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DENALI OVERFLIGHTS COUNCIL

April 23, 2012
Residence Inn Anchorage Midtown
Anchorage, Alaska

9:15 a.m. to 4:50 p.m.

Advisory Council Attendees:

- Sally Gibert, State of Alaska
- Joan Frankevich, State and National Environmental Community
- Suzanne Rust, Authorized Air Taxis
- Tom George, General Aviation Users
- Nancy Bale, Local Environmental Community
- Tim Cudney, Scenic Air Tour Operators
- Amanda Smith, Backcountry Users
- Miriam Valentine, Designated Federal Officer
- Paul Anderson, Superintendent Denali National Park and Preserve
- Lt. Col. Scott Babos, USAF

Audience Members:

- Claire Leclair, State of Alaska
- Davyd Becthkal, Soundscape Scientist, Denali National Park
- Dave Schirokauer, Physical and Social Science Program Manager, Denali National Park
- Lois Wirtz, Alaska Travel Industry Association
- Dan McGregor, Denali Air
- John Leonard, Denali National Park Ranger

Reported by: Kristin L. O'Reilly, RPR

1 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So I'm just
2 going to go through and if you're here just say
3 present.

4 Charlie Sassara.

5 Tim Cudney.

6 TIM CUDNEY: Here.

7 MIRIAM VALENTINE: And Erika.

8 And Amanda Smith.

9 AMANDA SMITH: Here.

10 MIRIAM VALENTINE: And Mike

11 Yorke.

12 And Scott Babos.

13 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Here.

14 MIRIAM VALENTINE: And Sally

15 Gibert.

16 SALLY GIBERT: Here.

17 MIRIAM VALENTINE: And Nancy

18 Bale.

19 NANCY BALE: Present.

20 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Tom George.

21 TOM GEORGE: Here.

22 MIRIAM VALENTINE: And Joan

23 Frankevich.

24 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Here.

25 MIRIAM VALENTINE: And Suzanne

1 Rust we anticipate at some point today. Yeah.
2 Okay.

3 And Brian Okonek had shared with me
4 that he would not be able to be at the meeting
5 today. Okay.

6 SALLY GIBERT: Just kind of
7 looking at the -- well, first of all this is
8 probably going to be my last meeting, unlike
9 the last meeting where everybody said a very
10 gracious good-bye and everything. I'm back.
11 But I'm assuming that -- do you know what the
12 status of Claire's appointment is?

13 MIRIAM VALENTINE: You know
14 what, I'm hoping that it'll all be settled by
15 the time we hit September which will probably
16 be the last -- very last meeting of the group.

17 SALLY GIBERT: Last meeting of?

18 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So this
19 charter concludes in September.

20 SALLY GIBERT: Of this year?

21 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Yeah.

22 SALLY GIBERT: Okay.

23 TOM GEORGE: I thought it was
24 2013.

25 MIRIAM VALENTINE: 2013? I

1 don't have it with me. Maybe I'm jumping
2 ahead.

3 SALLY GIBERT: I think it's 2013
4 so --

5 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Oh, sorry.
6 It is 2013.

7 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Wishful
8 thinking, Miriam?

9 SALLY GIBERT: Because we needed
10 to get our recommendations about what to do
11 with, you know, the Council into the hopper if
12 we wanted to continue so that there would be a
13 good long time to have the -- would be
14 considered so we have some continuity. So I'm
15 pretty sure it's '13.

16 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay. Joan's
17 looking it up. Go ahead.

18 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. Anyway,
19 so -- okay. So as far as you know Claire will
20 probably be --

21 MIRIAM VALENTINE: It'll be --
22 she'll be on by September.

23 SALLY GIBERT: That's what I'm
24 assuming.

25 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Or by the

1 fall. Usually don't meet in the summer.

