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*Bureau of Land Management
Alaska Resource Advisory Council Meeting
Westmark Hotel
Fairbanks, Alaska
May 16 – 17, 2018*

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Council members present: RAC Chair Kathryn Martin, Stan Foo, Gary Morrison, Lee Hart, P.J. Simon, Mark Billingsley, Suzanne Little, Bronk Jorgenson, Faith Martineau, Rosie Barr (by teleconference), Brennan Cain.

Council members not present: Teresa Imm, David Krause, John Hopson, Jr., Sara Longan

BLM representatives present: Karen Mouritsen (BLM Alaska Acting State Director and Designated Federal Official (DFO)), Ted Murphy, Erika Reed, Nolan Heath, Geoff Beyersdorf, Tom Heinlein, Serena Sweet, Paul Krabacher, Jeanie Cole, Stacie McIntosh, Shelly Jones, Lesli Ellis-Wouters, Craig McCaa.

Representatives of agencies other than BLM: None

Members of the public present (or on the teleconference line): Joy Huntington, Randy Zarnke, Pamela Miller, Charleen Fisher, Bob Sattler, Bernadette Demientieff, Nathan and Josiah Turner, Lisa Baraff, Paul Kuyshi.

Proceedings

Quorum reached.

RAC Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Minutes from the last meeting not available but will be forthcoming. Agenda approved.

Welcome and Introduction; Local and National Policy Changes, Karen Mouritsen

Mouritsen discussed slight changes to the RAC charter. **RAC Member Billingsley** asked whether such changes are common. These changes are more extensive than usual. **Mouritsen** went over attached Secretarial Orders, many of them related to greater cooperation with partners. Changes in Section 4 were driven by the Secretary of the Interior's priorities. **RAC Member Hart** asked about continued commitment to hearing from diverse voices during environmental reviews. **Mouritsen** -- Efforts are being made to streamline NEPA review and focus on the most important issues, and to present them in an understandable way. On a case-by-case basis, the BLM may be able to extend required time periods. **RAC Chair Martin** mentioned delays in RAC nominations, and asked whether members were in favor of supporting a joint letter from

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Nevada RACs highlighting the contributions and importance of RACs. Members would like to see the language in the letter. **Mouritsen** -- Budget implementation ongoing for an approx. \$55 million budget; the BLM is engaging in prioritization in line with Secretarial priorities and looking for opportunities for streamlining and cost-savings. **RAC Member Martineau** asked whether RAC can make recommendations on how revenues come back to Alaska for BLM's budget. For example, funding for Legacy Wells. **Mouritsen and Reed** – The RAC can recommend, though the budget process is extremely convoluted.

RAC Subcommittee Reports

ANCSA Subcommittee, Brennan Cain

ANCSA contaminated lands. Paul provided update on BLM's 2016 recommendation, including creation of an interagency working group, which is now in place. The subcommittee is interested in Alaska Native presence on interagency working group. The subcommittee reviewed a 17b easement database and BLM's existing 17b easement brochure, and considered what updates the brochure needs. The State of Alaska's overselection is bogging down Alaska Native corporation selections.

Placer Mining Sub-committee, Gary Morrison

Joe Galluzzi has replaced Steve Cohn as the subcommittee's conduit for information on BLM's direction with placer mining. Galluzzi is providing good, timely information to the subcommittee. From Galluzzi: 1) Coordination with the State of Alaska is going well. The State has provided feedback on permitting forms. 2) Best Management Practices (BMP) guidelines: several State and Federal agencies are interested in having a role in that effort. The subcommittee is involved too. An update to the placer mining in Alaska 'brown book' is underway. 3) Alaska Placer Mining Application (APMA) worksheets: the BLM is incorporating comments and feedback on those worksheets. 4) Status of revegetation and stream rehabilitation memos: comments are being addressed and incorporated. A final draft including Washington Office comments is awaiting review. A FAQ sheet and website are in development. 5) Info and brochures for miners: a BLM Fact sheet is nearing completion. Video production is planned for this summer. **RAC member Simon** – Interest in upper Koyukuk River in opening more land to gold extraction. **Mouritsen** – Withdrawals may be one of the reasons this hasn't happened. This is being addressed in BLM's resource management plans.

Recreation Subcommittee, Lee Hart

The subcommittee developed a mission statement. One primary goal is to decompartmentalize recreation in BLM, allowing better integration with management of other natural resources. Other goals include a better communication plan for proactively notifying affected parties when recreation-related projects are proposed and improve public access to BLM's recreation assets, especially its digital/online offerings. The subcommittee would like to see improved awareness of the benefits of recreation on public lands, and it intends to identify ways to streamline permitting of events and recreational use, thereby encouraging recreation business development.

