

**Denali National Park and Preserve
Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council**

**Sunday September 7, 2008
Murie Science and Learning Center Dining Hall**

Meeting called to order at 1:12pm

Council Member roll call

Nancy Bale

Brian Okonek

Lt. Col. Scott Babos

Tim Cudney

Sally Gibert

Charlie Sassara

Suzanne Rust

Nan Eagleson

Joan Franevich

Erika Bennett

Tom George (arrived after intro and working assumptions document had been discussed)

National Park Service

Paul Anderson

Miriam Valentine

Council Decision points shown in Bold Italics

Miriam confirmed the quorum.

Other welcome and introductions:

- Dan Billman- attending as a subject matter expert for the FAA. Gave an introduction.
- Introductions of meeting attendees in the room.

Agenda reviewed and approved.

Member Reports:

Sally Gibert

Assumptions document was passed out and discussed.

Suzanne Rust suggested using the term public access in addition to public use in the last paragraph.

Tim Cudney commented that “human-caused sound” was a strange phrase.

Nancy Bale suggested asking the soundscape people to comment on appropriate terminology that dovetails with BMP. “Human-caused sound” could be “motorized”

Joan Frankevich suggested “human-generated.”

Charlie Sassara stated that it seemed good enough for now and can be changed as more knowledge is gained.

The discussion of the assumptions was parked to the new business discussion on 9.8.08.

Sally Gibert with Adrienne Lindholm- Perspectives on Wilderness

Adrienne covered national wilderness perspective. Sally focused on how it is different in AK. Both examined the specifics of Denali.

Overview of the presentation:

Wilderness Act passed in 1964. Created National Wilderness Preservation System. Defined wilderness and listed 10 strict prohibitions, providing also for exceptions to the prohibitions. ANILCA provides additional exceptions that are specific to Alaska.

Denali (DENA) has 2 million acres of designated wilderness. Most of the remaining 4 million acres is eligible for wilderness designation. Eligible wilderness is managed as designated wilderness pursuant to national policy.

ANILCA passed in 1980. Overview of Alaskan user groups and what types of transportation they were using to access the land. Dispersed use, many isolated communities. Important to blend national conservation objectives with local use patterns. HR 39 dramatically changed the dialogue in Congress. Increased momentum to have large amounts of Alaska preserved. The other focus was allowing for use within these preserved lands. An unprecedented dual mission to both preserve and use the land.

ANILCA established 57 million acres of designated wilderness in AK.

DENA core 2 million acres (the old park) = designated wilderness.

Definition of wilderness in Alaska is the same as in the Wilderness Act.

How is ANILCA wilderness managed differently in Alaska?

- special provisions that modify application of the Wilderness Act. Covered those that have the greatest interest or importance to the group.

- subsistence access (includes ORVs) is allowed where traditionally employed.
- allows use of snowmobiles, motorboats, and airplanes for traditional activities. (For DENA, the definition of “traditional” is only defined for snowmachines in the old park.)
- allows for construction of public use cabins or shelters for the protection of public health and safety.
- temporary campsite, tent platforms, shelters, and other temp facilities and equip. directly and necessarily related to the taking fish and wildlife where such activities are allowed.
- wilderness reviews. (Formal studies were completed, but wilderness recommendations were never advanced to Congress. Paul noted that the 4 million acres of eligible wilderness awaits this decision and must be managed as wilderness until Congress makes decision.)
- inholders granted “adequate and feasible access for economic and other purposes.”

- important caveats: subject to reasonable regulations.

- agencies also are held accountable for their management actions in wilderness. Have an *Alaska Supplement* to the minimum requirement decision guide (prepared by NPS,

USFWS, BLM, USFS in consultation with State of AK). The *Alaska Supplement* helps agencies determine what administrative activities are necessary and appropriate in Alaska wilderness.

Discussed challenges of complying with the mandates of Wilderness Act and ANILCA.