2 SALLY GIBERT: Right.

3 So one of the things I put on in
4 terms of looking at the agenda -- moving on to
5 the agenda. Things I wanted to kind of add at
6 the end related to -- just to kind of keep
7 ourselves on track because it's going to be a
8 long time until we -- you guys meet again is
9 kind of homework assignments, whatever things
10 are going to happen between now and September.
11 Any summer activities if we're going to do
12 anything. I don't know if anybody's thought
13 about that, but at least address it today. And
14 then you might want to elect a new chair.

15 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Pity on the
16 people who aren't here.

17 SALLY GIBERT: Or at least talk
18 about it. You know, there's not a lot of
19 people here so that's going to be -- anyway you
20 should just be thinking about that.

21 And then the other thing I wanted to
22 kind of expand on the agenda, the February 20th
23 workshop results. There are two components of
24 that. There's the Council's future which I'm
25 hoping that there can be some action taken on

1 today or at least a game plan to get there.
2 And then the disturbance zones, the broad --
3 the three part; high, medium and low map. So
4 that's part of that I presume. And then there
5 was sort of one little thing in there about
6 that -- kind of as an example of that -- what
7 do you call it -- like sort of the Cathedral
8 Spires area was something that had been talked
9 about at the workshop having that area be an
10 area that's sort of set aside for landings.

11 NANCY BALE: Kichatna?

12 SALLY GIBERT: For backcountry
13 landings, but not for the short-term glacier
14 landings or the 20-minute walk-around, get up
15 and go again and to avoid for overflights in
16 general. So that area would be primarily --
17 from a recreational standpoint primarily for
18 those that are going there to be dropped off to
19 go climbing or have a backcountry -- overnight
20 backcountry experience. Anyway, that was
21 something that was kind of discussed. And I
22 was kind of thinking that it might evolve into
23 a potential recommendation. Whether it's ready
24 for that right now, I just wanted to point that
25 out. So I see that the three outputs of that

1 is those councils feature the disturbance zones
2 and discussion about that little area.

3 Joan?

4 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I looked up
5 the date on the charter. So it's dated 2007.
6 And it says it is anticipated the Council will
7 require approximately six years from its
8 establishment. So it's not even set. It says
9 approximately. But that would be 2013.

10 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. Any other
11 thoughts about the agenda?

12 JOAN FRANKEVICH: We didn't
13 introduce the audience.

14 SALLY GIBERT: Yes. Okay.

15 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: Hi, I'm Dave
16 Schirokauer. I'm the physical and social
17 science program manager at Denali National
18 Park. I've been there since January, but I
19 also worked there in a previous incarnation in
20 the '80s and early '90s.

21 DAVYD BETCHKAL: Davyd Betchkal.
22 I'm the soundscape technician for the Park.

23 LOIS WIRTZ: Lois Wirtz, I'm
24 with the Alaska Travel Industry Association.

25 DAN MCGREGOR: Dan McGregor.

1 Denali Air.

2 CLAIRE LECLAIR: Claire Leclair,
3 State of Alaska DNR.

4 SALLY GIBERT: So anything else
5 on the agenda?

6 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So the --
7 something I commented on. The -- you'll notice
8 about halfway down the monitoring protocol.
9 John Leonard will be here but not until this
10 afternoon. And just to have clarity that what
11 the Council is envisioning is what is being
12 provided. He particularly just wanted to talk
13 with you about that. So that's just sometime
14 probably after 2:00 if we can work that in.

15 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. Just be
16 aware to be ready for him around 2:00.

17 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Yeah. I'll
18 call him at lunch and see where he is.

19 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. There's no
20 reason why we can't be flexible. Okay.

21 NANCY BALE: Is there a chance
22 that there will be more people -- more Council
23 members this afternoon, or they're just in and
24 out so we don't really know?

25 TIM CUDNEY: This is -- for the

1 -- I can tell you right now for the air tour
2 operators this is a terrible time. It's hard
3 to be here. I know why Suzanne isn't here. I
4 know Dan -- this is just -- this is start-up
5 for us. It's just hard to -- plus since it's
6 so nice outside. This is just a hard time for
7 us to be here.

8 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. I know
9 there -- there -- we knew that. I think
10 Suzanne is the only one that's not here that we
11 expect to --

12 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, to make an
13 appearance.

