're not disturbed at all. I don't know if State Fish and Game is actually going to go that far. I mean I would recommend utilizing that technology, that way they're not disturbed at all. You know at any time during, especially during our you know during the times we're hunting. And another thing is I guess we can try to figure out a way to have a kind o like a conflict avoidance agreement with all these scientists and biologists to avoid the areas where we hunt a lot as their migrating north. It's just like the bowhead whale. The oil companies and seismic crews and stuff like that they have to avoid during their surveys while we're hunting our whales, maybe we can do the same thing with caribou as well.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:11:48.00]

Yeah, well I'm all for moving on to some better technology. So far we haven't had access to you know the satellite cause if they, you know, just... well, since you brought up bowhead whales I know that you know in conjunction with the ICEPIK?? census that [inaudible] they use aircraft to do that too. So, yeah we'd all like to move on and just get images from satellites but we just don't have access to that technology yet.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:12:23.21]

Hmmm

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:12:25.04]

Mr. Brower

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:12:26.14]

Yeah, Mr. Chair, Gordon Brower again. Yah. You know we understand the need to do census and stuff like that ... least intrusive as possible. Have you looked at peak periods? It seems to me the caribou come up, a lot of them, for calving. You notice that a lot of caribou will come to calf and start having their calves around the end of May and first couple weeks of June and it seems to me that's a good period to look because subsistence activities are seriously limited because everything's breaking up, people are holding out till it dries up a little more, but the

animals are moving and they're now present and they've got calves and you know I'm just making a suggestion here and looking at what we do during different times of the season and look at how the animals move up to the Arctic and do their thing as well. Yeah.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:13:40.15]

Yeah, that's a good point. There are places in the world that they do photograph caribou who are starting the calving period for exactly that reason. The trouble here is that you get all the cows in one spot, but the bulls are at that point are scattered all over the place - and a lot of them are stealth. For us, by far the best time to photograph all the caribou are during insect relief periods because the bulls are there and the cows are there and they're all bunched up in one big unit and so it's we can just get a much more effective count if we do it during insect relief, that's really the time where `all the caribou are bunched up.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:14:26.03]

Yeah. Ernest and Tom...

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison

[01:14:32.20]

Well, I think you might be doing this already but just to inform the community and outlying villages of the time frame that you'll be doing aerial surveys and what areas would be good and I think all the other recommendations... inaud... They need to inform the community with fliers and other stuff that might change people's plans to go out there, so just a suggestion. Ernest Nageak for the record.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:15:07.26]

Okay we got

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:15:10.08]

Yeah, that's.. it be a good idea if we can try to do that. The only problem there, is that often with the photo census it's like the day, there's only one day that things really come together when all the conditions are just right. And we always have to just launch and do it. I always announce it on the radio but it's usually only a day in advance or so before we know that we're going to do it. You can get the right conditions anytime from early July to almost the end of July. I mean, so, yeah, we'll do our best to let people know that we're there.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:15:49.23]

I would suggest that, Gordon Brower here, Mr. Chair, maybe notice to the local search and

rescue where you might be most affective for a community depending on the location of your collars. Could be closer to one village than another... Sometimes a local search and rescue does a real good job of informing local people and it's also help for those hunters that may hang out at the rescue centers.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:16:19.16]

Okay, yeah, good idea, I've never really though of that but I'll contact local Search and Rescue groups this summer.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:16:28.07]

Okay. Last two, Thomas and Danny

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:16:31.13]

One more, Joe.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:16:33.13]

Thomas Napageak, for the record. Yeah, in consideration of the caribou migration within each communities where they're doing their subsistence hunt like for instance something the majority for that herd passes through the something river we're always having to have trouble with I don't know if it's on account of the caribou but you know things are always too low and a lot of our hunters are getting frustrated cause that herd might go first to the coast line and then maybe head back inland. And I think it would be appropriate if in the coming days we could meet with fish and game standing during the best time of our communities when it's at the community's easiest way to harvest caribou especially if they're traveling across the river, there shouldn't be a count until the community's done with their hunt.

And that's all. I just think that would be a good recommendation to Fish and Game from the SAP committee.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:17:43.19]

Okay We can... Danny -

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[01:17:47.24]

Danny Pikok for the record. You mentioned when you have a collard animal that goes down you like to go investigate what happened to the animal.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:18:00.04]

Yeah, sure. We like to know what causes an animal to die.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[01:18:09.14]

Can't find local hunters, local community? Have you ever considered working with the community? Or in the general area, when a calf goes down, you want to know what happened. Would it be possible to work with the local community communicate with them. Today's technology, you have GPS, you have cameras, you have video cameras, off - ATV, send that local - put him on the payroll, and send that local hunter to investigate for you instead of you coming down with your chopper and scaring away all the caribou. Have you ever taken that into consideration?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:18:57.07]

Yeah, that's a good idea and you know we probably don't... haven't done as much as we should but we have done it occasionally. One problem is that is that just a lot of times where they die is just a long way away from a village or anything, so it's...

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[01:19:14.16]

So, you know where everyone... you know all the camp sites? Who lives in that camp area?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:19:23.24]

inaud

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[01:19:26.02]

I'd like to see

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:19:27.20]

I certainly don't know who's going to be in any particular camp site at any particular time. I mean, that'd be impossible.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[01:19:35.27]

When you have mortality on calves, do you have records? Can you share that with the panel?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:19:42.03]

Yeah, and that will be one of my following slides.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:19:46.02]

Just to add on what you were saying, and what Gordon was saying, you know, the Search and Rescue Department, they always know who's at which camp at all times. For emergency situations.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:19:58.26]

Yeah. That's a really good resource, I kind of forgot.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:20:01.21]

So, what he was saying would be a real good idea just easily pick up the phone and ask if so and so is at the cabin and ask them to go investigate. It could be like an honorarium, you know, you could say 'well here' once they get back.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[01:20:21.28]

It's better for the community. I think we need to work together and you know share the wealth, get our local hunters involved, any which way we can.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:20:36.19]

Yeah, Okay.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:20:38.20]

Sorry, I know I started with the first question, but I suggest we allow him to finish his presentation and the rest of his slides before we ask him our questions.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:20:48.15]

Thank you

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:20:49.01]

He was the last one so. Thank you Mr. Chairman. [laughing]

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:20:57.08]

Yeah, we've only gotten to our second activity and we've got several to go. Okay, so the first was to go around and look at survival. Next what are what we call our late winter composition

surveys, and that's basically determining how many calves have survived the winter. We do those in April, the first week of April usually and so the way we do those is we fly to each radio collared caribou and then we do come down low, we fly low on these and we classify the nearest 100 animals as to whether it's a bull, cow or calf. And that's how we determine how many calves have survived the winter. This year we'll be basing out of Galbraith initially because that's where most of the caribou are but then we'll be moving west - as you saw from that earlier map they are kind of spread out all across the North Slope.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:21:58.15]

And this is a graph showing the results of these calf survival... ah well, this isn't calf survival., This is how many calves, or what percentage of calves that are in the population.... What percentage of the caribou are calves when we do this spring survey. After 20 years, there's just been this very slow gradual decrease in the number of calves that have survived. So you know, eventually that's going to have consequences to the total population. And that's part of why we're doing this calf survival study is to try determine why you know what is killing the calves that aren't surviving. Okay, so that'll be in April.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:22:53.02]

Okay then in the beginning of June we do our calving surveys, and like Gordon said, the calving usually starts by early may and runs through the first two weeks of June. Basically with that we fly to all the collared cows and see if they had a calf and where they had their calf and the timing of the calving and we fly basically every few days during the first two weeks of June. and a lot of that is done over in the Teshekpuk Lake region. We almost never run into hunters when we're doing those surveys, so I don't there's much interference with the hunters, but during that same time period, last year and this year, we're going to capture and collar 70 caribou calves. And again, we do that where the calving takes place. In the past it's been a lot better in the Teshekpuk Lake region but the last few years more and more to the west has been good. And the caribou or calving capture, basically we use a helicopter to do that. We fly in, we can only the only calves that we can even catch that way are one or two days old. After that they run too fast and Lincoln can't catch them.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:24:32.25]

But anyway, he takes just about 20 seconds - he flies in something... weighs them measure them, does an age estimate and slides a radio collar on and he's out of there in about 20 seconds and so that's kind of how that operation goes. And then we can look at how many of those survive later on.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:25:09.11]

This map shows an interesting development that's occurred in the last two years. You see that red area right around Teshekpuk Lake... For the first twenty years that I was looking at this herd, probably 90% of the calving took place within that red line, and we call that the Teshekpuk Lake calving area. The caribou really favored that area. Almost all the cows that had calves calved within that. Then in 2010 and 2011 suddenly, what these spots, these are where live calves were born at the yellow spots. The dark squares are where, those were collared cows but they didn't have calves.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:26:03.03]

So it's like for some reason the calving has really spread out a lot over the last couple years and actually more calves born over there between Ikpikpuk and Atqasuk than within the traditional calving area. So, anyway, that's part of what we're looking at with this calving study, is maybe why is it spreading out, you know, what does kill the calves and who died and the cows that have their calves in the traditional calving area, are those calves more likely to survive than the one's born outside the calving area.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:26:52.21]

Okay, so this is the results that we've gotten from the ones that we collared in 2010. They, ah, basi... First of all, almost all of them have survived. During that time 14 calves have died. A few of those died as capture mortalities. One, the mother kind of ran over her own calf in the process, and one the mother abandoned the calf. But the other 68 basically got through the capture operation just fine. So anyway, 80% of those calves have survived. One of the things we wanted to look at is of the calves that were born within the traditional calving area, are they more likely to survive than the ones born outside the calving area... So far the survival of the ones born within the calving area has been twice as high as the ones born outside of it, but it's a real small sample size so we want to look at more.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:28:07.14]

Okay, of 14 calves that have died, the leading cause of mortality was predation. There was bear predation, there was wolf predations. Let's see it looks like three wolves, and 4 bear.. 4 calves were killed by bear predation. Other than that a few of them looked just like they starved to death. You know it's hard to tell exactly, they just didn't they just looked poor, they hadn't been killed by a predator, then there were some classified as unknown. They were, it was as if, you know, some of those were killed by predation but we didn't know if it was a bear or a wolf. So, anyway bottom line is that the calf survival is actually very good in the Teshekpuk area compared to other herds around the state. In a lot of herds that have been studied over 50% of the calves died during the course of the year. The only other herd that does as well as the Teshekpuk as far as calf mortality is the central Arctic Herd - they have very good calving success and very good calf survival. So, are there any questions about all this?

Clifford Benson, Native Village of Barrow

[01:29:43.29]

Clifford Benson, for the record.

With what you're trying to study on the traditional grounds, their calving grounds on the Teshekpuk, that area you had highlighted in red. So you say that you've been surveying there for the last 20 plus years... Would you think or consider that your survey has anything to do with them moving out of their traditional calving ground? Going in there with the choppers over twenty years, making them think oh what's going on here I'm going to move this way away from these guys coming to mess with my brothers this big old what is this. You think that that has anything to do with them moving away from their traditional calving grounds?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:30:29.03]

Well, I don't think so or we wouldn't have been doing it. For the last 20 years we haven't been going in with helicopters or anything. We just fly in with a fixed wing airplane, we go to the radio collared cow take a quick look and see if she's had a calf or not then we're out of there, you know it's not it's not really very intrusive. We're just looking at a.... you know out of 60,000 caribou we're looking at the 30 cows or so that have a collar. So I, I don't think that has much.... I think what part of it may have been, you know we've had some years with deep snow and stuff and a lot of the caribou were wintering over in the Atqasuk and Wainwright area and might have just had a tough time getting back over there. We're not, aren't really sure why they're spreading out like this.

Clifford Benson, Native Village of Barrow

[01:31:25.09]

Yeah, you know traveling the tundra road that the Rolligons make every year, yeah, I notice that there is more snow around the Teshekpuk area more than you get around where their calving ground is starting to go to now. So maybe it might have something to do with the snow. Inaud not being able to get being too deep for them to be able to get down to eat, moving down to where there's less snow and it's easier for them to eat makes sense.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:31:54.20]

Yeah, okay. Thanks for that.

Okay, then okay so early June we do the calving surveys in late June is where we have traditionally don't our caribou capture work. And so basically that when we ... satellite collars have a battery life of usually 2 or 3 years so we have to go in and recapture the caribou whose batteries are timing out, and we also you know catch and collar some more caribou and you know that's been our source of a lot of really valuable information is getting those collars on those caribou. Again, we're not using any drugs on the caribou, we do use a helicopter and a net to capture caribou up here. For the Western Arctic herd we catch those up by, ah, we camp out

near the Kobuk River and as their swimming the river we can walk to the side and grab on the antlers and the tail and take a blood sample and attach radio collars. I really prefer that technique. We handled hundreds of caribou, probably thousands over the years. You know really never had any mortalities, or any serious injuries. Guess a few people cracked a rib or two, but for the caribou it's a really good technique. Anyway, there is a, you know, there is a lot of activity going on that usually June 25th to 30 is what we have planned for this year and inaud basically going in with helicopter and everything and catch the caribou and have to handle them for a while to get our work done. So again, we try to get in and get out as quick as we can, and interfere with things as little as possible.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:34:15.18]

Okay, then as far as the time line, our next project is to do a caribou photo census, and we ended up talking about that quite a bit earlier how we do that... Basically we go in radio tracking planes go... Well, we pick... We try to take advantage of the weather and the behavior of the caribou... and we pick the warmest balmiest and buggiest day that we can fly and you know, we keep careful tabs on the herd, we're watching the satellite map[s and maybe fly out there and look at them. Anyway, one of two days that they bunch up, that's when we fly in and do our photo census.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:35:06.25]

John? Gordon Brower, Mr. Chair. [pause] Would it be possible so that... If complaints do start arising for subsistence hunters to provide tail numbers to the Search and Rescue so they can say - that's the caribou survey project?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:35:33.04]

Yeah, well, I'll show you one more thing too. Okay, that's the plain Beaver. If you see this bright orange beaver in the air, then that's us doing a photo survey. You know and we can sure provide the tail numbers too. But that's the plane that we've always used. It has a belly mounted camera in it and basically when they're all bunched up into good tight bunches we just fly over, fly over the top of them and do a couple of transects so we can cover the entire area.

Unknown

[01:36:13.29]

Making me hungry, just looking at 'em.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:36:22.19]

These are the results of our photo censuses that we've done since 1985 with the Teshekpuk herd. Again, good growth up into the 90s, in the mid 90s they took a little dip for a few years, but since then they've been growing pretty rapidly. Probably on e of the fastest growing herds

around. We just got results from the most recent photo census. At their peak they were up to about 68,000 caribou. So, we just got results from our most recent photocensus. It takes us a while to do it because you know we take the photographs and ... inaud looks like the first time in quite a while it looks like the Teshekpuk herd might be on the decline again, actually quite a bit, from 68,000 down to about 65,000. So, we thought, you know, felt like we did a pretty thorough photography efforts last summer, you know we felt like we got most of them photographed, so it, we think this probably is real particularly along with that graph I showed you a while back you know if they're having lower and lower calf survival that's got to eventually result in a decline in the populations. So we're going to do another count next summer just to make, try to verify that number or maybe it got more or it got less, you know we'll verify that maybe we're on a downward trend... inaud... maybe it was just the weather and they're doing better than we thought.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:38:23.27]

But it's been, you know, up until this last count, it's been one of the fastest growing herds around and that's pretty remarkable because we hunt that herd a higher rate than almost any herd in the state. So the fact that there is lower predation than a lot of other places, we are able to hunt at a higher rate, but we'll have to see.... It's still a big healthy herd, you know they're still doing good, but we'll keep tabs on them to see if this looks like a declining trend or hopefully it'll pick back up.

Qinugan Roddy, Inupiat Community of the North Slope

[01:39:01.01]

Geoff, this is Qinugan Roddy for the record. I was just wondering about your, the lines - like what do they mean? Like how some are longer...

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:39:11.23]

Okay, what all this is is ah, okay, we ah, okay, the "X" is what we call our minimum population count. That's how many caribou we actually saw, we actually photographed. Then we correct that number for... hell, we know we don't see every caribou. So if we go out and we see, within the herd that we counted we count 68 radio collars but we know really that there are 72 radio collars out there, and we know that there are some groups that didn't get, you know we just missed. So anyway, there's, we correct that count up, so that's probably the big point of what, of how many caribou we really think there are.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:40:06.00]

Basically, this you know, we know that is an estimate so that there's so we're certain, well 95% sure that the real population number occurs within that number and that number. So anyway, that's the midpoint, we're certain that the real number is quite close to how many caribou there

are. Pretty certain that there's somewhere within that range.

Unknown

[01:40:43.24]

Mr. Chair?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:40:45.06]

Hold on [pause] Alright we'll take... go ahead and.. is this on? hello?

Stacey Fritz

[01:40:55.15]

Doesn't seem like it's working.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[01:40:57.19]

Just speak up

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:40:59.03]

Anyways, well, we'll let Mr. Brower ask a question, and we'll let you finish, then we'll break for lunch.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:41:07.07]

Just be loud.

[agreement,]

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:41:10.27]

Yeah, Gordon Brower for the record. Between those two counts and where it seems to have a maybe a declining trend and your surveys are probably annual, I would suggest- I would guess, or if it's every few years. But at the same time, so me traditional knowledge of caribou movements and stuff is that are related to other major herds that may be in the area and other major herds like this that may come in contact with each other. From what I've heard from elders in the past is that sometimes they'll melt together and then break apart. It could make it more that tag along to that herd and or another might get less as they go over here... Have you seen any of that occur with the Teshekpuk herd in recent times that by the herd grew by intermingling with maybe the western Arctic Herd or the Central Herd and then when they separate, seems to me there's some traditional knowledge about that occurring in the past.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:42:26.23]

Yeah, that's a very good point and that's a big issue in all this. One thing we do is radio track to find all the Teshekpuk bunches and then we go through and radio track and listen for the Central Arctic herd collars, and then the Western Arctic Herd collars, and it's interesting because in the most recent census we found 2 Central Arctic Herd caribou collars right in the midst of one of the biggest bunches of Teshekpuk caribou. And you know, figure we have one collar up for about every thousand caribou in these herds, so yeah, there could've been a bunch of Central Arctic caribou there - but at the same time, we went and radio tracked over the central herd area and actually found 3 Central Arctic Herd caribou collars in the Teshekpuk area and 2 Teshekpuk collars in with the Central Arctic Herd so there are probably a few thousand Teshekpuk caribou over with the Central.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:43:37.08]

And it seemed like we're seeing that more and more. I think we're doing a much better job of radio tracking for one thing, so we're picking up on these caribou moving back and forth between herds, [agreement] but also it did seem like there are more caribou going back and forth. Yeah, I don't know. Last summer there was at least one Teshekpuk caribou down with the Central Arctic Herd animals and interestingly enough we didn't pick up and Western Arctic Herd collars and that's what you would think... if there's going to be a herd that's going to inflate or deflate the count up there, it'd be a bunch of Western Arctic Herd animals moving into the Teshekpuk area. But you know, it's such a big herd - you know we only have one collar for about every 4,000 animals. So you know there's a chance that there're a fair number of animals in there but we wouldn't pick up, you know if it didn't just happen to be a collared one, so yeah, that's an issue.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:44:42.15]

But all in all I think you know like I say you know try to fix the 8 Teshekpuk radio collars within that bunch we have about 74 of the ___ total So that's mostly Teshekpuk caribou there you know if there is a little movement in and out, you know those are the ones we could hunt anyway, but you know it adds to the number of caribou that we could be hunting anyway, so...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:45:15.14]

Yeah go ahead and finish

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:45:18.12]

What's that?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:45:18.14]

Are you done?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:45:19.22]

Well, I'm not done, but I'm done with this slide - we could...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:45:23.12]

Oh, yeah, yeah, go ahead and finish it

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:45:27.00]

Okay, I thought we were going to stop after that question and go eat lunch or something. So keep going?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:45:31.07]

Yeah, we'll wait till you're done.

Stacey Fritz

[01:45:29.22]

How long?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:45:34.01]

Actually we are getting pretty close. Okay. So after the photocensus the next big survey doesn't happen until the latter part of October, we do composition counts that are pretty kind of similar to the moose composition counts that you know - we fly to each collared caribou and look at the closest 100 animals, so that's the time when we determine how many cows and bulls and calves we've got. So that's composition counts, and that's yeah, in the later part of October. And again, we just have to go to where the caribou are, and do our surveys.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:46:20.27]

Okay, so that runs us through the Teshekpuk surveys. For 2012, on the Western Arctic Herd we'll be doing calving surveys and that'll be in the Upper Utukok, Kokolik?, Upper Colville river area and that's basically looking at calving success locations. We do those in, for each unit as well. Those flights will be based out of Kotzebue, the Eagle Creek strip out there at the western end of the Brooks Range.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:46:52.08]

Then we'll just be doing general radio tracking surveys. Part of that is one of the reason we have

collars on the caribou is to kind of compare the mortality rate ___ percentage of caribou die and we apply that - figure it probably gives us a pretty good idea of mortality of the herd. Again, that'll be flown out of Eagle Creek and Kotzebue. Then in June and July, we try to retrieve all the collars from the dead animals and that's done with an airplane and a helicopter - makes it a lot easier to fly into a lot of those caribou cause a lot of them are way out in the middle of nowhere.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:47:42.17]

And we do a lot of other projects with Western Arctic Herd ___ talk about those right now.