Suzanne Rust requested that the PowerPoint be made available as a handout.

Suzanne asked for clarification from Paul Anderson on the specifics on the 4 million acres of eligible wilderness.

Nan asked how ANILCA interfaces with the NPS Organic Act. Sally responded that this is the key question. ANILCA calls for both protection and use provides few details to managers about how to balance these competing needs.

Joan stated that she didn't see the laws in conflict, but that they were all under the umbrella of the Organic Act (idea of impairment). Paul noted that "impairment" is a human defined term and if Congress chooses to "impair" they may do so with a law.

Joan Frankevich and Nancy Bale- Wilderness, Soundscape and the Backcountry Plan

Joan started the presentation with an Overview of National Parks Conservation Association. Joan is the voice for national and state environmental organizations on the council. She also emphasized that she loves to fly and appreciates the value of a fly-in backcountry experience.

Brief overview of park legislation.

- Organic act
- Establishment of Mt. McKinley National Park
- Wilderness Act 1964- does not address overflights. Aircraft governed by FAA. DENA recommends that overflights remain 2000 feet above ground level. (Done voluntarily by air taxi operators). Shared thoughts on wilderness character that were generated at a wilderness conference. Joan has a higher level of tolerance for aircraft noise outside vs. inside designated wilderness. Discussion of comparing the visitor experiences of backcountry users and bus passengers.
- ANILCA 1980. Discussed purposes of ANILCA additions. ANILCA exceptions. ANILCA and wilderness.
- NPS Management Policies regarding wilderness.

The designated wilderness (the "old park") is what holds the greatest value to Joan. Described her unique experience to be in DENA years ago on a backpacking trip and not hear manmade noises for 5 days. Unlikely that Joan's young daughter will be able to have a similar backcountry experience when she grows up. Shared 1997 letter to Steve Martin from a woman working/living in Kantishna, where she and other Kantishna

residents kept track of the number of aircraft they saw or heard. Wants to make sure that NPS provides continued experiences for our children and grandchildren.

Nancy Bale continued the presentation. She first said that she brought along the executive summary of the Backcountry Management Plan, the groups' charter, the soundscape plan, Wilderness Act, and Amanda Peacock's thesis on sound modeling.

Nancy gave overview of the Denali Citizens Council (established in 1974). One of first issues was looking at how to enlarge DENA during ANILCA.

DCC has annual meeting with speakers on park related topics. Convene conventions at Tri-Valley Community Center. (Ex: Stampede Summit, with 50-70 people attending.) Like to make comments at Denali's meetings.

Joan discussed Backcountry Plan purposes and standards and discussed how they relate to the council's charter.

Overview of 2006 Backcountry plan purposes. Plan sets up standards, but compliance with standards related to soundscape and overflights is voluntary.

Impact of overflights addressed at the national level as early as 1987. (1987 National Parks Overflights Act)

1995 Report on the effects of aircraft overflights on the National Park System. Soundscape as a visitor experience.

NPS Director's Order #47- Soundscape and Noise Management 2000.

Nancy shared a bit of her experience at an NPS soundscape seminar in Spring 2008.

NPS Management Policies Section 4.9 on soundscapes.

Nancy summarized the Denali Backcountry Plan Soundscape Standards (low, medium, high, very high). Showed a map with the natural soundscape standards for different management areas. The standards are a given for the group to work with. Shared the max Aud/hr, max #/day and max dBA for the standards. There are also special use areas and "portals" (e.g. backcountry airstrips) with a "very high" standard that tolerates more sound disturbance.

Showed a map from Amanda Peacock's thesis showing percentages of land with low, medium, high and very high standards.

What are the group's priorities?
- shared the group's charter.

Nancy made a note that the very high and high standards areas may come into conflict with wilderness character of these management areas, and thus not be protecting the eligible wilderness.