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Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Subcommittee, Stan Foo

Distributed to the RAC a map of proposed ACECs and subcommittee notes from its recent meeting. There's a perception in some quarters that ACECs are de facto Wilderness, and that they are duplicative of other management options. The subcommittee wants to gain better understanding of ACECs and guidance to BLM on their designation, with more transparency on how that happens. The subcommittee sees a need to better understand how ACECs are dealt with in the resource management plan (RMP) process. Planning documents lack adequate explanation of how areas met or did not meet ACEC criteria. **RAC Member Little** – missed notification of first subcommittee meeting; **Ellis-Wouters** – will rectify. **RAC Member Foo** – Can the subcommittee, through the RAC, have input into updates to BLM planning guidance? **RAC Member Little** – The RMP is the only time the BLM asks for nominations for areas that the public thinks needs special mgmt. **RAC member Morrison** – What is legal basis for these areas? Could the RAC see the BLM handbook addressing this? Nomination in some sense seems to lock them up. **Reed** – authority comes from the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA). This topic would be good to discuss at length in a workshop.

Coastal Plain Area Update, Ted Murphy [presentation on file]

Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, the BLM was directed to develop a leasing plan for 1.6 million acres within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The BLM is directed to offer two lease sales within four years, and those sales must include at least 400,000 acres with high mineral potential. The BLM is following Secretarial guidelines to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with a Record of Decision (ROD) within one year (spring/summer 2019). Section 810 of ANILCA analysis will be a central component of the agency's review. The BLM is following general processes established for oil and gas leasing in the NPR-A.

RAC Member Little – Are comments accepted via email? **Murphy** – Yes.

Public Comments

- 1) **Randy Zarnke** on behalf of Alaska Trapping Association.

Zarnke has continued concerns over BLM's policy on trapper's cabins. The 25% income requirement was removed after years of work, but the new permitting process was even more onerous. **RAC Member Morrison** was concerned by Zarnke's presentation. A RAC subcommittee formed years ago and came up with recommendations, which the BLM implemented. What happened? **RAC Member Hart** – how many members does ATA have? **Zarnke** – About 875. **RAC Member Foo** – He was also surprised to hear of the current problems, as he thought both parties were satisfied with previous efforts at reforming the permitting process. **RAC Member Simon** – Trapping income is important in villages. He supports ATA's efforts. **RAC Member Foo** – The policy should encourage trapping on public lands. **RAC Member Jorgensen** – Two of the recent Secretarial Orders also support this use of

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public lands. **RAC Member Little** – Could Geoff Beyersdorf brief the RAC on FDO efforts to change the cabin policy? **Beyersdorf** – Fairbanks District Office staff recently briefed him on internal discussions for how to improve permitting. He asked them for engagement with external parties. **RAC Chair Martin** – Is there interest in reconvening a cabin policy subcommittee? **RAC Member Morrison** – Yes.

Motion by **RAC Member Jorgensen** to reconvene the trapper's cabin policy subcommittee. **RAC Member Little** seconded. **RAC Members Morrison, Simon, Foo, and Barr** expressed interest. Reed would serve as the BLM representative with Fairbanks District Office (Beyersdorf) assistance. **Zarnke** was asked and agreed to participate as a non-RAC subcommittee member. Motion approved.

2) Pamela Miller.

Concerns about expedited process for Coastal Plain leasing EIS.

3) Charlene Fisher. Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG).

Fisher is concerned about expedited process for the Coastal Plain leasing plan and potential oil and gas development on the birthing ground for the Porcupine Cairbou Herd. She requested government-to-government consultation and cooperating agency status. Development of the area would set a dangerous precedent. She appreciates a good working relationship with the BLM and AFS for Draanjek area. **RAC Member Simon** commended CATG for its role and supports its request for involvement, including government-to-government consultations and cooperating agency status. **RAC Member Martineau** – can she provide her comments in written form? **Fisher** – Yes.

Bernadette Dementieff of Fort Yukon on behalf of Gwich'in elders and chiefs.

Dementieff said she feels that agencies are not involving her people as they consider projects that would potentially bring major changes to her culture and livelihood by disturbing caribou grounds. The agencies should extend the scoping period and provide interpreters.

RAC Member Little made a motion that the RAC recommend extension of the scoping period for the Coastal Plain leasing EIS. Seconded by RAC member Hart.

RAC Member Martineau – The agencies are only considering projects of a limited scope at this point. That doesn't necessarily merit an extended scoping period. **RAC Member Morrison** – Isn't this a law? Would the RAC be asking to change a law? **Murphy** – No, the RAC could make this recommendation. **RAC Member Jorgensen** – But doesn't the law require lease sales? **Murphy** – Yes. However, it's just the timeline for the sale that is set through the law; the timeline for the document is determined by the Department of the Interior. **RAC Member Little** – There should be 120 days of scoping. **RAC Member Jorgensen** – extension of the scoping

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period could put undue pressure on BLM personnel elsewhere in the permitting process by compressing later parts of the schedule.