We did, we're not going to do a photo census in 2012, but we will in 2013. And this quickly, this is what we're seeing with the caribou Western Arctic Herd. This is the largest herd of caribou on the continent. They peaked at almost half a million - 493,000 - back in 2003. Took a pretty dramatic downturn before we got our next census done in 2006 or 2007. We lost over a hundred thousand caribou during that time. We think a lot of that was due to icing events over the winter - it warmed up above freezing and covered things with ice -- ___ inaud let's see then we did a census in 2009, looked like they were continuing to decline - 348,000. Photographed them again last summer ___ [bad buzzing , rustling]

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:49:06.08]

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:49:07.02]

So anyway, the Western Arctic Herd seems to be on a downward trend but they're still a very large healthy herd. This isn't a very clear picture, but um, on the screen here it looks pretty good. Anyway, basically this is, you, there's caribou scattered across there as far as you can see. It's pretty impressive site when the Western Arctic Herd gets together.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:49:32.07]

Okay, then just the other species. We'll be doing musk ox surveys in the south western part of the NPR-A just basically fly around and count moose and musk ox and we'll probably base those out of the Eagle Creek strip, out in the western end of the Brooks Range. And generally the other you know bears, wolves, wolverines, we just had a report of sightings and we're doing surveys for other species. This. on bears... just want to get the word around as much as possible. The Board of Game passed a regulation at the fall meeting that you do not need a tag to harvest a grizzly bear. You know, you need a hunting license, and once you get that bear then notify the fish and game office so we can record it - so anyway, that's a change. In the past, you needed a subsistence bear permit ___ [buzzing, other voices] removed the requirement for that, so it makes it a lot easier for BLM ___ we have a 12 month a year season ___ many times getting around to calving you don't want to have them around.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:51:05.12]

Okay, this isn't really NPR-A stuff, this is more related to the road to Umiat, but I just, it's some interesting information that you guys... probably will come up sooner or later. Basically they have Lincoln doing an analysis on how do roads affect caribou - do they really interfere with caribous' ability to get to certain areas - does it deflect them, or add them. So anyways, what he did was we had lots of tracts from radio collared caribou, and we have the red dog mine road and so he was looking t how does that road seem to affect the tracts of those caribou. He kind of broke it up this way - this is a bunch of caribou that basically came up to the road and it didn't seem to affect them very much, they just came up and crossed the road. Although you look at this guy, he came up and he seemed to parallel the road for a long time. You know if you have a road for instance north of Anuktuvuk Pass and they were deflected like that by a road, then that could steer them right around Anuktuvuk Pass.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:52:29.05]

So these are the ones that it didn't seem to affect very much, but there were also a bunch that it did seem to affect a lot. I mean if you look at these, this guy seemed to turn completely around, this one too. He followed around, went back... Here's some that found the road and didn't want to cross it, so paralleled the road for a long way, some paralleled the road for quite a bit. So it's kind of mixed. There are some who weren't bothered much at all and others that really seemed to having that road there seemed to affect the course of their tract line.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:53:12.20]

Hey Joe, Gordon Brower for the record Mr. Chair...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:53:16.18]

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:53:18.00]

Did you make any comparisons with the Dalton highway with the road and the pipeline vs. just a road?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:53:24.25]

Well, that's another analysis and we're still kind of working on that.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:53:28.23]

Alright, be good to show something like that as well for the Dalton Highway

Yeah

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:53:33.24]

Same slide, Mr. Chair... Were any of these diverted caribous during the hunts of users on the Dalton Highway?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:53:50.12]

Well these are all the Red Dog Road, so

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:53:57.03]

Okay, was there any, would there be any diversion - I mean from hunters - out of state hunters...

Oh, Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:54:05.23]

Oh, no I don't think so at this time I think are ones that were basically affected by the fact that the road was there. You know, again I don't, it's hard, you know you gotta look at a lot more - I don't know how much traffic there was at that point Maybe the ones that went right across it was a time when there was no traffic or something, and maybe the traffic affects them more, But I don't, you know, we don't even know that for sure. But this is pretty clear evidence that the road can affect their movements.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:54:43.25]

Okay, I guess that's the end of my show.

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:54:46.23]

I'm Eli Nukapigak for the record. Are you going to do any survey in that, where that proposed development area is going to be? In northeast corner of NPR-A - ah, during - before, during, and after that development that take place, how the caribou change their migration in that proposed development area?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:55:15.29]

So you're talking like up around the Alpine area, in that...

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:55:21.03]

GD 5, 6, 7, 8 Those proposed development areas to open in NPR-A

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:55:28.05]

Yeah, and you know the, you know the consulting company, ABR? Alaska Biological Research - they've had a contract and they're they've been looking very carefully at caribou movements through that area. So they've got good pre-development information and they plan on continuing that after, I mean during development and after development, so we ought to have a real good record on what takes place there. It's been kind of - that area is kind of is kind of in between herds, some of the Teshekpuk caribou get over in there, you know, it's kind of on the east side of their range, and some Central Arctic Herd caribou get in there it's kind of the west side of their range - it's not really a hotspot for either herd but there are definitely caribou moving through that area so they should be getting some interesting information.

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:56:32.28]

So are you going to monitor the traversing? what happens on the traverse when they start to develop, or ... Are you ___ regional migration of the caribou around that area and how are you going to find out the caribou that move away from that place?

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:56:57.20]

Yeah, I mean we're that's one real value of having the radio collars out there - you know I mean it shows the movements through that area, shows how those areas are getting used and how much they're used during development and after development you know I think we in a good position to get some useful information on all of that.

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:57:28.22]

So after that, what kind of recommendation are you going to give to the ___ the Subsistence Advisory Board see how you could change the ___ the changes that occurred too many times with the development. [hard to understand.]

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[01:57:53.12]

Well, you know it depends on what the results of the studies are. But you know, I think that people put a lot of stock in the traditional knowledge. I mean you guys have been saying for years that it affects the migrations and you know I think they've taken, taken some steps. I mean, people value what you've said and there've been changes made as a result of that, probably not as much as some people would like to see but so it's kind of a combination of local knowledge. Along with what we see from surveys and radio tracking results

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:58:42.15]

Mr. Chair?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:58:45.21]

Yeah Gordon?

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:58:48.05]

Just wanted to chime in a little bit about caribou stuff. Over a long period of time Alpine, I think, from its inception and the alpine satellite rezone at least on behalf of the North Slope Borough stipulation that there would be caribou studies and we wanted to make sure the studies were going on so that they could show some baseline of information before the construction so that I think it's been ongoing for at least over 10 years now and to create some baseline so that you can start to realize some trend. So maybe what we've done with some other of our ordinances is to do an audit, and we may need to do an audit on the studies maybe bring that back to the village in the community? We can do that with ABR, I think that was part of their contract with Conoco Philips It could be beneficial for ADF and G to chime in and those folks who study these animals and see if their what we see in terms of industrial studies and ah gathering information if that times? jives? with what the agency folks are doing - And maybe there's a trend somewhere in between. I just wanted to bring that up - there's ways of doing these things - that ah, that we've done that already in terms of auditing our oilfield infrastructure with our ordinances that require them to do certain things. That's just, I'm just speaking on behalf of the Borough. Thank you.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[02:00:34.21]

Thank you.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:00:40.27]

Any more questions? [pause] Alright. Well, thank you Mr. Carroll.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[02:00:52.24]

Yeah, thank you.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:00:54.13]

And I know there's a lot of information that needs to be shared and we always tend to question after question and it goes on to more and more questions, you know, on just certain things. But it needs to be done. You know, we need the answers and of course were going to always have

questions about what's going on in our in our hunting area. And the thing is, we're all young - you know, we're all very young. The young hunters nowadays are now getting more involved with oil and gas development and surveys and science and biology work and it's overwhelming sometimes, but thank you for you presentation and your information and that is very much needed and we... continue to do you good work for our people so that yeah, we can have this information you know it helps us make better decisions in the long run. So, thank you for you presentation.

Geoff Carroll, ADFG

[02:02:25.14]

Yeah, thank you and thanks for all the good questions.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:02:28.26]

I'm hungry! Let's break for lunch [agreement]. Back at 2.

Subsistence Advisory Panel Meeting, March 2, 2012 Afternoon Session

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:04:39.20]

Alright, we will call this meeting back to order. We didn't have Brittany, next, but I guess we'll go ahead and go with the road to Umiat Project so Ryan? You're next. If you can introduce yourself and...

Foothills West (Road to Umiat) Project

Ryan Anderson, ADOT

[00:05:11.18]

Thank you. Yes, thank you, it looks like it works.

Thank you for having here as your guests today. My name is Ryan Anderson, with the Alaska Department of Transportation - public facilities out of Fairbanks I'm the project manager for

the foothills west project for DOT and with me here today is Paul Karczmarczyk - and he is also in Fairbanks with DOT and he's our environmental lead for this project. So I put together roughly 10 or 12 slides here so just to give you guys an update. On where we're at with this project. And then I understand there are probably a lot of questions so we'll leave plenty of time for that. so with tat, I'll just start on the update.

Ryan Anderson, ADOT

[00:06:05.19]

Okay. So the Foothills this project started back in 2009 and with the a lot of feasibility work and engineering and environmental studies and whatnot . We're funded through some state funds only at this point. We had \$8 million appropriated in the state fiscal year 2011 capital budget, with an additional 8M in the 2012 capital budget and there's an additional 10M in the proposed governor's fiscal year 2013 capital budget. I'd like to go through a little bit, and I know a lot of you folks are probably very familiar with this, but as far as the process and DOT it's always important for us to go through the process. Basically we have four different stages of project development where we're at. We of course we start out when a project comes to us in the design group which is what we are, we take projects from the planning stages through the basically the bid sets the bill for construction, okay so we do this all over the state It's kind of the standard process we go through. For this project we did reconnaissance level investigations in 2009 and 2010 and right now we're kind of stage two, which we call preliminary engineering and environmental stage.

Ryan Anderson, ADOT

[00:07:34.05]

And this is where we begin actually trying to do the environmental doc and securing permits for a project. So this is kind of phase two the second stage in our standard process. You get to number, stage number three and then we get the final design and right of way in positions. That's when we actually go out on the fireline. [?] We don't do that until we have an environmental document on a project, and then we go to construction. So that's just a quick rundown of the process. Just a quick slide of some of our informal public out reach and agency involvement. I know you know we've heard a lot about people wanting to be involved so this is just a summary of the public out reach we did presentations, The field work involvement with folks, you know getting local folks out in the field, in 2009, 2010, and 2011. So I just wanted to put that up there. And you know this presentation can be available to any body who would like to get it.

Ryan Anderson, ADOT

[00:08:41.11]

Ryan Anderson, ADOT

[00:08:45.26]

For this project, it's for DOT... a normal, a lot of our projects at dot you know we go though the Federal Highway Administration or the Federal Aviation Administration for funding purposes. Since this project is state funded we went to the agencies and requested information who should

be the lead fed agencies and because of the wetlands impacts the Corps of Engineers were the ones who that were selected as the lead federal agency on the project. So we're working with the Corps of Engineers driven process now, okay. So DOT now, we've become the applicant which means we provided a proposed action to the Corp and now they take over at that moment and they drive this process evaluating alternatives and going through this EIS, and then the permit.

Ryan Anderson, ADOT

[00:09:36.22]

So our role right now is basically to provide information both engineering and environmental to the Corps for analysis as they request. So we're out there doing some field work taking that information and compiling it and provide it to the Corps, and they basically look at it and make sure it's suitable and adequate the quality and go from there with it for analysis. We ___ the environmental engineering studies, and Army Corps of Engineers has a third party contract ___ whose actually writing the EIS and DOT is funding all of that with different agreements with different agencies so the money is coming from DOT but the core actually has a third party independent contractor whose controlled by the Corps to write the EIS.. And then we attend meetings as requested by the Corps and then we fund and support our sister state agencies that have a role in the project. The folks who are involved include the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Department of Natural Resources... and then Health and Human Services, as well, is involved in this project. The one thing that you will hear on this project is DNR has an Office of Permitting and Large Project Management, and we are funding them to coordinate the sister agencies, they basically manage the coordination of all the agencies and whatnot for the EIS, so you may here from those folks as well.

Ryan Anderson, ADOT

[00:11:03.04]

For a description of what we're proposing, it's always best to go to the Notice of Intent that was issued on May 20 of 2011. And this is what was published in the Federal Register that basically describes what we want to do. DOT is proposing to construct an all season access road from the Dalton Highway to Umiat to increase the access to potential oil and gas resources for exploration and development along the North Slope of the foothills of the Brooks Range and within the npr-a. The project is considered an important investment by the State of Alaska to further development opportunities to benefit Alaska's economy.

Ryan Anderson, ADOT

[00:11:43.02]

Construction components of this road would include an all season gravel road, associated bridges and other crossing structures, pull outs, maintenance facilities, temp construction camps, and materials sites. So that's a pretty good description of what this road would look like, in general terms. Bridges, and other crossing structures would be designed to accommodate industrial activities and weight loads associated with oil and gas pipelines, while subsequent efforts to develop infrastructure such as oil and gas pipelines and their associated components

are reasonably foreseeable, those elements are not covered by this action. So DOT is proposing to build a road, we're not proposing to build pipelines. Or related oil production facilities.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:12:25.05]

I had a question Mr. Chair.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:12:27.02]

Yeah

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:12:27.13]

Is this road proposed road to Umiat "primary"? from the Dalton Highway to Umiat... Is there any other alternates that DOT is looking at?

Ryan Anderson

[00:12:43.23]

For, as far as road routes? Yes. And I have a slide for that. Good question, thank you.

Ryan Anderson

[00:12:54.05]

This is a slide that basically, you know, it's hard to see I'm sorry, but our proposed action, this is the one we took up in the scoping meetings that basically shows our proposed action which was from the Galbraith, from the Dalton Highway about Mile post 273 up to Umiat and what it tried to show was the different target zones that we work a lot with our DNR oil and gas folks and they tell us where they believe the resources are and then they put out a memo that describes how they thought we should develop the road to maximize access to oil and gas resources.

Ryan Anderson

[00:13:30.25]

And so that's basically what we try to do, but then we have our engineering and environmental constraints, so we developed this proposed action, and that's what this slide was about.

Ryan Anderson

[00:13:42.01]

This was a slide also that was you know Umiat a bridge across the Colville River is a very, you know, serious endeavor. This is just a slide to give folks an idea of some of the preliminary proposals that went there, as well as we wouldn't, we also try to address the issue of the landfill site at Umiat and the potential benefits a road would have for cleaning up the landfill site. That's something we've been trying to push forward as a potential benefit of this road.

Ryan Anderson

[00:14:17.26]

This is the slide that, it doesn't come out real well on the screen, but this is the one that would address the comments related to the alternatives that are currently being put forward by the Corps of Engineers in the EIS as we understand it. Now remember, DOT isn't proposing the alternatives but we are funding all these things and so what I can tell you right now, on this slide the Dalton Highway is this dark line that follows up through here... Umiat is over here, this is the Colville and the boarder of NPR-A over there. And you can see this was our proposed action that would be from the Dalton Highway up to Umiat through here. These darker blocks, all this blue area is state land here, the darker blocks are lease holdings. I'm sorry, you guys can't read them... If you want a copy of this we'll get you what you need. This is all the lease holder information - on state land, we don't have the federal lease holders on this map. But what we do show - these other lines are the other alternatives that the Corps is currently evaluating in the EIS.

Ryan Anderson

[00:15:23.09]

Now there is, of course, our proposed action is one of them, and that's this line right here. We have this little spur that comes real close to Pump Station 3 on the Dalton Hwy that comes across. This, this was carried forward because this is all state lands, it stays off of federal land. This yellow chunk here is federal lands to the south. So this alternative is going to be evaluated further.

This yellow line is really hard to see... The Happy Valley area's up in here and Pump Station 2 as well. This yellow line right here is called the Pump 2 Route and basically this is a route that's going to be carried forward for further analysis that goes straight west from right around Pump Station 2 and over and connects into Umiat. And then this route came up during the scoping process and this we call the Meltwater Route, and this starts out on the existing spy?? roads to the north, near a place called Meltwater and then it comes, it wraps its way on the high ground from North to South to connect in down here to go to Umiat.

Ryan Anderson

[00:16:35.28]

But at this point as far as road routing goes, we are aware of one, you know, four alternatives that are going to be carried forward for further analysis. We're going to talk about studies and whatnot. We have... at the end of last summer after scoping was complete, DOT, you know, we were aware of the scoping comments so we did do some preliminary work up in this area, you know, some field work and we're still getting results back from that. But so we have put in effort to really take a look, start to take a look at these areas.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:17:11.02]

Mr. Chair, one question... the this proposed road it's public funding and it will be open to all

subsistence hunters? I mean hunters off the highway?

Ryan Anderson

[00:17:26.24]

That's a very good question, and it's a very, it is one of *the* questions that we need to answer on this project. Here's, here is what I can tell you about that question:

There is... one of the reasons we are using state funds on this project is because it provides more opportunities for funding opportunities and how we'll fund this project later. So for example, if we were to, if we were to take this with federal funds, you'd, the answer to your question would be yes, you have to keep it open to the public, it's a public road. We're using state funds at this point for the environmental work, there's a lot of talk, and this is coming from folks very high up in the governor's office and we're talking to groups like AIEA - the Alaska Industrial Export Authority - who basically they financed and funding the Red Dog Road for example. We're talking to these folks about what are our options for limited access, if that's an option. We are talking about the Dalton Highway and we what happened and using that as a model as okay, why did that happen, why did that get opened up, and what went on there that made it that happen... We're talking about if you finance a road to a public / private partnership or if you finance a road through bond sales and you know a payback scenario from industry, a toll scenario, basically - if industry wants to use it, you know they pay a toll. If ... we're talking about these things, what are the possibilities to limit access.

It's a complicated question and I can't tell you we have any answers yet, but what I can tell you is there's a lot of folks looking into this, working on this to see what we can provide for some options here.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:19:17.20]

Alright, one more question Mr. Chair. Could consider you got primary route from 270 mile marker to Umiat, what's the distance from AKP and how is DOT looking at the impacts from other subsis- the other hunters using that Umiat Road as well as the Dalton Highway impacting the caribou migration for all of us. How can we have a, how do I say? How can we or, what is that word. Is there any talk about having AKP hook up to this road? Has DOT considered that as a plan for mitigating the impacts, being able to use the road, as well as the economic price of their living could drop.

Ryan Anderson

[00:20:28.21]

That's a good question. The distance from Umiat to AKP Anaktuvuk Pass is about 90 miles. The closest the road gets down to the pass I believe is 60 miles. The I'm going to let Paul address the caribou and subsistence part of that question but you know I have heard the comments about you know, what about connecting us? Umiat to Anaktuvuk Pass. I, you know we have done a small number of looking at the land you know the issue there is there's a lot of

federal land , it would be very difficult to get right of way and permissions to access. But there are those areas to the North, and yeah, maybe it's a possibility. I think if that was something that if Anaktuvuk Pass felt strongly about or really wanted to get that message across it would be good to make a statement about that. Most of what I've heard has been in passing, this is the first real formal one I think for you guys that I've heard. But you know this is the cost of living is, you know roads to resources projects all over and the ones that do connect to communities, we're hearing a lot about cost of living and what the benefits could be. And we've been doing a lot of work on the economics on that in these other places. Yeah, it's complicated but it seems to keep coming up over and over again for us, and so it's something I think the state is seriously looking at - how could we accomplish that? So yeah, let me let Paul talk for a minute about subsistence.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:22:12.05]

before you move on I have a.... Joe Sage for the record. It seems like you know AKP is really wanting to benefit from this and I can only see the road benefiting them if they have access to the road and I hear you saying that's going to be hard through federal lands. And to us, it's like, or to me personally, the way I see it, is this is when the state and the federal government need to put that issue aside and become human beings again, because these are human beings you're dealing with. And you're dealing with the rest of their livelihood. We're looking at a road system that you know that's going to be there 50-60 years from now, and our kids, and their kids and their kids are going to have to deal with this road 60 years down the line,. And this is where the state and the federal government need to take their hats off and become human beings because it's such a .. it doesn't matter which route we're going to get, it's going to be a huge impact, a huge impact.