Tom George noted that the science of soundscapes is very new, and that the standards were a first approximation. There is a 5 year period where NPS may come back and adjust the standards. Heard at the Spring 2008 soundscape workshop that the standards might not have been the best to begin with. Consider a broader range of what is suggested than just the 7 numbers defined by the backcountry management plan.

Brian Okonek- The Denali Backcountry Experience

Introduced his role on the committee.

Denali draws people in. High economic value. Aircraft used extensively to access the Alaska Range. One of the easiest big ranges to access. In 1974, had a dog-mushing/climbing experience where he didn't hear any aircraft for 30 days.

Aircraft used for rescue and management, but for many people, the airplane is used for access and when they're dropped off, their adventure begins. Everything slows down once you're on the ground. Lots of cabins in the woods surrounding Denali, and people enjoy the areas beneath the peaks of the Alaska Range. People utilize Peters Hills for recreation, and it is in the flight path of planes going to AK Range from Talkeetna.

Overview of areas utilized for recreation throughout the park. Overview of activities undertaken by backcountry users. Mentioned changes in his life experience. Air traffic in early years of guiding was limited to the number of climbers on the mountain, but then numbers of flightseeing tours increased beyond the numbers of climbers. Overview of the experience of climbing in the AK Range (contrasted southside vs. northside experiences). Denali National Park and Preserve is a powerful place and a treasure.

Balancing act between access, the experience of flying and seeing the spectacular scenery, and experiencing it on the ground on its own terms (feeling it, understanding it, hearing it in a natural setting). Planes on a clear day are the prevailing sound when in the AK Range. Seldom a moment when you can't hear an airplane during flying hours. Before selling climbing business, Brian had to discontinue utilizing some areas of the park because of clients complaining about aircraft noise (didn't meet their trip expectations). People need places to have quiet moments to escape the hubbub of human society. Many winter and dark hours will be free of aircraft noise, but there can be a better balance for the summer.

Nan Eagleson spoke with NPS Backcountry desk employees and lodge owners in Kantishna. Most clients/guests/backcountry users do not expect to have the level of noise that is found in Denali's wilderness. Predominant comment from backcountry users is that aircraft noise was far beyond what they expected. People on the ground expect a certain quality of experience in Denali. Soundscape has changed significantly over the

years. Need to maintain a certain quality of experience for users on the ground. Loss of natural soundscape is compromising a fundamental value of the experience. Nan has also talked to hunting guides who operate on the east side of the highway that have clients who also complain about the noise of aircraft.

Charlie Sassara spoke on behalf of climbers. Thirty years climbing experience. Experience in the Ruth is so over the top that you don't need standards numbers to know that the noise is too much. Knows the dilemma of the noise and the aircraft industry (banks don't care what air operators are up against with changes... still have to make payments). Need to find a way through this together. The portals are a big deal that need to be addressed.

Agency and Public Comment

Sally reminded the public that comments were limited to 5 minutes.

Larry Sloan- Expressed concern about the emphasis of protecting the experience of the people on the ground. Doesn't think that the people on the ground have the expectations for quiet. Sees a shift from ground-based to air-based experiences. Flightseeing has the same rights to access to the park as other users. Flightseeing helps keep the park protected and untrammled (no impact to the ground). Flightseers share impressions that are quite similar to what the wilderness conference attendants said. Speaking on behalf of the visitors that flightsee. The rights of the people on the ground have been superceded by the rights of people seeing the park from the air. Concerned by the lack of balance in the meeting today.

Sally Gibert and Suzanne Rust responded that in the last meeting Suzanne had shared the perspective of the air taxi industry. Suzanne's hope is that everyone will be open to various ideas in the process of developing suggestions.

Tim Cudney noted that everyone is a victim of our own successes. Need to balance the needs of all users.

Sandra Loomis- question about what will be posted on the website for the group. Miriam Valentine responded that information will be posted on the NPS and FACA sites, and asked Sandra to provide feedback on what is user friendly or not about the current websites. Sandra would like to see PowerPoint presentations uploaded. Miriam suggested that PowerPoints should have notes in addition to the slides so that folks who don't attend the meeting could still understand the presentation.

