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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Public Hearing Webinar re:
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
Proposed Rule Changes to Public Use

Date: October 26, 2020

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Transcribed by:
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (On record)

3 **AMANDA BIEDERMANN, FACILITATOR:** Hello everyone. We're
4 going to continue to let people in from the waiting room, but
5 we're going to go ahead and get started with today's meeting.
6 My name is Amanda Biedermann, and I'm going to be one of your
7 meeting facilitators today. I also wanted to let everyone know
8 that we have Steve Miller on the call today who is the deputy
9 refuge manager for the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

10 We also have several other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
11 staff members on the call today, including Ella Wagener,
12 Stephanie Brady, and I believe we will also have Andrea
13 Medeiros joining us later today.

14 I'm now going to go over some ground rules for the
15 meeting today. First, your microphones and videos will be
16 turned off for the duration of today's presentation. You will
17 only be unmuted if and when I unmute you during the public
18 comment portion of this meeting.

19 Second, this meeting is being recorded as part of the
20 project record, and a transcript of the meeting will be posted
21 to the website. Additionally, all materials presented today
22 will be provided online through the website.

23 After the presentation, we will then move on to the
24 public comment portion of the meeting today, during which we
25 will accept verbal public comments from participants. As you

1 saw in your confirmation e-mail, we will be accepting public
2 comments today only from the first 100 registrants who selected
3 that they wanted to offer a comment when they registered for
4 today's meeting. If you are one of those registrants, you
5 received a separate e-mail stating that you would be called on
6 during today's meeting.

7 Public comments can also be submitted via mail or
8 regulations.gov. And we will provide further information on
9 how to submit written comments later during this presentation.

10 Last, comments today will be limited to two minutes per
11 participant in order to allow everyone who is on our commenter
12 list the opportunity to offer comment today. We ask that you
13 be mindful and respectful of this time limit.

14 I will now turn it over to Andy Loranger, who is also a
15 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff member, to lead us through
16 the main part of the presentation for the proposed rule.

17 **ANDY LORANGER, KENAI REFUGE MANAGER:** Welcome everyone to
18 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's public hearing webinar on
19 the proposed rule for the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.
20 Thank you for your participation today.

21 My name is Andy Loranger. I'm the refuge manager for the
22 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. This afternoon, we will be
23 holding a public hearing to receive comment on a proposed rule
24 which would amend certain public use regulations on the Kenai
25 National Wildlife Refuge and its associated environmental

1 assessment.

2 In advance of taking your testimony, I'll be presenting a
3 brief overview of the refuge and the proposed rule. We will
4 not be taking questions during the hearing. Rather, it is an
5 opportunity for all of you to provide comment. Once again,
6 thank you for your participation today.

7 The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge was originally
8 established as the Kenai National Moose Range through an
9 executive order by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in
10 December 1941. Quoting from the EO, the moose range was
11 established primarily to protect the natural breeding and
12 feeding range of the giant Kenai moose on the Kenai Peninsula
13 of Alaska.

14 In 1980, under the Alaska National Interest Lands
15 Conservation Act or ANILCA, the moose range was renamed the
16 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Additional lands were added to
17 the refuge, and its establishment purposes were expanded to
18 include to conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats
19 in their natural diversity, including, but not limited to,
20 moose, bear, mountain goats, Dall sheep, wolves and other
21 furbearers, salmonids and other fish, waterfowl and other
22 migratory and non-migratory birds; to fulfill the international
23 treaty obligations of the United States with respect to fish
24 and wildlife in their habitats, to ensure to the maximum extent
25 practicable and in a manner consistent with the purposes of

1 both water quality and necessary water quantity; to provide, in
2 a manner consistent with its conservation purposes,
3 opportunities for scientific research, interpretation,
4 environmental education, and land management training; and to
5 provide, in a manner compatible with all of these purposes,
6 opportunities for fish and wildlife oriented recreation.

7 ANILCA also established the Kenai wilderness within the
8 refuge to be managed under the Wilderness Act of 1964 as a unit
9 of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Wilderness
10 Act's purposes are to secure an enduring resource of
11 wilderness, to protect and preserve wilderness character of
12 designated wilderness areas, and to administer this wilderness
13 system for the use and enjoyment of the American people in a
14 way that will leave them unimpaired for future use and
15 enjoyment as wilderness.

16 Under ANILCA, all federal conservation system units in
17 Alaska, including the Kenai Refuge, must provide opportunities
18 for subsistence use by rural Alaska residents. The refuge is
19 administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency
20 in the U.S. Department of Interior, as part of the National
21 Wildlife Refuge system.

22 The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is located on the
23 Kenai Peninsula in Southcentral Alaska. The refuge now
24 encompasses roughly 1.98 million acres of which over 60 percent
25 or 1.3 million acres is congressionally designated as the Kenai

1 Wilderness.

2 Habitats within the refuge are diverse and include ice
3 field and glaciers, alpine tundra and subalpine brush at higher
4 elevations, and boreal forest and coastal estuary at lower
5 elevations. The refuge encompasses a substantial portion of
6 the Kenai River watershed and includes extensive wetlands.

7 This variety of habitat supports diverse fish and
8 wildlife, plant assemblages, including all five species of
9 Pacific salmon, moose and caribou, Dall sheep and mountain
10 goats, brown and black bears, wolves, lynx, and other
11 furbearers, Trumpeter swans and song birds.

12 The Kenai Refuge is Alaska's most visited national
13 wildlife refuge, typically hosting over one million visits
14 annually. The refuge provides opportunities for all six of the
15 national wildlife refuge systems priority public uses, hunting,
16 fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental
17 education and interpretation.

18 This public hearing, in the reopening of the comment
19 public comment period, is to allow additional opportunity for
20 the public to provide comment on a proposed rule which would
21 amend existing public use regulations on Kenai Refuge found in
22 Chapter 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 36.

23 The proposed rule's regulatory changes would eliminate
24 the current requirement for the public to obtain a refuge
25 trapping permit, allow for harvesting brown bears at registered

1 bait stations, allow the discharge of firearms along the
2 Russian and Kenai River at certain times of year, allow bicycle
3 and game cart use on certain designated trails and
4 rights-of-way, and allow all-terrain and utility vehicles and
5 snowmachines to access designated lakes for ice fishing.

6 The purpose of this proposed rule is to align public use
7 regulations on Kenai Refuge with State of Alaska regulations to
8 the extent practicable and consistent with federal law,
9 enhanced consistency with harvest regulations on surrounding
10 non-federal lands and waters, and increase access to federal
11 lands in furtherance of Secretarial Orders 3347 and 3356.

12 The Kenai Refuge proposed rule and accompanying draft
13 environmental assessment were initially published in the
14 federal register on June 11, 2020, with a 60-day public comment
15 period which ended August 10th. The Service received over
16 34,000 comments on the proposed rule at that time, including
17 several requests for both extension of the comment period and a
18 public hearing.

19 Holding a public hearing upon request is required by
20 federal regulation in determining whether to open an area to
21 public use or activity otherwise prohibited. The Service,
22 therefore, published a notice in the federal register reopening
23 the public comment period for 30 days on October 9th and
24 announced today's virtual public hearing. The current comment
25 period will run through November 9th, 2020.

1 Before we begin the hearing, I want to point out that
2 there is more information, including a link to the federal
3 register on the refuge website shown here. Again, comments
4 will be accepted through November 9th and may be submitted by
5 mail to the address listed or online by going to
6 regulations.gov and searching Docket Number FWSR7NWRs20170058.
7 We will consider information and recommendations received
8 during the original comment period, as well as those received
9 during this reopen comment period.

10 There is no need to resubmit comments previously
11 submitted. The Service will fully consider all comments in
12 preparation of its final determination. Thank you, again, for
13 participating in this virtual public hearing and for your
14 interest in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

15 Next, a representative from Environmental Management and
16 Planning Solutions, Incorporated, will be providing you with
17 logistical information on today's hearing and instructions on
18 how to participate.

19 **AMANDA BIEDERMANN, FACILITATOR:** Hello, everyone. Again,
20 my name is Amanda Biedermann, and as Andy just said, I'm going
21 to be one of your facilitators for the public comment portion
22 of the meeting today, along with Amy Lewis, who will be
23 moderating commenters.

24 I apologized at the audio. It was a little hard to
25 understand for some of you, but I do want to stress that a

1 transcript of this hearing will be posted online after the
2 meeting. So if you did have any issues hearing the
3 presentation, you can go back and look at the transcript, as
4 well.

5 We are now officially going to start the public comment
6 portion of the meeting to receive comments related to the
7 proposed rule. It is about 4:16 Alaska time, so let's get
8 started.

9 Again, this portion of the meeting, along with your
10 comments, is being recorded as part of the official record. As
11 a reminder, your camera and mic control settings are restricted
12 during this time. You will only be able to talk if and when
13 you are unmuted, so please remember to speak when prompted.

14 I'm now going to read through the instructions for those
15 100 participants who indicated they wanted to offer a comment
16 when they preregistered. As I mentioned earlier, we have a
17 list of these participants, and this list is organized in the
18 order that people registered for the meeting. If you are on
19 the list and you received one of the e-mails that I mentioned
20 earlier, saying that you would be called on during the meeting
21 today, we will read your name aloud from this list when it is
22 your turn to comment and display your name on the next screen.

23 When you hear your name called out, please use the
24 raise-hand feature so that we know you are available and ready
25 to offer your comment today. We will also display the name of

1 the commenter who is next in line to comment, so please pay
2 attention to that, as well.

3 You can access the raise-hand feature by going to the
4 participants' list at the bottom of your Zoom screen and then
5 selecting the raise-hand feature at the bottom of the
6 participants' list. And you may need to exit your full screen
7 view of Zoom in order to see the participants' list icon at the
8 bottom of your Zoom screen, or if you are calling in through
9 the phone today, please press star-9 on your keypad to access
10 the raise-hand feature. If you're having issues using the
11 raise-hand feature, please, again, chat to Clayton McGee.

12 Once you have raised your hand, you will be unmuted so
13 that you can provide your comment. You may be double-muted.
14 If that is the case, we will prompt you to unmute yourself on
15 your end so that we can hear you when you provide your comment.
16 Please spell out your first and last name for the record before
17 providing your comment today. And if you are representing an
18 organization or group, please say so.

19 As I mentioned earlier, each commenter will have two
20 minutes to offer their comment. There will be a stopwatch on
21 the next screen with a two-minute countdown timer. You will
22 also receive a 30-second verbal warning to let you know how
23 much time you have left to comment. Again, we ask that you be
24 mindful and respectful of this time limit in order to allow
25 others the opportunity to offer their comment as well.

1 After you have provided your comment, we will mute you
2 and move onto our next commenter. If you do not feel that you
3 were able to complete your comment within the two-minute time
4 limit, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service strongly encourages
5 you to submit the remainder of your comment in writing.

6 I'm now going to move over to the next screen where you
7 can see that list of commenters for today's meeting. So,
8 again, here is our list of commenters for today's meeting. And
9 due to a technical glitch, we actually e-mailed 112 people to
10 provide comment on the meeting today, so we are going to allow
11 all 112 of these registrants, who received an e-mail stating
12 that they would be commenting today, the opportunity to offer
13 their comment.

14 Again, this list is ordered in the order that people
15 registered, so I will give folks a few minutes here to find
16 their name if you did receive a confirmation e-mail that you
17 would be commenting today, so that you can know what order you
18 are in the list of commenters.

19 (Pause)

20 I'll give folks a few more minutes here to find their
21 name and mark down what number they are in the list of
22 commenters so that you have a good idea of when you'll be up to
23 comment.