And they're going to be dealing with this issue 50-60 years down the line, and that needs to go through the higher level. The higher ups in the State of Alaska, and the federal government. This is where you know they don't know what they're doing because they don't live here. They don't see the impacts, all they see is what their dollar signs can do now for the future and that's what they see. And that's where we're coming from, is you know we're so worried about such a huge impact that our first reaction is to oppose it, of course, and that's what we want, but it looks like the dollar signs are just going to keep getting bigger and bigger, and the governments, the state, and their eyes are just going to get bigger and bigger and you know it's going to be a huge economic development, yeah, for dollar signs, yeah, but for the livelihoods of people that's been here for over a thousand years, and to alter that tradition... that's, you can't change that. I just want to bring that to you guys, so you can go back to your offices and tell that to your higher ups. And say, you know, we need to take our hats off and think about being a human being. What would you do in this situation if you lived, if you were born and raised in Nuiqsut or Anaktuvuk Pass, or anywhere on the North Slope. I just want to bring that to you guys so you guys know what we're doing with. This is not just dollar signs, this is something that comes from you know the higher ups - maybe one person made the decision and said, yeah, go right ahead.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:26:39.28]

And your job of course, is to listen to that and do whatever you can to make it happen. Just to make one person happy - that's the way I see it. And I guess that's how politics works nowadays. I just want to bring that to you guys and let you guys know what we're feeling when we're dealing with this road to Umiat. Thank you.

Ryan Anderson

[00:27:15.11]

Mr. Chair, we appreciate those comments. The, you know, we are, we want to find a project that folks can live with. That's you know, that's what we do strive for. I will take those comments to our commissioner and I will let him know, and I'll take these comments about, well all the comments those will go to the upper levels, and you know, that's what I do. I forward those along. A couple things that I'm hearing a little about, you know access and whatnot, you know some of these things are things that DOT does. You know if you want road access for Anuk Pass, you know that's, we do roads, that's our thing... you know we can pass those ideas up the chain and we'll see how it goes.

Ryan Anderson

[00:28:07.10]

The ice road comment has come up before and you know we have been you know around the state I see a lot of the ice road thing work that's going on. Kotzebue, for example, they try to get an ice road in every year over to Kobuk and the network up that way, which is a fairly decent length of ice road. You know Bettles, every year you know they put in ice roads all the time. Those are the kinds of things we can help flush out for folks and we can start giving folks and idea of cost and, you know, feasibility. Those are things, you know, we can do, we can help with, you know cause that's what we do... [quiet talking]

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:28:54.13]

I'm Paul Karczmarczyk, and I'm the environmental analyst on this project and I guess the question was whether we had looked at caribou migration, or considered subsistence uses in the project and it sort of becomes sort of two faced thing. To sort of break it down, before the whole NEPA process - before the Corps became the lead agency on the Environmental Impact Statement, DOT was charged with looking at the feasibility of it - that's what our mandate from the administration was. So what we embarked on was a series of studies and literature reviews and go out to the communities and try to get a handle on what were the issues and it became very apparent very quickly that subsistence was *the* big one. And we view caribou migration as sort of a side car to that – what the animals do is going to affect how subsistence users use them.

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:29:52.13]

And so consequently we had a number of village meetings went to Anaktuvuk three or four times, and to Nuiqsut 3 or 4 times, to Barrow 3 or 4 times. Got people together, and our goal in that early part of the project was to gain information - not to give it so much as to gain it. And we learned from people in the villages and we've learned from the agencies the different governments levels of, you know, tribal entities. We went to the agencies we went to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and all the federal agencies that have wildlife management mandates. And we tried to acquire as much information as we could on what might be the stumbling blocks to trying to develop some sort of transportation corridor from point A to point B. I'm the environmental guy - I work with engineers. And it's really interesting relationship with the office, because what they really focus on in a lot of ways is things like slope and grade and gravel sources and how do you build a road somewhere, whereas the environmental aspects things are a little softer, you know where do the animals go? who uses them what kind of impacts would there be to have this access could impact the animals which is fact going to impact subsistence uses, all these things tie together and they're not as numerically defined as some of the engineering stuff. That's where the traditional knowledge came in that we acquired from folks in the villages. That's where the agency data came in. We used studies that have been done for decades on caribou, moose, bear denning, we conducted bear denning surveys. We conducted raptor research, basically fox, you know and what not... Fish studies, habitat studies... We put all that information together and using what we had, all the information we got, we came up with the proposed action.

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:31:29.26]

That proposed action is what you saw as the Galbraith Route, which basically was the best marriage of the engineering data the environmental data the information we gained in the villages. Some were opposed, some were not. It was sort of across the board. But at the end of the day we had this proposed action. That was required by the Army Corps of Engineers as the lead agency and they then are responsible for permitting the wetland permits for the project like this and they would take a look at that and develop this reasonable range of alternatives for the NEPA process, the National Environmental Policy Act process of assessing biological and social impacts, okay? And their charge is to take what we put forward as a proposed action and come up with other alternatives. The Meltwater route come out of that. Some of our earlier considerations for routings have come out of that. This Pump 2 Route, the Pump 3 route, we looked at that early on - and boy, it looked a little wet or it looked a little too this or a little too that, or went across the wrong kind of habitat or whatnot. But they're looking at those anyway to make sure we didn't miss some things - like we forget who did we contact what did we not pick up in our data acquisition. And so that's where it is today. Okay? And so, oh you can't even see this map... So we have additional studies that we're funding sort of on behalf of the Corps, to go back and look at other things that may have been missed. One of the things we've initiated very early with Steven R. Braund and Associates was a subsistence-use study for essentially Nuiqsut, Anaktuvuk, Barrow, the whole region, to try to figure out what the traditional historic areas that people have used - where are the success areas, the areas that

people used to go but don't... or still going and basically ranked the relative importance of these areas so that truly so that we could avoid...

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:33:22.01]

Steven R Brawn and Associates came up with a draft document and we took that to Anaktuvuk and the village had an opportunity to look at it. And that's still sort of under review and just recently that was requested by the Army Corps of Engineers for their NEPA process for them to look at. Okay?

We've talked to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and subsistence division - we're trying to fund a comprehensive subsistence survey for the Anaktuvuk Pass area I think they did that this winter, I'm not sure if they're done yet - but they're going to look at the uses and locations and basically the harvest levels again to look at the important areas that are being impacted if they are impacted. Okay?

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:34:00.15]

Department of Health and Social Services... we talked with them about doing a health impact analysis, which is sort of a broad scale assessment of how any particular road route, or not, would affect the health the well being and the economics of an area, a village, a region... What might there be as a result of construction, people coming in or not. And to tie all that sort of social data together to see if there's going to be really bad impacts or not so bad, or if it'll be just unacceptable...

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:34:31.28]

Going back to the subsistence question, the biggest issue we have right now is trying to get I think quality data that has a reflection of the traditional use, and whatever is out there for objective agency information and trying to bring that into the process and it's very hard. You know we've had this study going on with Brawn and Associates and we're going to try to use that in this process. But you know how does that tie into what really happens - we need more input from the villages. And so we're __ trying to get that in the scoping process and certainly people have made their voices known, so what is... what do they consider to be important where they consider to be important use areas, what the important resources are - if it's fish or caribou or moose. Some folks are more concerned about the moose population down by the Colville than they are up than they are fish, than they are about caribou. And it's all depending on who you talk to they have different levels of concern regarding the resources, okay?

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:35:24.20]

Caribou right now, fish and game we're paying them now we have an agreement with them to conduct an analysis of the road affects on caribou and I don't think it's really ever been done

particularly well or particularly comprehensively enough to really get a good handle on what do the numbers say? What do the collars say, what do the long term data trends show when the caribou population is introduced to a road, a new road or an existing road, what happens, okay?

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:35:51.20]

They're taking that that charge right now and putting together a study that will try to get some information about that and figure out just what caribou may or may not do. There's a lot of traditional knowledge involved in that there's a lot of scientific western knowledge involved with that... Okay?

As far as fish surveys... the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is going to be doing some lake surveys this coming spring that will actually, I think they're getting their act together for this spring and summer to get some samples from lakes out there. They're going to look at lake composition, bathymetry, and do some fishing out there. Okay? We also have the Fish and Game folks who give us information about what species are in what rivers and some of our contractors have gone out there and done fish studies and I think some of the folks here were involved in that survey through a Subsistence Advisory fisheries guys with some folks from Anaktuvuk _ this year. and they were out there collecting fish data.

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:36:45.01]

ABR - Alaska Biological Research, they're a subcontractor to the contractor to the corps that we're paying. It's a little convoluted way of looking at it. but they did additionally Yellow Billed Loon and other ___ surveys and habitat surveys for birds out there. And they're going to do some more, probably this year along these other routes that the Corps of Engineers is focusing on. Okay?

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:37:08.02]

Other wildlife stuff, we're just now getting information from fish and game on Moose populations and caribou populations in the region and they're got a lot of data I'm sure... we've heard this at other meetings and you've heard of it too, a lot of data stacked up for a lot of years that they didn't have the personnel or the money to try to process and come out with good information and we've helped them do that. We're paying for that, we're paying for some of the surveys they've done and we're trying to get this information compiled so that we can include it in the Army Corps of Engineers assessment of these alternatives. Okay?

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:37:40.22]

As far as the wetland data, we had wetland data that we took a really hard look at on the Galbraith Route. And it's kind of like when we have a proposed project and I'll sort of use the example on the slope there. Linc didn't come to Alaska saying we want to look for oil

somewhere, we don't know where... then go to the federal agencies and say -tell us where to go. They sort of knew where to go, and they sort of had a sense of what studies were available they sort of made a knowledgeable judgment of what they wanted to do. Well, it's just like DOT - we sort of said, this is where we want to go, this is how we need to get there, somehow. And they took the best information available and engineering and environmental and all this stuff that was available, they came up with that proposed route.

Now that's sort of getting moved around a bit - there are different alternatives. Same thing with Linc, I'm sure there are different alternatives for whatever they decide to do. So we didn't come out with a bunch of alternatives initially because it wasn't really feasible to study all of them. Now that the Corps has developed alternatives, and they can direct us and say, and we'd like to look at wetlands on this one too, or bear dens on that one too, or fish studies over here. Now we have some direction from the Corps and we're following that direction by conducting additional studies last year and this year and this coming field season.

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:38:56.24]

So that's kind of where we are in the grand scheme of things, environmentally. I don't know if that directly addresses your question, but we are looking at all the information that sort of ties - and it all ties together because wildlife and subsistence and social aspects of things..

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:39:09.21]

Ah, Mr. Chair... You gonna have a count on the caribou on the Dalton Hwy from non-North Slope residents?

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:39:19.27]

Just recently we were able to get some harvest data from Alaska fish and game - I can't give you the number off the top of my head, but the answer is yes - there's harvest ticket data that they have different game management units. Say, alright between this harvest year how many harvest reports went in and then report, you know, how many were harvested, you know how many caribou were taken. And the answer is yes [bad buzzing] ... hundreds, 2 or 3 hundred maybe, something like that...

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:39:49.11]

And that's within the months of August, Septem...

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:39:51.16]

That's August, September, I think a little bit of October and then again, like early spring, like April, May but not too much. There's a real spike in October.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:40:00.24]

How is DOT gonna mitigate for Nuiqsut and AKP if this proposed road were to be put into Umiat and say I travel toward Umiat during August and I none of my subsistence users from my community have no luck with moose because they're stuck on the other side of the road from Umiat and we have subsistence users from Fairbanks or Anch that are keeping them diverted to better our subsistence hunt?

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:40:30.09]

Well, I know Ryan addressed the grand topic of access and how that may or may not be restricted and I can't begin to even get into that. You know that's... it goes well beyond our level of involvement as to how funding or access restrictions based on different funding scenarios might impact that, so that's just sort of, lets sort of set that aside for now. In terms of direct regulatory or statutory authority to manage game populations and what not, I mean if you looked at the history of game management in Alaska it comes down to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or the Board of Game process or federal land access processes -- you have the Dalton Hwy corridor management area that involves you know how far you can go with bow and arrow only...

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[00:41:17.18]

That 5 mile corridor..

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:41:17.24]

Yeah, and so you know there's all that stuff and that's not a DOT responsibility we just have to live within it. And we have to manage our own roads and what not through it. You know, I mean, but but ultimately that becomes a bigger state question. That becomes a question for the Department of Fish and Game, or the different federal agency management, you know land management authorities, cause ultimately DOT can't come up with a controlled use area for example. We can certainly support one, in terms of if somebody comes up with one and says yes, this is what we'd like to see, will this help facilitate people not being able to impact and go and whatever, sure. That's something that we can work within the constraints of, but it's not something we do.

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:41:59.07]

And if I can just sort of take an example on another project we're working on right now, it's sort of new and sort of like right in tune. You know were also working on this Ambler Mine District Road. This ___ and we recently had a city resolution passed by the city of Bettles who said you know alright, we could consider supporting a road or a segment that at least goes to

Bettles, but they laid out this resolution that's two pages long with a whole bunch of whereas' that for all intents and purposes develops what they call the Amber Mine District Access Control Use Area. And it sounds a lot like the Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled Use Area lumped in with the Dalton Hwy Controlled Use Area, you know no hunting off the road with firearms, no landing planes, no launching boats, there's just this long list of constraints that for all intents and purposes really restrict non-resident, I should say non-local residents and what they can do and how they can do it, whereas at the same time it leaves the door wide open for units that, for units like 23 and 24 for residents up there to access from villages used motorized vehicles and use guns, blah blah. It kind of goes on and on and it sort of fits those two pieces together saying we wouldn't mind having a road so much, but. And it's sort of a new way for, I think, city resolutions or resolutions to approach this - let's develop a controlled use area. So you know, for better or for worse that's going into process down there. That will be considered in the studies that we do and when it gets to an Environmental Impact Statement that will be thrown in there and you know are they all for a road now? Are they against a road? No. Are they for something that would work for them that doesn't mess everything up for everyone? I think that's sort of where they're going with that. So you know to answer your question, I think there's ways that you can have impacts either individually or through the village councils or as the sap to steer whatever comes out of this process to benefit you but not necessarily impact things so badly. But again, that's not DOT's responsibility. We're the guys who make roads and make sure we don't screw up too badly in the process of doing that.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[00:44:17.28]

It's gonna be screwed up. [pause] Anyways... I was just looking at your list of you know different areas and how it's going to be impacted and one thing I didn't see up there was ah, sport hunting. That's to me one of the biggest problems we're going to be facing and I was just thinking about how this whole process came about, about trying to get to Umiat. Are there resources there that's feasible to energy company to develop? And if not, you know, well, if it does, you know if it's that, is there enough to last 30 years just like just like Prudhoe Bay? I mean are we looking at 30, 40, 50 years down the line, are you still gonna be there you know still pumping out energy from that area, and if it's not that, then somebody is a pretty good hunting buddy with the higher ups in the federal government or the State of Alaska. I mean, that's all I could think about... I mean, I know those guys, those higher ups, they all like to hunt. I talked to quite a few of them myself and they talk about hunting and fishing and going to their cabins and stuff like that and how they would love to just come up here and go on the hunt with us. You know, I mean just 'cause they see the abundance of the populations up here, but you know they come up for a reason, they come up on the North Slope for a reason and that's to nest and breed and build on their population. And that's what we live by and our traditional way of living has, I mean just like whaling we only take what we need. The same thing with fish and birds, caribou, moose, whatever we feel like, we only take what we need and we leave the rest alone, and those are just a few things that I was thinking about the impacts and how it came about and the processes so, I just thought I'd bring that up.

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:47:26.01]

Thank you Mr. Chair. I'll let Ryan, I guess, shed a little more light on what he knows about resource volumes and whatnot...

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:47:31.16]

Can I ask a question?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:47:34.28]

Yeah

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:47:37.26]

All these... Bart Ahsogeak, planning department. All the stuff you got there, I don't see any control or enforcement. All these are all studies and, you know, there's gonna be impact and all of you guys, which are out of Fairbanks, Anch _____. And then who's gonna be enforcing the violations. Like I always say, there's never a biologist, always engineers... but when it comes to search and rescue, the state doesn't come in - and the _____ always have to come in. It's got to be coordination about one day for search and rescue, which has happened and you could do all this, that's all studies, but who's the top like you know we don't see Fish and Wildlife up here, we don't see game wardens. And then, like what's happening at AKP, there's... they don't come around, it's just that _____ cop. Where, south of the border, along the highways there's fish and wildlife, fish and wildlife, they're pretty good at that, not nothing up here. So you gotta put something for the villages you know, just the violators, like these guides that are coming up you know the permitting agency they don't really know what we do. You know, they want the oil. And extract everything. It just, I'm just concerned about helping each other How do we, who do we turn to for violations?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:50:08.25]

Thank you.

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:50:11.29]

Okay Mr. Chair, members of the panel, I can sort of try to respond to that and I'm glad Gordon came back right now, it's perfect timing. There was an afternoon this past summer involving a helicopter that didn't seem to want to work and a lot of us standing around with a lot of time on our hands and we had a pretty good conversation with some folks with the North Slope Borough about unfunded mandates, and concerns about just that sort of thing, public safety, medical evacuations, you know, drugs and alcohol? What's going to be the impact of a road, regardless of where it goes, on those sort of things, who's going to be the enforcement, who's

gonna be watch-dogging the road? Who's gonna be watch-dogging the social issues? Okay, and we had some some pretty good conversations that afternoon about those very sorts of things. And what we're doing here, Again, DOT tries to figure out how to look at a feasible alternative for a road. That's what our job is. And in the process of that we work, as we talked earlier about how we work with sister agencies trying to figure out how they each play into it. And a department of Public Safety with the state can be one of them. We've had conversations with some of the troopers about how would they handle that. How would the trooper who hangs out in Happy Valley all summer or all fall deal with an other hundred or something mile road in his area. He's already stretched thin. And you're right. I think in the grand scheme of the question that you ask, it would come down to sort of permitting and mitigation and whatever... let's just say there was some sort of agreement approached that said we can put our road somewhere and this will work - I'm not saying that's the case, I'm just saying what-if. It would then be the onus of the state to acquire permits, the borough can issue permits, other organizations can play into it, and if you look at the mitigation for some of the impacts, those are the impacts that would come out in the division of social services health assessment.

Paul Karczmarczyk

[00:52:06.26]

You know what about crime, what about things like that? Those could be mitigation strategies where in order to actually construct the road, require the permits, the state or who ever would have to figure out how to put those checks and balances in place. That's usually the way that sort of thing goes. Okay? For us to try to speculate this early where how how many troopers you put where and how they facilitate this or that is kind of a way for that - and I recognize it's sort of a weird upside down equation... How do you , how do you plan for the things you don't know where they're going to be? That's.. you have to sort of have an idea what is going to happen before you can start addressing some of those concrete issues. So, it's an important step, but it's not something that we can really address individually as DOT.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[00:52:51.02]

Okay. For example, if there's a violation - the state trooper up here is just a criminal officer, and if there's some violations, they, there's a fellow named Juan - you have to call Prudhoe Bay, and tell them there's a violation and then we have to write it up and from there its... that's... that's a problem the whole North Slope. There's too much time that's wasted and we can't do... the only thing we just blow air. That's the only thing we're doing. Blowing air.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:53:35.28]

That guy with Coldfoot - Mr. Chair, if you don't mind - that guy at the Coldfoot... the Game Warden at Coldfoot flew to Nuiqsut when we had an incident with the musk ox and he went to Nuiqsut and cleared that up. I don't know how Nuiqsut got a hold of that Game Warden, but that's where he was located, like he stated earlier, he's going to have to come from Coltsfoot with that little cub, little tiny... Maybe you can get back to his question, and Joe was asking

about the size of the reservoir?

Ryan Anderson

[00:54:25.02]

Yeah, thank you. So the resource information, you know we rely heavily on DNR, Division of Oil and Gas for the resource information, now, there's been some numbers that are out there, 200-300 million barrels of oil at Umiat I think is the number that they've written up in their memo, and then there's the gas potential out there as well - there's not a lot of numbers out there. Anadarko hasn't really released any numbers, the other industry folks, they don't release numbers all the time. So, what we've been told by DNR oil and gas is that there's a very high potential for gas based on what they see in the geology and the way everything is out there, based on the historical drilling from the 40s and 50s you know there's this high potential for oil in Umiat. One thing, you know I hear a lot is you know well you know you're gonna build this and no one's gonna you know got out and do this, but understand the state wants this road to be a road that we get paid back for. Much like the Red Dog model... This isn't ah, build this road and see what happens, this is: build a road that we feel we can get paid back and the state can benefit from it. So this isn't just we're going through these motions just to get a road in, you know there's a lot of thought being put into this, these things.