Jay Hudson- question about accuracy of information being shared about what noise levels are. Sally responded that today's information was largely anecdotal but that tomorrow's presentations will include numbers. Jay's response was that then it was just people's perception that noise levels are increasing each year. Sally said that it was something to be discussed further.

Eric Denklewalter- complaints aren't about numbers; what counts is their perception. Look at people who are voicing their opinions and try to see the complaint from their point of view and try to mitigate it based on their perspective.

Tom George spoke of the need to manage expectations. Urged rest of council to start considering this. Serious work to do all across the board; not just a numbers game as well as the numbers. Need to keep track of sound levels and visitors numbers. Sally agreed.

Dan McGregor- reiterated that Denali experience is often the flight over the park. Mt. McKinley is what so many people want to see, and it is accessed through aviation. Most folks do not have the time/experience to travel from the North. Climbers who access the mountain by plane don't have the right to complain about aircraft noise. Concern about voluntary measures turning into regulations. Suggests stepping gingerly when coming up with regulations. Suzanne Rust reminded the group that air operators were already taking measures to reduce the noise, and that there are commonplace measure that can be and are being employed. She and Sally Gibert suggested looking at what is already being done by various businesses as a starting point for developing suggested measures.

Joan Frankevich suggested the importance of not pitting user groups against one another because many users experience it both ways. Jay Hudson disagreed that many people experience the park both through flying and on the ground. Suzanne Rust agreed that many people that fly are not able to truly access the park as backcountry users. Joan Frankevich clarified that on the ground visitors also meant those accessing the park on the bus. Jay expressed concern that no one on the council directly represents the user who flightsees over the park. Sally Gibert said that she felt that many (if not all members) represent this group indirectly. Sandra White said that if climbers and backcountry users are represented, that the flightseer group is not being represented in the same way and that the needs of the other users are potentially negating the needs of the flightseeing group, and that the needs of all groups need to be balanced. Sally reiterated that this meeting's presentations were largely focuses on the on-the-ground backcountry user, but that the previous meeting had been more on the aircraft perspective. Sally shared that this council is an experiment to see what the group can do to forestall regulation and to do things that regulations cannot. Erika Bennett shared that the group needs to think about how the voluntary measures will be disseminated to aircraft operators. Dan McGregor also shared a story that illustrated that private pilots do not know the current regulations.

Sally Gibert shared that there is legal process but that there is also the informal process of communicating and sharing ideas.

Tom George stated that he represents general aviation users, but also noted that commercial operations have greater numbers than general aviation users and therefore changing commercial operations will have a larger impact on the noise.

Larry Sloan- monitoring noise in the park detracts from the collaborative process of the group. Measuring noise is a side-issue that is just a way of one side using a hammer or slinging mud against the other. Suggests saying that everyone has a right to use the park and then coming together to figure out how to make it happen by using common sense and common courtesy rather than measuring noise. Sally Gibert responded that she wants to see the process move ahead slowly, and noted that the group cannot be flippant about the standards set out in the backcountry management plan. On the other hand, she noted that the standards created in the BMP came out of a public process that many people commented on. She agreed that ultimately the suggestions will come down to everyone communicating with one another and understanding the many perspectives in the group.

Dan Billman- reiterated Erika Bennett's thought that educating people about the outcomes will be very important. He sees FAA as being able to help accomplish this educational component. He suggested that many people in the room could be safety representatives that could help in the educational aspect. Otherwise it could be a great program that doesn't go anywhere.

Monday September 8, 2008
Murie Science and Learning Center Dining Hall

Morning update: Nan Eagleson will be joining the group around 11:00am.

A quorum was present.