14 SALLY GIBERT: The rest of them
15 as far as we know are not going to be here.

16 NANCY BALE: So that if we were
17 going to make a new director decision I guess I
18 would suggest that happening when -- whenever
19 it happens when we have the most number of
20 Council members present.

21 MIRIAM VALENTINE: You know,
22 would it be appropriate to just, like, give
23 everyone a heads up that that's what will
24 happen in the fall meeting? And then people
25 have time to talk about it. And it'll be at

1 the fall meeting where the voting takes place.
2 Would that work for the group?

3 TIM CUDNEY: I'm sure the
4 aviation work group will have a chance to try
5 to get together this summer, either north park
6 or south park based on the outcome of this
7 meeting and some goals and directions for the
8 fall because we all know what, you know, is in
9 the best practices. We're going to allow this
10 summer to see how they work. So we certainly
11 want to circle back around in the fall or at
12 least before the fall meeting to say, hey, this
13 did work; or this didn't work.

14 TOM GEORGE: But that doesn't
15 preclude doing what Miriam said.

16 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Do I need a
17 little more clarity on that? So the chair
18 position that -- for all the Council to have a
19 say in that since many aren't here today. But
20 I -- Tim, what you've just suggested in having
21 the working group being able to meet before our
22 fall meeting, certainly we should look at that
23 in regards to the last item on the agenda.

24 SALLY GIBERT: These are the
25 homework assignments.

1 TIM CUDNEY: Yeah, the working
2 group has been pretty good about getting
3 together and self-regulating times and places
4 and stuff. But like I say, the next time we
5 ought to do it is maybe in the summer after
6 something has moved along.

7 NANCY BALE: Just staying on the
8 chair, would there be any reason to have an
9 interim chair to help you with paperwork and
10 agenda creation?

11 MIRIAM VALENTINE: You know,
12 Erika had offered to serve in that role for a
13 bit.

14 NANCY BALE: We could nominate
15 her and elect her for interim chair.

16 TOM GEORGE: Well, until Sally's
17 gone Sally is the chair. I'd say let's not
18 mess with something that's working.

19 NANCY BALE: So you'd be able to
20 prepare paperwork for the next meeting and so
21 forth?

22 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, and --

23 NANCY BALE: My only concern is
24 that if you were going to go off to, you know,
25 Africa or something like that, Miriam needs

1 some help I think with prepping for the next
2 meeting. Could use.

3 MIRIAM VALENTINE: You know
4 what, and we'll make it work.

5 NANCY BALE: That was my only
6 concern.

7 SALLY GIBERT: I'm assuming
8 there's definitely going to be follow-up after
9 this meeting. I know for one that the fact
10 sheet, because I didn't do it -- actually I
11 spent quite a bit of time on it. I couldn't
12 finish it. So, yeah, I'm about half a day
13 short or something.

14 TOM GEORGE: We'll adjourn a
15 little early today to give you that time.

16 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. So I'm
17 still assuming there's going to be follow-up
18 and, you know, documentation of things we do
19 today and all that stuff. So I'm definitely
20 planning on doing that. And planning to sort
21 of be chair. But after -- that's sort of after
22 the -- you know, this meeting is kind of
23 wrapped up and before the next meeting kind of
24 ramps up. There's probably a long time where
25 there's probably not going to be a lot going

1 on. And so long as I'm still chair I'm happy
2 to help out, whatever that means.

3 Okay. On to the north side member
4 report.

5 TOM GEORGE: I guess so.

6 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Before you
7 start I was passing out -- this is the one I'm
8 going to pass out.