Roll call vote on the motion to recommend extension of scoping:

Voting no: Foo, Morrison, Jorgensen, Martineau

Voting yes: Hart, Simon, Billingsley, Little, Barr, Cain, Martin

Motion passes. Recommendation to BLM to extend scoping. No specific time period.

Adjourned for lunch 12:00

Resumed 12:30

NPR-A Mineral Assessment Update, Dave Houseknecht (USGS) via teleconference [Presentation on file]

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) conducted an assessment of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources in the Cretaceous Nanushuk and Torok formations in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A).

USGS Estimated a mean 8.7 billion barrels oil and a mean 25 trillion cubic feet gas, mostly in northeastern NPR-A. Both estimates came with large uncertainties. The large degree of uncertainty is because oil companies only recently targeted the Nanushuk formation. Now that oil has been discovered in the formation, nobody knows yet how productive these fields will be.

RAC Member Hart – What is the relative size of these discoveries compared to other North Slope fields? **Houseknecht** – Prudhoe Bay has produced approximately 12 billion barrels to date. The Alpine field may eventual produce 1 billion barrels, making it the largest onshore US field for the last 30 years. Pikka and Horseshoe is forecast to be the largest in the last 45 years. The new discoveries represent the largest onshore discoveries in the Arctic for the last 25 years.

RAC Member Little – Did USGS do studies in 1002 area? **Houseknecht** – Source rocks but not reservoir rocks for rocks of this age in 1002 area. The agency is doing some other assessments for the 1002 area. **RAC Member Little** – Are there any estimates for what's outside vs. inside the proposed leasing area? **Houseknecht** – USGS has done an estimate and can provide that to the RAC.

Conveyance and ANCSA 17(d)(1) Withdrawal Update, Paul Krabacher [Presentation on file]

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RAC Chair Martin – For allotments referred to the Department of Justice (DOJ), does anyone have influence in moving them forward? **Reed** – You can exercise your right as a citizen, but DOJ has historically been reluctant to move these cases forward.

RAC Member Cain – Is there still funding to boost processing? **Reed**—no additional money with the Alaska Lands Transfer Acceleration Act. The BLM was well funded until about 2008, then the funding was cut in half. The Assistant Secretary for Land and Mineral is interested in and familiar with this issue. He is moving on providing full funding. **RAC Member Cain** – are the remaining lands the more challenging and complex cases? **Reed** – Yes, and they will require more time to resolve.

RAC Member Simon – Who can I ask for an update on the Public Law Order (PLO) 5150 conveyance? **Reed** – The BLM has no current plans for conveyance due to the PLO. The agency will look at possible conveyance in the Central Yukon RMP.

RAC Member Little – Can the State do mineral exploration on Federal lands with d-1 withdrawals? **Reed** – The BLM has looked on a case-by-case basis at exploration projects proposed on such lands.

Heath – Does overselection include topfilings? **Krabacher** – No, and lifting of those would make the overselection problem greater.

RAC Member Little – Is there a public notice process for lifting d-1 withdrawals **Krabacher** – That is covered in RMPs. **Reed** – The RMP process constitutes public notice. The BLM is only taking action on the withdrawals recommended for lifting in the Fortymile RMP.

RAC Member Simon – Drones are being considered for surveying. Are topfiled lands still considered Federal lands? **Krabacher** – Topfiled lands are not considered valid selections. **Reed** – The BLM is doing some pilot projects with drones within village sites. The BLM has successfully explained to its leaderships that current drone technology doesn't work for the size of the areas the agency is surveying. Topfilings don't segregate the lands because they are future selections.

RAC Member Little – Fortymile is not on the list of priority conveyance areas for the coming year? **Krabacher** – The Fortymile is not included because conveyance efforts for that area are already in progress.

RAC Member Jorgensen – BLM is working hard on this, and it's an important issue for the state. It's a complex matter, though.

RAC Member Cain – Motion might be appropriate to advocate for funding for the BLM to tackle the remaining conveyance.

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RAC Member Little motioned for a resolution recommending additional funding to the BLM for completing the remaining conveyance. **RAC Member Martineau** seconded.

RAC Member Billingsley – What is the timeline for completion? **Reed** – for corporations, it's reasonable to assume that 90 percent will be done in 6–8 years. For the State, there are 38 million acres that are Tentatively Approved. It depends on funding how long that might take, but it will be a long time. As costly field survey work winds down, that funding can be applied elsewhere to speed the process.

Motion passed.

Break

Reconvened 2:15

RAC Chair Martin distributed a letter from Bill Wolf (Nevada RACs).