24 (Pause)

25 All right, hopefully, everyone has had a chance now to

1 look at this list and see where they are. So I'm now going to
2 move on to the next slide, and I'm going to turn it over to Amy
3 Lewis who is going to go to our first participant who will
4 offer a comment today.

5 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Okay, good afternoon,
6 everyone. As you can see on the screen, our first commenter is
7 Regina Lennox, and she has already accessed her raise-hand
8 feature, so I'm going to now unmute you. Hi, Regina.

9 **REGINA LENNOX, COMMENTER:** Hi, can you hear me?

10 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Yes.

11 **REGINA LENNOX, COMMENTER:** Perfect.

12 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Can you please spell out your
13 full first and last name for the record before providing your
14 comment and --

15 **REGINA LENNOX, COMMENTER:** Yes.

16 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great. And then I'm going to
17 start your two-minute timer now.

18 **REGINA LENNOX, COMMENTER:** Okay, my name is Regina
19 Lennox, R-e-g-i-n-a L-e-n-n-o-x. And I'm commenting on behalf
20 of Safari Club International. SCI generally supports the
21 proposal and efforts by the Service to better align its
22 regulations with state regulations and to increase access for
23 hunting and fishing on the Kenai Refuge.

24 SCI is a non-profit organization with approximately
25 45,000 members including many in Alaska. SCI supports

1 science-based management of wildlife and generally supports
2 federal deference to state wildlife management decisions. The
3 deference is even more appropriate in Alaska under ANILCA. In
4 ANILCA, congress entrusted the management of federal public
5 lands to the federal government and left the traditional
6 authority to manage fish and wildlife, including methods and
7 means of harvest, to the state.

8 The proposed rule properly defers to the state's
9 management of seasons and methods of harvest by removing the
10 prohibition on harvest of brown bears over bait; however, the
11 final rule should go further to permit the limited recreational
12 harvest of predators on the Skilak wildlife recreation area in
13 accordance with the Alaska Board of Game Regulations.

14 The current restriction creates an unnecessary conflict
15 with ANILCA and state law. The service has found that hunting,
16 wildlife viewing, and environmental education are compatible
17 activities on the Kenai Refuge, and they are equally compatible
18 in the Skilak area. The Board of Game authorized an additional
19 predator harvest opportunity for the winter when few
20 non-hunting visitors are present in the area.

21 Accordingly, the uses are compatible and no actual
22 conflict exists. ANILCA does not permit a closure for
23 closure's sake.

24 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** You have 30 seconds left.

25 **REGINA LENNOX, COMMENTER:** Last, SCI supports the

1 proposal to reduce the restriction on use of firearms along the
2 Kenai and Russian Rivers. The current year-round restrictions
3 is unnecessary and overly burdensome. It blocks access to a
4 high quality traditional moose and bear hunting area. SCI
5 recommends further limiting the time period for closure to
6 June, July, and August. Use of firearms along these rivers is
7 already prohibited in June and July under state law. To
8 address the same public safety considerations that the Service
9 identified would have adopted this restriction.

10 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Okay, your time has finished.
11 Wrap up your comment if you could. Sounds like --

12 **REGINA LENNOX, COMMENTER:** Yep, limiting -- the last
13 sentence: Limiting the closure to June, July, and August will
14 address the Service's heightened public safety concern and
15 appropriately bring federal regulations better in line with
16 state regulations. Thank you.

17 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Regina. I'm going
18 to put you back on mute now and lower your hand. Thank you
19 very much for that. We're going to move on to our next
20 commenter who is Benjamin Cregger. Benjamin, could you please
21 raise your hand? There you go. I'm going to go ahead and
22 unmute you. Hi, Benjamin.

23 **BENJAMIN CREGGER, COMMENTER:** Hello.

24 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thanks for joining us
25 tonight. please spell out your first and last name when you

1 start, and then I am going to start your timer now.

2 **BENJAMIN CREGGER, COMMENTER:** Hello, my name is Benjamin
3 Lee Cregger. It's spelled B-e-n-j-a-m-i-n C-r-e-g-g-e-r. And
4 I'm a student at Lewis and Clark Law School. And I'm
5 incredibly grateful for the opportunity to speak with you
6 today. I have substantial concerns regarding the proposed
7 rule. The refuge was created by congress to conserve fish and
8 wildlife populations, provide opportunities for environmental
9 education and observation, and to provide opportunities for
10 recreation in a manner compatible with conservation and
11 preservation efforts.

12 Over half-a-million people visit the refuge each year.
13 Often, visitors bring dogs with them. And trapping
14 restrictions were eventually crafted to keep traps away from
15 most heavily-visited areas, such as campsites and trailheads.
16 This was done for the safety of animal companions who are often
17 unintentionally injured, maimed, or killed by traps in these
18 areas.

19 Ending this common-sense restriction will make the refuge
20 more hazardous (indiscernible) visitors. I urge you to please
21 keep the sensible restriction against trapping in these
22 heavily-visited areas.

23 The proposed rule will also end the mandatory training
24 and labeling requirements for trappers. Not only does this
25 undermine the statutory mandate to educate, but it also

1 undercuts efforts to make trapping safer and more humane. Lack
2 of trap labeling will also make crimes against wildlife easier
3 to commit and frustrate law enforcement efforts to deter
4 poaching and animal cruelty. Please retain the trapper
5 training and labeling requirements.

6 The brown bear population in the refuge is already
7 concerningly low. The proposed rule not only makes trophy
8 hunting easier, but allows brown bears to be hunted over bait.
9 This could destabilize the brown bear population and lead to
10 other problems.

11 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

12 **BENJAMIN CREGGER, COMMENTER:** Yellowstone -- thank you.
13 Yellowstone National Park, for instance, has long prohibited
14 feeding of bears to mitigate potentially dangerous
15 human-wildlife interactions. Please do not feed the bears.
16 And thank you so much for your time and consideration of these
17 and other concerns.

18 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Benjamin, for your
19 testimony. I'm going to put you back on mute now, and lower
20 your hand. Okay. So as we can see, the next commenter is
21 going to be Wayne Hall. Wayne, I see you've got your hand
22 raised. This is great. I'm going to ask to unmute you now.
23 Let's see if that works. All right, Wayne, hello.

24 **WAYNE HALL, COMMENTER:** Hello, can you hear me okay?

25 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** I can, sir. Please provide

1 your first and last name, for the record, and then I'm going to
2 start your timer now.

3 **WAYNE HALL, COMMENTER:** Wayne Hall, W-a-y-n-e H-a-l-l.
4 I'm a 42-year Alaska resident. Though, really, that shouldn't
5 have any -- matter here since the refuge is national interest
6 land. But I visited the refuge for its wildlife values every
7 one of those years. My only sighting of a lynx ever was in the
8 refuge. And the Service is under absolutely no obligation,
9 whatsoever, to align or coordinate its refuge hunting and
10 trapping regulations with those of the state of Alaska.
11 (Clears throat). Excuse me.

12 State regulations are already dumbed down to the lowest
13 common denominator to provide for the most egregious so-called
14 intensive management practices, including extensive predator
15 control programs, such as aerial wolf hunting and same-day
16 airborne trapping and hunting of wolves, denning, the use of
17 lights, extensive seasons and bag limits, and, of course, bear
18 baiting among others.

19 Alaska Department of Fish and Game even proposed allowing
20 the snaring of bears. That's the snaring of bears. The
21 state's extreme regulations are absolutely contrary to ANILCA's
22 directive to conserve fish and wildlife populations and
23 habitats in their natural diversity, including, but not limited
24 to, moose, bear, mountain goats, Dall sheep, wolves, and other
25 furbearers, and to authorize public recreational activities as

1 long as such activities are conducted in a manner compatible
2 with the purposes for which the refuge was established. As
3 I detail --

4 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

5 **WAYNE HALL, COMMENTER:** As I detailed in my original
6 comments, the Service has not shown and cannot support that the
7 proposed rules on bear baiting and relaxed trapping regulations
8 will do anything but contradict and degrade the purposes of the
9 refuge set forth in ANILCA. If the Service is to comply with
10 ANILCA, which it is obligated to do, it must adopt alternative
11 1 and make no changes to its existing regulations. Thank you.

12 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Wayne, for your
13 comment. I'm going to lower your hand. And our next commenter
14 is Nicole Schmitt. I see your hand is raised, Nicole. I'm
15 going to unmute you.

16 **NICOLE SCHMITT, COMMENTER:** Hi.

17 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Hi. Okay, please spell out
18 your full -- your first and last name for the record, and I am
19 going to start your two-minute timer now.

20 **NICOLE SCHMITT, COMMENTER:** Thank you. My name is Nicole
21 Schmitt, N-i-c-o-l-e S-c-h-m-i-t-t. And I'm the director of
22 the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. We were founded by Alaskans in
23 1978 with members across Alaska and the United States.

24 The Kenai Refuge is dear to my heart. It's where I
25 learned how to ice skate, fly fish, row a drift boat, find

1 morel mushrooms. Most of my adventuring and wildlife viewing
2 occurs on the refuge. And I am commenting on behalf of our
3 members in strong opposition to this rule, particularly the
4 proposed revocation of the federal trapping permit.

5 In trying to remove this program, the Service claimed a
6 categorical exclusion to eliminating the federal trapping
7 permit, claiming that it is, quote, a minor change in the
8 amount or type of public use. But this is absolutely
9 incorrect. Eliminating the federal permit eliminates the very
10 conditions that make trapping compatible with refuge purposes,
11 specifically, conditions to protect public safety, decrease
12 incidental catch, and maintain healthy populations of wildlife.

13 This is not a, quote, minor change. This is a complete
14 overhaul of a long-standing public use program representing an
15 extreme and unlawful shift in management. None of these issues
16 are discussed in the environmental assessment. And under NEPA,
17 agencies are required to examine the potential impacts of all
18 major federal actions significantly affecting the human
19 environment.

20 The Service must prepare an Environmental Impact
21 Statement before a rule could be passed because the proposed
22 rule would have a substantial impact on the refuge. For
23 example, it would eliminate the only area on the Kenai
24 Peninsula without brown bear baiting and would modify the
25 highly controversial trapping program in such a way that it is

1 no longer compatible with refuge purposes.

2 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

3 **NICOLE SCHMITT, COMMENTER:** We also ask the Service to
4 assess how trapping along roads would impact the new wildlife
5 underpasses on the Sterling Highway. Over \$10 million was
6 spent to create safe wildlife crossings on the refuge, which
7 would, if this rule passes, funnel those same wildlife into
8 multi-million dollar death traps. How can the Service defend
9 that such a rule change falls within its refuge purposes?
10 Thank you.

11 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Nicole, for your
12 comment. I'm going to put you back on mute and lower your
13 hand. Okay. Our next commenter is Poppy Benson. Poppy has
14 already got her hand raised. I'm going to unmute you. And you
15 might need to, also, unmute yourself on your end.

16 **POPPY BENSON, COMMENTER:** Okay.

17 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** There you are.

18 **POPPY BENSON, COMMENTER:** Okay.

19 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Hi, Poppy, can you hear me?

20 **POPPY BENSON, COMMENTER:** Hi, yes. Thank you.

21 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Okay. Please spell out your
22 first and last name, and I am going to start your timer now.

23 **POPPY BENSON, COMMENTER:** Poppy, P-o-p-p-y, Benson,
24 B-e-n-s-o-n. And I'm a 32-year resident of the Kenai
25 Peninsula. I've canoed the lakes of that refuge, rafted the

1 river, hiked the trails, stayed in the campgrounds and cabins
2 and back country, led Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and friends
3 and family. I know this refuge well.