9 TOM GEORGE: Okay. So in
10 Suzanne's absence the aviation working group
11 had I think actually two actual sit-down
12 meetings and many other pair or otherwise
13 conversations with different people. And the
14 results of all that is a proposed Area 6 best
15 practice on the north side. And you have that
16 on paper before you. And actually, again, to
17 make it easy the -- all the text that's
18 highlighted on this document would be changes
19 over the previously adopted version of the best
20 practices. So that actually starts with a
21 little bit of language in the introduction that
22 explains that the air tour operators actually,
23 you know, have, like, an annual meeting and
24 look at a more detailed level how to mitigate
25 conflicts between actual individual operators

1 that go here. So the point is this document's
2 a very high level thing, just indicating their
3 best practices. Below that there are
4 activities that to go on among the actual
5 individual operators to figure out essentially
6 kind of how to implement the things that we
7 come up with here and other issues that they
8 have to deal with, the safety and whatnot.

9 The new best practice would supersede
10 what was Area 2 best practice. And so I think
11 for now the best way to reflect that is to
12 actually -- not to renumber the whole thing but
13 just show that that Area 2 thing has been
14 superseded by the Area 6. Because, remember,
15 Area 2 said stay away from the Park Road. And
16 this new best practice kind of revises that.

17 And so the remaining then changes are
18 -- is this new text which was not in the
19 previous version of the document which
20 describes a north side/Park Road region zone.
21 And in this case in addition to just words we
22 felt it was important to actually put that on a
23 map. And so in -- due to wonders of modern
24 collation techniques you'll actually find that
25 map on the back of the first page but it'll

1 actually be page 3 of the document.

2 So that is what we've come up with.

3 And I guess I think is open for discussion.

4 Maybe the group --

5 SALLY GIBERT: Is there a reason
6 why you didn't just retitile Area 2 to say north
7 side/Park Road region and just like literally
8 replace the other stuff?

9 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, because there
10 are older versions of this thing around that
11 have other things on it so figured we'd add the
12 new thing at the end and --

13 SALLY GIBERT: And then just
14 have a 2 that doesn't have a --

15 TOM GEORGE: That refers you to
16 6. At some point in the future that'll go away
17 but for continuity and revision basis that
18 looked like the best way to go for the moment.

19 SALLY GIBERT: I think it looks
20 good. I was impressed at the level of detail
21 and I thought it was pretty thoughtfully
22 worded.

23 TOM GEORGE: Well, this took a
24 considerable amount of work on numerous
25 parties' parts. And actually I'll have to say

1 modern technology helped us a little bit by
2 being able to project a map on the computer so
3 that we could get Greg LeHaie in Hawaii and
4 other people who weren't actually able to
5 physically all convene at the same place and
6 the same time to look and follow and discuss
7 and debate. So this has been through several
8 iterations to get you to this point.

9 And I think -- I mean, the thing is
10 for all of us to realize is this is by far the
11 most sweeping and most significant so-called
12 best practice that has yet been proposed. Most
13 of the other of these things have been kind of
14 point solution fixes or changes of one type or
15 another. And what makes this even doubly
16 exciting or scary, depending upon your
17 perspective, is that this also is changing
18 long-time guidance that I think has actually
19 been formally issued to various operators to
20 avoid the Park Road corridor where we believe,
21 you know, the lion's share of the 400,000-plus
22 visitors that storm the Park each year -- okay,
23 visit the Park each year.

24 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Thank you.

25 TOM GEORGE: So -- and I think

1 what we've tried to strike here is a balance to
2 identify an area to try and protect -- and that
3 would be the purple zone -- from a soundscape
4 perspective. But realize that a relatively
5 small number of people actually make it that
6 far to enjoy that solitude. And the compromise
7 we may be making is pushing some of the impact
8 that has been in that area off into areas where
9 actually there may be a whole lot more people.
10 So this is actually -- like I say, not only is
11 it a large geographic area but this is a big
12 change over previous and long-established
13 practices which probably will be noticed this
14 summer.

15 So A: I think we need to view this
16 as an experiment to try and see how this works.
17 B: I think it's incumbent upon us all, that is
18 all of us stakeholder groups. Scott, I'm not
19 sure in this case how the military quite
20 conveys this, but at least, you know, like,
21 within the Park Service and any of us in the
22 aviation community as well as in the
23 environmental community to, you know, let
24 people know we are making a change and follow
25 it closely to see how it goes.