BLM Alaska Planning Update, Serena Sweet [Presentation on file]

RAC Member Little – Will there be a public process with the BLM planning handbook rewrite? **Sweet** – Not sure.

RAC Member Morrison – Who are the cooperators for the Ambler Road? **Sweet** -- State of Alaska, a tribe, several other entities. She can provide the RAC with a list if interested. **RAC Member Morrison** -- Is the proposed lack of public access on road one of the major issues? **Sweet** – yes, and concerns about impacts to caribou.

RAC Member Martineau asked about the joint Donlin ROD. **Sweet** – The BLM committed to have joint, parallel RODs that serves both agencies' needs. This is treading new ground.

RAC Member Little – what does the Donlin right-of-way cover? **Sweet** – The right-of-way is for pipeline and fiber optic.

RAC Member Little – What are issues with the Squirrel River? **Sweet** – primary issue is subsistence users vs. hunters/transporters.

RAC Member Little – How do you anticipate timelines for the RMPs changing? **Mouritsen** – the BLM is trying to figure that out in consideration of Secretary's new timeframes and budgetary constraints. **RAC Member Little** has heard that the BLM might consider obtaining timeline exceptions due to the complexity of these projects. **Mouritsen** – yes, that is under consideration.

RAC Member Simon – Does consideration of lifting PLO 5150 fall under the Central Yukon RMP? **Sweet** – The BLM is still figuring that out.

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RAC Member Foo – Are ACEC determinations for Bering Sea – Wester Interior and Central Yukon RMPs done? **Sweet** – The ACEC reports are done, but the ACECs still under consideration. **RAC Member Little** – The draft plan will show BLM's intended direction for the nominations. **RAC Member Foo** – His interest is in whether there is still a chance for input. **Mouritsen** – The BLM encourages the public to weigh in at the draft RMP stage.

RAC Chair Martin mentioned that RAC members should read the Nevada RAC letter when they get a chance.

RAC Member Cain – He read the letter. Some of its language is inflammatory. **RAC Member Martineau** agrees. RAC Member Little said the Alaska RAC's previous letter showed support for RACs in a less confrontational way. Perhaps it could be forwarded as a response to the Nevada RAC letter. **RAC Member Hart** – The letter's inclusion of Nevada-specific issues doesn't work well with other RACs signing on.

RAC Chair Martin – please review draft minutes that have been distributed so the RAC can approve them tomorrow.

RAC Member Hart – Marnie Graham is the new field manager for the Glennallen Field Office. Hart is excited about Graham's appointment. **RAC Chair Martin** agrees. Graham has been a member of the community for many years and is familiar with local issues.

Ellis-Wouters – RAC nominations are due June 4.

RAC Member Cain – Have heard that finding nominations for the elected official position is a challenge. Could a tribal council member count in this regard? **Ellis-Wouters** will check.

Recessed at 2:45.

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Thursday, May 17, 2018

Council members present: RAC Chair Kathryn Martin, Stan Foo, Gary Morrison, Lee Hart, P.J. Simon, Mark Billingsley, Suzanne Little, Bronk Jorgenson, David Krause, Faith Martineau, Rosie Barr (by teleconference), Brennan Cain.

Council members not present: Teresa Imm, John Hopson, Jr.

BLM representatives present: Karen Mouritsen (BLM Alaska Acting State Director and Designated Federal Official (DFO)), Ted Murphy, Erika Reed, Nolan Heath, Geoff Beyersdorf, Tom Heinlein, Tom Bickauskas, Serena Sweet, Stacie McIntosh, Lesli Ellis-Wouters, Chel Ethun, Craig McCaa Tim Hammond.

Representatives of agencies other than BLM: Amy Pocewicz (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Members of the public present (or on the teleconference line): Jim Simon, Nate and Josiah Turner, Carrie Stevens (University of Alaska, Fairbanks), Charleen Fisher (Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments), Dennis Erick, James John, Barrett Ristroph, Randy Zarnke, Sara Taylor (Senator Sullivan's staff); Jamie Marunde (Doyon); Karen Linnell (Ahtna)

Proceedings

RAC Chair Martin brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

RAC Member Simon moved to bring the minutes to the floor. **RAC Member Jorgensen** seconded. RAC Chair Martin noted misspelled names and incorrect identification of moved and seconded motions. The correct minutes were approved.

RAC Chair Martin – RAC Member Barr had asked for an update on Red Devil Mine. Chair will allow that if time permits. Otherwise it will be included on the next meeting's agenda.

Mouritsen – Thanked RAC members for participation yesterday. She previewed the day's agenda.