4 I'm opposed to nearly all the proposed changes in this
5 regulations, and I question why this came about so soon after
6 the Kenai rule was passed in 2016. Surely, in -- not that much
7 has changed with the refuge wildlife.

8 The particular points I want to talk against is the
9 shooting during the winter. There's still people using that
10 river. This is a public safety issue. But, also, those bears
11 and wolves -- I've seen wolves in November down on the river
12 from the highway. They're probably the most-watched bears in
13 Alaska. And watch for wildlife is the purpose of the refuge.

14 Now, as far as bait -- bear baiting, I had quite a
15 come-to-Jesus moment on that when I was leading a Boy Scout
16 group of about 70, camped out in that old gravel pit near the
17 Quartz Creek substation, and two bear hunters drove through our
18 encampment. I chatted them up. They had a bear baiting
19 station about a third of a mile beyond this Boy Scout
20 encampment. And I asked them what they used for bait, and they
21 said marshmallows. I look around at this Boy Scout encampment
22 full of marshmallows, and I think, how can this be safe?

23 In addition to the safety issues, I think, trophy hunting
24 on a National Wildlife Refuge over garbage is pathetic.

25 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

1 **POPPY BENSON, COMMENTER:** If you want a trophy bear, go
2 get one in the woods. I am very opposed to the changes in the
3 refuge trapping program. What you're saying here is that a
4 refuge cannot manage trapping on a refuge. That's ridiculous.
5 They have purposes established by congress and law, and they
6 have to manage those activities. The reason those rules went
7 in place in the '80s is because the state program was not
8 adequate, and we all know that. The state's answer to a
9 conflict between hikers with dogs and trapping is to put out a
10 movie about how to get your dog out of a trap before he's dead,
11 so --

12 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Hi, Poppy, your time has
13 ended. Could you wrap up your comment?

14 **POPPY BENSON, COMMENTER:** Yes, I will. So I'm opposed to
15 the trapping, the shooting, the bear baiting; especially, the
16 trapping not compatible with the purpose of the refuge, not
17 compatible with the reasons for which the refuge was
18 established. Thank you.

19 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great, thank you for that.
20 I'm going to put you back on mute and lower your hand. Great.
21 All right, our next commenter is Jeremy Clare. Jeremy's got
22 his hand raised. And, Jeremy, can you hear me?

23 **JEREMY CLARE, COMMENTER:** Yes, I can.

24 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Okay. I'm going to
25 actually -- we're going to do a little switch, and I'll have

1 you spell your first and last name for the record, and then
2 I'll start your timer after that. So could you go ahead and
3 spell your name for the record?

4 **JEREMY CLARE, COMMENTER:** Jeremy Clare, J-e-r-e-m-y
5 C-l-a-r-e, and I'm here on behalf of Safari Club International.

6 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great, thank you. All right,
7 I'm going to start your two-minute timer now.

8 **JEREMY CLARE, COMMENTER:** Safari Club, its members, and
9 many other hunters largely support the proposed rule. It is a
10 first step in bringing regulation of the refuge into compliance
11 with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, and
12 recent Department of the Interior directives.

13 Conservation is not the same thing as preservation, and
14 National Wildlife Refuges were not created to be areas devoid
15 of recreation and sustainable use wildlife management. In
16 fact, not only do refuges permit wildlife dependent recreation,
17 including hunting and fishing, under federal law, they must
18 prioritize such recreation.

19 National Wildlife Refuges like the Kenai Refuge are
20 governed by the Improvement Act. That act, as noted,
21 establishes six priorities of those refuges, and hunting and
22 fishing are the first two priority uses that congress
23 identified. The Service is thus mandated to facilitate and
24 prioritize hunting on the refuge.

25 The Improvement Act also recognizes the state's primary

1 authority over the management of wildlife, including on
2 National Wildlife Refuges, and requires the Service to adopt
3 regulations permitting hunting and fishing, to the extent
4 practicable, consistent with state fish and wildlife laws,
5 regulations, and management plans.

6 The recent Department of Interior secretarial orders
7 confirm this obligation. They required the Service to improve
8 and expand hunting opportunities and to better align predator
9 management programs, seasons, and methods of take with state
10 regulations.

11 The proposed rule advances the intent of both the
12 Improvement Act and the secretarial orders. Particularly, the
13 proposal to withdraw the prohibition on hunting brown bears
14 over bait removes an unnecessary conflict with state law. The
15 current prohibition on hunting brown bears over bait runs
16 counter to the Service's obligations to harmonize federal
17 regulations with state fish and wildlife laws, and the
18 proposed --

19 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Okay, Jeremy, sorry, your
20 time is almost up. Could you wrap up your comments?

21 **JEREMY CLARE, COMMENTER:** The proposed rule better aligns
22 hunting regulations on the refuge with state regulation of
23 harvest methods, as legally mandated by the Improvement Act and
24 secretarial orders. Thank you.

25 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you for that. We'll

1 put you back on mute and lower your hand. Okay, our next
2 commenter is David Raskin. David has his hand raised. I'm
3 going to unmute you. Hi, David, can you hear me?

4 **DAVID RASKIN, COMMENTER:** Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

5 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Can do. Okay, please spell
6 out your first and last name for the record.

7 **DAVID RASKIN, COMMENTER:** I am Dr. David Raskin,
8 D-a-v-i-d R-a-s-k-i-n. I am president of Friends of Alaska
9 National Wildlife Refuges.

10 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great. All right, thank you,
11 sir. I'm going to start your two-minute timer now.

12 **DAVID RASKIN, COMMENTER:** Our members frequently visit
13 the refuge and work closely with Fish and Wildlife to conserve
14 and protect habitat, wildlife, and public recreation. The
15 proposed regulations violate agreements that the Alaska Fish
16 and Game signed more than 30 years ago, whereby Fish and
17 Wildlife would manage habitats and wildlife in their natural
18 diversity consistent with refuge goals, objectives and plans.
19 The proposed regulations conflict with ANILCA, the 1997 Refuges
20 Improvement Act, the 2010 Refuge CCP, and requirements for
21 determining compatibility with refuge management.

22 Brown bear baiting would deplete a major predator,
23 contrary to refuge mandates, threaten the declining bear
24 population of concern, and create safety problems for
25 recreational visitors by bears adapted to human food at

1 baits -- bait sites.

2 Elimination of the federal trapping requirements would
3 increase the killing of protected lynx, marten, beaver, red fox
4 and eagles. Allowing traps along trails would endanger
5 recreational users and their dogs. Eliminating federal
6 trapping requirements would remove current safeguards for
7 responsible management. The proposed expansion of the hunting
8 season on the Kenai and Russian Rivers would endanger
9 fishermen, recreational boaters and hikers, severely inhibit
10 wildlife viewing, and reduce the beneficial effects of solitude
11 on human health and well-being. I'm a psychologist.

12 Fish and Wildlife failed to prepare a compatibility
13 determination or analyze the potential impacts required by
14 NEPA. They failed to consider a direct and cumulative impacts,
15 including the long-term impacts on Kenai brown bear and
16 furbearer populations and the economic --

17 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

18 **DAVID RASKIN, COMMENTER:** -- (indiscernible -
19 simultaneous speech) are likely to decline, all serious
20 failures to comply with NEPA. The environmental assessment was
21 totally inadequate, and a full Environmental Impact Statement
22 process is required. The proposed regulations conflict with
23 numerous federal laws and management requirements, while
24 threatening wildlife and public use. They must be rejected.
25 Thank you.

1 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you very much, sir, for
2 your comment. I'm going to put you back on mute and lower your
3 hand. Great. Our next commenter is R.R. Mirr, if you could
4 access the raise-hand feature to let us know that you are
5 available and ready to offer your comment. If you are on the
6 phone, please hit star-9 to raise your hand. Again, if you
7 can't find the raise-hand feature, it is at the bottom of the
8 Zoom participant list. If you're calling in using the phone,
9 please use star-9, R.R. Mirr.

10 Okay, I'm going to move on to the next commenter who is
11 Dolores Hall. Please raise your hand if you are available to
12 provide comment. You can access the raise-hand feature at the
13 bottom of your participant list or by hitting star-9 if you are
14 calling in via phone. Dolores Hall.

15 Okay, we're going to move on to commenter number 10, who
16 is Kelly Shuppe or Shupp (ph). Please access the raise-hand
17 feature at the bottom of your participant list if you are ready
18 to provide comment. If you are calling in via phone, please
19 hit star-9 on your keypad to raise your hand.

20 Okay, we're going to move on to commenter 11, Lynn
21 McGraw. If you are in attendance today and ready to provide
22 your comment, please access the raise-hand feature at the
23 bottom of your participant list or by hitting star-9 on your
24 telephone keypad. Lynn McGraw.

25 Okay, we are going to move on to commenter number 12, who

1 is Maria Grigoriadis. Apologies for the pronunciation. Maria,
2 if you are on the line, please access the raise-hand feature at
3 the bottom of your participant list or by hitting star-9 on
4 your telephone keypad.

5 Okay, we are going to move on to commenter 13, Marjorie
6 Ackerman. Marjorie, if you are on the line today, please
7 access the raise-hand feature at the bottom of your participant
8 list or by hitting star-9 on your keypad. Marjorie Ackerman.

9 Okay, we're going to move to commenter 14, Anne
10 Ryland-Anderson. Anne, if you are with us today and ready to
11 give comment, please access the raise-hand feature at the
12 bottom of your participant list or by hitting star-9 on your
13 telephone keypad. Anne Ryland-Anderson.

14 Okay, we're going to move on to commenter 15, Kevin
15 Thomas. Kevin, if you are with us and ready to provide
16 comment, please access the raise-hand feature at the bottom of
17 your participant list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone
18 keypad. Kevin Thomas.

19 Okay, we're going to move on to commenter number 16, Jose
20 de Arteaga. If you are with us today, Jose, please access the
21 raise-hand feature at the bottom of your Zoom screen in the
22 participant list. If you are calling in using a phone, please
23 hit star-9 to raise your hand. Jose de Arteaga.

24 Okay, we are going to move on to commenter 17, Misha
25 Fredericks. Misha, if you are with us, please access the

1 raise-hand feature through your participant list at the bottom
2 of the Zoom screen or by using your telephone keypad and
3 hitting star-9. Misha Fredericks.

4 Okay, we're going to move on to commenter 18, Deborah
5 Williams. Deborah, I see, has raised her hand. I'm going to
6 unmute you. Hi, Deborah?

7 **DEBORAH WILLIAMS, COMMENTER:** Hello. Thank you.

8 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Good to hear from you.
9 Please spell out your first and last name for the record.

10 **DEBORAH WILLIAMS, COMMENTER:** My name is Deborah
11 Williams, D-e-b-o-r-a-h, Williams, W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s, and I'm a
12 former attorney for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in
13 Alaska.

14 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great, thank you. Okay, I am
15 going to start your two-minute timer now.

16 **DEBORAH WILLIAMS, COMMENTER:** The proposed rule as
17 promulgated violates the Administrative Procedures Act, ANILCA,
18 NEPA, and the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act.
19 Brown bear baiting has never been permitted on the refuge and
20 it should not be now.

21 The proposed rule abandons the Fish and Wildlife
22 Services' decades-old position that baiting brown bears
23 conflicts with the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge's
24 congressionally designated purposes, and, therefore, may not
25 take place on the refuge.

1 The Fish and Wildlife Services' reversing long-standing
2 refuge policies without adequate explanation, falling far short
3 of its prior practices and the requirements of the
4 Administrative Procedures Act. The state and the Kenai Refuge
5 have very different legal frameworks. Deferring to state
6 regulation, allowing Kenai brown bears to be killed over bait,
7 while allowing trapping without any of the conditions listed in
8 the refuge's own compatibility determination for trapping,
9 violates the refuge's responsibility to manage the Kenai Refuge
10 under ANILCA and the National Wildlife Refuge System
11 Improvement Act. It also violates the Administrative
12 Procedures Act, because it is arbitrary and capricious.