1 And then -- so monitoring it this
2 summer in addition to conveying the idea to
3 people or responding to people's questions in a
4 positive fashion as they come up I think is as
5 important as anything their tour operators are
6 going to do to actually try and physically
7 implement this in the air. And then we
8 definitely want to be looking very closely next
9 fall, well, even during the summer. So I guess
10 my take on a summer activity is, you know, the
11 past couple years, you know, we've done kind of
12 a concentrated exercise of some sort. I think
13 this year rather than a concentrated exercise
14 necessarily it would be incumbent upon all of
15 us as stakeholders to make sure that we are out
16 in some of these areas just even as individuals
17 paying attention to what's going on and how
18 people are reacting to it, and being prepared
19 to help, you know, provide feedback and
20 evaluate whether this is helping, hindering or
21 just what the actual, you know, fallout and
22 ramifications of it really are.

23 So with that I think -- open to
24 questions, discussion, debate. Tim, I mean
25 anything is -- you're probably the chief air

1 tour operator here with Suzanne absent and Dan
2 from a comment perspective.

3 TIM CUDNEY: Again, like I
4 mentioned earlier, this is -- you know, we all
5 have to -- first off it's weather dependent as
6 we know. And I figure after this winter that
7 we've had we're probably owed some good
8 weather. So I'm expecting a blue bird day all
9 summer long. So there. So everything's going
10 to be great. No bumps, no turbulence, going to
11 fly high.

12 This -- again, this is going to take
13 a little bit of cooperation from all the
14 operators. And we're going to have to meet at
15 the table again in the springtime as far as,
16 you know, recognizing where we had operated for
17 X amount of years and now we're going to try it
18 this way to see where we are and as long as
19 there are no conflicts and such. And that'll
20 take place in the operators' meeting which
21 generally is anywhere from the 21st to 25th,
22 and that's when everybody shows up between all
23 the respective operators.

24 NANCY BALE: Is that May?

25 TIM CUDNEY: Yeah. Yeah.

1 I'm not -- as the helicopter operator
2 I'm not too stressed out about trying some of
3 the different areas. But then again, you know,
4 it's going to be weather dependent. You know,
5 we need the weather to do this. And in a
6 perfect world I hope that we get some positive
7 feedback at the end of the summer if
8 everybody's able to maintain, you know, what is
9 being asked in the best practices.

10 Last year we all did a little bit of
11 mitigation over Triple Lakes. I think that had
12 a pretty good effect on what was asked of the
13 operators. But I also can't deny that, you
14 know, 282 flights from the Park Service
15 helicopter slinging gravel out there, you know,
16 to complement to Triple Lakes Trail to make it
17 a better trail. Hey, you know, you've got
18 helicopters and airplanes that we're trying to
19 mitigate noise over this certain area; but yet
20 it takes X amount of flights to support that
21 area.

22 And last year, you know, it was kind
23 of like -- I didn't receive a lot of negative
24 impact from the Triple Lakes users, unless I'm
25 missing any. I mean, last year was a good

1 year. I didn't get any calls from dispatch. I
2 didn't get any calls from the Ranger, whether
3 it was us or a confused aircraft or the Temsco
4 aircraft. So I hope we can triple that this
5 year.

6 But also last year was not a banner
7 year tourism-wise. This year is shaping up to
8 be, you know, a much better year. There's more
9 interest in the pre-booking. There's more
10 interest in the Web traffic. There's more
11 interest in the travel partners that sell our
12 products. So we may have increased activities
13 so we have to, you know, manage it.

14 Dan?

15 DAN MCGREGOR: Yeah, you know,
16 these are pretty substantial changes. And I
17 think, like Tim says, I think they're possible,
18 you know, going from 2,000 recommended. This
19 essentially doubles it with this area above the
20 interest zone, the bubble zone. It's a big
21 jump in that area along the spine. So it --
22 yeah, I'm hoping it'll pan out. We're going to
23 give it a run. One of the nice things about
24 the group I guess is the flexibility we've
25 talked about to be able to see this. I have a

1 lot of interest in feedback, specific feedback
2 which really helps us tailor this even more if
3 we have that.