Ryan Anderson

[00:55:58.16]

One of, some of the things we're looking at right now that make the road look you know feasible from a financial model is that the state provides tax credits to industry for ice roads. And you know basically what we're hearing from these really remote areas, and this is real important, remote areas like Umiat, where's there's no roads in a long ways, building these 50 mile, 100 mile ice roads, gets real expensive for industry and you know if they're spending \$10-12 million out there just building the ice road and the transportation cost, the state's participated in 40% of that, so we're talking about 4 or 5 million dollars a year the state's providing tax credit's to industry. Well how would a road benefit the state if, you know, we build a road as our investment rather than just giving industry tax credits. So that's one of the things we're looking at. And also you know, is the benefit after development would happen, you know, oil source above the ground[?]

You know, TAPS, adding oil to TAPS is a really good thing right now, and the gas, you know, there's no gas line, but the gas is still out there and you know, people are very interested in gas, so, I can't give you any specifics on resources numbers but I'd recommend, and I can give you contacts, for DNR oil and gas for a detailed discussion of resources.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:57:25.26]

One more - what's the price difference on the clean - up of the Umiat project. If you were flying it's be \$10 billion? And if you were to truck, if you were to make that billion dollar road you're saving 9 billion. I mean I'm just throwing those numbers out there.

Ryan Anderson

[00:57:43.10]

No, that's a really good question and it's something we thought about a lot, and I hesitate to put any numbers on that as an engineer, it's you know once you put numbers out there people talk about 'em. But no operating out there and have been oh we've been out there for 3 field seasons and it's outstanding how expensive it is to operate out there. There is substantial cost savings, having a road to bring out materials to bring in equipment. There's a lot a hydrology issues that the Corps is working with, but different - not regulatory who does the permitting but this is a different, the Corps FUDS guys, you know, the clean-up guys. They're trying to tackle with the land fill site and potential erosion and what could happen. We, we DOT feel there's a strong benefit to a road and cost savings to the federal government in clean up should this road be in place, and that from what we've heard from the Corps of Engineers is they have a set budget every year, you know they get a few million to work on the cleanup. If a road was in place, that few million every year would go a heck of a lot farther than it's going right now. And so try and keep it in perspective but I hesitate to put any numbers on it until I had something more solid from the Corps FUDs guys on what the plan really was.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[00:59:01.29]

Yeah

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:59:04.07]

Does that...? Does that benefit... you as DOT? And that's it?

Ryan Anderson

[00:59:16.11]

The clean up?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[00:59:18.08]

No, the road.

Ryan Anderson

[00:59:19.01]

The road is..The whole process of the road, DOT doesn't directly benefit from building roads, you know depending on who maintains them, there could be a partnership with industry or DOT could maintain them, you know that's all our burden financially. So the benefit is being more perceived as the benefit to the State of Alaska with the development from this road, you know, there's taxes on industry, there's revenue from oil, especially on state land - the state has a pretty good royalty rate.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[00:59:55.12]

If I may, I think one benefit that Nuiqsut would have off that clean-up was, ah, ah, what's that called Eli? NiktiTok. ??

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut
[01:00:09.23]
The PCBs?

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[01:00:13.03]

PCB that are from the canisters in the dump site. I mean a few years ago our elders, none of us were able to eat the burbot because the PCB was in their liver and it was such a high count and that you know that's a dangerous chemical and you know there's still burbot there that I'm sure you guys have known, you checked out that survey that was one last year that had a high quantity because it was staying in that little creek right where the canisters were, hanging right outside of the bay, and I think that is one benefit for our subsistence fishing.

Paul Karczmarczyk
[01:00:59.10]

I, I can tell you a little bit about the site based on long discussions that I've had with the adec DEC, and a very knowledgeable woman whose name is Tamara Stevens, and the clean-up at Umiat, honestly she's ___ to admit this, is like her career goal. And she's watched that site go from a very low priority over the last 15, 20 years and it's gradually moved up the list, to now it's one of the top three clean-up priorities that the Corp and DEC have, you know, these sites.

Paul Karczmarczyk
[01:01:34.20]

You know, the lady has been a wealth of information to us and she has stacks and stacks of studies and books and I'm sure you've seen some of them. And one of the things we've done locally is work with the Restoration Advisory Board, the Barrow RAB, who is sort of a as I understand it, I'm still a little sketchy on exactly what they are, but they're sort of a board or group comprised of the Department of Defense entities, and the Air Force and the Navy both have RABs in Barrow, the Barrow RABS and I think some village folks on there and sort of industry and whoever. They're focused on DEC and the Corps, on cleaning up some of the military defense sites that were abandoned and need cleaning up.

Paul Karczmarczyk
[01:02:15.28]

And Ryan didn't want to put a number on it, but I'll be happy to put a ball park on it and I'll sort of paraphrase what Tamara was saying - she said when they first started looking at this a number of years ago it was maybe somewhere in the hundred to 2 hundred million dollar range,

and then as they dug around a little more it went up to three, and then economics and logistics and whatnot and I think if you sort of put a ball park number on it, and this is really just pie in the sky, somewhere around 500 m as is, maybe a little more and I think the general feeling is if there was a road in place and if they could get there without flying because they're flying all this material in and flying all this material out, it would reduce the cost probably around half - and that's just sort of ball park, so whether you can take those numbers I think seriously right now, but by the time they get around to _____ will a road facilitate a 50% decrease, I don't know, but you know, that's sort of a ball park. So you're looking at a fairly significant opportunity to get to that stuff. And that's sort of what I've heard

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[01:03:24.11]
Thank you.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department
[01:03:27.13]
Mr. Chair

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[01:03:29.03]
Yeah

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department
[01:03:36.25]

Gordon Brower for the record... What kind of milestones is the Corps of Engineers under at this point. What is the first milestone under the EIS? Is a draft out at this point. I mean I wasn't here, and I'm sorry I was late again but I had to do a few things.

Ryan Anderson
[01:04:01.20]

Sure, no, thank you. That... this is actually the one of the last slides was the... on the left side right now the Corps says fall of 2013 for the draft EIS published and that's the next big formal comment period for folks, so in the Corps process, that's what comes next and they have as fall 2014 a final EIS as published and then winter 2014 a Record of Decision is when they basically say you know are we going to get permits or not, and what are the conditions...

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department
[01:04:32.14]

Yeah, thank you and could you put some perspective on ... when to expect to start looking for what the community said or what the, your visits to Nuiqsut, your visits to Barrow, and to see how they were captured and analyzed properly, and it looks like we're looking at a year, a year and a half from now we'd at least be able to see the draft and provide additional feedback to the Corps on these comments.

Ryan Anderson

[01:05:10.02]

Yeah, that's correct. And one of the milestones they just went through this past month of January and I brought one copy. It's available on the Corps of Engineers website - this is their final scoping report. And so this is where they captured all the comments - this is from June of last year. This is available on the website, and you know, if anybody needed it, you know we'd be more than happy to print these out and mail 'em out to folks, too. It's no big deal. So this is basically a summary of what people said.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:05:42.00]

Just a follow up question, too. The Corps of Engineers is doing the EIS, it's review of htis proposal. DOT is only to put that into action and develop that project.

Ryan Anderson

[01:06:03.16]

That's correct. So we provide the Corps with information as requested. So they may ask us, so okay, if you were to look at this alternative what are you considerations in road design and we provide that information or, you know, if we have wetlands information or whatnot, we provide that to the Corps. and then they do all the analysis and then you know, out will come a record of decision. And then we go from there.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:06:29.22]

Yeah, I mean there's just some questions as to what level the state and other agencies are involved and in terms of legislative funding for your permitting process, has there been and changes or updates to funding these processes?

Ryan Anderson

[01:06:54.02]

The current funding is there's a \$10 million appropriation in the Governor's capital budget that's going through right now, you know the legislature so you know we wait and see what happens with that. So right now we're working with money from the previous two years of appropriations. The other agency involvement... So DNR has an Office of Project Management - Permitting and large project management and they're basically, DOT is funding them to manage the state agencies. They are a cooperating agency on the EIS, along with BLM and basically DNR is coordinating the fish and game work and the health impact assessment work of the various state entities, you know coordinating that.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:07:42.00]

IU just wanted to point out, just to talk about these a little because some times you know let's

shed some light on how this process works. There are a lot of concerns from folks like me, and Charlie, and Andrew about it's impacts to the local in terms of subsistence resources, the availability of those resources and we continue to harvest in the way that they're used to doing so it's good to keep the information flowing keep that dialogue with the communities involved and there really should be some dialogue and continued effort to work with the North Slope Borough administration and the mayor and their staff - work with those folks. You know there's just a - when you look at the core area itself... I would think maybe 90% of it is state lands. And you look at the... I don't think the preferred alternatives to Galbraith or something is... little section of federal land there, but I think with the borough and our selection rights for __ land selections that we still have the main... you know being able to partner and work together should be an open door. I think that might be over your head, I'm not too sure. You know these kinds of things we look at the communities concerns about competition for the resources in terms of what might happen later on as the road is being developed with public funds like we saw with the Dalton Hwy being closed to all the industrial operations and for North Slope residents and you had to have a resident permit to get on it - that this road would eventually just be open to the public, to every, you know, to everybody that wanted to come and go see up there. Or do things like commercial recreational activities which is becoming more and more of an issue for communities to compete with resources. So, you know, I think there are ways to work together, that we can minimize, limit the impacts to these resources.

Ryan Anderson

[01:10:18.11]

Thank you for those comments. You know I do believe the Gov's office will be out again. You know, as I think most of you know they were out and traveled to villages I think it was August of last summer. And, you know, there were Randy Royal ?? and John Muller ?? from the Governor's office, and you know my commissioner, deputy commissioners from Department of Natural Resources - folks trying to do just that. And I believe you'll see more that that.

Ryan Anderson

[01:10:44.22]

That.. The access issue is the one that we are really putting some thought into - it's complicated, there are a lot of legal issues that and it ties in it's connected. I mean we understand that. The Dalton Hwy, you know, I have a history and I'll put together the Dalton Highway because we've been going through that with different communities on other projects and you know I got to get education on Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut.

Ryan Anderson

[01:11:19.22]

So we're going to these things, putting some thought into them - you know there's lawyers involved and we have __ agencies like I said before the AIEA - you know the state's financing corporation. You know and DNR and local land use folks and - just a lot of work to really try to figure this out. But it's happening, I mean, we're trying - and we're not gonna say - like the Dalton Highway and the problems over there - we're not going to make promises because we

know what happened there. And so the the point being is you know, we're putting the thought into it, but you know until we really feel strongly that it can be accomplished I don't think we're going to come out and say it... so...

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:12:02.01]

What'd they do with resolution - that's ah, Eli Nukapigak for the record. What you do with all the resolution that were passed by the native tribes, the city, and the borough, ICAS, have you considered those resolutions or what'd they do with them ?

Ryan Anderson

[01:12:25.22]

So the resolutions that - those are the resolutions, you're referencing, that opposed the project?

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:12:28.26]

Yes.

Ryan Anderson

[01:12:30.20]

Yes, so those went all the way up to the Governor's office, everybody is well aware of them, and our hope is that we can find a way to work and come to some support some level of support on all sides for the project. It's going to be some work, though, and with this access, you know, issue, that's something that you know we're going to keep working to find some solutions to I think before we can really start thinking about all the other associated issues. I mean to me, that one is the driver and we really need have some good answers on that one before we can start addressing some of the other ones. So we're working on it... They're not ignored, those resolutions aren't ignored.

Charles Hugo, Naqsrugmuit Tribal Council

[01:13:18.01]

Ah, Mr. Chair?

Yeah, go ahead.

Charles Hugo, Naqsrugmuit Tribal Council

[01:13:21.07]

Charles Hugo for the record. You have so many EIS... you know, one for this group here and one for the stand alone gas project... Are those EISs all tied in, or are they all separate?

Ryan Anderson

[01:13:43.09]

They're separate. So we don't... we have coordinated - I am aware of coordination between the Corps and the BLM NPR-A EIS, so there has been coordination, but I do believe they are

treated as stand alone separate documents.

Charles Hugo, Naqsragnuit Tribal Council

[01:14:00.18]

Just one more comment. I concern with that idea from Eli about the resolutions because we had one put together about 2009 proposing the road from Umiat to the Dalton - we never got a response from that. Still up in the air or they just put it to the back until someone mentions it...

Ryan Anderson

[01:14:27.25]

Those, the resolutions are considered. The response we'd like to have to it is here's some potential solutions and I just don't think we're there yet. It takes, this stuff takes some time and it can be a little frustrating.

Charles Hugo, Naqsragnuit Tribal Council

[01:14:44.04]

It is very frustrating.

Ryan Anderson

[01:14:44.16]

I can understand that.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:14:45.13]

So, yeah, I'm just thinking about you know, how overwhelming this whole thing is and this road to Umiat is another one we have to deal with. And I was thinking about the processes of what the government does and how it works, and how these decisions came about, and I guess the way that I'm taking it is if a group or an office full of people they get presentations on alternative routes, and how it benefits the state or the government in the long run, and how it saves you guys a lot of money.. whether you're doing it, whether you doing this you know road or not, the state is always going to find alternatives to save money and to make money at the same time in the long run... And that that just comes from a small group of people that are born and raised into a political state of mind and they don't see. I mean yeah, they go to the villages and say hi, and have their visits to you know villages throughout the whole state and then they think they know what they're dealing with and to me it's like okay this group from the government, the Sate of Alaska okay this is most beneficial, this is priority number one and the rest of the state of Alaska who are under these people and the higher ups it's their job to do whatever you can to come up with an agreement with us.... So, it's like no matter what happens we always get the tail end of each project that's happening.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:17:40.20]

I mean you look at these other projects, they - we're still dealing with Prudhoe Bay. Of course, I was still in diapers back then, but I have to deal with that today. And what happens if there's going to be no more oil? What happens then? How is that clean -up process going to happen? Or are they just going to leave all that stuff there and move on and try to find another place to drill? According to the State of Alaska, I bet you 30 years ago, they didn't even think about what's going to happen to us and I can see that same exact thing with this road to Umiat. It might just be a 20-30 miles road, it might be this small side road that will benefit the State of Alaska or the federal government, it might benefit them for a short period of time, but what do I tell my kids? What do I tell my grandkids, in the future, when they ask? You know what did it used to be like, in your time, when you were hunting all the time? And of course we're going to talk about how we used to go and hunt and be successful. And at that time it's going to be like how come you don't hunt like you used to then?... Well, to make a long story short, they built a road to Umiat. that's the kind of impact that these people don't even realize what they're dealing with and I feel like, you know, out of the sap, you know, that I mean we give advice, but how far does this advice go? Are you telling me that what we say and what we feel is going to go exactly the same way when you go give your presentations to the State of Alaska? I don't think so. So I feel like, I don't know it might just be me, but I feel like I'm really talking to the wrong people. I feel like we should be talking to the decision makers about this project. rather than talking about just a couple of engineers who just need information about the best way to build a road.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[01:21:16.14]

And that's what I've been trying to get out with all these, because of my job, I have to sit on all these other commissions, the Nanuq Commission, the polar bear, the walrus commissions, the beluga commission. You know and I tell them the same thing - are we talking to the right people? Are we talking to the decision makers? Cause if not, to me, I'm just basically wasting my time.

I hate to put it that way, but that's basically the reality of it. And we tend to get that a lot. I don't know why. I mean Shell does the same thing, they send their representatives to Alaska or they have their Alaska representatives and we give them our 75 cents of grief, comments, concerns, we give them everything about why it's not a good idea to drill in the Arctic Ocean, but then again, I keep asking my self are we talking to the right people because are they going to say that exact same thing when they give their presentations on their community concerns meetings - I don't think so. That's what I've been getting at since I started my job and it's really starting to come to a point where we as Inupiat representatives of the whole North Slope we need to put our foot down and talk to the decision makers themselves. And that's what we need to do as people. As according to these guys, as future leaders and that's what I, just some thing I wanted to bring to you guys. You know, not just to you guys, but to the rest of us that are in here. That we need to make sure we're going to be talking to the right people when we're going to be talking about stuff like this. Thank you.

Ryan Anderson

[01:23:54.20]

Sure.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[01:23:57.17]

Bart Ahsogeak for the record. There's two stories I want to tell. When the Red Dog Mine was in process, Point Hope didn't catch caribou for a couple of years, so they had to go to ___ and they had to pay their own charter... As for Anaktuvuk Pass, there was a couple times the caribou never went through, so AKP asked Wainwright for some caribou, but I think it was the corporation that paid for the charter. And these are the stuff - they're other times they asked ___ and these things cost money. They don't want hamburgers, they want to meat, so there's *got* to be some funds set aside in case the caribou doesn't come through again. Thank you.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:25:03.14]

Joe, can I add one quick thing.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:25:09.12]

Sure.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[01:25:09.18]

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know there's a lot of expectation of, ah, when a presentation like this is given that we should be at least advised that this is an update and this is where we're at and this is where we're going with the EIS. EIS is, to me, it's not a permit. It evaluates a set of alternatives and tries to give direction as to the least environmentally impacting alternative and sets that course. And from there I think the state would look at these alternatives and what's been selected as the least environmentally damaging route and try to permit that. So after an EIS is done, and it's been evaluated, the permitting processes are yet to occur. Even if the EIS is complete and DNR is permitting DOT, the NSB will have to permit that as well - it's on state land, it's under our jurisdiction as well to look at that corridor and a project would require a rezone of the transportation corridor in much the same way the borough did way back when for the Dalton Hwy and any other resource project that is proposed. They're always followed up - you always have to evaluate the environmental impacts first, before any permitting can start to be pushed forward. So, this is an evaluation of environmental issues. It might look, it's not a permit it just sets a path to look at the least environmentally damaging way. I know there's some expectations that we want to say that you're not the people we want to talk to, but these two, Ryan and Paul... I've worked with them for quite some time already. I attended some of the scoping meetings, listened to the residents' concerns. They are the persons - they are the responsible party with the application and, but there are there is still a lot of leg work to do with other decision makers, and you know, the project's going to cost 500 Million dollars, I think.

They have yet to have any money given to them the state usually does appropriations and for projects and stuff and review the validity of those to make it go forward and I think the legislature would look *heavily* at what the environmental EIS statement said and then work with sister organizations in the state to say, is this a viable project - does the means justify the end of this type of a project.

You know the state doesn't want to build a road just for the sake of building a road, you know, they want to see the Permanent Fund increased, they want to see benefits to the State of Alaska, the North Slope Borough wants to see if something like this were to occur that we mitigate all the impacts or try our best to do that. And one way I've expressed it is that we work with the state on municipal land selections, maybe we get a piece of land that we can put... and design ways to minimize commercial recreational impacts and put a note where only commercial recreation can occur from here and maybe a lodge put there, and release it to maybe one of the corporations that would want to pursue that during the highest impact to their communities. So there's a lot of things here and I just wanted to mention that. Thank you.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:29:37.29]

Thank you.

Ryan Anderson

[01:29:37.22]

Mr. Chair if I could... A big portion of my job is to keep people informed. And that goes so that people understand what we're doing so that you know every dollar that I spend, the legislature approves, you know, there's no money in here that the legislature hasn't approved. So, you know, that's the world we live in as public employees. But you know, the point that Mr. Brower makes is very important as well... Let me give you an example of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Pogo Mine that took place oh, gosh, I guess about 10 years ago. One of the environmental commitments that came out of the public testimony and a lot of work and this is on the EIS side and this is why it's important that you continue on that path with the Corps of Engineers and that set of decision makers... was thinking about what happens when the mine's done. And what happens? What they came up to in the EIS, there was, in that specific case, there was a certain portion of lands that were valuable forestry timber lands and then beyond that they we're getting closer to the Goodpaster River and valuable areas for people who live in the area. And they came to an agreement that was documented in the EIS that when the mine was completed a portion of that road was reclaimed - there's no road the plan is no road anymore. And then a portion of it would remain open for using for this timber ___ And that's just an example of how through the EIS process there are ways to... You know environmental commitments can be had to address you know some of the big issues that you have. It's just an example, but something that I thought I'd share.