13 Among other NEPA violations, the environmental assessment
14 does not even discuss the implications of removing the trapping
15 requirement, including the increased risk of user conflicts
16 near roads and campgrounds, the likelihood of increased
17 incidental take, and the potential for population reductions in
18 species like lynx that are specifically protected by refuge
19 provisions which will no longer apply.

20 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

21 **DEBORAH WILLIAMS, COMMENTER:** For all of these reasons
22 and many, many more, the proposed rule must be rejected.

23 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Deborah, for your
24 testimony. I'm going to put you back on mute and lower your
25 hand. Great. Our next commenter is number 19, Diane Briggs.

1 Diane, if you are with us today, please access your raise-hand
2 feature at the bottom of your Zoom screen on the participants'
3 list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad. Diane
4 Briggs.

5 Okay, we're going to move on. Our next commenter is Beth
6 Jacobs. Beth, if you are with us today, please raise your hand
7 using the feature at the bottom of your participant list or by
8 hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad. Beth Jacobs.

9 Okay, we're going to move on to our next commenter who is
10 Nick Bohurjak. Nick, if you are on the line and I didn't
11 butcher your last name, please raise your hand using the
12 feature at the bottom of your participant list or by hitting
13 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Nick Bohurjak.

14 Okay, we're going to move on to commenter number 22, Mary
15 Catherine Moran. I see Mary's got her hand raised. I'm going
16 to unmute you, Mary.

17 **MARY CATHERINE MORAN, COMMENTER:** Thank you.

18 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Hello. Please spell out your
19 first and last name for the record.

20 **MARY CATHERINE MORAN, COMMENTER:** Mary Catherine, M-a-r-y
21 space C-a-t-h-e-r-i-n-e. Moran is M-o-r-a-n.

22 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you. Okay, I'm going
23 to start your two-minute timer now.

24 **MARY CATHERINE MORAN, COMMENTER:** Thank you. I'd like to
25 second everything Deborah Williams said a few speakers ago, and

1 thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed
2 regulations. I oppose them for the following reasons: The
3 refuge was created to conserve fish and wildlife in their
4 natural habitats. And by definition, a refuge is a place of,
5 quote, shelter or protection from danger or distress.

6 The proposed regulations are not in accord with the
7 purpose of refuge, because they would lead to the increased
8 killing of the Kenai brown bears and increased trapping of
9 other wildlife. In other words, they will materially decrease
10 the protection the refuge offers its wildlife.

11 More specifically, allowing the baiting of brown bears
12 greatly increases the hunter success rate and will likely
13 result in the overkill of these majestic animals. Although we
14 may disagree whether hunting is a, quote, sport, I think we can
15 all agree that bear baiting is not very sporting. It is less
16 hunting and more assassinating. It is the equivalent of
17 shooting fish in a barrel, especially with today's modern
18 rifles and laser sites.

19 In addition, bear baiting will likely condition bears to
20 human foods and scents, and, therefore, increase the risk to
21 human safety. The 2016 regulations acknowledged this risk, and
22 it was one of the reasons bear baiting was prohibited then.
23 There is no reason to believe, and no evidence has been
24 submitted that there has been a change in bear behavior since
25 2016 that negates this public safety risk.

1 As for the proposal to remove federal permit requirements
2 for trapping, in my opinion trapping is a cruel, barbaric, and
3 outdated practice that has no place in modern society.

4 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** (Indiscernible)

5 **MARY CATHERINE MORAN, COMMENTER:** Am I done?

6 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds. Sorry, Mary.

7 **MARY CATHERINE MORAN, COMMENTER:** Oh. So to remove
8 permit requirement, which will increase the amount of trapping,
9 is a step in the wrong direction. Finally, looking at the
10 issues at hand with a broader lens, whether you believe in
11 global warming or not, we are experiencing changes in the
12 climate which are putting more stress on our native wildlife
13 populations. Against this background, now is definitely not
14 the time to introduce regulations which roll back wildlife
15 protections and start to turn a legendary refuge into a canned
16 hunt for trophy hunters. Thank you, and God bless America.

17 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mary. I'm going
18 to put you back on mute and lower your hand. All right, our
19 next commenter is number 23, Laurie Kuntz. I see Laurie has
20 her hand raised. I'm going to unmute you. Hi, Laurie.

21 **LAURIE KUNTZ, COMMENTER:** Hi.

22 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** All right, please give us
23 your first and last name for the record.

24 **LAURIE KUNTZ, COMMENTER:** It's Laurie, L-a-u-r-i-e, last
25 name Kuntz, K-u-n-t-z. I'm an avid outdoors woman and biology

1 graduate from Idaho, and my family has hunted for years to
2 provide meat on our table. I had plans to visit the Kenai
3 National Wildlife Refuge as a tourist to see the bears and
4 other wildlife before COVID. And I urge you to please protect
5 Alaska's wildlife, as well as protect Alaska's tourism dollars,
6 by rejecting all of the proposed rule changes.

7 The proposed rule changes promote unethical,
8 unsportsmanlike hunting practices that would cause unnecessary
9 suffering to animals. The proposed rule changes would also
10 lead to an increase in accidental killing of nontarget species,
11 such as family pets. For example, eliminating the requirement
12 of a free trapper orientation class, before obtaining a permit,
13 would reduce important training on how to reduce accidental
14 kills.

15 Also, the removal of trap safety buffers will increase
16 the number of pets that are caught in traps. Removing the site
17 exposed bait requirements will increase the number of
18 scavengers and birds killed unintentionally, and giving the
19 hunters and trappers the ability to use bait to capture brown
20 bears and to use leg-hold traps with teeth and spikes is cruel
21 and extremely unethical and unsportsmanlike.

22 Essentially, the current regulations are common sense.
23 If the proposed rules are enacted, this will indiscriminately
24 kill more wildlife, reduce the abundance and diversity of
25 wildlife, and cause untold suffering for animals that die

1 slowly for days in a trap, not to mention more access by
2 snowmobiles, bikes, and ATVs in nonwilderness portions of the
3 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge would further stress wildlife.
4 I urge you to reject all of the proposed rule changes.

5 The Fish and Wildlife Service needs to protect wildlife
6 on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge by prohibiting bait --
7 bear baiting of any kind, any trapping altogether, and limiting
8 recreation to preserve the true purpose of the refuge, which is
9 to give --

10 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

11 **LAURIE KUNTZ, COMMENTER:** -- which is to give wildlife a
12 safe place to live and provide safe recreation for its
13 visitors. Thank you.

14 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Laurie. I'm going
15 to put you back on mute and lower your hand.

16 Okay, our next commenter is Ann Wiley. Ann, if you are
17 with us today and ready to give your comment, please access
18 your raise-hand feature at the bottom of your participant list.
19 If you are calling in using a phone, please hit star-9 on your
20 keypad. The participant list, if you hover your cursor over
21 the bottom of the Zoom screen, you can see it there, and then
22 you should have a raise-hand feature there. Or if you are
23 calling in by the phone, please hit star-9 to raise your hand.
24 Ann Wiley.

25 **AMANDA BIEDERMANN, FACILITATOR:** Hi, Amy, this is Amanda.

1 I'm just going to chime in. I got a message from Ann. It
2 looks like she might be having some trouble with the raise-hand
3 feature, so I think you can go ahead and just unmute her.

4 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great, thank you.

5 **ANN WILEY, COMMENTER:** Can you hear me okay?

6 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** I can. Hello, Ann.

7 **ANN WILEY, COMMENTER:** Oh, that's great, thank you. I
8 appreciate it. I --

9 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Please spell out your first
10 and last name for the record, and then after that, I'll start
11 your timer.

12 **ANN WILEY, COMMENTER:** Yes. Ann Wiley, A-n-n W-i-l-e-y.

13 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** All right. We'll --

14 **ANN WILEY, COMMENTER:** And I am joining from Fort
15 Lauderdale, and I just got on. I kind of messed my timing up a
16 little bit, so I appreciate being able to speak.

17 I grew up in Seattle, Washington, and my family often
18 visited B.C. and Alaska. My father still, at 91, does a lot of
19 fishing up in Alaska, and so we know the area fairly well.

20 I'm very disturbed about -- and I just agree with all the
21 comments that I've heard spoken, so I won't repeat them
22 verbatim, but baiting of brown bears, as we know, is horribly
23 unethical, and I don't see how that belongs in a National
24 Wildlife Refuge. If we think about a National Wildlife Refuge
25 and what that should be, to be baiting the creatures that that

1 is their home, and then shooting them over a pile of bait is
2 very unethical and very unacceptable.

3 I am also a very big birder and travel globally to look
4 at birds and listen to birds and appreciate birds, as many
5 people do globally. And when you introduce noises, such as
6 snowmobiles, even bicycles, ATVs, you completely destroy the
7 quietness in the habitat of what many animals need, and
8 especially birds. Birds rely on quiet to be able to get the
9 cues they need to behave properly. So to introduce --

10 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

11 **ANN WILEY, COMMENTER:** -- more noise, takes away greatly
12 from the safety and the well-being of the animals that rely on
13 a National Wildlife Refuge for their life, so I'm very opposed
14 to all the new proposed rules. Thank you.

15 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Ann, for your
16 comment. I'm going to put you back on mute.

17 All right, our next commenter is number 25, Michael
18 Story. Michael, if you are on the meeting today, please access
19 the raise-hand feature at the bottom of your participant list
20 or hit star-9 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand.
21 Michael Story.

22 Okay, we're going to move on to commenter 26, Debra
23 Lichstein. Debra, if you are on the meeting today, please
24 access your raise-hand feature at the bottom of the participant
25 list. If you are calling in on the phone, please hit star-9 on

1 your keypad. Debra Lichstein.

2 Okay, we're going to move on to the next commenter.

3 Number 27 is Patty Ridenour. Patty, if you're on the meeting
4 today, please raise your hand using the feature at the bottom
5 of the participant list or by using the keypad and hitting
6 star-9 on your telephone. Patty Ridenour.

7 Okay, we're going to move on to the next commenter,
8 number 28, who is B. Hu. If you are with us today and would
9 like to make a comment, please access that raise-hand feature
10 there at the bottom of your Zoom screen in the participant list
11 or by using the keypad on your telephone and hitting star-9.
12 B. Hu.

13 All right, we're going to move on to the next commenter,
14 number 29, Larry Bogolub. Larry, if you are with us today and
15 would like to make a comment, please access that raise-hand
16 feature at the bottom of your participant list, at the bottom
17 of the Zoom screen. If you're calling in by the phone, hit
18 star-9 on your keypad to raise your hand. Larry Bogolub.

19 Okay, we're going to move on to the next commenter,
20 number 30, Jimmy Juel. Jimmy, if you are with us today on the
21 line, please access the raise-hand feature if you'd like to
22 provide comment; it's at the bottom of your participant list.
23 Or if you're calling in using the phone, please hit star-9 on
24 your telephone keypad to raise your hand. Jimmy Juel.

25 Okay, we're going to move on to the next commenter, John

1 Luepke. John, if you are on the call today and would like to
2 provide comment, please raise your hand using the Zoom feature
3 at the bottom of your participant list or by hitting star-9 on
4 your telephone keypad. John Luepke.