Nancy Bale

Brian Okonek

Lt. Col. Scott Babos

Tim Cudney

Sally Gibert

Charlie Sassara

Suzanne Rust

Joan Franevich

Erika Bennett

Tom George

Sally Gibert clarified that the FAA and US Air Force representatives will be voting members. She also shared the group's voting system. Each group member brings their personal experiences as well as the voice of the group they are representing.

General Soundscape Update- Jared Withers - gave an overview of the sound monitoring program in the park, including equipment used, protocol used, data collected, how the data is analyzed, BCMP soundscape standards.

- Shared results of sound monitoring, showing:

- percentage of hour motorized noise is audible and % exceedance of BCMP standard for % Time Audible

- number of motorized sound intrusions per day greater than natural ambient and % exceedance of BCMP standard for # audible/day
- motorized noise levels and % exceedance of BCMP Standard- Noise Levels

A member of the public expressed concern that the sound monitoring station sampling design did not take into account the general aviation routes. Guy Adema responded that if there was an error, it was during the time the BCMP was created. Additional information is encouraged to inform future BCMP/EIS management decisions. Tom George expressed the need for a better understanding of the sounds generated by different aircraft at different elevations to inform recommendations.

Jared shared that a station had been placed at Kahiltna Pass (not in the monitoring station sampling grid). Showed spectograms from this sound station, a screen capture of how the data is analyzed, and the final results from the analysis.

Questions?

What other information is needed for informed decisions?

- Tom George asked whether air taxis and flight services could provide flight information for local air taxi flights on the days in 2007 when the sound recordings took place that could better inform the sounds recorded by the sound station (see page 67 of transcript). Comments were that there was some data that might provide some insight.

Backcountry use patterns- Karen Fortier - overview of backcountry units and quotas.

- Shared stats on backcountry use in the South District, outside of Mt. McKinley and Foraker. 5,000 climber user nights a year in the non Mt. McKinley/Foraker areas of the Alaska Range. (This equates to ~500-600 climbers that voluntarily registered their multi-day backcountry use in 2008).
- Shared stats on backcountry use in the North District. From 2004-2008 in the North District: ~8,000-10,000 user nights by ~3,500-4,000 users. The units south of the road are generally more popular than those north. Many people utilize units with river beds.
- shared stats on the annual number of climbers on Mt. McKinley and Foraker. Also shared annual number of user nights and users for non-Denali/Foraker climbs from 1999-2008.
- Shared data from 2001-2004 observations of number of aircraft observed (heard or seen) by park staff on backcountry patrols in the North District. Also looked at mean number of overflight events observed per patrol by aircraft type and mean number of observed overflight events per day.
- Shared data that was used in BCMP from 1999 that showed events by time during the day and how long the events lasted.
- Briefly shared results of survey of backcountry users (Jared covered this in more detail).
- South District staff shared that the number one complaint they hear from backcountry users is about aircraft. (Although Paul Anderson clarified that most backcountry users had no complaints.)

- info request from Tom George: would like to see the questions that will be asked of backcountry users next summer. (Adrienne should have this study). Need to know where flights are and where visitors are. Would be nice to see maps with density of users by season across backcountry units.
- interest expressed in being able to look at and suggest modifications on the new backcountry user survey. Paul Anderson stated that he'd be open to a customized survey specific to overflights. Guy Adema shared that the park is hoping to do a social science survey on soundscape to establish norms of acceptability for the soundscape.
- the council would like to see tabulated results of visitor response cards that address overflights.
- 430,000-450,000 visitors to the park each year. The park has not historically accounted for day users in the park's backcountry. Paul Anderson stated that this is something that the park probably needs to take a closer look at and address. Sally Gibert shared that the state is looking for alternatives to mandatory registration for measuring day use.

Jared Withers- Overview of 2000 Denali Backcountry User Survey (get from Jared)

- Gave Overview of 2000 Denali Backcountry User Survey (administered by USGS-BRD Jane E. Swanson et al.)
- shared specifics on the aircraft portion of the survey. (visitor expectation data, visitor experience data, and visitor reaction data)
- concern in the council on the potential bias in how the questions on the survey were worded.
- Nancy Bales noted that she felt that the group should be careful not to start to define two sides within the group, and thus to be careful about how the group was wording comments.