Cooperative Management, Nolan Heath [Presentation on file]

RAC Member Foo – Streamlining process would seem to be critical for cooperative management. Are there examples of BLM doing this? **Heath** – Secretarial Orders promote this effort. **Ellis-Wouters** – A presentation in the afternoon by Tom Bickauskas will cover several examples of ongoing partnerships. **Sweet** – The NEPA handbook rewrite will also address this topic. It will include more outreach up front and more interaction with partners, but the rewrite is still preliminary at this point. **RAC Member Hart** – Are any new funds or resources applied to this effort? **Heath** – We think some funds will be forthcoming, but the BLM budget is still in development. **RAC Member Hart** – Could the Recreation Subcommittee provide input to this in

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relation to recreation and guiding activities? **Heath** – The BLM would welcome any suggestions. **RAC Member Simon** – People of upper Koyukuk work well with guides out of the local communities. However, he hears that it's hard to get access to BLM lands. He mentioned Mike Spindler's effort with cooperative management of white-fronted geese; the agencies adjusted hunting seasons to address concerns from biological data. **Mouritsen** – The BLM sees several different ways it could address cooperative management: 1) other entities help us gather data, educate visitors, and do other things on the ground; and 2) under certain legal authorities, the BLM can get other organizations to undertake management on public lands. Even where the BLM must make an eventual decision itself, cooperators can help the agency get to the decision point. **RAC Member Little** – During the Eastern Interior RMP process, the community of Chalkyitsik offered to help the BLM with a moose study that the planning process identified as necessary. **RAC Member Foo** – During large projects, each agency points to its own legal requirements, which to the public, often appear duplicative. There's an opportunity to simplify through improved cooperation.

Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission Presentation on Cooperative Management for Subsistence, Karen Linnell [Presentation on file]

Linnell gave an overview of a Memorandum of Understanding where Ahtna is working collaboratively with Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and Native corporations. Stewardship planning is fundamental in establishing local management of resources. Ahtna interacts with an extensive list of stakeholders. It is now completing the plan, including mapping and interviews with elders.

RAC Member Morrison – how do subsurface. **Linnell** – Seven of the eight village corporations have merged management with Ahtna such that both surface and subsurface management are covered. Chitina has surface management only but works well with Ahtna.

RAC Member Hart – How is Ahtna is working on attracting visitors? **Linnell** – Ahtna is definitely focusing on economic development, including recreation.

RAC Member Caen – Isn't the level of interest in hunting on Ahtna lands a problem? **Linnell** – Yes, and the planning efforts now underway help protect hunting areas. The corporation would have made some different decisions 20 years ago if it had done this planning earlier.

Mouritsen asked for clarification on a few areas depicted on the land status map.

Heath – How is Ahtna working with all of these stakeholders? **Linnell** – We have to take into consideration who has an effect on what we're trying to do.

RAC Member Little – Ahtna has done an innovative, exciting, and commendable job of taking a for-profit corporation and integrating its operations with communities and interested parties.

Break at 10:06.

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Reconvened 10:30.

Office of Subsistence Management, Geoff Beyersdorf, [Presentation on file]

Beyersdorf -- Dan Sharp is BLM's subsistence coordinator but is unable to be here today.

RAC Member Billingsley – Were it not for the court cases that split subsistence management, who would manage it? **Beyersdorf** – The State of Alaska would manage it. From 1980 to 1999 there was unified management by the State.

Mouritsen – There are three public members on the Federal Subsistence Board: the Chair and two rural representatives. They are voting members, so this is an example of cooperative management.

RAC Member Foo – Is the Alaska Department of Fish and Game part of the interagency staff committee? **Beyersdorf** – no, just federal agencies.

RAC Member Billingsley – What would happen if State took more a liberal approach than the federal agencies? **Beyersdorf** – On federal lands, federal agencies would close the federal lands under Section 804.

RAC Member Little – What is the situation if you live in a village surrounded by mixture of lands? **Beyersdorf** – You could use all lands, depending on whether the resource is located. If the federal agencies closed lands for a hunt, you could hunt on State land.

RAC Member Simon – Federal and State agencies are doing a great job of managing what they can control. People in his community used to do predator control themselves. At times they now work with biologists, sometimes against them, to provide subsistence resource to those who need them. He has seen a quick growth among others trying to go for the same resources. In three years they went from 15,000 to 20,000 non-resident hunters. Resources are stressed. He wants to make sure local voices are heard. Residents need to put food on table, and many of them make a living through guiding. **Beyersdorf** – He would like to hear Simon's perspective on more transition from State to Federal involvement. It's important to look for collaborative opportunities. **RAC Member Simon** – In this state, everyone is out there hunting -- even Rep. Young and Sen. Sullivan!

RAC Chair Martin – The RAC is trying to get **RAC Member Barr** an update on the Red Devil Mine, but the BLM person is unavailable during this meeting.