5 Okay, we're going to move to the next commenter, number
6 32, Randall Boltz. Randall, if you're on the meeting with us
7 today, please raise your hand if you're ready to provide a
8 comment by using the raise-hand feature at the bottom of your
9 Zoom screen in the participants' list or by hitting star-9 on
10 your telephone keypad. Randall Boltz.

11 Okay, we're going to move on to our next commenter,
12 Jennifer Pick. And, Jennifer, I see you have your hand raised.
13 I'm going to unmute you. Hi, Jennifer.

14 **JENNIFER PICK, COMMENTER:** Hello.

15 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Hi. So please spell out your
16 first and last name for the record, and then after that, we can
17 start your timer.

18 **JENNIFER PICK, COMMENTER:** Thank you. My name is
19 Jennifer Pick, J-e-n-n-i-f-e-r P-i-c-k.

20 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great. And, all right, I
21 will start your two-minute timer now.

22 **JENNIFER PICK, COMMENTER:** The National Wildlife Refuge
23 system has a singular mission, wildlife conservation and
24 restoration. Limited activities are permitted only when
25 compatible with the wildlife conservation mission, and done in

1 a way that preserves the biological integrity, diversity, and
2 environmental health of the refuge.

3 Refuge is defined as a place that provides shelter or
4 protection from danger or distress. Snowmobile and ATV use are
5 incompatible with this mission. They distress wildlife, damage
6 fragile habitat, and pollute. Worse, the remediation stretches
7 the cash-strapped refuge system's budget.

8 To quote the visitor guide, respect the animals. Animals
9 often respond to repeated interference by abandoning their
10 home, nesting sites, and even their young. Remember that we
11 are the visitors.

12 On bear baiting, we should reflect on President
13 Roosevelt, a keen hunter, who, when presented with a bear tied
14 to a tree, refused to shoot it, as he declared it extremely
15 unsportsmanlike.

16 Again, from the visitor guide, never feed wildlife.
17 Animals that become accustomed to human food become problem
18 animals. Remind others of their ethical responsibility.

19 Trapping kills indiscriminately and causes prolonged
20 suffering as animals linger in traps for days. It's
21 incompatible with the purpose of a refuge.

22 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

23 **JENNIFER PICK, COMMENTER:** Witnessing the suffering can
24 leave them traumatized, especially children. Many families
25 will avoid visiting Kenai if the rule is approved.

1 On the subject of hunting, I want to point out that it is
2 one of the permitted activities and no more or less important
3 than wildlife appreciation, despite coming first in a sentence.

4 I urge you to heed the comments of the thousands of
5 concerned citizens who have objected to these proposals, and
6 reject these incompatible uses in the Kenai National Wildlife
7 Refuge. Thank you.

8 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Jennifer, for your
9 comment. I'm going to put you back on mute and lower your
10 hand.

11 All right, we move to the next commenter; number 34 is
12 Jennifer Brooks. Jennifer Brooks, if you are with us, please
13 raise your hand if you're ready to provide a comment by either
14 using the feature in your participant window or by hitting
15 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Jennifer Brooks.

16 Okay, we're going to move on to commenter 35, Judi Luthy.
17 Judi, if you are with us today and ready to provide comment,
18 please use the raise-hand feature at the bottom of your
19 participant list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad
20 to raise your hand. Judi Luthy.

21 Okay, we're going to move on to commenter 36, Jennifer
22 Goldstein. Jennifer, if you are with us today and ready to
23 provide comment, please access the raise-hand feature at the
24 bottom of your participant list. Or if you're calling in using
25 the phone, hit star-9 on your telephone keypad to raise your

1 hand. Jennifer Goldstein.

2 Okay, I'm going to move on to the next commenter,
3 number 37, Elizabeth Dodge. Elizabeth, if you are with us in
4 the meeting today and you'd like to provide a comment, please
5 raise your hand using the feature at the bottom of your
6 participant list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad.
7 Elizabeth Dodge.

8 Okay, we're going to move on to commenter number 38,
9 Darrel R. Martin. Darrel, if you are with us in the meeting
10 today and are ready to give comment, please access your
11 raise-hand feature at the bottom of the participant list on
12 your Zoom screen or by hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad
13 if you're calling in using the telephone. Darrel R. Martin.

14 Okay, we're going to move on to the next commenter,
15 number 39, Gregory Holtzapple. Gregory, if you would like to
16 provide comment today, please raise your hand by using the
17 feature at the bottom of the participant list or by hitting
18 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Gregory Holtzapple.

19 Okay, we're going to move to comment number 40, Leslie
20 Colyer. Leslie, if you are with us today in the meeting and
21 would like to provide a comment, please access the raise-hand
22 feature at the bottom of your participant list or by hitting
23 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Leslie Colyer.

24 Okay, we're going to move on to the next commenter,
25 number 41, Jean Pubilee. Jean, if you are with us and would

1 like to provide a comment, please raise your hand by using the
2 feature at the bottom of your participant list or by hitting
3 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Jean Pubilee.

4 Okay, we're going to move on to the next commenter,
5 number 42, Jan Elbert. And I see you've got your hand raised.
6 I'm going to unmute you. Hello.

7 **JAN ELBERT, COMMENTER:** Hi. Thanks for the opportunity.

8 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Sure. If you could spell out
9 your first and last name for the record.

10 **JAN ELBERT, COMMENTER:** Yes. Jan Elbert, J-a-n
11 E-l-b-e-r-t.

12 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great. All right, I will
13 start your two-minute timer now.

14 **JAN ELBERT, COMMENTER:** Thank you. I oppose the proposed
15 regulation that would allow baiting or unregulated trapping of
16 brown bears on the Kenai Refuge. I'm opposed to increasing
17 human intrusion into trails and paths via off-road vehicles,
18 which infringes on the wilderness characteristics of the refuge
19 and stresses wildlife. These proposals do not improve the
20 refuge.

21 The federal trapping permit regulation puts curbs in
22 place to prevent unauthorized, inept or, can we project here,
23 bad actors who might act in unethical and suspect ways. If
24 there is no regulation, how are game limits verified?

25 Biodiversity is at a crisis stage in our planet's

1 ecology. We must regulate the human urge to use our inventions
2 to satisfy our own entertainment at the expense of animal
3 habitat. We should, instead, preserve as many unspoiled wild
4 areas as we possibly can. Nature does a great job of balancing
5 the ecosystem, and humans must curb our tendency to interfere.

6 To grant unregulated access to vehicles and hunters would
7 be shortsighted in the extreme. Not only brown bears, but all
8 the animals in the area would be impacted by the proposed
9 actions.

10 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

11 **JAN ELBERT, COMMENTER:** I strongly oppose these proposed
12 regulations, and I am finished.

13 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you very much, Jan, for
14 your comment. I'm going to put you back on mute.

15 All right, our next commenter is number 43, John Baker.
16 John, if you are with us today and ready to provide comment, I
17 see you've got your hand raised. I'm going to unmute you.
18 Hello, John. Can you hear me? I see you are unmuted, but I'm
19 not hearing you. Hi, John, can you hear me now?

20 It seems like we might be having some audio issues, John,
21 and check that you've joined with computer audio on your
22 screen. I'm going to put you back on mute, John, and ask you
23 to message Clayton McGee if you're having some technical
24 issues. And we will try to circle back to you at the end to
25 see if we can get that reconciled and you can provide your

1 comment.

2 Okay, so, for now, we'll move to Charles Rapport,
3 number 44. If you are with us, Charles, please raise your hand
4 by using the feature at the bottom of the participant list. Or
5 if you're calling in by phone, hit star-9 to raise your hand.
6 Charles Rapport.

7 Okay, we're going to move to commenter 45, Dave Boules.
8 Dave, if you're with us, please access that raise-hand feature
9 at the bottom of your participant list or by hitting star-9 to
10 raise your hand on your telephone keypad. Dave Boules.

11 Okay, we're going to move to commenter 46, Ruth Kastner.
12 I see your hand raised, Ruth. I'm going to unmute you.

13 **RUTH KASTNER, COMMENTER:** Unmute.

14 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Try that again, Ruth. Hello?

15 **RUTH KASTNER, COMMENTER:** Hello. Hi.

16 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Hi, Ruth. Can you hear me
17 all right?

18 **RUTH KASTNER, COMMENTER:** Yes. Can you hear me okay?

19 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Yes, thank you. Please spell
20 out your first and last name for the record, if you could.

21 **RUTH KASTNER, COMMENTER:** Okay, it's R-u-t-h. Kastner;
22 that's K-a-s-t-n-e-r.

23 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Okay, so I will go ahead and
24 start your two-minute timer now.

25 **RUTH KASTNER, COMMENTER:** Okay. Well, thank you for the

1 opportunity to comment. I would like to highlight Deborah
2 Williams' very important comments. She apparently is a former
3 attorney with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and I think
4 she provided some very important and careful legal
5 considerations that I think are -- tell very strongly against
6 these proposed rules changes.

7 So I strongly oppose these changes. The idea of aligning
8 with regulation -- state regulations that are destructive and
9 egregious and harmful to wildlife is just not a goal that the
10 Wildlife Service should be pursuing. It's not science-based to
11 kill wildlife in what is supposed to be a protected area.

12 It's important to note that the -- there are reports that
13 the world has lost 70 percent of its wildlife since 1970, so
14 this is a time when we should be doing everything we can
15 possibly do to provide real safe refuges for the world's
16 wildlife. We should not be catering to trophy hunters who want
17 to engage in unsportsmanlike cheating practices, such as bear
18 baiting, which, as others have noted, is harmful to the public
19 and trains bears to want human food.

20 It's -- these changes are extreme and unlawful, and they
21 contradict the refuge mission. They are just completely at
22 odds with the entire mission of the refuge. Motorized vehicles
23 bring in noise and pollution, and, as others have noted, stress
24 wildlife. So we really just need to stop preying on wildlife.
25 We need to let wildlife recover in this country for the sake of

1 the world's ecology. So I urge the Wildlife Service to reject
2 these misguided rules.

3 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you very much, Ruth,
4 for your comment. I'm going to put you back on mute and lower
5 your hand.

6 Okay, we're going to move to commenter 47, Bob Licari.
7 Bob, if you are with us today and ready to provide your
8 comment, please access the raise-hand feature at the bottom of
9 your participant list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone
10 keypad. Bob Licari.

11 Okay, we're going to move to number 48, Charles Schultz.
12 Charles, if you are with us today and ready to provide comment,
13 please access that raise-hand feature at the bottom of your
14 participant list or by hitting star-9 to raise your hand if
15 you're calling in using the telephone. Charles Schultz.

16 Okay, we're going to move to the next commenter,
17 number 49, Joel Meier. Joel, if you are with us and would like
18 to provide a comment, please raise your hand by using the
19 feature at the bottom of your participant list or by hitting
20 star-9 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand. Joel
21 Meier.

22 Okay, I'm going to go on to our next commenter,
23 number 50, Madeline Von der Linden. Madeline, if you are with
24 us today and would like to provide a comment, please raise your
25 hand using the feature at the bottom of your Zoom screen in the

1 participant list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad.

2 Madeline Von der Linden.

3 Okay, I'm going to move on to the next commenter,
4 number 51, Susan Allen. Susan, if you are with us and would
5 like to provide a comment, please access that raise-hand
6 feature at the bottom of your participant list on Zoom or by
7 hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand.
8 Susan Allen.

9 Okay, we're going to move to commenter 52, Mary
10 Reinertsen. Mary, if you're with us -- I see you've got your
11 hand raised. All right, I'm going to unmute you. You may be
12 muted on your end, Mary. Try to unmute yourself, if you can.
13 There you are.

14 **MARY REINERTSEN, COMMENTER:** Okay.

15 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Hello, Mary.