4 The other thing regarding the
5 feedback is also we brought up at a previous
6 meeting with the soundscape monitoring machines
7 and if that is going to be dovetailed in with
8 these changes so we're actually getting an
9 accurate representation of what's going on
10 here. I mean, there are some spots where
11 natural noise scape was triggering the
12 soundscape machines. So it's hard for us to
13 beat a natural soundscape with the aircraft.
14 So if we can -- I don't know if that's in the
15 protocol as well with the Park Service.

16 TIM CUDNEY: To expand on Dan's
17 comments, you know, the -- if there is a way --
18 again, and I think we've asked for this
19 before -- if there's a way that we could, you
20 know, ask the backcountry desk or even approach
21 the backcountry desk and say, hey, look if you
22 get any sort of negative comments -- I mean, I
23 don't know whether they have an opportunity to
24 read these, Paul, when they come in; or do they
25 just submit?

1 PAUL ANDERSON: Well, it depends
2 on where they get submitted to.

3 TIM CUDNEY: Okay.

4 PAUL ANDERSON: But we do -- we
5 read every comment. I mean, it goes through a
6 central point. I think where you're going to
7 go is the timing on it.

8 TOM GEORGE: The timing. Yeah.

9 TIM CUDNEY: Yeah.

10 PAUL ANDERSON: And that tends
11 to be a problem if it comes in somewhere else;
12 how long does it take to get to the right spot
13 so people are notified. But we can work on
14 that.

15 TIM CUDNEY: And that's pretty
16 important especially if we are going to what I
17 consider is considerable effort to make this
18 work. And it might be at a cost. And of
19 course it can't be at the cost of safety. And,
20 I mean, we'll have this discussion with, you
21 know, the operators when Dan and I and the
22 others meet in the spring. If there is any
23 conflict of midair, all of these will go off
24 the table. I just want everybody to know that
25 right now. I mean, if there is any sort of

1 conflict to where my area of operation or my
2 route is in conflict with a competitor's route,
3 whether it's Eric's or Greg's or Dan's, these
4 won't work. Right now they look good on paper;
5 but until we actually start, you know, doing
6 these things, we've got to be very careful what
7 we are offering. But as it's written, and
8 we've all been over this, it's doable. Of
9 course it's doable under, you know, the
10 best-case scenario.

11 But, again, with the four north side
12 operators and as well, the Park Service
13 participation we need to put this all on the
14 table in May as soon as we can when everybody
15 shows up for their orientation you know, route
16 training, however, so we know what we're all
17 doing.

18 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Can I ask a
19 question?

20 TIM CUDNEY: Yeah.

21 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So if safety
22 is going to be the governor of, like, you
23 know -- it all works as long as it's safe for
24 the operators, that's the first thing. Then
25 you kind of had conversation in the last few

1 minutes about the monitoring. And there was
2 some monitoring for the backcountry. Is it
3 getting better in the purple zone? There's
4 monitoring now that'll be new monitoring along
5 the road corridor itself because we're shifting
6 traffic. But I also heard you just say, Tim,
7 that kind of an interest in the unusual events.
8 So, I mean, we kind of -- are those the three
9 kind of identified areas where you'd like to
10 see if the change in behavior or air traffic,
11 is it working, does it make any -- okay.

12 TIM CUDNEY: Obviously this has
13 always been a challenge is getting feedback in
14 a timely manner. That's the hardest thing;
15 getting it to us in September, October really
16 doesn't help very much. I mean, July would be
17 a -- I see Davyd over there wincing. But --

18 TOM GEORGE: Well, there's
19 feedback at various levels. There's event
20 feedback and stuff. Davyd's monitoring
21 obviously --

22 TIM CUDNEY: Or conflict
23 feedback. The conflict feedback I'd prefer to
24 have right away if a hiker comes in and just
25 through a random out-brief turning in their

1 bear cans, you know, "How was your trip?" And
2 all of a sudden somebody raises -- "Yeah, it
3 was great till I saw these darn blankety-blanks
4 flying overhead," or whatever. And we're
5 thinking, well, wow, those blankety-blanks
6 shouldn't have been there. Where were you?