Steve Carwile and Guy Adema- Aircraft Use

- shared results of Amanda Peacock's thesis where she modeled sound impacts of various flight patterns over Denali.
- shared information on Flight Tracking Pilot Project that the park is doing to examine NPS use of aircraft, including project goals, 2003-2005 aircraft use by NPS, and GPS data being collected by NPS on flight tracks. Noted that flight track data is not currently being collected on NPS flights originating out of Fairbanks.
- Steve Carwile pointed out that Kantishna is a hub of activity based on the NPS flight tracks. Also shared numbers from Kantishna Air.
- Carwile referenced graphs on p. 194-195 of BCMP that stated numbers associated with air taxi and scenic tours flights with landings.
- Carwile didn't find numbers associated with landings at McKinley landing strip in the Park Entrance Area on FAA website. Noted an advisory on the FAA that listed Triple Lakes as a busy section of air space (number listed is an estimate). Some council members noted that this advisory is outdated.
- Discussion about the amount of air traffic over Triple Lakes Trail... aircraft operators noted that the park had recommended this route to reduce flights over park corridor; users of trail noted that it is very loud with lots of air traffic.

- question about the model used by Peacock for her thesis: does the modeling account for differences between an aircraft climbing versus cruising? Guy Adema responded that he'd find out.

New Business

1. Set time for next meetings:

- charter states that the council will meet 2-4 times per year.

- last part of first week in December and early February good dates for next meetings.

Next 2 meetings are tentatively set for December 4 in Anchorage; February 26 in Fairbanks (alternate Feb. 19). Council will check their calendars and communicate by email next week to confirm the dates. Suggestion by council chair to bring calendar. NPS will check into holding meetings at APLIC theater.

- Discussion of the merits of rotating meetings between Anchorage, Denali Park headquarters, Talkeetna, Willow, and Fairbanks. Suggestion from audience to only hold meetings in Talkeetna or Denali Park headquarters. ***Council tentatively agreed that after the upcoming Anchorage and Fairbanks meetings, future meetings will rotate between Denali Park and Talkeetna.***

- more sustainable ways of doing meetings, like videoconferencing?

2. Possible revisions to charter

- Discussion about naming (temporary) alternates for council members. Questions about whether or not each council member could have an alternate in case of illness or other short-term conflict; and whether or not these alternates would need to be chosen by Secretary of DOI. Ms. Valentine clarified that only DOI-appointed members have voting responsibilities, but "subject matter experts" could attend but would not be "at the table." The council also wondered if a member is missing, if council can make a recommendation contingent on the subsequent approval of the absent member. She also noted that the charter will take at least 11 months to revise. The council discussed the merits and concerns of having alternates. A suggestion was made to pursue naming possible alternates, but only tap these alternates if a council member resigned. Paul Anderson noted that council members were already on 2 and 4 year terms, but that members can be appointed for consecutive terms. Ms. Valentine will further investigate these questions and send out findings to group.

3. Appointing a new member representing tourist/flightseer perspective.

Discussion of possibly having an organization like ATIA represent this perspective, although it was pointed out that an organization like ATIA would be representing tourist industry, not tourists. Paul Anderson responded to a question about how the council was initially formed, saying that the process was deliberate and the product of a year long discussion with secretary of DOI and other DOI staff. He said that if the council wanted to add a member, then they would need to present what perspective this additional slot would represent and justification about why it is needed and how the perspective is not currently being represented on the council. DOI would also be analyzing whether the additional member throws off the balance of the committee. ***After discussion and consideration of public comments, the Council decided not to pursue this addition of a***

member as the perspective is diffusely represented by other members of the council and that bringing on a new member after multiple meetings missed might not be helpful.