16 **MARY REINERTSEN, COMMENTER:** Hi.

17 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Can you please spell out your
18 first and last name for the record?

19 **MARY REINERTSEN, COMMENTER:** Yes. Mary, M-a-r-y,
20 Reinertsen, R-e-i-n-e-r-t-s-e-n.

21 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great. All right, I'm going
22 to start your two-minute timer now.

23 **MARY REINERTSEN, COMMENTER:** I believe the mandate of the
24 Kenai Refuge should not be changed. For me, it has been sad to
25 see the onslaught of state demands that federal land management

1 practices be stamped out. The state's skimpy reasoning is that
2 federal rules must align with Alaska Department of Fish and
3 Game rules. But why? Why should a wildlife refuge have to
4 produce the maximum sustained yield of its game and primary
5 species?

6 Kenai isn't a game farm. The State of Alaska has been
7 notable for its indulgent land management philosophy and its
8 lack of acceptance for one aspect of successful wildlife
9 environmental management, which is the regulating human use --
10 of human use. The proposed new rule for trapping don't even
11 recognize the concepts of over-harvesting, safety, and
12 nontarget species, like eagles or us or our dogs, when the
13 cruelty of leaving trapped animals to die slowly of starvation
14 or cold.

15 The idea of kicking the feds out of the permitting
16 process is a breathtaking power grab. And we could talk about
17 baiting brown bears, but we won't, except to say that, as
18 before, the state would get its desired result, fewer bears;
19 not good for bears or visitors.

20 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

21 **MARY REINERTSEN, COMMENTER:** The word that keeps coming
22 up when you read about these proposals is compatibility. Are
23 they compatible with the purpose of Kenai, natural diversity,
24 balance, and environmental health? The State of Alaska has
25 agreed to these things for Kenai in the past. What happened?

1 Thank you.

2 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Mary. I'm going
3 to put you back on mute and lower your hand.

4 I'm going to circle back now to John Baker. John, if
5 you're still on the phone, we can see if it works again for you
6 to provide your comment. John Baker, if you're still on the
7 phone, please try to access the raise-hand feature either at
8 the bottom of your Zoom participant list -- all right, I see
9 you there. I'm going to try to unmute you. Hello? You might
10 be muted on your end, John, too, so maybe try that again. I'm
11 still not able to hear you, John, unfortunately. Make sure
12 that you aren't muted on your end, as well.

13 Okay, I'm going to put you back on mute, John. We can't
14 seem to be able to get that to work right now. We'll keep
15 trying.

16 **AMANDA BIEDERMANN, FACILITATOR:** Yeah, Amy, this is
17 Amanda. At this time, we're about halfway through the
18 commenter list, so we've decided that we're going to take a
19 brief three-minute break just to let everyone stretch their
20 legs for a second. And then once we come back, we'll try again
21 with you, John. I apologize that we're not able to get you off
22 mute. We're going to have Clayton work with you to try and
23 provide you with a phone call-in number. It might be something
24 perhaps with your speaker computer; I'm not sure. So we'll try
25 and provide you with a phone call-in number, and then we'll

1 have you try and raise your hand that way so that you can
2 provide a comment. So during this three-minute intermission,
3 look out for a message from Clayton.

4 For everyone else, I'm going to go back quickly to the
5 screen that showed the commenter list. As you can see again,
6 we're about halfway through. So I'll give everyone a chance
7 during this three-minute break to look over this list. Again,
8 see where you're at in the list so that you can be prepared to
9 offer your comment when we come back.

10 So currently, see it's about 5:34 Alaska time, so we're
11 going to -- again, as I said, about a three-minute break, so
12 we'll be back at about 5:37 or 8 or so. So please, everyone,
13 stay tuned. Thank you.

14 (Off record)

15 (On record)

16 **AMANDA BIEDERMANN, FACILITATOR:** Hello, everyone. We
17 have returned from our three-minute break. It is about
18 5:38 p.m. Alaska time, so we're going to go ahead and move on
19 to our next commenter on the list, except I think we are going
20 to try John one more time, because I think he might have joined
21 over phone.

22 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Yeah, go ahead, John. If
23 that was you that just dialed back in using the phone, hit
24 star-9 on your keypad to raise your hand. All right, I'm going
25 to hit unmute, and you will hit star-6 to unmute. Hello.

1 **JOHN T. BAKER, COMMENTER:** Can you hear me?

2 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Oh, my goodness, yes. Hello,
3 John.

4 **JOHN T. BAKER, COMMENTER:** Well --

5 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Okay, please spell out your
6 first and last name for the record, if you could.

7 **JOHN T. BAKER, COMMENTER:** My name is Dr. John T. Baker,
8 J-o-h-n B-a-k-e-r. I am chairman of the Conservationist
9 Wilderness Committee in Texas, but I'm a 52-year member of the
10 Sierra Club and Wilderness Society and activist, and I'm also
11 an avid hunter, fisherman, and shooter.

12 However, I am totally against these proposed changes.
13 I'm against the trapping proposal; I'm against the bear baiting
14 proposal; and I'm against the shooting proposal. I'm a
15 wildlife conservationist. I've spent my entire life as a
16 wildlife and habitat conservationist, and this type of habitat
17 and environment is no place for these changes.

18 So I appreciate so much getting to talk. Even though I'm
19 from Texas, I try to stay involved, and I'm very pleased with
20 the way so many of these people today have talked and share my
21 feelings about this. And I thank you for trying over and over
22 and over to get me included in this. And so the rest of my
23 comments are too long for here, and I've already submitted them
24 electronically, so it'll be for the record. And I thank you so
25 much.

1 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great. Thank you, John, for
2 your comment, and we appreciate your patience. Thanks for
3 joining us.

4 All right, I'm going to move on to our next commenter who
5 is number 53, John Deddy. John, if you are with us, please
6 access that raise-hand feature at the bottom of the participant
7 list or by hitting star-9 to raise your hand if you're calling
8 in on the phone. John Deddy.

9 Okay, we're going to move to the next commenter,
10 number 54, Nina McNitzky. Nina, if you are ready to provide
11 comment, please access that raise-hand feature at the bottom of
12 your participant list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone
13 keypad. Nina McNitzky.

14 Okay, we're going to move to the next commenter,
15 number 55, Rosemarie Bria. Rosemarie, if you are with us
16 tonight and would like to provide a comment, please raise your
17 hand by using the feature at the bottom of your participant
18 list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad. Rosemarie
19 Bria.

20 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 56,
21 John Gambriel. John, if you're with us tonight and would like
22 to provide a comment, please raise your hand, and you can
23 access that feature at the bottom of your participant list or
24 by hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad. John Gambriel.

25 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 57,

1 Laurel Mancini. Laurel, if you're with us tonight and would
2 like to provide a comment, please raise your hand to let us
3 know you're ready. You can find the feature at the bottom of
4 your participant list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone
5 keypad. Laurel Mancini.

6 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 58,
7 Judith Miller. Judith, if you are with us tonight and would
8 like to provide comment, please raise your hand to let us know
9 you're ready by using the feature at the bottom of the
10 participant list on your Zoom screen or by hitting star-9 on
11 your telephone keypad. Judith Miller.

12 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 59,
13 Wilma Weddington. Wilma, if you'd like to make a comment
14 tonight, please raise your hand by accessing the feature at the
15 bottom of your participant list on the Zoom screen or by
16 hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad. Wilma Weddington.

17 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 60,
18 Michelle Nelson. Michelle, if you are with us tonight and
19 would like to provide a comment, please raise your hand by
20 using the feature at the bottom of the participant list or by
21 hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad. Michelle Nelson.

22 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 61,
23 Kate McQueen. Kate, if you'd like to provide a comment tonight
24 and you're still with us, please access the raise-hand feature
25 at the bottom of the participant list or by hitting star-9 on

1 your telephone keypad. Kate McQueen.

2 Okay, we're going to move to the next commenter,
3 number 62, Adrienne Naumann. Adrienne, if you would like to
4 provide a comment tonight and you are still with us, please
5 access the raise-hand feature at the bottom of your participant
6 list. All right, I see you've got your hand raised. I'm going
7 to unmute you.

8 **ADRIENNE NAUMANN, COMMENTER:** Okay.

9 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Yes, hello.

10 **ADRIENNE NAUMANN, COMMENTER:** Hi.

11 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Please spell out your first
12 and last name for the record, if you could.

13 **ADRIENNE NAUMANN, COMMENTER:** My name is Adrienne
14 Naumann, A-d-r-i-e-n-n-e, Naumann, N-a-u-m-a-n-n.

15 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great. All right, I'm going
16 to start your two-minute timer now.

17 **ADRIENNE NAUMANN, COMMENTER:** Good evening, everybody.
18 I'm speaking as both a biologist and an attorney this evening,
19 because I have two biology degrees. I want to join the
20 majority of participants during this hearing in vehemently
21 protesting the proposed changes to existing regulations.

22 Because of time, I'm just going to address access by
23 motorized vehicles and e-bikes, in particular. First of all,
24 the effect on physical trail quality, width, number, and land
25 quality. In general, there will be habitat fragmentation,

1 noise pollution, moving physical obstructions to animals and
2 people, as well as running over ground animals in their nests
3 when these vehicles go -- inevitably go off the legal trail.
4 There will be increased trash, comprising of expired batteries,
5 grease, oil, and other pollution. Animals may swallow them or
6 they may be poisoned in their nests and mating sites when they
7 leak. Additional unnecessary trails scour the landscape, and
8 trails become wider with eroding bare areas, b-a-r-e.

9 The other problem is that there's going to be bad effects
10 on the hikers and equestrians. They'll have decreased visual
11 access and their safety will be compromised. They won't see
12 people going at 30 to 40 miles an hour coming around turns,
13 coming up behind them. And these same vehicles will scare the
14 wildlife and trample the flowers next to the trail areas, so
15 people legitimately on the trails cannot see anything, and then
16 they will have more pressure on them to go off trails to view
17 the animals and the plants. Thank you.

18 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Adrienne, for your
19 comment. I'm going to put you back on mute and lower your
20 hand.

21 Okay, our next commenter is number 63, Denise De Stefano.
22 Denise, if you are with us tonight and would like to provide a
23 comment, please raise your hand using the feature at the bottom
24 of your participant list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone
25 keypad.

1 **AMANDA BIEDERMANN, FACILITATOR:** Amy, this is Amanda, and
2 I just want to point out for everyone that Clayton just sent
3 instructions to everyone via the Zoom chat feature, how to dial
4 in over a telephone, if you are having issues with your
5 computer audio tonight. We want to make sure that we capture
6 everyone's comments. And so if you are having any issues with
7 your computer audio, please follow those instructions to call
8 in through the phone, and we'll get your comment. Thank you.

9 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Okay, one more check for
10 Denise De Stefano.

11 Okay, we'll move on to the next commenter, number 64,
12 Cindy McCarthy. Cindy, if you are with us and would like to
13 provide a comment, please access that raise-hand feature or
14 dial star-9 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand. Cindy
15 McCarthy.

16 Okay, we're going to move to the next commenter,
17 number 65, Ronald Wolniewicz. Ronald, if you're with us and
18 would like to provide a comment, please raise your hand using
19 the feature at the bottom of your participant list in Zoom or
20 by hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand.
21 Ronald Wolniewicz.

22 Okay, we're going to move to the next commenter,
23 number 66, Mattie Goodwin. Mattie, if you are with us and
24 would like to provide a comment, please raise your hand using
25 the feature at the bottom of the participants' list. If you're

1 calling in using the phone, please hit star-9 to raise your
2 hand. Mattie Goodwin.