7 So that's I think what we're -- the
8 operators are I think very approachable with
9 this because we're going to treat it as
10 proactive which will relate into immediate
11 reactive if we're doing something wrong or if
12 something that we have is not working.

13 DAN MCGREGOR: And I think, you
14 know, the events, the large occurrence that
15 happens here, these are going to be operator
16 best practices. These aren't going to be Park
17 Service best practices. So that's another
18 thing that will help us differentiate between,
19 say, a caribou study or a moose study or
20 something like that, low-level circling
21 scenario where aircraft are down low for the
22 Park Service doing something. And we can
23 change that out. Maybe we can go to the sound
24 monitors and say, "This day this happened; this
25 is the trigger on those monitors." And maybe

1 that can be separated out from the overall
2 information that we're getting from the sound
3 monitors if that's possible because that's
4 important.

5 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So to be
6 realistic about this, the monitoring feedback
7 that you would like to get, some of it
8 immediate, certainly some amongst the operators
9 themselves from the safety perspective. You
10 know, is the group, the working group, would
11 you be comfortable doing two seasons of trying
12 it out?

13 TOM GEORGE: Doing what now?

14 MIRIAM VALENTINE: I mean, like,
15 so what you've put together on this page for
16 draft best practices for the north side, you
17 may not get all the monitoring information that
18 you're looking for to fully evaluate it from an
19 operator perspective after just one season.

20 TOM GEORGE: Well, I think the
21 answer's you've got to take it one season at a
22 time.

23 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay.

24 TOM GEORGE: If there are big
25 problems in season one, do we want to do the

1 same thing a second year in a row to figure out
2 if the big problems continue? I don't think
3 so.

4 MIRIAM VALENTINE: But if you
5 don't get -- if you don't get a lot of feedback
6 after season one --

7 TOM GEORGE: If we don't get a
8 lot of negative feedback after season one we
9 continue until there's some reason to change it
10 in some other way.

11 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay. I just
12 --

13 TOM GEORGE: But I think you
14 make a good point that you're not necessarily
15 going to understand the full and final impacts
16 of this change in just one season's operation.

17 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Right. I
18 just didn't want to go back and forth. You
19 mentioned that earlier that the operators were
20 doing this this year, and this whole back and
21 forth is very difficult for operators.

22 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, and that's
23 why not changing any more than we need to is
24 important.

25 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Right.

1 TOM GEORGE: But I think the
2 important point to make -- and actually I think
3 this might help. Suzanne's been -- the one
4 that's been pinging a number of us lately --
5 you might've got this from her too -- of in
6 addition to the documents like this that say
7 what we're doing, we need to make sure we're
8 saying something about why we're doing it, what
9 our motivation is so that we can look back
10 later and say -- I mean, if somebody comes,
11 "Why the hell did you make this change?" "Oh,
12 well, here's why we made this change," so that
13 we have some basis for it. So I drafted a --
14 at least a start on some language that I think
15 would be maybe nice to go with this if -- you
16 know, when we actually act on this as a
17 recommendation, again, with both explaining
18 that and also putting in some of the concerns
19 about why we think this is a little bit of a
20 scary thing to do.

21 So let me pass this around if I
22 might. And I hope -- just made copies.

23 JOAN FRANKEVICH: While you do
24 that can I ask Davyd a question? Davyd, at the
25 last meeting we picked a soundscape station we

1 were going to redo I think somewhere -- I think
2 it was in the Upper Toklat to compare with
3 previous years.

4 DAVYD BETCHKAL: Upper west
5 branch of the Toklat River, yep.

6 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Is that in the
7 purple section or not?