RAC Member Little – Discussed with Sweet the updates to handbooks. She is concerned there may not be a role for public input. **RAC Member Little** made a motion to have public input opportunities for updates/changes to BLM's planning handbook. Krause seconded.

RAC Member Foo – He was concerned that by adding extra steps, this motion might work against the BLM and its mandate to streamline. **RAC Member Little** – This is a public agency

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doing the public's work. It makes sense to do it in an open way with public input. **RAC Member Krause** – Everyone wants efficiency and effectiveness in planning process. The BLM could get to that through public involvement now. **Reed** – Do you want input into the handbook or the process? **RAC Member Foo** – Has there been a requirement for public input? **Sweet** – Unlike the Planning 2.0 initiative, the BLM intends to make no regulatory changes, so no public process is required. **RAC Member Martineau** – She agreed with Foo. Let the agency look at its own processes and determine itself how best to proceed.

Voting against: Foo, Morrison, Jorgensen, Martineau, Simon, Barr, Cain

Voting for: Hart, Krause, Billingsley, Little

Motion failed.

Adjourned for lunch at 11:45 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:00 pm

Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Jim Simon [Presentation on File]

RAC Members Little and Foo- series of clarifying questions regarding images in PPT- largely place locations.

Mourtisen – question to clarify the role of the in season manager for fish and wildlife and the role of the council with the in season manager. **Simon**- The commission is evolving and there is much education with community members about how to engage with the commission. The inter-tribal in season managers attend meetings with fish and game meetings in participation to participate in when the subsistence harvest limits can be removed. The commission's in-season managers meet with Refuge managers and mutually decide harvest dates, numbers, gear type or other changes.

Mourtisen – is the State of Alaska part of the informed group (Commission and FWS) meetings? **Presenter Simon** – not at this time but the Commission does try to keep ADF&G informed.

RAC Member Foo – great to hear about the younger people involved. Is there a commercial component to the King Salmon fishery in the Kuskokwim? **Simon**- last year there was no buyer but there was one commercial seller in Bethel. **Foo**- isn't the commercial component important to the subsistence stock? **Simon**- there are no a number of former commercial fisherman are involved and have acknowledged that the commercial harvest did affect the subsistence fishery and that a hatchery isn't necessarily a need at this time.

RAC Member Simon – discussion about the moist air incubator system similar to Sitka to maintain the eggs? Have you thought about this for the Kuskokwim? **Presenter Simon** – the

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discussions to date have not identified using this but the commission is aware. The discussions to date have focused on riparian restoration to heavily mined areas. There are also funding challenges to utilizing the incubators.

The Future of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, Mike Spindler/Amy Pocewicz [presentation on file]

Beyersdorff – comment relating State Directors comments earlier in the day about leveraging stakeholders; the LCC meetings in TOK was an example of one of the times that these multiple stakeholders are gathered at the table to address these common issues; good opportunity to demonstrate how the LCC can leverage these relationships.

RAC Member Simon – Noticed that there were no representatives from Koyukuk River area. Caution that “tribes” does not mean all the tribes. **Spindler**- there are 77 tribes within the NW Boreal LCC. Those tribes there can represent a tribal outlook but we do agree that it is important to reach out to all and not consider one voice to represent all. The door is always open for all meetings or any groups to participate.

RAC Member Barr – Comment about biomass in rural Alaska and the need to continue the investment.

BLM Cooperative Management Examples, Tom Bickauskas [presentation on file]

RAC Member Hart – Curious, the partnerships resources listed at the end, how are those initiated? Can they be initiated from non-BLM. **Tom B** – those are often inquired at the Field Office and the request then goes through the State Office.

RAC Member Little – thank you for your presentation, sorry to see the Sage Grouse collaboration example maybe compromised due to current administration policies as is the Bearing Sea collaborations. It would be nice if these can carry through.

Public Comment

Member of the public, **Nate Turner** – regarding trapping cabin issues on public lands. Nate introduces himself as a subsistence user/trapper in Interior Alaska; Nate is also a hunting guide in the same area. Here since 1989; trapped in the Kantishna area. Multiple traplines. Reminder that there are many reasons that pull people to wild areas/quiet places. The process to navigate the necessary steps to obtain a permit to have a trapping camp/cabin sometimes is too much for many to continue. Few people in the state are as connected to the land as a trapper. The necessity of a cabin is important for these people to continue this lifestyle. The means to stay is critical to meet many of these long term patterns use, consistent pattern of harvest etc. The frequent change in compliance staff also poses problems and potential issues. A reasonable and

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consistent trapping cabin policy would alleviate much of these problems. It should be a way for existing structures to come into compliance. Please consider reviving the trapping cabin sub-committee.

Questions:

RAC Member Little – we have established a sub-committee to address this. Would you be willing to work with this group? **Turner** – yes.