3 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 67,
4 William Conklin. William, if you're with us tonight and would
5 like to provide a comment, please access the raise-hand feature
6 at the bottom of your participant list or hit star-9 on your
7 telephone keypad to raise your hand. William Conklin.

8 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 68,
9 Vola Golena. Vola, if you are with us tonight and would like
10 to provide a comment, please raise your hand using the feature
11 at the bottom of your participant list or hit star-9 on your
12 telephone keypad. Vola Golena.

13 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 69,
14 Rebecca Bralek. Rebecca, if you are with us tonight and would
15 like to provide a comment, please raise your hand by using the
16 feature at the bottom of the Zoom screen or by hitting star-9
17 on your telephone keypad. Rebecca Bralek.

18 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 70,
19 Mike Dee. Mike, if you are with us and would like to provide a
20 comment, please raise your hand by using the feature at the
21 bottom of your participant list or by hitting star-9 on your
22 telephone keypad. Mike Dee.

23 Okay, we're going to move to the next commenter,
24 number 71, Barbara Ginsberg. Barbara, if you are with us
25 tonight and would like to provide a comment, please raise your

1 hand by using the feature at the bottom of your participant
2 list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad. Barbara
3 Ginsberg.

4 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 72,
5 Kristy Bonoyer. Kristy, if you are with us and would like to
6 provide a comment, please access the raise-hand feature at the
7 bottom of your participant list or by hitting star-9 if you're
8 dialing in by phone. Kristy Bonoyer.

9 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 73,
10 Eric McLaughlin. Eric, if you are with us and would like to
11 provide a comment, please access that raise-hand feature at the
12 bottom of your participant list or by hitting star-9 on your
13 telephone keypad. Eric McLaughlin.

14 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 74,
15 Allison Sole. Allison, if you are with us tonight and would
16 like to provide a comment, please access that raise-hand
17 feature at the bottom of the participant list or by hitting
18 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Allison Sole.

19 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 75,
20 Jennifer Valentine. Jennifer, if you are with us tonight and
21 would like to provide a comment, please raise your hand by
22 using the feature at the bottom of the participant list or by
23 hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad. Jennifer Valentine.

24 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 76,
25 Joei Fischer. Joei, if you are with us tonight and would like

1 to provide a comment, please access that raise-hand feature at
2 the bottom of your participant list or by hitting star-9 on
3 your telephone keypad to raise your hand. Joei Fischer.

4 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 77,
5 Tristan Campbell. Tristan, if you are with us tonight and
6 would like to provide a comment, please raise your hand by
7 accessing the feature at the bottom of your Zoom participant
8 list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad to raise
9 your hand. Tristan Campbell.

10 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 78,
11 Chris Cromwell. Chris, if you are with us tonight and would
12 like to provide a comment, please raise your hand by using the
13 feature at the bottom of your participant list. Or if you're
14 calling in using the phone, please hit star-9 on your telephone
15 keypad to raise your hand. Chris Cromwell.

16 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 79,
17 Lewis Crusha. Lewis, if you are with us tonight and would like
18 to provide a comment, please raise your hand by using the
19 feature at the bottom of your participant list or by hitting
20 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Lewis Crusha.

21 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 80,
22 Veena Sud. Veena, if you would like to provide a comment
23 tonight, please raise your hand and let us know. You can
24 access the feature at the bottom of your participant list or by
25 hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand.

1 Veena Sud.

2 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 81,
3 Ellen Dorfman. Ellen, if you are with us tonight and would
4 like to provide a comment, please raise your hand by accessing
5 the feature at the bottom of the participant list or by hitting
6 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Ellen Dorfman.

7 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 82,
8 Diana Shepherd. Diana, if you are with us and would like to
9 provide a comment tonight, please raise your hand by using the
10 feature at the bottom of your participant screen or by hitting
11 star-9 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand. Diana
12 Shepherd.

13 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 83,
14 Tami Lukachy. Tami, if you would like to provide a comment,
15 please access that raise-hand feature at the bottom of your
16 participant list or hit star-9 on your telephone keypad to
17 raise your hand and let us know that you'd like to provide a
18 comment. Tami Lukachy.

19 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 84,
20 Gene Whitaker. Gene, if you are with us tonight and would like
21 to provide a comment, please raise your hand by using the
22 feature at the bottom of your participant window or by hitting
23 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Gene Whitaker.

24 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 85,
25 Pamela Doran. Pamela, if you are with us tonight and would

1 like to provide a comment, please raise your hand and let us
2 know by accessing the raise-hand feature at the bottom of your
3 participant window or by hitting star-9 on your telephone
4 keypad. Pamela Doran.

5 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 86,
6 Ashley Yonker. Ashley, if you are with us and would like to
7 provide a comment, please raise your hand by using the feature
8 at the bottom of your participant window or by hitting star-9
9 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand. Ashley Yonker.

10 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 87,
11 Sarah Sanford. Sarah, if you are with us tonight and would
12 like to provide a comment, please raise your hand by accessing
13 the feature at the bottom of your participant list or by
14 hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand.
15 Sarah Sanford.

16 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 88,
17 Skip Edwards. Skip, if you are with us tonight and would like
18 to provide a comment, please raise your hand by accessing the
19 feature at the bottom of the participant window or by hitting
20 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Skip Edwards.

21 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 89,
22 Karen Wolf. Karen, if you are with us and would like to
23 provide a comment tonight, please raise your hand by using the
24 feature at the bottom of the participant list or by hitting
25 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Karen Wolf.

1 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 90,
2 Irene Cannon-Geary. Irene, if you are with us tonight and
3 would like to provide a comment, please raise your hand and let
4 us know by accessing that feature at the bottom of your
5 participant window or by hitting star-9 on your telephone
6 keypad. Irene Cannon-Geary.

7 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 91,
8 Shannon Sweeney. Shannon, if you are with us tonight and would
9 like to provide a comment, please raise your hand and let us
10 know, accessing that feature at the bottom of your participant
11 list or by hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad. Shannon
12 Sweeney.

13 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 92,
14 Tommy Black. Tommy, if you are with us tonight and would like
15 to provide a comment, please let us know by raising your hand
16 and -- well, I see Irene has raised her hand. Let's see if
17 Tommy is here and would like to comment first, and then we can
18 go back to Irene. Tommy Black.

19 Okay, Irene Cannon-Geary, I'm going to go back to you. I
20 see you've got your hand raised. I'm going to unmute you.
21 Hello?

22 **IRENE CANNON-GEARY, COMMENTER:** Hello, can you hear me?

23 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Yes, I can. Thank you.

24 **IRENE CANNON-GEARY, COMMENTER:** Oh, thank you. Thank you
25 very much for coming back to me. I'm sorry for the technical.

1 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Oh, that's fine. Could you
2 please spell out your first and last name for the record?

3 **IRENE CANNON-GEARY, COMMENTER:** Yes, thank you.
4 I-r-e-n-e C-a-n-n-o-n hyphen G-e-a-r-y.

5 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great. Okay, then I will
6 start your two-minute timer now.

7 **IRENE CANNON-GEARY, COMMENTER:** Thank you. I'm a retired
8 lawyer in White Plains, New York, and I'm speaking on behalf of
9 all the folks in the Lower 48 who deeply cherish Alaska and its
10 wildlife, and care greatly about what happens in the Kenai
11 National Wildlife Refuge.

12 I want to stress the fact that I strongly second all the
13 comments of the other individuals who have strongly opposed the
14 bear baiting that's being considered, and the lifting of
15 restrictions on trapping, which would, in my opinion, result in
16 indiscriminate killing of more wildlife and unintended
17 wildlife, and reduce the abundance and diversity of the
18 wildlife that are trapped, and cause horrible suffering and
19 slow deaths over a period of days, which I believe to be
20 extremely cruel.

21 I think that the stress on the fact that this is a
22 national wildlife, strongly supports the notion that, to go
23 along with this -- these proposed changes, would be to abdicate
24 the federal responsibility and would undermine the mission of
25 the refuge. America is a beacon to the world. We invented the

1 national park system and the idea that wilderness should be
2 protected. And I think that Teddy Roosevelt said it well when
3 he pointed out, and this is a quote: The wildlife and its
4 habitat cannot speak, so we must, and we will.

5 And to un -- when he was presented with the opportunity
6 to kill a bear that had been clubbed and tied to a tree,
7 he -- even though he was an avid sportsman and hunter, he
8 declined, because, to him, to do such a thing would be -- to a
9 defenseless animal would be unsportsmanlike and unethical. And
10 I want to remind the decision makers that that is --

11 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

12 **IRENE CANNON-GEARY, COMMENTER:** -- the model that we
13 should be emulating.

14 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great. Thank you, Irene.

15 **IRENE CANNON-GEARY, COMMENTER:** Thank you.

16 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** I'm going to put you back on
17 mute now and lower your hand.

18 Okay, we're going to move to the next commenter, who is
19 number 93, John Paladin. John, if you are with us and would
20 like to provide a comment, please raise your hand by going to
21 the participant list at the bottom of the Zoom screen and
22 clicking that raise-hand feature. Or if you are calling in
23 using the phone, please hit star-9 to raise your hand and let
24 us know you'd like to comment. John Paladin.

25 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 94,

1 Carol Gem (ph). Carol, if you are with us tonight and would
2 like to provide a comment, please go to the participant list at
3 the bottom of your Zoom screen to access the raise-hand feature
4 and let us know you're ready or by hitting star-9 on your
5 telephone keypad to raise your hand. Carol Gem (ph).

6 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 95,
7 Jamie Dos Santos. I see you have your hand raised. I'm going
8 to unmute you. Hello?

9 **JAMIE DOS SANTOS, COMMENTER:** Yes, hi, everyone.

10 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Oh. All right, if you have
11 another -- do you have your computer audio on or
12 your -- another speaker? You might need to mute that. There
13 was quite a bit of feedback. Can you spell your --

14 **JAMIE DOS SANTOS, COMMENTER:** (Indiscernible)

15 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** -- first and last name for
16 the record?

17 **JAMIE DOS SANTOS, COMMENTER:** Yes. It's Jamie Dos
18 Santos. Is that better?

19 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** That was actually better,
20 yes.

21 **JAMIE DOS SANTOS, COMMENTER:** Great. Okay. Well, it's
22 J-a-m-i-e. Dos Santos is D-o-s S-a-n-t-o-s.

23 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great. Okay, I will start
24 your two-minute timer now.

25 **JAMIE DOS SANTOS, COMMENTER:** Yes, thanks so much. And

1 thank you all for your service. I'm actually a tourist to
2 Alaska. I'm in South Florida. My mom, in her 70s, and all my
3 kids, and there are many families, we all actually vacation in
4 Alaska. It's a couple-week trip that we look forward to. And
5 I have to say, we just would not continue to visit the refuge
6 if the mission is abandoned, and that's how I feel about these
7 proposed changes.

8 I'd like to highlight Ms. Williams' rejections and
9 unlawful proposed changes that she mentioned earlier. I think
10 she articulated it really well. I have two great concerns and
11 then -- you know, actually, many concerns, but the biggest
12 being what you've heard over and over again tonight.
13 Certainly, the trapping of wildlife, it's indiscriminate and
14 cruel, and the baiting of brown bears, to me, is just
15 unethical.

16 I'm against trophy hunting. It's not a conservation
17 approach, in my view. It's inhumane in many ways. I don't
18 think we should abandon our conservation spirits for trophy
19 hunters. Things like den killing and baiting an animal, such
20 as the great brown bear, already struggling to keep the numbers
21 up, it just feels very, very wrong.