Andrew Hopson, Naqsragnuit Tribal Council

[01:31:28.17]

Thank you. Mr. Chair?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[01:31:31.01]

Andrew Hopson, Naqragmuit Tribal Council
[01:31:34.02]

It's Andrew Hopson for the record. Can, I don't know who I can address this to, maybe Lon - Can we as the Subsistence- as the SAP can we go down to Juneau and lobby against congress. I was just down there with the Alaska Wilderness League two weeks ago and we were down there for a whole week and meeting with senators, representatives.... Could the SAP do the same thing?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:32:15.00]

Well, Lon Kelly for the record and um, I don't think so. The SAP is you know supported and paid for by BLM to make recommendations on how... on what BLM should know and how BLM should mitigate... actions that we take in NPR-A, or actions that we permit in NPR-A that might impact subsistence. Now when, you know, we ask, we talked about some of these actions along the edge of NPR-A, that are really outside NPR-A like this road. Because those things accumulate and impact what we do on NPR-A. Like in the current plan that we're working on that I briefed you one, we address impacts of this road this potential road, on NPR-A in the section that we call "Cumulative Impacts." Something that we don't have control over but it impacts our actions, the things that we should do, or should plan on if this road were ever built. So we don't take it on ourselves, and we can't take it on our selves to try to affect what happens on this road decision no more than the road builders can take it on themselves what should happen with leasing in NPR-A lands around Umiat. So, of course, individuals can do whatever you like but as an advisory board to the BLM, funded by BLM to travel, I just don't think that it's in the cards that we would be lobbying for or against or anything to do with particularly going to Juneau and trying to influence the state process.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[01:34:37.11]

If I may Mr. Chair, I think it would be appropriate to maybe cause we are tribal representatives from our tribal councils I think it would be appropriate for us to maybe write resolutions in concern of the NPR-A subsistence users about this Umiat Road.

I mean maybe that would be something that...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[01:35:10.28]

Sure, I think we'd ... I mean, sure. It's just. The SAP is semi-independent, I mean you can make recommendations but it's just outside what we would act on or even really consider and

certainly we wouldn't be funding travel to do something like that... But, you know, don't underestimate the impact of tribal governments on the Corps, or on the federal government. The federal government takes it's responsibilities for dealing with Tribes very seriously.

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:35:57.11]

Okay, maybe we make a recommendation that the next meeting will be in Juneau.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[01:36:06.00]

It's just what I told you, the Panel exists to advise us on issues on actions that we take in NPR-A and we're not going to try to game the system to try to influence the state process, you know, that's just separate.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:36:27.23]

Yeah, but we're talking for the SAP from the NPR-A through the state lands, for our subsistence use. That's probably our point, right?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:36:42.17]

Yeah.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:36:43.29]

As SAP, it would be appropriate to support our subsistence users in anyway for more __ try to mitigate or come up to a resolutions on this situation.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[01:37:04.29]

Yeah, you can certainly do that.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:37:09.22]

Sorry I didn't mean to cut you off there. That's something we can come up with on SAP concerns as part of the and we're going way off the subject you know according to what you presented - it's just an update and we appreciate your presentation and thank you for all the information that you were able to provide for us and answer questions. And for that we're going to take a quick break - I guess we can take one more question before we take off, and from there we're going to take a five minute break.

Paul Karczmarczyk

[01:38:51.06]

Thanks__ There was quite a bit of field study going on out at Umiat last late summer in conjunction with the stuff we were doing, I think there were several state agencies out there, I know that BLM had folks out there... there was, Corps of Engineers had some folks out there, there was a lot going on. And I remember I did field a phone call from someone in Nuiqsut, I'm not sure who it was, it may have been Eli, or someone...

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:39:18.20]

I think it was Eli, yeah.

Paul Karczmarczyk

[01:39:19.27]

Yeah, and asking that question, you know it was regarding a... you know, there were folks out there hunting and a helicopter'd gone over and if I remember right it was way up the Chandler and we had quite a discussion about it and at the end of the day, and I'm not suggesting that it didn't happen, I'm suggesting that it wasn't our operation that was doing it. We had subsistence advisors on board pretty much every day, who were guiding field teams doing their work and I think in the discussion that we had regarding that specific incidence, there it was a different helicopter but we have tried, I think, pretty steadily to not impact folks in their subs use in their activities, in their hunting areas. Pretty much throughout this whole project, and I'm sorry that something like that did happen, and I'd like to do what ever we can do to work to ensure it doesn't happen again on our behalf, but we can't police everyone. And it goes back to the question, the comment you made earlier about who watches the farm? Who watches the things going on to make sure that there aren't issues that impact the users. And I think it's a perfectly legitimate concern, and if there's a way we can incorporate subsistence advisors into things that we do particularly from Nuiqsut and that area, given the high priority that moose population provides, I mean we'll try and do that... So I don't know if that answers your question Geoff.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:40:45.06]

Who is driving or who is in control of that C or that DC6, or the big planes - the big plane.

Paul Karczmarczyk

[01:40:53.22]

The fuel plane?

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:40:58.23]

That big monster plane that...

Paul Karczmarczyk

[01:41:01.11]

I don't know the specific

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:41:01.05]

500 feet, or almost the same level as the bluffs... I mean they were going back to Deadhorse and back to Umiat and that's down our river...

Paul Karczmarczyk

[01:41:12.08]

There was a lot of folks - I mean there was a corporation that had a camp out there, and...

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:41:13.11]

That DC 6

Paul Karczmarczyk

[01:41:19.09]

Must've been their fuel plane.

Thomas

Big monster plane. That got a lot of attention in Nuiqsut. Who was it? Was that Linc enterprise?

Paul Karczmarczyk

[01:41:26.01]

I don't know. I mean the only DC6s we knew going in and out of there the whole time I was there - for about a month - was the fuel re-supply plane.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[01:41:36.13]

Okay.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:41:38.22]

Alright, thank you.

Paul Karczmarczyk

[01:41:38.12]

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:41:44.26]

Well go ahead and break for five hours. [laughter] Five minute break.

BREAK background noise

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[01:54:59.24]

Alright, let's call this meeting back to order. Next we have Mike Wilson.

BLM Cadastral Survey Upcoming NPR-A Surveying Projects

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[01:55:32.18]

I'm Mike Wilson, I'm with BLM Cadastral Surveys working out of Anchorage. And first of all, I appreciate your inviting me to be here. I've actually learned a lot from listening to the comments. What I'd like to talk about today is what we're going to be doing up there in the Arctic Slope area. Again I'm from Cadastral Surveys and what we're going to be doing is some land surveys and here's a map, or up on the screen is a map. Well first, everybody should have a handout _ There are some on the table... anyways, what we have here is a map and the majority of our work is actually outside the NPR-A boundary. And the little squares in there are townships, 6 miles square and then the little dots on the squares are the particular townships that we're going to be doing survey work within.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[01:56:44.17]

Okay, what I'm gonna do is blow up - or go to each one of those areas. This first area out here to the west of NPR-A is the project we're calling Kukpowruk North to South, and those are the particular townships that we're going to be surveying in the red. The colors that I have on the first sheet don't really mean anything - they're different colors for different projects. And on this particular project, we were a we when we surveyed these we accessed the different survey points by helicopter and on the township boundaries we set the survey __ every two miles on the exterior and the place we were thinking of basing this project out of is Red Dog Mine, although Red Dog Mine has told us they don't have any place for us to stay, so now we're still in the planning stages but we're kind of thinking of Eagle Creek which I guess is somewhere up north of Red Dog Mine to base our operation out of.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[01:57:57.14]

The next area here is what we call - on the west here - we call it the Chelik?? River Area and then the Chandler River over to the right which is the green one there. And these particular projects, the same thing, it's, we monument two miles on the exterior of the townships. On this particular project here basing out of Ivotuk, which is a BLM camp that is somewhere out

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[01:58:26.17]

Further east... It's actually just outside of the NPR-A

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[01:58:31.20]

Oh, it's outside the NPR-A. Oh.

And then for the other project here in the green we're looking at basing it out of Umiat. And the next project here, the Dalton Hwy East, is ah, the one in yellow and this Dalton Highway East Project is right along the Dalton Highway, the Dalton Highway is right along the west boundary of the project. And we were going to have some kind of a camp - a contract camp or something right along the Dalton Highway and access the survey that way.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[01:59:19.03]

The kind of a, another little things that's been talked about - it's kind of interesting for folks interested in the, you know the land status and especially our GIS applications. There's quite a few agencies that are now using this GIS and that's what we call the SDMS the Survey Data Management System. And the website for it, it's in the top - you should all have that in the handout, should be on one of the pages in there. And this has a whole bunch of different layers that you can select when you get onto the internet on this GIS site. All the things, these little squares and what not little specks of whatever, actual surveys. And we can blow up this one little area, which I'll show you in the next slide here. And we see that there's a couple surveys down here. And now on the top, on some of these little things you can select - the one on the left is if you want to see the matching title plat to see the status of the land in this particular area and this one here is the survey plat and you can actually pull up the survey plat, official plat. And then the one on the right is the actual conveyance document.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:00:47.07]

And this is the actual survey plat of the specific area... and this is the master title plat, and you can, right here is the parcels, and you can blow this up through various tools up on the top and you can actually see the certificate number as well as you can select the certificate and here's the actual certificate.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:01:28.02]

That's kind of the end of the slide show. A couple other things I was going to bring out that hopefully it's of interest, it's some of the ANCSA survey work we've been doing and native allotment survey work we've been doing. The native allotments, we surveyed 731. We surveyed and certificated them and there's only 22 native allotments that are outstanding and

those all are they're waiting for title recovery, we have to get title recovery from the State of Alaska, so there's nothing at this point left to survey until they get some type of resolve on those 22 native allotments. And there was also 42 veteran native allotments.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:02:14.23]

Then I was going to give you just a really brief run down on ANCSA, some of the village - a couple of the village selections. Atqasuk when the plats are approved, it'll be, ah, it should have all its final entitlement. We have a couple survey plats that are virtually approved. The Point Hope - WH Pacific [?] just did some survey work up there recently and when they get us those plats in and we get those approved then we should be able to close out Point Hope. Wainwright I believe, should be all closed out with their full entitlement. Anaktuvuk Pass is real close to their entitlement - we just have a couple more plats that we need to approve. In Kaktovik needs legislation to finalize that selection. I'm not sure of the exact nature of the situation there. Nuiqsut needs a couple more, needs some more survey work and I was told that our conveyance folks need to talk to Nuiqsut to figure out exactly where they want to do their final selection.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:03:20.19]

Point Lay is waiting on about 1400 acres on an old Navy site and a little bit more survey work over by the Kukpowruk River area. And Barrow is all done except there's some Navy lands that their waiting to be available for selection and then they'll transfer those. That's kind of my presentation, but if you have any questions I'd be more than happy to try and answer them. Thank you.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:03:55.09]

Anybody?

I just wanted to ask what is the time frame of the survey?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:04:05.17]

Pardon me?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:04:07.05]

The time frame of the survey?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:04:08.22]

Yeah, we're going to try to survey when it's warm and there's no bugs and there's no snow on the ground is soft. But we are going to try to do is come up in mid June and get done by the

first part of August.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:04:24.10]

So pretty much all summer?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:04:29.02]

Yeah, pretty much the full duration from mid June. We're going to try to run it with three crews. And the first crew will come up in mid June, and the other two crews will come up the latter part of June and we'll work really hard in July and probably most of, maybe the first couple days of August. So July is going to be the main month we'll try to get the bulk of the work done.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:04:55.13]

And how many people in the crew?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:04:58.29]

We're going to have probably - the survey crews are two person crews, but in the camp locations that we'll be staying at we'll probably have between 8 and 10.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:05:10.04]

The reason I ask is see we don't know how much traffic is going to be... Are you guys going to be using helicopters?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

Yeah. We pretty much have to use helicopters to access those locations and what we'll do one we put out a request to get our helicopters, we don't have our helicopters yet. And when we do get our helicopter what I normally do is get the company - the vendor and the aircraft type and color and the N number and I'll forward those to the interested parties like the North Slope Borough and anybody that wants them. One thing about the helicopters too is that we have we keep pretty good track of them, they've got GPS tracking devices, so we can keep a very close eye on them. I've watched them from Anchorage, just to know what's going on.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:06:18.08]

How often are they going to be going to these sites - is it a daily trip?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:06:22.12]

Yeah, it'd be, we usually work 6 days a week and in those townships you know every two miles on the boundary we've got to set the corners... We have to go to each corner once to drop the crew off and then like 1/2 hour, hour later we pick the crew back up. And then ferry them up to the next corner. So really hopefully, we'll go to a place one time and we'll be done with that area. And we have some flexibility that's why I was taking some notes and trying to make sure that we can probably do the jobs in different orders, you know or if there's some kind of conflict we can work around that. You know, we don't have to set the corners in any particular order, we can set them in any order

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:07:14.14]

The reason I ask that is that I'm really... I was looking at the survey plots and the time frame and the amount of traffic that's going to be going back and forth to these places and thinking about you know you being there all summer long. What I'm really worried about is the possibility of altering the migration of the caribou.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:07:50.12]

Right. I've been hearing a lot about that here, today, which is - if there's any more advice that you can give us that would help us... Now the main things we're goign to try to do is base our camps as close as possible to the survey so we don't have to do so much flying.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:08:10.17]

And is there anything in your documents that ah, what I'm trying to say is if the migration is going right to your surveys then you're having to go where you need to go with the helicopters I can almost guarantee you that you will alter the migration and from that point on they're going to be edgy, very edgy, and we don't want to be going to a herd of caribou and suddenly they disappear, just from the sound of a 4 heeler or a boat or something. And that's what I'm trying to get at - are you going to stop your operation if the migration starts to head your direction?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:09:15.06]

We can... I'm not sure how many caribou are going ot be out there and where they're going to be at but we can definitely have options to be working - you know all those different projects that we have, we can work in a different area.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:09:27.27]

That'd be a great idea, just to avoid the migration itself, that's going to be a big plus on our end, as subsistence hunters.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:09:42.25]

Yeah, and I've really heard that today, from all of you - the importance of that.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:09:48.23]

'cause just about everyone of us in here that go out subsistence hunting, especially in the summer time and that's what we look forward to cause that's when they're nice and fat, and we stock up on those as much as we can, as much as we can handle to last through the winter because that's when they're the most fastest.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:10:17.11]

Yeah we'll.... I'll direct the crews and we have a lot of spring training that we put on before any crews go out and we'll ensure that this gets passed on the importance of that.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:10:32.14]

Yeah. We have Thomas...

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[02:10:35.21]

Thank you, Chair. I think we should make a recommendation that that be put in as protocol to divert, or to come to Point Hope or to move to a different location if caribou migration will be moving through the areas that you're planning on doing surveys. And then my second one was you said Nuiqsut needs survey work, is that, would that be this green sites is that what you're talking about - is that these green locations?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:11:08.27]

No, I don't know exactly where the Nuiqsut work needs to be done. The conveyance people just told me before I left that Nuiqsut needed a little bit more work and I'm not sure of the location of it. I think it's the final entitlements and from what the conveyance folks told me they need to talk to the corporation to find out which are the priorities... which one they actually wanted and I was told they haven't had that meeting yet.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[02:11:38.04]

And that would be on corporation lands, or the tribal council's?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:11:41.23]

That would be the ANCSA corporation.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[02:11:50.25]
Anybody else?

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department
[02:11:56.03]

I pro - this is probably not your area, but I work for the North Slope Borough under the planning department. One of my divisions is the Community Planning and we also have our local planning authority through the Planning Commission. We have issues and concerns that we wanted to work out with either BIA or those that work with restricted townsite lots, or even how they handle native allotments. Some issues that come, were raised when an applicant wanted to subdivide a native allotment or a parcel of land. You know our direction is, because we don't have the jurisdiction in some of these things, how we can communicate better or even at least develop a process. There's a lot of folks that want to do their own businesses on restricted townsite lots and we often tell them we have no jurisdiction on those types of parcels that they need to go through the tribal office and work with BIA. But we also want to try to make a way to connect the dots and maybe work more closely together and see how we can recognize each other. So, I don't know if that's in your field and it's probably others that need to be involved. The issue was raised about the borough in the past having subdivided parcels and later on the individual had the thought that they had a subdivided parcel and sold one half and because there was a survey and a plat generated the final mylar for that with the local ___ ordinance comes to be like the BIA under their system still showed that parcel as intact as a solvent lot and there are several of those out standing, without any resolution and during ___ time was a planning lands officer and was trying to make a working relationship with either BIA for expedited consideration of these things because there were just issues around this and we had to not deal with these types of parcels anymore because of these kinds of issues that we're raised. Is there any light you can shed on some of these things?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey
[02:15:08.02]

Yeah, I can maybe shed a little light - you were right at the very beginning, it's not really my area, but... When you're dealing with restricted townsite lots, or certificated native allotments that's definitely the purview of the BIA. And actually we do a lot of work for BIA. BIA asks us - it's our responsibility to do the survey work for BIA. And they'll ask us a lot of times to go out and certify native allotments or re-establish boundaries, look for trespass, whatnot, but that's all BIA and you referred to BIA quite a bit there and that's more ___

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department
[02:15:48.13]

Just a lingering... you know, Doreen's moved on, she no longer does the work that she did for the borough and we're trying to pick up the pieces and reestablish our planning and stuff like that. But those were some of the lingering concerns and the ability or ways to recognize the work that the borough does was a question and the last we heard about 3 or 4 years ago was we

would not entertain any more of these unless you dealt with BIA.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:16:29.04]

Yeah, that's... you know, you're absolutely right, you start with BIA. And the other thing I forgot to mention too, is BLM actually funded - throughout the country we've got funded... bureau... they're called BILS Bureau Indian Land Surveyors and what they are is they're actually BLM employee that works with and gets direction from the BIA so that they have a land surveyor on staff that can assist them with their land issues. We've found that it's planning ahead when we get BIA involved or land surveyors involved with the any of the land issues that we have ___ the native allotments and restricted townsite lots up here in Alaska and the reservations down in the lower 48.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:17:24.01]

Anybody else?

Charles Hugo, Naqsragnuit Tribal Council

[02:17:25.26]

Mr. Chair This area here that you're showing us, that's a really sensitive area. During the time you're going to do your work.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:17:37.27]

The area north of Anaktuvuk?

Charles Hugo, Naqsragnuit Tribal Council

[02:17:40.01]

Yeah, that's very sensitive for the Western Arctic Herd traveling from the west and going east through the mountain range and that's the northern foothills. These guys have some good recommendations - like maybe you can fall back a month maybe in June or May, when they're not traveling through there. That would be one recommendation. If not then you would just have to follow some of these guidelines they're proposing like making the work come to a halt when the caribou are traveling.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:18:23.04]

You said May and June would be better as opposed to July?

Charles Hugo, Naqsragnuit Tribal Council

[02:18:28.19]

Yeah, that would be preferable because they're already passed their calving grounds then August is sensitive when they all start ___ these guys have some good ideas.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:18:41.12]

Yeah, I want to work with you and I know that Lon's folks are way more familiar with this area than I am and I'll work with them as well and try to have the least possible impact we can on the game. And as well as noise and everything else that we create when we go out there.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:19:06.22]

Dave?

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[02:19:08.13]

Yeah, I was looking at these distributions in your study areas here and one out in Eagle Creek is one that you'll get into the most caribou if you go out there first. Almost the entire Western Arctic Herd will be out there in late June. Actually I think - Sully may disagree. You probably don't want to go out in May because there's still snow on the ground and they have to work on the ground to set these monuments - you use concrete anymore or just a steel post?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

We don't use concrete.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

Anyway, I actually thought you should start maybe on the Umiat side and Park right out of Anaktuvuk where the first might be the least interference because the Western Arctic Herd will be out west early in the summer and over the course of the summer they're moving east parallel with the Brooks Range crest and you won't be over there if for some reason they don't make it to Anaktuvuk they won't be over there before the end of the summer. And then the Teshekpuk and Central Arctic Caribou Herd mostly while you're working they'll be out along the coast. In August you could get into some of this area along the Dalton Highway there and that little section there, though you may start to see some Central Arctic Herd.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[02:20:37.29]

And then later in August, September the last of the Teshekpuk herd is going to be moving toward Anaktuvuk Pass from the Teshekpuk area so they'll be cutting through that grey area. So I think there's no way you're going to work out there all summer and never see a caribou, but I think you can avoid most of them. You may not be able to move serially across from east to west you may have to hop a little bit, but I think it's doable.

[voices of appreciation]

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:21:14.29]

Bart?

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[02:21:17.06]

On your this website you put go in here and pull this up any body can go on the computer and look at this and look at all the village corporation land and what kind of map you gonna see and the other part to that is can you look at the permit? Is somebody got a permit, like guiding outfits?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[02:21:59.26]

The simple answer is no. Not guiding. A temporary permit doesn't go on the plats. So the way that our system works right now is that you wouldn't see an NPR-A permit. You would see well you wouldn't see much in terms of temporary uses - you wouldn't even see rights of way because they're ___ NPR-A rights of way. Like we issue rights of way for ice road access and those don't go on these either. So that ... So, this system is what we, you know if we issue a permit to somebody, this is the first place we go to see if we own this land, if there are allotments... It's the starting point for everything we do, really. We probably wouldn't do anything except just casual work without going to these ___ spots making sure that it's land that we own and that we aren't getting in the way of allotments which are private land. So it's valuable from that point of view. But as far as the question of being able to see the temporary permits, temporary uses - we're not there yet.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[02:23:36.20]

So if you - if BLM issued a permit for a tour guide, we wouldn't see it on that website.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[02:23:48.13]

Well, that's what I'm saying. We'd have to modify the whole process - the way that we do work. I'm not saying it would be impossible, but the best we could do is pull together a report of all the permits that we've issued. In that area, which we can do that. But we can't go from a map to a permit...