RAC Member Morrison – we are going to reactivate the sub-committee soon. Gary is trying to contact Mike McDougal in Eagle.

RAC Member Simon – creating a sub-committee is a good thing as well as streamlining the process. The criteria to prove 25% of income is difficult and can take time.

Member of the public, **Charlene Fisher** – Here to make a comment and recognize chief from Arctic Village; chief from Venetie. CTG has found success in self-governance agreements with FWS and BLM. Examples of this is collection of moose data and analysis. There are tribes that have participated in the management of their resources. Tribes would like to start a dialog about co-management of the Porcupine Caribou herd. We would like to participate in this dialog.

Questions

RAC Member Jorgenson – comment that there is a working group relative to the 40 Mile Caribou Herd that might be worth talking to for examples.

RAC Chair Martin proposes 15 minutes break at 3:15; **RAC Member Cain** seconded, motion passed.

RAC Member Roundtable Discussion: BLM New and Continuing Opportunities for Cooperative Management

Mourtisen – open discussion to see if the RAC has new ideas from the presentations if they are items that the RAC would like BLM to engage in or the RAC to consider as they pertain to partnership efforts.

RAC Member Cain – under #3 Restore trust and be a good neighbor- the trapping cabin policy would be low hanging fruit.

RAC Member Little – for cooperative management; the resource management planning efforts and the number of tribes near BLM land where decisions can be made. The best cooperative thing the BLM can do is to communicate well with tribes in those planning areas. Subsistence is important in these areas and the decisions about the land have great importance. BLM is doing this but Suzanne wants to emphasize that this an important piece of work.

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RAC Member Martineau- Also incorporate the ANCSA corporations in that effort. The ANCSA corporations also benefit subsistence.

RAC Member Morrison – given the streamlining policies from the Secretary for NEPA, perhaps there is a role the RAC can play to help. Madam chair- can this be the theme of the next meeting.

RAC Member Simon – We have invited Secretary Zinke to Allakaket to view the land and see the issues. Concerned about maintaining access to resources and concerns about maintaining ACECs. Also concerns about lifting the withdrawals to open some areas to mining that benefit tribes.

RAC Member Cain – I echo the idea that the theme of the next meeting should be focused on the streamlining efforts per the Secretary. Also consider inviting the Secretary or Joe Balash.

RAC Member Martineau – opening up many plans at the same time may be too challenging. Come up with a priority list for the RMPs that need to be addressed now vs later. Develop a strategic timeline for the revision or update of those plans.

RAC Member Foo – Some sort of prioritization given the timelines that BLM is facing. Need a timeframe to complete these if possible; also some sort of time limit on completing these plans. Identify where more time is needed vs checkbox.

RAC Roundtable Discussion: Cooperative Management

RAC Member Mourtisen – are there specific geographic areas that we need to focus on?

RAC Member Little – the Dalton Highway corridor is an important and complex area.

RAC Member Jorgensen – there seems to be a push for hunting and fishing in the SO's. We could align that with trapping. If we have already disturbed something (ie mining) figure out how use that for recreation/ access

Erika Reed – Former Koyukuk district is lands within PLO 5150

RAC Member Martineau – State of Alaska would be highly supportive of work on PLO 5150

Mourtisen – what I am hearing is that this is an important area but also critical to engage many stakeholders

Mourtisen – are there ways to reach out more to stakeholders than we currently do?

RAC Member Little – perhaps the LCC is an venue

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RAC Member Simon – to overlap with Erika Reed’s comments- the need for gameful employment is important.

RAC Member Hart – all topics and comments raised so far seem valid; suggest that we consider a longer horizon project with recreation- looking at a statewide trails strategic plan that could be aligned with BLM resources. This addresses the emerging trend of economic diversification using recreation.

RAC Member Foo – if BLM could identify programs that are not necessary. What doesn’t apply to Alaska and is there a way to legally avoid those? Can this help streamlining?

RAC Member Hart – in regard to reaching out to others to get more participation. Perhaps a closed group on Facebook to engage. Post documents etc. Easy for the public to access. Karen discusses the need to keep everything open and transparent. Leslie points out that individual RAC members can create their own mechanism.

Member of the public, Chief of Venetie- discussion about subsistence; we manage our own resources; we need more native peoples involved in the RAC

Mourtisen asks question – can we take this discussion as just ideas or are they formal recommendations.

RAC Member Martineau – to Madam Chair Martin- would it be wise to prioritize this?

RAC Member Simon – I’m not sure how much more we can be involved. Allakaket is already a cooperator in the planning process.

RAC Chair Martin – to the group- what is the direction?

Mourtisen clarifies – is it types of projects, or a specific area;

RAC Member Krause – concerns about the impacts of a resolution and how that is interpreted.

RAC Member Little – Perhaps good to wait until the next meeting to tackle this.