22 I don't think hunting and -- my brother is a hunter.
23 I -- you know, he would not bait.

24 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

25 **JAMIE DOS SANTOS, COMMENTER:** And this is a refuge. I

1 don't think this is the definition of what should happen in a
2 refuge. And I believe that it's your responsibility, as well
3 as ours who are speaking up, to protect the wildlife, and I'm
4 asking for no changes, please. Thank you. (Cat meows). That
5 was Rosa.

6 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you very much for your
7 comment, Jamie. I'm going to put you back on mute and lower
8 your hand.

9 Great. And we are going to move to the next commenter,
10 who is number 96, Alicia Hecht. Alicia, if you are with us
11 tonight and would like to provide a comment, please let us know
12 by accessing the raise-hand feature, which you can find at the
13 bottom of your participant list from your Zoom screen or by
14 hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad. Alicia Hecht.

15 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 97,
16 Francine Dolins. Francine, if you are with us tonight and
17 would like to provide a comment, please let us know by raising
18 your hand. You can access that feature through the Zoom
19 participant list at the bottom of your screen or by hitting
20 star-9 on your telephone keypad to raise your hand. Francine
21 Dolins.

22 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number 98,
23 Donna Friedman. Donna, if you are with us tonight and you
24 would like to provide a comment, please let us know by raising
25 your hand. You can do that by accessing the raise-hand feature

1 at the bottom of your participant list. Or if you are calling
2 in using a phone, please hit star-9 on your telephone keypad.
3 Donna Friedman.

4 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number 99,
5 Emily Allen. Emily, if you are with us and would like to
6 provide a comment tonight, please let us know that you're ready
7 by raising your hand. You can access that feature at the
8 bottom of your participant list on your Zoom screen, or if
9 you're calling in using the telephone, by hitting star-9 on
10 your telephone keypad. Emily Allen.

11 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter,
12 number 100, Annie McCann. Annie, if you are with us tonight
13 and would like to provide a comment, please let us know you're
14 here by raising your hand. You can raise your hand by
15 accessing it at the bottom of our participant list or by
16 hitting star-9 on your telephone keypad. Annie McCann.

17 Okay, I'm going to move on to our next commenter,
18 number 101, Cameron Tempest. Cameron, if you are with us
19 tonight and would like to provide a comment, please let us know
20 by raising your hand, either through the Zoom participant
21 window, at the bottom of that participant window, or by hitting
22 star-9 on your telephone keypad if you are calling in using the
23 phone. Cameron Tempest.

24 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number
25 102, Dana Ivey. Hi, Dana. I see you've raised your hand. I'm

1 going to unmute you. Hi, Dana.

2 **DANA IVEY, COMMENTER:** Hi, how are you? Can you hear me?

3 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** I can. If you could please
4 spell out your first and last names for the record?

5 **DANA IVEY, COMMENTER:** Dana Ivey, D-a-n-a I-v-e-y.

6 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great. All right, I am going
7 to start your two-minute timer now.

8 **DANA IVEY, COMMENTER:** Thank you. I have fond memories
9 of my time in Alaska some years ago, and hope the federal
10 intentions there would support the wilderness there.
11 Wilderness is a wonderful American idea, and I support all our
12 wilderness areas.

13 I'm going to say what a lot of people have already said.
14 I'm speaking out against the proposed new rule, which would
15 allow hunters to kill brown bears over piles of bait. This
16 kind of deception is cruel and is seriously unethical.

17 I'm against the opening of the refuge to more trapping.
18 The new rule would allow trapping with fewer restrictions, and
19 would allow more killing, more wildlife killing, and it would
20 reduce the diversity and abundance of wildlife. Trapped
21 animals die a slow and lingering death, and inflicting that on
22 wildlife is cruel and unethical.

23 Human decisions about wildlife and their wilderness
24 should never be cruel and unethical. Making decisions against
25 the well-being of wildlife in a wilderness area, especially a

1 refuge, is cynical and unhuman.

2 I am totally against more access for humans in any form,
3 especially against snowmobiles and ATVs in the nonwilderness
4 portions of the Kenai. These incursions are stressful to
5 wildlife. I urge the FWS to protect and conserve wildlife, to
6 prohibit bear baiting of any kind, and to ban trapping
7 altogether.

8 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** 30 seconds.

9 **DANA IVEY, COMMENTER:** The FWS should limit recreation so
10 that it lessens human impact on the land. Wildlife should be
11 protected in a refuge, which should not be spoiled by human
12 interference. Thank you.

13 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you very much, Dana,
14 for your comment. I'm going to put you back on mute and lower
15 your hand. Allright, and move on to the next commenter,
16 number 103, Susanna H. Miller. Susanna, if you are on the line
17 with us tonight and would like to provide a comment, please let
18 us know by raising your hand. You can access that feature at
19 the bottom of your participant list that you can find on the
20 bottom of your Zoom screen or by hitting star-9 on your
21 telephone keypad to raise your hand. Susanna Miller.

22 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number
23 104, Leola Specht. Leola, if you are with us tonight and would
24 like to provide a comment, please raise your hand by using the
25 feature at the bottom of the participant list or by hitting

1 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Leola Specht.

2 Okay, I'm going to move to the next commenter, number
3 105, Bob Kuhnert. Bob, if you are with us tonight and would
4 like to provide a comment, please let us know you're ready by
5 raising your hand. And you can access that feature at the
6 bottom of your participant window. Or if you're calling in
7 using the phone, you hit star-9 to raise your hand. Bob
8 Kuhnert.

9 Okay, I'm going to move to our next commenter, number
10 106, Mark Ristow. Mark, if you are with us tonight and would
11 like to provide a comment, please raise your hand and let us
12 know you're ready. You can access that raise-hand feature at
13 the bottom of your participant list or by hitting star-9 on
14 your telephone keypad. Mark Ristow.

15 Okay, I am going to move on to our next commenter,
16 number 107, John Freeman. John, if you are on the line with us
17 tonight and would like to provide a comment, please let us know
18 by raising your hand. You can access the raise-hand feature at
19 the bottom of your participant list or by dialing star-9 on
20 your telephone keypad. John Freeman.

21 Okay, I'm going to move on to our next commenter, number
22 108, Mari Hanley. Mari, if you are with us tonight and would
23 like to provide a comment, please let us know you're ready by
24 raising your hand. And you can raise your hand by accessing
25 that feature at the bottom of the participant list or by

1 dialing star-9 using your telephone keypad. Mari Hanley.

2 Okay, I'm going to move on to our next commenter, number
3 109, Victoria Brandon. Victoria, if you are with us tonight
4 and would like to provide a comment, please let us know by
5 raising your hand. You can do that by using the raise-hand
6 feature at the bottom of your participant list or by dialing
7 star-9 on your telephone keypad. Victoria Brandon.

8 Okay, I am going to move on to our next commenter,
9 number 110, Judy Lubow. Judy, if you are with us tonight and
10 would like to provide a comment, please raise your hand and let
11 us know by accessing that raise-hand feature at the bottom of
12 the participant list or by dialing star-9 on your telephone
13 keypad to raise your hand. Judy Lubow.

14 Okay, I'm going to move on to our next commenter, number
15 111, Jean King. Jean has got her hand raised. I'm going to
16 unmute you. Hello.

17 **JEAN KING, COMMENTER:** Hello, this is Jean King.

18 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Hello, Jean.

19 **JEAN KING, COMMENTER:** It's J-e-a-n K-i-n-g.

20 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Great. All right.

21 **JEAN KING, COMMENTER:** And I'm calling from California.
22 I have been to Alaska a couple times, but I have never been to
23 the peninsula and the wildlife refuge, but I -- and I'm not a
24 hunter, and I'm not a birder. And I don't think I will
25 probably ever be there, but that isn't really important.

1 What is important is that we save this area, this
2 wildlife refuge, for the animals that exist there, for the
3 scenery that's there, for our generations and future
4 generations. And, therefore, I am opposed to these new rulings
5 that they are proposing, the new rules.

6 And I do not want to have the bear baiting. I believe
7 that there -- it should be prohibited, any bear baiting of any
8 kind. I believe there should be a banning of trapping,
9 altogether, for all the reasons that previous people have
10 specified. And there should be limited recreation, so as to
11 lessen the human impact on the land and its inhabitants.

12 So, many people have spoken before me with expanding upon
13 these two ideas, but my main idea is, do not make these new
14 laws. Keep it as pristine as we can for all the future
15 generations. And thank you very much for allowing me to speak,
16 and for how wonderfully you have handled this meeting tonight.
17 Thank you.

18 **AMY LEWIS, CO-FACILITATOR:** Thank you, Jean, for your
19 comment. I'm going to put you back on mute and lower your
20 hand. Great.

21 Okay, I'm going to go to our next commenter, number 112,
22 Kathy Laird. Kathy, if you're on the line and would like to
23 make a comment, please raise your hand and let us know. You
24 can access that feature at the bottom of your participant list
25 or by hitting star-9 using your telephone keypad. Kathy Laird.

1 Okay, I think that is the end of our participant list.
2 I'm going to turn it back over to Amanda.

3 **AMANDA BIEDERMANN, FACILITATOR:** Yeah, thank you, Amy.
4 So we've reached the end of our list of commenters, the first
5 112 who registered who said they wanted to offer a comment.

6 I did go back through the list to make sure that nobody
7 joined late and is now on the meeting, but missed their name
8 earlier. I did check through our remaining participants, and I
9 don't see anyone who we called on earlier who now is on the
10 call and did not get the chance to offer their comment.

11 So, at this point, I'm going to close the public hearing
12 portion of this meeting, and I'm going to move into our closing
13 remarks slide. And so, let's see, it's about 6:41 p.m. Alaska
14 time, and so I'm going to close the public comment portion and
15 move into our closing remarks slide.

16 And so I just want to outline some information briefly on
17 this slide. As you can see, the Fish and Wildlife Service will
18 accept comments received or postmarked on or before November
19 9th, 2020, at the following address that you can see on the
20 screen, or you can also post comments on regulations.gov with
21 that docket number. And I'll leave this up for a few minutes
22 so that everybody can write down this information if they need
23 to.

24 Again, we thank you very much for joining today and for
25 your participation. I do want to point out that the Fish and

1 Wildlife Service did open up two additional public comment
2 meetings. One will be tomorrow, and another will be on
3 Wednesday, both starting at 4:00 o'clock p.m. Alaska time. The
4 one starting tomorrow, the list of public commenters, of the
5 first 75, has already been filled, and so that list is locked
6 down, similar to the list today, so we will just go through
7 those 75 commenters.

8 However, the meeting on Wednesday, I would like to point
9 out, does have a few comment slots left. And so if you
10 attended the meeting today and didn't get the chance to offer a
11 comment, I encourage you to go and sign up for that meeting,
12 and there might be some spots left.

13 But we encourage everyone to participate and listen in to
14 both of the meetings. You can go back to that same website
15 address and register for those meetings.

16 Again, we thank you very much for your participation
17 today, and I'll leave the slide up for a few moments for
18 everyone. Thank you.

19 (Pause)

20 Hi, everyone. As I said, the public comment portion of
21 the meeting has now ended. It's 6:45 p.m. Alaska time, and so
22 I'm going to end the public meeting entirely. Hopefully,
23 everyone had a chance to write down this information. But if
24 you didn't, again, please visit the website, and you can find
25 all of this information there.

1 Thank you, everyone, and I hope you have a good evening.

2 (Off record)

3 (End of Proceedings)

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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Marci Lynch, hereby certify that the foregoing pages
numbered 1 through 77 are a true, accurate, and complete
transcript of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Public Hearing Webinar re: Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
Proposed Rule Changes to Public Use by me from a copy of the
electronic sound recording to the best of my knowledge and
ability.

October 30th, 2020

Marci Lynch