Does that make sense? I mean it's just it's not ... This SDMS and its public interface is fairly new and it's great for what it does, but it doesn't do that.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[02:24:31.25]

Well, we just came from a mapping convention, a conference, and they showed us that you could pull out like what you could do right here is just pull out this survey and you would think that you could...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[02:24:50.19]

Right. I - what you see on these plats are things that have been surveyed. There are a few things you see on the plats that are like a treasure map - it's really not something that's been surveyed it's something that happened a long time ago, but not very many. And the kinds of things that I'm talking about, or that we're talking about, like a permit for a recreational use. You know, somebody that does hunting or recreational guiding, there's nothing to tag it to on the plat. You know they don't have a specific location and similarly for the temporary rights of way that we issue under that reduction act, um, they don't have, they're not surveyed until they're built and we don't put them on the plats. You know, you're right - I realize the technology is there, but the work load that we have right now, really throughout BLM, doesn't allow for what you're asking

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[02:26:00.15]

Mr. Chair?

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[02:26:02.09]

That's a different program that you're talking about. What I'm talking about is different program sites where I can look at the permits.

Gordon Brower, NSB Planning Department

[02:26:10.27]

Yeah, Mr. Chair I got a... I apologize but I need to request that I be excused, I need to attend to a different matter right now.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:26:29.09]

Oh, yeah. Thank you. Thank you for everything you shared with us Gordon. But... ah, I was trying to think about what you were saying you know you have this map here with this information I was just thinking about certain areas depending on what survey you're doing or whatever if there could be like a legend to say, okay, these are the number of - these are the numbers that we have as far as permits go, and go on to on the website and look up that that permit and stuff like that, I don't know if that's what he was trying to get at, but that's what I got out of it.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[02:27:34.07]

It's doable.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:27:35.06]

Or if that's even allowable.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[02:27:39.14]

There's nothing prepared for that yet. It's doable - getting it done... You know there's only a handful of people who could work on that and they've got other things to do... It hasn't been a high priority. What we can do is pull a report - we can give you a copy of all the permits. We can do that sort of thing fairly easily. This, you know, setting up a web-based application to look for permits and change the way we process permits would be a big deal. You know, it's bureaucratic, you know, it would take some number of years to do. It's not, don't get me wrong, it's not that we can't do it, it's just kind of a big deal and we could get you the same information easier.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:28:29.18]

I think just for - I think it'd be useful for informational purposes. If I am getting that right. Because I mean you... On these surveys, you could have list of numbers okay - these are the permit numbers and stuff like that at least just be numbers you know on the legend, and then on another website you could look at that permit number and look up the information for that permit on another website. You know, that's what I was trying to get at.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[02:29:01.08]

Yeah. Okay, now I'm getting out of my depth here, but these land records that are shown here in the SDMS system - you know based on the master title maps, these are like treasured information. This is really carefully put together information that's checked and double checked and triple checked. You know, this is land status information. It's who owns the land. And so there's a long, hundreds of years literally, going into how this stuff gets put in the system and to take this soft kind of thing like Joe Blow has a permit to operate in this big area, that would be much, that it shouldn't be part of this. It should be a much, in my opinion, based on what I know - you could have an interface that looked just like this, but it shouldn't be mixed up with this data here, it's really pure stuff... this survey information.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:30:10.07]

Oh, yeah, that's understandable but as far as projects go in a certain area.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[02:30:20.16]

Yeah, and we'll get there. We'll get there and I think what I'm doing is getting too much down in the weeds with the details of how we might actually do it.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[02:30:32.18]

But that's you know that's you know agreeable information that we can use in the future.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:30:39.08]

Okay.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[02:30:40.01]

Yeah. Ah, Clifford?

Clifford Benson, Native Village of Barrow
[02:30:43.18]

Say, as for that situation it would pretty much have to be on a different website. Like Lon said this is very valuable information to the people that own the land on this place, now I wouldn't want some guy knowing that I own this land, anybody in the United States or the world for that matter, so it would just have to be on a totally different webpage.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:31:08.17]

Boy, it'd be a lot easier.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[02:31:11.11]

So...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[02:31:12.14]

Yeah.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[02:31:14.17]

So, BLM does give out permits for the guides - is that only in BLM areas or is that the whole North Slope?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[02:31:21.15]

I don't have any idea, all I know is our permits are public information. There are certain things that we might, financial information that we wouldn't make public, but the fact, you know, that this company has a permit to operate in this area with these situations that's all public information. You know, we have a few dozen of them, it's not like we have hundreds or thousands in the area we're talking about, so you know, we can make that available.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[02:31:58.09]

I was talking about recreational guides, is that what you're talking about?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[02:32:02.15]

Yeah recreational guides or hunting guides

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[02:32:05.03]

Are those hunting guides, where do they apply for their permit?

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[02:32:09.22]

Okay, now

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:32:10.25]

Thomas...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[02:32:09.20]

Okay, to become a guide, that's a different story. To become a commercial operator on BLM land you'd apply to our office and we'd issue your permit.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[02:32:19.03]

Okay, that's what I was my main question.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:32:19.28]

Okay, that information we can talk about in the recommendations later today, but this is way off subject - we were talking about the survey projects that they were doing and now all of a sudden we're into permits and numbers and... talking about all kinds of other kinds of crazy stuff that we can talk about later. I mean that's, of course, that's information that we can use, but we can talk about it later on and sorry about getting off subject. Are there anymore questions for Mike Wilson?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:32:56.08]

Yeah, Danny.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay
[02:33:00.29]

Danny Pikok for the record. Looks like you got lots a work in front of you, through the summer. Are you looking at local hire for these different communities?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey
[02:33:16.12]
We haven't at this point.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay
You haven't.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey
We have not at this point?

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay
Have you even considered local hire?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey
Yes and no. We've done local higher in the past the we... When we do local hire we have to be working that particular _____ in that particular area... It's something we can definitely look into.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay
[02:33:37.12]

One more question - are we letting the community know that you are coming in to survey? With your choppers, with your crew? Maybe hire extra hands or local folks that know the area can help you? I mean we're here to work together. Let's work together!

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey
[02:34:00.00]

Yeah. That's a good idea. Yeah, no, we haven't sent out any notification yet. This is really one of the first things we've done here just at this meeting here. We just got wind of these projects very recently. Probably within the last month so we're kind of scrambling here to try and get everything together and get organized and get all the stuff ordered. Plus we got to deal with, just the government system...

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay
[02:34:22.05]
Thank you, Mike.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey
[02:34:23.08]

Hey thank you. And I'll definitely take the SDMS comments about the - I think it's a good idea,

we can do the lease permits... I'll talk to the SDMS folks and see what - if that's even possible. I work real close with those guys so I'll bring that up to them.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:34:43.29]

Thank you.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:34:45.12]

Thank you.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:34:46.07]

Anybody?

Unknown

[02:34:49.13]

This is good.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:34:59.09]

Good. Thomas? Alright. Thank you. And your information is where? I mean we can email you or anything?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:35:06.29]

You know, I didn't put my email on there but you know how to get in touch

Joe Sage

You have that information - Lon

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:35:17.03]

Yeah, we can get it from Stacey, and we'll keep in touch.

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:35:23.05]

Yeah, good thanks.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:35:23.25]

Thank you.

Alright.

Earnest Nageak. Agent Ernest...

Joe Sage

Oh, I'm sorry, are you done with your presentation?

Mike Wilson, BLM Cadastral Survey

[02:35:44.14]

Oh, yeah, I'm all done. Thank you again for having me here. I really appreciate it.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:35:50.03]

Alright thank you.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:36:01.20]

I didn't even think about that. I was worried about the time - you got one minute.

laughter

Alright, we have Ernest Nageak, US Fish and Wildlife Service... and he is the new Alaska Native Affairs Liaison.

US Fish and Wildlife Service 2012 Projects on the North Slope

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison

[02:36:29.17]

Good afternoon. Like he said I am still fairly new to the Service, and there's a bunch of projects going on in the Arctic and ... (inaudible).. still fairly new to me so I'll be explaining the Fish and Wildlife Service's arctic field projects for 2012, and all these projects have different principle investigators and point of contact persons, and as I go through the list, I'll be talking about I'll be describing the title, the Principle Investigator, the main contact, the partners involved and a brief description of each project.

So the Service's principle investigator, or contact person, I'll be naming before I get to the project and if you have any questions or concerns regarding the project, I can't guarantee that I'll be able to answer them, but I'll give you the name and contact using an email address. So the format, I'll just go over, is first name, last name at fws.gov.

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison

[02:37:54.12]

So all these projects are involving animal... marine mammals, migratory birds, or... I'll be

starting off with Polar Bears.

So there's three projects going on involving polar bears in 2012. The first project the title is "Demography and Behavior of Polar Bears Summering Onshore in Alaska" and the Principle Investigator is Eric Regher. And I'll provide the names you know if you want to email them with any questions or concerns. The US Fish and Wildlife Service offers some marine mammal management. And the funding is coming from BOEM, and USGS, as a companion project led by Lilly Peacock that is funded by the Changing Arctic Ecosystems Initiative. And the description is similar to previous years - the service will fly up to 4 aerial surveys from late august to early October to monitor the distribution and abundance of polar bears on the coast, from the barrier islands at Barrow to the US / Canada boarder.

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison

[02:39:22.25]

Another project is "Community Based Conservation" in Kaktovik. The Principle Investigator is Suzanne Miller, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammal Management Office. The partners are the community of Kaktovik, and the description is: continue ground based monitoring of the numbers of polar bears in the vicinity of Barter Island and ___ as well as assisting the community to reduce human - polar bear conflicts and address polar bear viewing. And they work with the North Slope Borough, they have a polar bear patrol to help out in that area.

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison

[02:40:07.03]

And last on the polar bear is "Polar Bear protection study" and the Principle Investigator is Craig Perham who is also Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Marine Mammal Management. And partners they're partnering with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. They will continue to use hand held and aerial flare methods to protect polar bear and grizzly bear dens in the Prudhoe Bay area in the winter and the spring. With confirmation of den location using scent-trained dogs. They will conduct additional surveys in the summer to ground truth ___ denning locations. So that concludes the Polar Bears.

Any questions?

Unknown

[02:40:57.11]

I do... inaud

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison

[02:41:06.24]

If not, we'll move on to walrus. Walrus... Field effort will be sent to any haul outs that form on the Chukchi Sea, such as the one that has occurred near Point Lay in the last two years. So

depending on, you know, whether the walrus may haul out, there may be field efforts to go over there and monitor and check out the situation. And recently the Service's other partners had a walrus haul out ___ last week and that turned out good. I'll go through the projects regarding walrus.

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison
[02:41:50.24]

The first one is "Monitoring a walrus haul out on the Chukchi Sea Coast" and the Principle Investigator is Joe Garlich- Miller who was hosting the walrus workshop here in Barrow last week. And he's again with US Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Management Office. And the partners are the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Eskimo Walrus Commission, the North Slope Borough, and village residents. And the description of this project is monitoring to determine the timing, number of animals, disturbance events, and causes of death and disease occurrence during these haul outs where ever they may be, whether it's Point Lay, or Wainwright. The field efforts will be centered around the haul out locations.

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison
[02:42:41.21]

And next project, Biopsy sampling of walrus tissues for genetic mark recapture. The contact and Principle Investigator is Patrick Lemons, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammal Management. Partners at Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Eskimo Walrus Commission, and the Village of Hughes. So that'll just be, you know, biopsy sampling. And also next project - Community Based Walrus Haul Out Management and Protection. Principle Investigator Joe Garlich-Miller, working with villages near walrus haul outs to help them with haul out management and protection to that end. ___ workshop in February that has just happened last week in Barrow. You know they brought people from the affected villages, haul outs and it was a good workshop and they got ideas from other villages on how to deal with haul out management and protection of the walrus.

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison
[02:43:58.27]

Do you guys all have copies of this? Alright.... just if you have concerns you could always contact me - we have a Barrow office, it's open 24/7 now and we're open to receive concerns and comments from all the North Slope villages and that's my main purpose of my job is to keep in contact with federal people and having a local Native in the office will help improve communication and build relationships.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[02:44:37.18]

Ah, thank you... Mr. Chair? You're saying you're open 24 hours 7 days a week

unknown inaud

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[02:44:51.11]

My question is if we get any of these animals that have some type of diseases is this where we try to send these animals to your guys' office to get them analyzed and find out what the problem is?

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison
[02:45:07.14]

Yeah I could give you my card. We don't have a biologist here yet - we'll be getting an education specialist that will be working with the schools - but working closely with the North Slope Borough and their veterinarians and biologists. If you contact me ___ I'll share the information and get people out there or send the animals to us and we'll see.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[02:45:41.11]

Thank you.

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison
[02:45:44.12]

And other mammals, other projects are happening... the Service ... Abundance and Distribution of Population Structure and Survival of Musk Ox in Northern Alaska. Contact David Payer, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Arctic NWR. Partners are Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Environment Yukon, Parks Canada, NPS, NSB, UAF... And the description is reestablish populations of Musk Ox in Northern Alaska and Northwestern Canada - you know, decline in 1999-2006 and it shows little evidence of recovery. This work is part of a long term project to document the musk ox population trends and distribution. Partners being Geoff Carroll, who is one of the main contacts about musk ox in our area. Like this project says they're low in population and they show ___ recovery.

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison
[02:47:00.15]

And up next is Population trends and mammography of Moose on the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve, again David Payer. Demographic characteristics of moose in the refuge work in 2009 focused on the North Slope and the northern foothills and Brooks Range of the Arctic Refuge [rustling] This is also a very low density population. Another project by David Payer: Population Regarding Dall Sheep in Selected Areas of Barter Island and the... inaud [buzzing]

Porcupine Caribou Herd productively and early calf survival. David Payer, US Fish and Wildlife Service, in the Arctic NWR. Also partnered with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Environment Yukon, Canadian Wildlife Service.... survival of calves to one month of the Teshekpuk caribou herd

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison

[02:48:56.04]

Distribution of Seasonal Migration of Caribou in the Arctic NWR, David Payer. The description...

[bad buzzing difficult to hear]

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison

[02:56:16.18]

... share your guys' contacts, so you guys can get more information on these projects. If you feel like it's influencing your community or your subsistence way of life and I'll just leave it at that.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[02:56:39.11]

Yeah, I think that I don't want to blow you off or anything, but then again, you know, it's be good for us to have it on the screen and see where these people are going, the time frame - basically everything we just went through all day getting all the information that we can get you know from these projects, you know 'cause this, this is a lot of work this is a lot of like I said, overwhelming and this is just from one company. You know, there's BASC and scientists and biologists and universities and oil companies and all this other stuff that we need to stay in close touch with, but like you said he'll give you his card if you guys have any questions for him, that's what he's there for. He might be US Fish and Wildlife Service but he's here for us. He's that bridge between us and the federal government. This is, this is a huge step for our people to have for our people to start learning how to work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service because I know in the past, even before my time they were the most hated people in the world. So, we're here to change that.

Qinugan? come on up.

Qinugan Roddy, Inupiat Community of the North Slope

[02:58:45.04]

Yeah. Thanks Earnest. I was just wondering if you can email, maybe we can give you our card or something and you could email us on upcoming events that you guys are doing and just keep us updated and do like a _____ be part of...

Ernest Nageak, USFW Native Affairs Liaison

[02:59:10.05]

Yeah, I was keeping in close contact with Price Leavitt. I've been meaning to make my way to ICAS and get contact information

Like Joe says all the projects are big issues. Like the walrus haul out... you know that took two years just for comments and concerns, they just wanted me to provide a list of the Fish and Wildlife Service Arctic Field Projects and the service is really trying to express, get input from

the local people - like the walrus haul out - turned out good, they got a lot of input from the outlying villages, affected villages. So all these projects may affect other villages and may not affect certain villages, but they all need to have hearsay from the local people in that area. Thanks.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:00:32.13]

Yeah, this is actually to my knowledge, the first time I've seen something like this from the Fish and Wildlife Service, which is huge.

Stacey Fritz
[03:00:41.03]

Just to point out we'll put this on the website and if there are any links to project- specific websites, there will be links on the SAP website to those.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:00:51.02]

Awesome. Any more questions?

Qinugan Roddy, Inupiat Community of the North Slope
[03:00:57.05]
I have to go.

Joe: Hmm?

Qinugan: I have to get going.

Joe: Oh, okay.

Qinugan: Sorry.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:01:00.11]

That's alright. Be sure to email Ernest, and thank you for your information.

And now we're going to move on to Brittany and I apologize, apologize, I apologize for being so late... and in that case, you have the rest of the night.

Brittany Retherford
[03:01:30.15]
The rest of the night? Wow.

[laughter]

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:01:34.13]

Thank you for your patience.

BRITTANY RETHERFORD
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

(Retherford's Presentation – approximately 15 minutes long - is not yet transcribed)

Brittany Retherford

[03:16:49.28]

Yeah, I mean I think I definitely welcome any you know ideas of how to ___ maybe get opportunities for student interns, but I'm pretty new to this area as well, so I don't know the processes behind setting that kind of thing up, so any sort of help... I would appreciate.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:17:22.29]

That makes two of us. We're all young. We all are looking for ideas and how do you generate projects like this, and it's beneficial to all parties basically because the locals ___ experience on what the fish do, the state and federal government will get information about how many, what kind of fish are going through, and all the information, all that good stuff. So, when we're in the situation, when you're involved with something like the young hunters program into the communities, so, go ahead and continue.

Brittany Retherford

[03:18:05.29]

Does any one else have any questions?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:18:10.08]

Danny

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[03:18:12.25]

Thank you Mr. Chair. Danny Pikok for the record. I like what Thomas had to comment earlier, and it looks like we've got like 3 or 4 different Inupiaq words for that type of fish. And I think it would be a good idea to update your waterproof guide by calling each community. Maybe talking to the Inupiaq Language Art teacher... or a local elderly person in that community, because it might sound the same, but it's pronounced different. Each community has its own dialect, kind of like Point Hope, Point Lay, they might almost sound the same, but they're

pronounced differently. And for the for the Cisco

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[03:19:11.23]
Cisco

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay
[03:19:13.06]
The cisco - is that how you pronounce it?

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[03:19:17.05]
Arctic, or Bering Cisco

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay
[03:19:19.12]
Yeah, in Point Lay it's known as *Ilguagniq*. It may sound the same for Wainwright... li?
Ilguagniq!

Raymond Aguvluk, Wainwright Traditional Council
[03:19:28.10]
Yah.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay
[03:19:28.28]
Yet, I don't see it on here. So I think it would be a good idea to update your Inupiaq term for that type of fish. It would really help, because there are folks who only know it by the Inupiaq name, and they don't know it by scientific name. Thank you.

Brittany Retherford
[03:19:56.02]
That's a good point and one of the... we actually, I asked for funding to create a set of educational materials that would be new with this project so this came out of some of the initial efforts with this project and it's more suitable for the State of Alaska but that was a good idea and there's funding available to do that and I would be interested in making sure that each community had maybe a guide that was maybe suitable for them. So I would say that we could do that.

Raymond Aguvluk, Wainwright Traditional Council [hard to understand]
[03:20:35.17]
So just as these buzzing like smelt or _ in the winter time You guys go to test all the smelt, you get how many of 'em test them if they got PCB or whatever, and if you want smelt, I'll ___ I mean people eat them winter time. I found just, Nov to Feb - March, you know, ___ back to

Wainwright? So it would be nice if you ___ we start fishing them at some point, until March weather still cold...

Brittany Retherford

[03:21:45.16]

Well, to answer the first part of your question, we can make the educational materials look like anything we want them to look like. So, if we want them to include smelt, they can.

Raymond Aguvluk, Wainwright Traditional Council

[03:22:00.03]

inaud

laughter

Brittany Retherford

[03:22:06.07]

Well, and then to answer the second part of your question, I don't actually know an answer to that. Since we work, since I work with the subsistence division, I don't test fish... but I can ask and see if someone can do that - I don't know how that works.

Raymond Aguvluk, Wainwright Traditional Council

[03:22:28.02]

People fish them and they might get sick ___ and the watch ___ ... there's things different but they check every fish when they catch them.... ___

Brittany Retherford

[03:22:51.20]

That might be part of some of the questions people about some of their observations, like ...
inaud buzzing/ruslting

Raymond Aguvluk, Wainwright Traditional Council

[03:23:05.04]

be good to test the wind current [?].... inaud....

laughter

hopefully, you know, you'll test our smelt, too. One of these years you will.

Brittany Retherford

[03:23:32.17]

I'll have to ask someone about that. I don't know how the process for that works. With Fish and Game, But we should know the answer to that.