RAC Member Krause – can we meet sooner than later and only on the hot topic issues.

RAC Member Jorgensen – can we get a list from BLM with what BLM perceives are priorities?

RAC Member Simon – thanks the chair for clarification.

RAC Member Jorgensen – acknowledges the amount of public attending.

RAC Chair Martin – access was brought up and may be a bigger topic, reference to NPS management of 17b easements that is different than BLM.

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AFS Presentation EFF Program Overview and Challenges, Kent Slaughter [Presentation on File]

AFS manages an emergency firefighter (SFF) program that trains crews of firefighters from villages across the northern portion of the state, who are then available for call-out to fires in Alaska and the Lower 48. The past few years there have been several challenges to the program, including increasing physical and training requirements, increased opportunity for other employment, declining population in communities, and the nature of the work being less attractive—EFFs are needed with little notice.

Emerging challenges include: Health screening requirements that have resulted in AFS having to proactively send health screening forms to all potential EFFs, have them return the forms, and then work with NANA and TCC to provide physicals for individuals as indicated by the screening. Requirements for background checks to be completed on individuals wanting access to the AFS facilities on Fort Wainwright, that have resulted in EFF not able to gain access to base, or who have had to file additional paperwork to obtain a waiver that takes 30 or more days for an access decision.

In 2018, there are currently only 265 qualified EFF, down from 550 in 2017. In order to address challenges, BLM held crew boss summit, both to provide leadership training and to get advice to assist with the EFF program. Crew bosses helped identify regional crews, where EFFs from different communities could come together to be a crew. AFS is working to put in place the mechanism to allow for contract crews, to be available during 2019. Contract Crew is a new concept for BLM, would basically allow a contractor to carry out the responsibility of training and managing crew.

RAC Member Little – As a recommendation, there are hundreds of Boys and Girls Clubs across AK in small communities, you should tap into their program to get the word out to youth about firefighting.

RAC Member Simon – Sent a letter to the News Miner about EFF program, because of the importance of this program economically to the State. It is important that we hire Alaskans as firefighters, and not bring firefighters up from Lower 48. EFF provide economic contributions in Fairbanks and Anchorage. Wondering whether or not it would be possible to utilize helicopters instead of planes to fly smoke jumpers—Kent replied that helicopters are much more expensive, but there are a couple of crews that rappel from helicopters into fires.

RAC Member Jorgenson – Do State crews have to adhere to the new medical standards and paperwork being applied to the Federal Crews? Kent responded, no. States are allowed to set their own standards. State crews only need to meet training requirement, and the general physical requirements (i.e., pack test). The new federal medical requirements are only applicable to federal hires. They also would not apply to the contract crews.

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4:30 Next Meeting

RAC Chair Martin – requested a volunteer to write up the resolution regarding the public comment extension recommendation from Day 1. Brennan Cain volunteered.

RAC Member Barr – mentioned the previous request have a RAC field Trip to Red Devil. Lesli Ellis-Wouters explained that it was logistically infeasible to travel with the RAC to Red Devil.

RAC Member Simon – asked whether or not the previous recommendation for the meeting to occur in Coldfoot or Chicken could occur? Lesli Ellis-Wouters explained that we tried three times to arrange a trip to Coldfoot, and had to cancel three times, which would make booking reservations difficult.

RAC Member Martineau – stated that the nature of the topics to be discussed at the next meeting lent themselves to public interest and participation, and so recommended that the meeting be held somewhere that the public could easily participate.

Location for the next meeting was discussed.

RAC Membership

Currently empty: Energy and Minerals (Faith Martineau's spot; she has left her previous employment and is now the representative for the State of Alaska, because she is in Sara Longan's position at ADNR).

Members whose terms expire on October 2, 2018:

- Stan Foo, Energy and Minerals
- Gary Morrison, Energy and Minerals
- Mark Billingsly, Dispersed Recreation
- PJ Simon, Environmental Organization
- Brennan Cain, AK Native Organization
- John Hopson, Jr., Elected Official

Members whose terms expire in January 2019

- Bronk Jorgenson, Energy and Minerals
- Suzanne Little, Environmental Organization
- Theresa Imm, AK Native Organization

Next meetings/important dates:

Week of August 13, 2018 (will send Doodle Poll).

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- Gary Morrison indicated he was available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of that week.

Meeting will be held in Glennallen.

Theme of the Meeting: Streamlining

Additional Updates/Topics requested: (RAC members were asked to provide additional agenda items by May 25, so that Lesli Ellis-Wouters can prepare the Federal Register Notice)

- GFO Overview—what they do (suggested by Kathryn Martin)
- Individual members report outs (suggested by Faith Martineau)
- 17(b) easement field Trip (suggested by Brennan Cain)