4. NPS Website

- NPS interested in suggestions about website. *Council decision was to have everyone submit ideas/comments to Miriam Valentine.*

- Nancy Bale was concerned over size of documents being posted on web. Guy Adema suggested PDFing presentations over posting PowerPoint. Miriam suggested that the presentations will need to have notes associated with the presentation or other clarification of slides in the program. Guy Adema suggested allowing presenters to provide a one page summary in lieu of a PowerPoint with notes.

5. Information and Data Requests

- revisit information gaps and data requests for NPS and/or council members to discuss at subsequent meetings.

- Tom George noted that, in answer to a question posed during meeting, there was information on flight charts that advises pilots of national land management agencies' request that aircraft maintain a minimum of 2000ft altitude above the ground.
- Seasonal patterns of people and where they are in the park. Where are users and where do they concentrate? Also, where are the animals? Seasonal patterns of where animals are in the park? Guy Adema suggested focusing first on DENA's seasonal visitor use pattern. Sally Gibert suggested looking at the general information on sound impact to wildlife, as opposed to focusing specifically on Denali's wildlife and where they are found. She will see if the State has any useful information.
- Request to Suzanne Rust: What is the current concessions fleet out of Talkeetna? Suzanne stated that she and Tom will work together to determine what aircraft operators are already doing to reduce impacts and present finding to group. Sally Gibert stated that the opportunity would be given for other aircraft operators to add their ideas to the discussion following the presentation.
- Request to Tom George: What are the planes used by general aviation and determine what the sound signatures of the various planes are? (Tom George noted that he doesn't know how to do this, because, by definition, general aviation includes all types of planes. Dan Billman also agreed, that this would be difficult to do. FAA could provide a list of the most common aircraft used in Alaska.) Question from Charlie Sassara: is this information useful? Tom George and Dan Billman will try to determine the most common types of aircraft that fly over the park.

6. Housekeeping discussion:

- How should notes be kept? Should there be both a meeting summary and transcript?
- Nancy Bale stated that the summary was very helpful and that 2 pages was a good length.

- Tom George questioned if the group really needed a transcript. He suggested keeping meeting notes and circulating the notes around the group for the group to make changes. Tom suggested continuing to have NPS person take notes/minutes.
- Suzanne Rust suggested having notes taken and recording the meeting so that anything that was questioned or missed could be listened to.
- Public comment: the meetings are important enough to warrant a transcript. Also, the transcript makes it convenient for public that cannot make meetings.
- ***With NPS concurrence, the Council agreed to continue to do transcripts if public is using them. Continue to do short meeting summary with key decisions made.***

- question from Brian Okonek: when will the group finally move into discussing ways to mitigate impacts? Sally Gibert responded that hopefully that will happen next meeting by the industry first sharing ways that mitigation is already occurring.

- Charlie Sassara raised the question: Does the industry feel like there are problems to address? Public comment from Eric Denkewalter: yes, this is why the council is formed. And there is interest in knowing more information about where people are and what impacts there are, so that industry can respond to areas where impacts are happening and can respond this upcoming year.

- suggestion from Tom George that each group come up with a list of issues/problems to be mitigated. Charlie Sassara voiced concern that this could be problematic. Suggestion from Eric Denkewalter (and agreement from group) to bring the list of issues to next meeting to discuss and then come up with ideas/recommendations on actions for the 2009 season during the February meeting. Guy Adema suggested that NPS would bring a summary of areas where soundscape measurements have been made and which of these areas exceeds the sound standards set by the Backcountry Management Plan (see page 249 of transcript).

7. Assumptions document:

- discussion of assumptions document was postponed to the December meeting.

Closing Comments

- Paul Anderson: thank you for attending and taking time out of your schedules to do so.

- Nancy Bale reminded the council that a formal comment period was not offered. A formal comment period was offered and a letter from a Denali Citizens Council member was read noting sound events that were noticed over the Kantishna area.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:26pm.