Raymond Aguvluk, Wainwright Traditional Council
[03:23:47.13]
Inaud

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[03:23:56.18]

Just go to Wainwright and you'll get one, all you need. Good fishing over there right now.

Brittany Retherford
[03:24:05.10]

Yeah I would eat some right now.

[laughter]

Bart: Got a lot of sugar in it.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay
[03:24:15.14]

So, this is an old waterproof guide? This looks kind of old, it's dated 1997 thru 2005, do you have one that's been updated? Maybe it show like grayling, Arctic Grayling in here, or Arctic Char, it's two of the most caught most popular fish we go after during ice fishing season. Arctic Grayling and Arctic Char, and I don't see 'em in here.

Brittany Retherford
[03:24:53.02]

Well

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:24:53.08]

I can answer that, this is guide for salmon and whitefish. I mean they might, I'm pretty sure they got you know, for all the other species as well.

Grayling, Arctic Char?

Brittany Retherford
[03:25:09.27]

Yeah, there's a number of fish species that could be on something like this, when we were wanting to put something together we just had, we decided to just put on salmon and whitefish because it seemed like, well because this project that we were talking about was about whitefish and salmon (inaudible) how you identified them. But we do have funding to create some materials that can be more suitable in Wainwright and Point Lay so it would be geared to what they are catching.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:26:10.01]

I think what these guys are trying to get at would be the respective communities along the coast line that fish and fish year round and the ___ rivers and lakes, all of 'em. That's job security, I guess.

Brittany Retherford

[03:26:40.17]

Well, I know that Rich is planning on starting with the rivers along the Chukchi AND __ over to the Beaufort Sea as well. But it's taken a couple of years to try to figure out how to get this project off its feet in terms of how to collect all these samples. Salmon are, they run differently up here than they do on the Yukon. You can catch 200 fish in a day on the Yukon River, and up here we haven't been able to catch 200 Kings, at all, so we're trying to take it a little bit piece by piece, and it's just going to be a bit longer of a process to try to figure some of that out and then the - if the harvest monitoring program in Point Lay and Wainwright works well maybe in the future maybe it could be expanded and maybe if we have support from other villages. So, we only have the capacity to do this part first, and hopefully if it works out well it could be something could grow, but...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:28:03.03]

If it's, the way I think of it, if it's something needed by the community then that could be a recommendation to the state.

Brittany Retherford

[03:28:13.13]

Yeah, and you know, this funding from this project, this Harvest Monitoring Program, is coming from the Office of Subsistence Management in the federal government. So we just started with this for now, but... inaud buzzing

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:28:38.05]

Shell has a lot of money. Right?

laughter

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[03:28:44.21]

One more comment is - it's hard to work with Fish and Wildlife because today I need a license to fish, and I'm regulated. I'm only allowed to catch so much fish. And we are opportunistic people. If the fish are biting, I am gonna fish as much as I could. And if I, I would rather bring a sled load of fish home rather than 40 fish. And this is to provide for the community. See, it's like, it's scary. I mean I want to work with you, but I'm afraid you're going to tell me "Oh,

you're only allowed to get 40 of 'em, that's it.” Yeah, that’s fine for one day. But you say just like you admit it, some days you'll get nothing, some days you get 200. And we are opportunistic - that's our chance to get as much as we can and it only comes around once a year. Thank you.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:30:00.18]
Anybody else

Clifford Benson, Native Village of Barrow
[03:30:01.01]

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:30:03.12]
Clifford

Clifford Benson, Native Village of Barrow
[03:30:03.01]

Clifford Benson, I would just like to say that if you're in Barrow and you're doing any studies in the vicinity of Barrow come by the Native Village of Barrow come by my office and we'll help you out in any way that we can.

Brittany Retherford
[03:30:17.06]
Thank you. I will do that.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:30:23.23]
One more, one more fisherman - that's you - we can get more fish.

bad buzzing

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:30:39.19]
Anymore questions?

[computer voice - conference call time out ??]

laughter

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:30:52.09]
Got a question for you on automation...

many voices.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:31:03.00]

Can you repeat that?

Stacey Fritz

[03:31:05.07]

Hello? I think I think maybe the phone bridge ended.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:31:10.14]

It sounded like we got cut off...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:31:18.14]

Alright, well thank you

Brittany Retherford

[03:31:22.05]

Thank you

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:31:22.26]

And thank you especially for your patience and we apologize to keep you waiting so long.

Brittany Retherford

[03:31:30.12]

Well, I appreciate that you guys let me talk because I wasn't on the agenda initially so... I thank you very much for that opportunity.

Unknown

[03:31:38.19]

You're hungry for fish?

Brittany Retherford

[03:31:41.18]

I'd love to eat fish.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:31:44.27]

Where's Ernest?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:31:55.29]

Well then, that pretty much concludes all the presentations I guess. Stacey?

Stacey Fritz
[03:32:00.09]

Yah.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:32:01.28]

That's everybody

... inaud.

Stacey Fritz
[03:32:10.21]

Ah, no - we were going to talk maybe about the workshop, but the workshop...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:32:16.25]

Oh, your name for the record.

Laughter.

Stacey Fritz
[03:32:21.13]

Okay, for the record my name is Stacey Fritz. We were going to give a brief update on the workshop which was a very short workshop. I just want to point out that everybody, I hope, got a copy of the updated list of SAP requests and responses. If not I have more copies if anybody's interested in having a copy and then this will be updated again and available on the website.

Does everybody have one? And I really would appreciate everybody's feedback on this especially the last few meetings to make sure... and then if we could just really quickly confirm some of the recommendations that were made here today.

SAP Recommendations to the BLM

Stacey Fritz
[03:33:19.29]

So ah, from my notes I have that the SAP would recommend that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and other agencies coordinate their survey flights with search and rescue? Is

that right?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:33:38.03]

Yeah, to know where hunters are before they head out.

Stacey Fritz

[03:33:51.22]

I think it was Thomas Napageak recommended that people could not-actually conduct their surveys until the hunters are done. I'm not sure...

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[03:34:02.16]

come to a halt if there's any activity... I mean if there's a hunter going to a site and then activities about to occur then they should not work until the subsistence user is done.

Ah, recommendation would be if there's any subsistence users in the area and activities occurring that it's they should know to halt, to stay out of the way of any subsistence activity.

Stacey Fritz

[03:34:42.17]

I, it's a little strange because normally the SAP makes recommendations to the BLM. And we can only really enforce what BLM does, although we do - each project that gets a permit from BLM - I require community consultation in them if I think it's going to impact anybody and then I give them a list of all the numbers and certainly that's the one thing that we make clear to them, try not to interfere with any, you know, hunters. I think Danny Pikok made the recommendation that they pay local hunters to find dead caribou when they have the collar on with - if Fish and Game has the coordinates, they can pay locals to find the caribou. I don't know how realistic that is for Fish and Game - I can talk some more to Geoff Carroll about that.

Especially working with search and rescue. Umm, and there's a recommendation that I'm not sure how much we can do about it but Joe Sage and Eli kind of made the point that people feel like it's a waste of their time unless their talking to the actual decision makers. I think that Gordon did point out that EIS is the process everybody has to go through so if you are talking to the people doing the EIS, it's important to do that at that stage.

Stacey Fritz

[03:36:21.10]

Again Thomas Napageak. The recommendation was to make it protocol, this was for Cadastral Survey, for BLM to be flexible enough to move their surveying if they see caribou herds.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:36:43.22]

Sorry that last one, that was to avoid altering migration routes

Stacey Fritz

So when Cadastral Survey, which is BLM, when they're out this summer they can be flexible enough to move from one work site to another if they see large amounts of caribou. He seemed, Mike seemed amenable - like it's very possible to do that.

Stacey Fritz

[03:37:11.19]

And then of course to let the community know with fliers and to work with the community as much as possible. People would like Ernest, and I can work with you on this Ernest, to try to send out emails to update them about the fish and wildlife projects when exactly they're happening, when and where...

Joe would like a presentation on each fish and wildlife project. And I have a question, then for the SAP... You know this meeting seemed a little rushed. I don't know how many days the SAP panel, how many days long they want their meetings to be.

Unknown

[03:37:59.14]

At least two, I mean we should've -

Two or three

At least

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:38:04.25]

I would the next one, do it two days.

Stacey Fritz

[03:38:09.12]

Two or three days?

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[03:38:11.14]

Seems like we're so rushed

Clifford Benson, Native Village of Barrow [?]

[03:38:11.22]

If I may, in the panel they gave us last night, the subsis- handbook, it says' in the hand book here that we're supposed to have a formal meeting the day before so if you want to have a

meeting here like this took place today you need two days for this so we don't stretch past 6 o'clock. So it would be a minimum of three days. One day the formal meeting of what's all going to go on and the two days to smack out what we gotta talk off our brains. Thank you.

Stacey Fritz
[03:38:49.19]

So with travel that could end up being 5 days for some people and for people from Anaktuvuk Pass, up to 7 days... And I think, I just want to make sure that everybody feels like it's worth it, that it's worth their time if we have a meeting that is that long.

[long quiet]

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:39:11.20]

Well, to me I mean this is coming from me, because you know my passion for my kids and the next generation and so and so on, I wouldn't put a time frame on the meetings that we have. If it's something that's going to affect my kids and what they eat in the future, heck I could be in Point Lay for a week if needed...

So, but that's just coming from me. I don't know how the rest of the panel feels about it. You know, everybody has their, they have their own personal lives, they have their families that they need to tend to and that's something we do need to think about. They might have other meetings that are might be more important than this one and that's something else that you know we need to think about when we talk about the next coming meeting, the time frame, who's available and stuff like that. Having a two day meeting is feasible, it's doable, I think it's really doable, but on the public meeting, I would just I would go early in the morning until as late as possible. I know it seems a little bit rough but you know going to 10 o'clock tonight - you know I can do that. We're already here, but you know but then again, that's some thing to think about in the future. If we're going to have an all day meeting, you might as well have it *all* day. Of course you're going to have a great number of breaks, just to help keep us sane. So anyways, that's just something, different things we gotta think about. They do have personal lives they do have, they have a job to tend to and a family and stuff like that. On the next one, I would say two days.

Stacey Fritz
[03:42:02.29]

Two days for the public meeting? And the third day for the workshop, or... two days total?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:42:09.21]

That's something we could talk about right here right now.

Clifford Benson, Native Village of Barrow

[03:42:14.19]

Mr. Chair? So why can't we just go about planning our next meeting say, okay we got 10 people presenting we need two days. We got two people presenting, we need one day. Could we just go about it planning our trips like that instead of saying we need to have a three day deal, oh - we only got one person presenting update in we're out of town for three days. Why not just do it on the a couple weeks a month before the meeting who we got all coming to present who's going to be here during that time what's going on within that few weeks before the actual meeting - you know I've seen that done with the US Fish and Wildlife Service they do a conference call to find out who is going to be here what all do we need. You know that's what we could do before hand before each meeting just to save this whole headache of trying to find out right now instead of saying what if there's only one presentation or if there's 15...

Stacey Fritz

[03:43:25.05]

That makes sense to me. But I, we have a lot of flexibility to how many people we *invite* to present... so when the Chairman says that he wants to hear presentations from every Fish and Wildlife project that's going on, if that is the case and everybody agrees with that, it would be a very long meeting.

Unknown

[03:43:47.13]

Two weeks.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:43:50.06]

I mean that could be just a meeting with US Fish and Wildlife Service themselves. That could be a meeting in itself. And then at the other meetings, you know, we could meet with everybody else. Depending on how much projects is going on.

Stacey Fritz

[03:44:09.14]

Okay, here's another question I have for the panel: For instance, Fish and Wildlife, you know, the people who are doing the polar bear projects, I talked to them about coming to the SAP. They were already coming to the North Slope Borough Fish and Game Committee to present and they were going to the communities before their projects to have meetings in those communities. So do we want them in addition to that to come to the SAP meeting if they're already going to have meetings in the communities that they're impacting?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:44:43.02]

I don't see - I wouldn't you know add more to basically repeating the same stuff. You know all we can hear...

Stacey Fritz
[03:44:58.02]

Well, it's not like... the entire SAP panel is going to *be* at those meetings, I just ah...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:45:03.25]

But then again the US Fish and Wildlife Service are going to the impacted villages. So I wouldn't see any reason why for them to repeat themselves. But if they're doing stuff within the NPR-A, then the SAP has to know.

Stacey Fritz
[03:45:31.28]

Okay, so I think we can be flexible on that too... We can go Fish and Wildlife project by project and determine whether or not we want that to be a presentation at the SAP.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:45:39.23]

Yeah.

Stacey Fritz
[03:45:40.28]

Okay

Clifford Benson, Native Village of Barrow
[03:45:41.26]

And say, for instance if you did have this entity coming to Barrow to do this presentation on this and people in Barrow now is it something that we should have the SAP members be there for ourselves, as a panel? To say other than what the community had to say for, or would you guys listen to them? Or say, the whole reason that we're here for is to - we're here right now because we know what's going on in our communities and you guys don't, so say if Linc comes here and says 'Oh we're going to Barrow to do this on our own.' Should you guys, should we be involved with that as a member, as a panel through BLM, or just let the community hash it out themselves? Or do we need to be there for our panel purpose? That way they don't have to double up on their thing or say if we have a higher authority. Say would you guys listen to the community at that meeting the same way as our meetings are conducted.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:47:07.13]

Well the simple answer is yes, you know, we would, but you know, the SAP was created because people at the time of earliest planning efforts didn't necessarily think there were mechanisms in place for BLM to hear local concerns. So this is a formal process that was set up and it was specifically set up to hear - I mean we've expanded a lot to talk about a lot of

things, which is one of the reasons this got... you know it gets pretty long and involved and there's a lot of interesting work going on in the field that impacts subsistence. But the original concept, to get back to Linc, was to have the oil companies present to a group of representatives - tribes and local governments - their oil and gas activities and the dream was or the idea was that there 'd be real specific information coming out. You know, don't build your road *here*. And that's the way it was when there was actual oil and gas activity going on, the group would give the seismic group or whatever would give their presentation in a semi informal workshop, and the subsistence panel would think about it and then they would give the same presentation in a public meeting, the public would talk about it and the subsistence panel would weigh in and tell the authorized officer what they thought should specifically happen. But that was pretty involved, and then people - as there was less and less oil and gas activity..

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:49:16.19]

As a matter of fact the oil companies are already going to villages - they have to - so they were already making those decisions based on local input. And real good knowledge of where the allotments are, and where the cabins are from the Borough. You know they're already avoiding those things so that, it seemed to me, like the mission of the Subsistence Advisory Panel changed quite a bit where BLM tried to let local people know pretty much everything that we're permitting we're regulating, we're causing to happen out in NPR-A and listening to feedback, mainly from the panel... You know, this is a public meeting, but there's not a lot of public here. And I, it's kind of my sense that if Linc comes in there would be more public and the kind of the tone of the meeting might change.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:50:21.20]

So, as long as we're talking about these kinds of projects. You know a road that BLM is not going to be able to say yeah or nay on, these kinds of peripheral things to energy development in NPR-A, this seems to me to be working fine, but what you're looking at in that charter is this ideas that there's going to be real impactful things that are going to happen on a real tight time frame, and that the local meetings and so on weren't considered to be sufficient. Am I getting at what you're talking about.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
Yeah, somewhat. Yeah. It's, I was just thinking like you know say... Yeah you did.

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager
[03:51:22.08]

Yeah, cause see the, like Conoco, if they're drilling a well, they're going to be going to all the communities on the North Slope that are anywhere near that activity, they're going to be talking about that more than once. And then they're going to come to the SAP and talk about it another time. And Conoco felt like that was redundant. It is, if they're if everybody's listening to the communities - it is redundant. But that's you know this is just kind of a check and balance kind

of a thing. And you know, now that I'm thinking of it, all these meetings that we require, that's a work load for the communities, too, and we're aware of that and more than before we don't want to have meetings that make people suffer in communities - it's like oh, not another one - and get burnmed out and not go at all. So you have to look for the right balance as far as you know this broad this broad view of what the SAP is for BLM. What we're taking it as - we want to listen to the communities about all the things that we make happen, or all the things allow to happen in the NPR-A. But that gets to the point where it's overkill. If it's too much information you know, we're willing to hear that. The mandate that we have right now is to have these meeting to talk about you know, Linc Energy.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[03:53:28.09]

Mr. Chair, point of order... If we could get back to the SAP recommendations and then we did skip an item on the agenda - Community Concerns...

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[03:53:34.08]

I've got a recommendation.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[03:53:35.20]

Bart

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[03:53:42.10]

I've got a recommendation. Well, you know, out of this meeting I learned something that's really valuable to me. I play with maps, I watch the whole slope, I know the land status, and then everything's in my head, but now, nowadays, with GIS, I could go in and find out who owns it. That ANWR, from my sister's office, I mean I can just go in there and just look at it. [?] For us it would be nice to have GIS computer there and look at all the public records. That's just like, native allotments sometimes we always question was right value right for the ___ suits. Corporation land...I looked at some comments on NPR-A. It's already there, It's just for your in - you could do that. It's just like playing a game That's what, once you get used to it and then NPR-A it's more of a 105 C study. All the place names, the history of it. It's all there. At least you're up NPR-A [?] And then with the new technology, like what he gave, that's the best thing I've seen - it's something you guys gotta used. Instead of trying to go back into the carbon for that book just let your finger do the walk, I mean you can turn the page, there it is.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[03:55:54.00]

Look at go to the other department, Corps of Engineers, what they're doing there and all these applicants, gotta have a public hearing and we get tired of hearing all this repetitious stuff, but we gotta go through the system. And I'd just like to see computer GIS computer - wanna learn

your department and who all is in there and who should we bark at if there's violations. Are we barking at the right department? Don't know. Just might be somebody that's doing all the studies at the river. Not the head. Head is just the one ___ but biologists that's there that's involved with the people, people like Tom, and after all that work, they give it to the boss, and the boss says ___ and the communication with locals, here they are associating with all the people. And that you know, I seen that. And some of these recommendations are on the back burner but, ___. Just want a computer at the next workshop.

Stacey Fritz

[03:57:37.22]

I want to make sure that I actually got Bart's point because I'm not sure I clearly understood it - what you're asking for.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[03:57:48.23]

Well, have a computer in the where we have the meeting and then show us the BLM's public files. In other words I want to look at NPR-A like when see for the...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[03:58:09.14]

We can do that. I ... we can do that if we have internet connections.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[03:58:17.19]

That way all of us could just go to the computer and just pull it up.

Stacey Fritz

[03:58:21.21]

So Bart, what you're saying is that you'd like a demonstration of how to use the website that Mike was showing SDMS to look up each plot of land that you're interested in?

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[03:58:34.15]

Yeah.

Stacey Fritz

[03:58:34.26]

Okay, so would that be a reasonable SAP workshop subject - we could have somebody from SDMS come and give a workshop on how to use that website.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[03:58:45.01]

No, you guys at the office could show us how to get in... and use BLM...

Lon Kelly, AFO Manager

[03:58:51.19]

Right now, yeah we should be able to do that.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[03:58:56.10]

Public information

Stacey Fritz

[03:58:58.19]

Yep.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[03:59:01.04]

I want to know how many fish are going through this river.

Unknown

[03:59:08.28]

That's not on there...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:59:12.13]

We'll get there. Not yet.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[03:59:20.07]

Hell no, not fish biologists...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[03:59:24.14]

We'll get there. Technology these days is amazing. If the oil companies can look at a school of fish that's going through the _??_ canyon, than we can look at fish that's going up and down the river. I mean that's something that we do need to utilize Today's technology to - just like you said - let our fingers do the walking. That's avoiding a lot of traffic. Like I said they can look at belugas going by from space, we can do the same thing with caribou.

Unknown

[04:00:20.26]

So many clouds though, you only get so much time with a satellite. I mean there's the..

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:00:26.17]

They have the technology now that can break through the clouds. I've seen it done. It can be done.

Unknown

[04:00:37.22]

The military can probably do it, but I don't know if BLM wants to do it.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:00:43.27]

Yes, they can do it. Ain't that right?

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[04:00:52.00]

Well, you probably can.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[04:00:53.23]

Wildlife Department...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:00:54.16]

It can be done. Actually that's a good recommendation that we can utilize in future meetings. And we could be like okay this whole wave of technology has brought us to this level. As of right now, we're looking at papers, text book.

Unknown

[04:01:18.24]

Lon look at what you and I use..

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:01:20.25]

Hold on. Hold on.

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[04:01:22.08]

Wildlife Department got tagged whales, tagged polar bears, tagged walrus

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:01:29.27]

This information is

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting
[04:01:32.00]
and they monitor all that stuff

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[04:01:33.09]
We will get there, okay. Plain and simple, we'll get there.

Stacey Fritz
[04:01:38.22]
Yes.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[04:01:39.03]
Enough said, there's no reason to explain any more we've already sent the information we've already seen what the technology can do now a days, so our next step is to, like I said, recommend to BLM to utilize their technology for the future meetings.

Any more recommendations?

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[04:02:13.20]
Yes. All parties come with proper paperwork so we can bring it back to our communities and notify our tribal councils of what we went through this meeting.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist
[04:02:29.02]
Hard copy hand outs of everything?

Thomas
Hard copy handouts, of every...

Stacey
Right, but I mean so you have hard copies of every presentation, but are you saying that you want a stack of each to take home with you?

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[04:02:45.03]
No... can I say something about that. That can also be something utilized in the technology.

Stacey
Right - I can put these documents on line.

Joe

You can actually do your presentation with internet access, and say, okay - this is what's going on within the NPR-A, click on a certain project and you have a list of names and who's in the deal and what's going to happen and where it's going to happen... That's what the technology can do. And again, we do need something that's something we can take back to our communities and our council members so that we can make the proper presentations to our council members, because that's who we need to that's who we respond to when we go to these meetings. The questions are going to come up - what did you get out of the meeting. What did you get out of the SAP meeting and stuff like that.

Stacey Fritz

[04:03:58.29]

So when I send you guys a summary of the meeting is that something you'd like to have more copies of? To share with the community - or I mean it's available on line, you can print as many copies as you want - or I can print them and send them to you... Is that

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[04:04:13.17]

The copy you gave us was perfectly fine. The tribal council can make copies of their own to the council - one copy is fine.

Stacey Fritz

[04:04:23.15]

Okay. That is actually one thing that I would like to say.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:04:30.20]

We could say the same things to the presenters. All the information that's goes with the projects that's going on, that's the information we need. Names and numbers email addresses, Time frames. The whole nine yards. And that could be a simple CD that we can download to our computer at home, at work.

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[04:05:04.19]

Joe, I agree with what you said earlier. I mean every handout could be published as an adobe PDF it could all be put on the SAP website - you won't lose 'em on the way home, you won't misplace them, you won't scratch a CD, it's there. All you gotta do is click and you have it, in your village. It saves a lot of paper. I mean, we're all about helping the environment, right? Not just the North Slope but this paper used to be trees growing somewhere else.

Stacey Fritz

[04:05:37.05]

That's why I didn't print out second copies of the transcript of the last meeting for everybody.

Because I already sent them to you. It's a 200-page document that I squished into like 50, but still I didn't want print out another copy - it's available on line if you want or read it on line or print one page of it, you can do that.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[04:06:02.01]

One more recommendation is to try to implement local hire.

Unknown

[04:06:10.01]

inaud

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[04:06:14.20]

That's come up often in the past. And often BLM does not have the authority to influence other entities on their hiring practice. So _____

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[04:06:43.05]

Um, I may not have a four year degree in college for biology but you know what, I lived up here most of my life, so we work together. I'm for local hire. I can teach you something, you teach me something. This is team work, let's work together.

And I recommend BLM if we have a meeting here in Barrow, don't ride the city bus. [laughter] Get two or three cars. You know I mean let's not rely on one rig. Look how big the panel has gotten. We need to be mobile like I mentioned earlier we're opportunistic. I like to shop, I like to choose my food, I mean... I want to recommend that to BLM. Thank you.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:07:44.22]

You could start your early career in Barrow, retire from BLM and...

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[04:07:50.20]

Danny doesn't want me to drive, he wants to get him a car so he can get in and go - that's what I heard.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:08:00.24]

Anyways, Anybody else? Any more recommendations?

Dave Yokel, BLM Biologist

[04:08:06.24]

I just want to say, what we do local hire on ours, k, working with tribal governments or, like BASC, is we contract through them and those student hires are getting paid through them. You know, cause it's a long process to get hired with the federal government, long application process - that's just a recommendation that you work with tribal governments - you know, give them money to pay their - that's one way to do a local hire.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[04:08:39.04]
inaud

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[04:08:42.22]

Ours... it is as simple as you could do honorariums. You know on different projects and stuff like that. I mean like we said, US Fish and Wildlife Service they have a long process and they're very picky on how they do their process. Versus the Native Village of Barrow, you just fill out an application, do a PDA, and boom, you're making 17 bucks an hour. So it's great to utilize local hire local entities you can contract through them - that way you can partner, you basically build capacity when you're within your projects, and that's a huge step. And I just wanted to add that when we had the ___ last year I brought up the idea of generating, ah, creating our own scientist and biologist that are born and raised within our traditional way of life and that's something that's going to be implemented in the future because we have so many projects that we have to deal with in the future. Monitoring walrus and getting samples and stuff like that from walrus, and that's something that was done through the young hunters program and you know, it's not going to be one time project, it's going to be ten years down the line. And whoever starts this project, 10 years from now they can have a Masters in marine biology. So, having that connection with local entities its, it's a huge step.

So, anybody else? Any more recommendations?

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[04:11:18.12]

Mr. Chair if there's no more recommendations, I'd like to move on to community concerns.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[04:11:23.18]
Hold on.

Stacey Fritz
[04:11:24.10]
Danny might have...

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay
[04:11:26.18]

I like what Brittany had to share earlier and talking about compensation. I think we can work together if you provide the gill net, and the gas and oil, we can work together. You leave that gillnet with us, that's my compensation, that's the way I look at it. Make it a good one. Thank you.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[04:11:50.07]
Clifford

Clifford Benson, Native Village of Barrow
[04:11:54.03]

On that note, something you guys could do, I mean for her... is that like you can just do gas vouchers for like samples of something.

laughter

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[04:12:05.18]

Memorandum of agreement between the tribal council and the fish and wildlife on conducting business in the best appropriate way. Cause at least you're talking about insurance health insurance or life insurance - or whatever kind of insurance for conducting business.

Brittany Retherford
[04:12:25.01]

Yeah, we can do something like an MOU, that works. In some cases, the state, we have a simpler hiring process than the state so sometimes we can do direct hire or do things like pay for gas or... we were trying to come up with an idea to bring in a number of the nets on the Yukon - in that replacement program. And give those to fishermen who were interested in helping us fish. Things like that, so we, but an MOU is another possibility - it just sort of depends on what the tribe prefers to do. Those are all good ideas. Thank you.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair
[04:13:13.10]

There's a lot that plays into local hire and stuff like that and projects you know, like your net recovery, or replacement programs, or whatever. There's a lot that plays into stuff like that. The type of funding that's available and who can get it and some companies can be very picky on that kind of thing those kinds of things. But of course, we can either way, left or right, if we're dealing with one species than we're going to get around it, to find the funding for it. Right?

Any more recommendations?

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut
[04:14:10.14]

Mr. Chair, I recommend we have our meeting - somewhere

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:14:14.09]

What meeting?

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[04:14:18.03]

Next, our next meeting,

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:14:21.03]

Next meeting?

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut

[04:14:24.11]

Can we write the Community Concerns

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:14:25.20]

Community concerns? From each SAP member... We'll go ahead and start from the end...

Stacey Fritz

[04:14:40.11]

Let's just pass that one (referring to the microphone).

Bart Ahsogeak, NSB permitting

[04:14:44.16]

That one

Unknown

[04:14:46.09]

This one's good

trouble with mics... laughter

Community Concerns

Raymond Aguvluk, Wainwright Traditional Council

[04:14:59.10]

I'm happy to be here for my first meeting and last spring when Wainwright had a lot of concerns about choppers flying and you know whole town got mad. So, and they were geese hunting, they were caribou hunting and I think they gotta stop flying choppers, you know, if they would

- like what you did last summer - you went canoeing and that's pretty good. And you guys in your choppers you go up and... that would save a lot of money too, you know. And a hopefully I'll be at the next meeting and I would like to thank all of you guys, and my buddies here. Thanks.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut, Native Village of Nuiqsut
[04:15:59.29]

Ah, Chair? Nuiqsut concerns... I posted on Facebook so I could get as many concerns as I can and the concerns are about the Umiat project, which diverted all of our mooses - we had to try to get an extension which was denied by the state, so I had a lot of angry citizens in my community and we were trying to solve this issue because we go 65 - 50 miles from our village to go moose hunting and there's a lot of activity diverting or keeping our moose further south and there were sometime the rivers get shallower and shallower and we start going toward Umiat and it took a little extra time for our community to get a few extra moose. That was really our main concern. Of course, we all know about the Repsal incident and the majority of our community was concerned about the air quality, so of course, that's a different story, but it was mainly the air traffic at Umiat that was scattering our hunting. Thank you. Thomas Napageak, Nuiqsut.

Charles Hugo, Naqsrugmuit Tribal Council
[04:17:25.04]

Solly Hugo from Anaktuvuk Pass. This is my first meeting also, I'm glad to be here. You guys are pretty bright. Our concerns for just the activity that's going on suddenly with the past - for years in our region. I've had. If you live there long enough, I've been there for 50 plus years and if something is altered I'll notice it right away. I'm keen on that. I've lived there. All the activity going on, experts and stuff. Proposed roads.... Our concern is that there's too much activity and we can't get all our subsistence foods. On the timing we should have gotten them already, it's been altered so much... We're getting caribou now in the winter time - like now. But normally, that would have been in August / September but that's been altered so much - it hurts.

Charles Hugo, Naqsrugmuit Tribal Council
[04:18:36.02]

Then we could voice our issues to the entire globe, you know it just wears you down after a while, so tired. Your soul gets tired. And I know one other thing that we're concerned about is just exactly who it is we're facing here. We're left in the blind most of the time. We don't know why they're here or what they're doing here. It's like a drive-by [shots]... there you have it. That's one of our concerns is all the activity but I don't believe we're going to be able to accommodate any kind of solution. It's just the way it's going, it's not going to get better, it's gonna... Who might be the lesser of two evils - maybe you're the greater of two evils in the state but that's how I look at it now, just getting repulsive. So that's our concerns, just all the explorations and not having the right information given to us - who's going to be there, how long they're going to be there... It would be nice to know so we maybe at least we can approach

the companies or whoever's doing all the explorations here. The WS specific people are there. Also they have the same problems as everybody else, the choppers flying around disturbing the game. The roads. I always have to say they're not just out there rooming around - they got places to go at certain times, certain season to be where they should be, once you alter that it gets thrown off, everything gets thrown off, even the insects.

Charles Hugo, Naqsragnuit Tribal Council

[04:20:28.15]

One more thing. Just the lack of blue flies. Suddenly there's almost none. So that's a concern. It might be small, but it's probably going to have a big effect. So, thank you again for letting me share.

Eli Nukapigak, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[04:20:51.20]

I guess Thomas already got all the concerns out of Nuiqsut... inaud.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[04:20:57.08]

Danny Pikok for the record. I have a concern for the folks that are so interested in Umiat. Why so much interest in Umiat? And I want to know the truth. And being on the wilderness project with - what's your name?

Andrew Hopson, Naqsragnuit Tribal Council

[04:21:26.11]

Andrew

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[04:21:26.29]

Andrew... I found out that Umiat is one of the most polluted areas in Alaska. And I'm just really concerned why are there so much interest and why is state money being spent when it can be spent in other needs, for people of Alaska. And there's so much opposition I just don't understand why they just don't want just let Umiat go. It's polluted. I've heard there's - the oil that's there, it's not even enough to pay for the road that you want to build to Umiat - from any direction.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[04:22:29.17]

And another, I mean why, why why do you want to build a road to Umiat? What's so important over there. I've heard there's mercury, there's quartz, I've heard it's a mining place, a place to mine. I mean there's no oil there's no gas there. We all go by speculation. And like Joe said earlier, we have modern technology to find out for sure what's there, and let's use that technology and find out what for sure what we got there.

Danny Pikok, Jr., Native Village of Point Lay

[04:23:14.06]

My second concern is the walrus congregation at Point Lay. My theory is the only reason walrus are getting sick in that area is because we leave 'em alone. These walrus are eating, sleeping, playing in their own feces is why they're getting sick. Fish and Wildlife won't let us go in there and harvest the walrus - it's kind of like working together we need to move them around. We can't leave them in one location too long, they're going to get sick. I've seen it, we've seen it. Biologists know this. And I don't need no four year degree to know this. And they'll over graze that area. By doing so they're going to start moving further and further away. So let us hunt walrus when we want to hunt, how we want hunt them... We're helping them in the long run, believe me. Thank you for letting me share.

Andrew Hopson, Naqragmuit Tribal Council

[04:24:32.23]

[laughing] I should a had a mouthful. I don't know, Sully covered quite a bit. But like him, just concerned about all the air traffic diverting our caribou migration. Really hurts to... our gas prices went up again... Oil. Man, pretty hard when you have to travel 30-50 miles paying \$9.65 a gallon and \$30 for a quart of oil. I agree with Sully. He has covered a lot.

Clifford Benson, Native Village of Barrow

[04:25:32.14]

I'm Clifford Benson from Barrow. I don't know that we have much concerns here in Barrow other than what all my other panel members have said their concerns, you know there's not much exploration going on around Barrow right now, other than what's already, and we kind of stopped the off sea drilling and stuff yet. But all the concerns along what the other panel members said, and ah - what they said. Pretty much it.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:26:14.07]

Bart, you got any concerns? Joe Sage for the record. I was trying to sound real adult. Everybody's... It's been a long day.

Well anyways, this is... I know it's going to be a lot of information, and this is all pretty much crammed into one day, but we still need to keep doing what we're doing, keep on trucking, for your community, for our kids. For the future of, pretty much the whole North Slope. We have so much that we need to deal with in the future. This is not just stuff that's going on in the NPR-A, the thousands upon thousands of research that has been going on and probably will continue to go on. I say to them I don't know why you gotta keep going in because they're so concerned about all the animals in the future because of global warming... and I like to think about it as what I grew up knowing.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:28:03.19]

When the climate is changing you need to leave the animals alone, no matter where you come from. No matter what you're doing. Whether you're in the Arctic Ocean, 30 miles out just basically doing a krill survey or beluga surveys or anything like that or if you're going to be doing fish samples on the Kilik or the Kuk or where ever. That's something I take to heart, and that's something that is so very true. And that's something that's been to me pretty much pushed aside for the sake of dollar signs. Whether you're from the state or the federal government whether you're from Shell or these other companies. For the sake of money, and that that that stuff is pushed aside and that's what I've been getting since I started my job at the Native Village of Barrow As Wildlife Director. I took this job as a personal challenge to myself to see what I can do as a person for our community. And that's something that I will continue to keep saying. I'm not afraid to say that our traditional knowledge is being pushed aside for the sake of dollar signs. And I will continue to keep saying it no matter who I'm talking to. I could be talking to - to the president himself, face to face. And I'll tell him the same thing. Our traditional knowledge that has been said for many years by our elders, their information, what they've said has been pushed aside for so long for the sake of money. And just like these guys say, the cost of living is nowadays, it's overwhelming. It's almost impossible for some people. For some people it's not even possible for them to go out on a hunt anymore. Only because of gas prices. Only the price, because the price of the snow machine, because of the price of bullets... I mean you can go next do to AC it's \$45 over there, for a box of bullets. And \$45 in dollars ?? can last you a whole week, well somewhat, but still. It's that much cheaper. These places, like Anaktuvuk Pass, close to \$10 a gallon and they have to go a hundred miles, over a hundred miles round trip just to get a sled load. Anyway, somebody like myself or Andrew that feeds the community that sled load disappears in a day. And yet, when that sled load disappears in that same day, we have to try hard to do whatever we can to find more gas money to go out again, so that we can continue to feed the community what we hunt.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:33:03.28]

And it's overwhelming. And it's something that I have to deal with today and I'll I can't say you know, what happened 30 years ago - or 40 or 50 years ago when they started claiming lands. You know, what were the plans then? Did they know stuff like this was going to happen. Probably not. But today I have to deal with it, and we are going to continue to have to deal with it in the long run and for a lot of people it's a scary thought because we don't know.

Stacey Fritz

[04:34:00.22]

Battery died.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:34:03.10]

I already got cut off.

Use that other mic.

I got it.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:34:11.06]

We got to know if all the projects all the amount of traffic that's going to be going on in the future. To me it's going to alter the migration routes, alter the feeding ground and it's going to alter the way we live the way we hunt, because our way as of right now is the traditional way. We know where animals are going to be, we know how to hunt them in abundance but can I tell my son that? Same exact thing in the future? That's a scary thought. Because of the amount of traffic that goes on right now, thinking it's going to be 10 times more within ten years. You know we could be killing off these animals as we speak, ourselves. It's all this information that I say is always going to be my same concern whether it's for caribou, whether it's for fish, whether it's for waterfowl, whaling, seals, walrus, polar bears. Because that's how I grew up hunting these animals and I still eat them to this day. And to question if I'm going to be able to eat these animals 15 years from now? That's like forcing me to eat chicken the rest of my life. Or beef. Or noodles. Or lettuce. I could tell you now. If I have to become a vegetarian, you might as well shoot me in the head right now. It's not going to happen, it can't happen. We can't grow anything up here. We can't grow edible foods up here we can't grow any fruit, anything. These are the animals that we live off of. We're always asked a number of times when we talk to different people all over the world...

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:37:32.07]

How do you guys live up there? You know - How can you live up there? More to us, it's plain and simple. Because we have that traditional knowledge. For anybody else it's mind blowing. But am I going to be able to say that 20 years from now. I don't know. Twenty years from now, somebody could ask me the same question and they're gonna be like "How do you guys live up there?" and 20 years from now - hopefully I won't be able to say stuff like well, I'm trying my best. Today, I could say easily, I live off the land, I live off the ocean. It's plain and simple. I hunt for what I eat, what my kids eat. You know, it's that simple. But to have that question about being able to say that 20 years from now, or 30, 40, 50 years from now....Who know we might just be going through some a cycle and we're going to have the population twice as much from now. We don't know that. Hopefully that will happen, but with the plans with all these plans of exploration, research, the amount of traffic, whether it's through the water or through the land. That's one thing that I want each and every one of us to try to remember that. That our way of life can be altered just by the traffic itself. Everything that we do whaling, seal hunting, caribou hunting, fishing, duck hunting, all this everything that we've talked about as far as traditional way of life can actually be stopped by the amount of traffic that we're going to be seeing in the future.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:40:33.28]

So the next - And I know that's a lot to say, but it has to be said. No matter where I go, no matter who I talk to, if we're talking about our subsistence way of life, I'm going to keep saying it, no matter where I go... So the amount of traffic, to me, is my main concern. Not just for now, but 20 years from now, 10 years from now, every mile of the whole North Slope. And when you do try to put that to well I would say, I would want to put it to a stop. But then again, the rest of the state and everybody else in this world sees dollar signs, they don't see our livelihoods, so...

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[04:41:37.14]

And our forefathers made that choice too. They made the choice of us moving forward and becoming economically or physically involved with this for a majority of reasons... There's benefits. I don't want to live off a honey bucket. I want natural gas for my house. I don't want to pay \$1200 in diesel. I want to pay \$25 a month for natural gas. Those are the kinds of benefits our forefathers thought of when they were when they had that choice. That's what we can't forget too, they didn't want, we didn't, they didn't want to leave us out. They wanted North Slope Borough to benefit. NPR-A? There's the North Slope Borough, there's city governments, there's majority benefits coming from NPR-A. That's why BLM is giving us the SAP, the opportunity to have a voice and recommendations, so that we can stop the minimize - the maximum of impacts to our livelihoods. You're right. You're 100% right, but we can't forget our forefathers too who made this decision so that we can benefit, and make sure that they help follow our rules and our regulations and stipulations on whether is exploration whether its exploration or seismic or whatever. I want to state that too, but I mean I just. We're here for our people. Whether - cause we can't stop 'em. We have to be a part of it. No matter what. We're here. We want to help make the right decisions for our community.

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[04:43:12.07]

I mean it's hard, Yah. When we see an oil spill, he's right... It could be diverted for life, so we gotta make sure they mitigate our problems in our communities, or if we're in ___ with the oil industry, we need a part of it we want to make sure, we're here to make sure they clean it up properly. Whether it's the state's way to make sure it's clean... we're still gonna be here, like you said, we're still here.

Thanks Joe, that was good.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:43:50.14]

Thank you.

laughter

Unknown (Danny?)

[04:43:55.06]

My stomach say I'm hungry.

Joe Sage, Native Village of Barrow; SAP Chair

[04:43:59.14]

Anyways, thank you everybody. Thank you to the presenters, thank you for your information. Thank you BLM, we'll continue to do work together. We'll continue to put happy faces on our faces especially after we eat. And like you said, next time we'll make it a couple days, that way we're not looking at 7:00, 8:00... Alright?

Thomas Napageak, Jr., Native Village of Nuiqsut, Native Village of Nuiqsut

[04:44:40.22]

Mr. Chair if there is no other community concerns I'd like to make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

[Inupiaq]

Questions?

All in favor of adjourning the meeting.

[many ayes]

Opposed same sign?

None.

Meeting Adjourned