8 DAVYD BETCHKAL: It's just
9 barely on the purple section. It's kind of
10 right on the --

11 JOAN FRANKEVICH: That might be
12 the best.

13 DAVYD BETCHKAL: -- north margin
14 of it here. So if you follow up the Toklat,
15 the west branch of it, and then where it forks
16 again you take the easternmost one; and then
17 it's that -- then when it branches the third
18 time, that's kind of those two narrow sections,
19 it's on the west one.

20 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Okay. Got it.

21 DAVYD BETCHKAL: Pretty much
22 right at the fork there.

23 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Okay.

24 AMANDA SMITH: Right at the
25 third fork?

1 DAVYD BETCHKAL: The third fork.
2 Pretty much right at the third fork. A little
3 ways up the -- then in the meantime I've
4 actually been -- I had a suggestion during the
5 compliance -- when I was getting all these
6 stations checked out by the leadership team, I
7 had a suggestion to put on out also kind of
8 along the periphery of this bubble. I mean, I
9 didn't know where that was going to be so I
10 just have it kind of penciled right now.

11 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Do you have
12 additional sound stations you can do?

13 DAVYD BETCHKAL: That's really
14 it actually. Frankly it's -- that's a little
15 bit intense anyways to add a whole extra one in
16 there.

17 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Well, it would
18 be interesting to have some near the road since
19 we're shifting that way; and there could be
20 problems.

21 DAVYD BETCHKAL: There's going
22 to be -- actually this summer there's already
23 going to be kind of a study on buses. So
24 there'll be some moving along the road for
25 short intervals. But there's no previous

1 record there so there's nothing to compare it
2 to.

3 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Oh, okay.

4 DAVYD BETCHKAL: But there will
5 be some stations on the road corridor. So it
6 might be useful. Who knows.

7 NANCY BALE: Davyd, would you be
8 able to take this map and put all the
9 soundscape stations that are going to be active
10 this summer --

11 DAVYD BETCHKAL: Absolutely.

12 NANCY BALE: -- within the drawn
13 areas on it? That would be helpful for us to
14 see what parts of that area --

15 TOM GEORGE: We can do that in
16 Google Earth.

17 NANCY BALE: -- will be
18 monitored.

19 DAVYD BETCHKAL: I think it
20 would be a snap.

21 NANCY BALE: And we could put it
22 out in our newsletter to just show people it's
23 sort of an experimental approach. Although my
24 view of this is that it is -- it has removed a
25 perception about flying close to the road that

1 may have been an erroneous perception because I
2 never really heard from you, Paul, that the
3 Park Service had told operators they couldn't
4 except for Greg fly near the road.

5 PAUL ANDERSON: I don't know
6 what the Park Service has told operators in the
7 past. When I came to Denali I was told that
8 air tours didn't fly over the Park Road. I
9 never said anything about it to anybody other
10 than "Why is that?"

11 NANCY BALE: There's nothing
12 written; right?

13 PAUL ANDERSON: Not to my
14 knowledge.

15 DAN MCGREGOR: I know I have
16 somewhere in the hangar things, you know, hung
17 up on the wall about that.

18 NANCY BALE: I'd kind of like to
19 see it because I'd be interested not in
20 creating an impression about what the history
21 is that's --

22 JOAN FRANKEVICH: That might not
23 exist.

24 NANCY BALE: -- not really what
25 the history was.

1 PAUL ANDERSON: The only place
2 that you're likely to find it if there is a
3 place that it's likely to be found, because
4 we're talking about air space not ground space,
5 Greg LeHaie's really the only person -- maybe
6 Eric -- but Greg LeHaie's the only person
7 that's really going to be affected by that; and
8 the place that it would be is in his contract.
9 If it's not -- if he's not landing there's no
10 jurisdiction, so therefore there is no reason
11 to say fly somewhere else because it's not
12 enforceable.

13 AMANDA SMITH: My impression
14 from Greg is -- I most clearly heard it from
15 Greg that he was asked to not fly over the
16 road.

17 PAUL ANDERSON: Well, it's not
18 to say the Park Service isn't telling people
19 they shouldn't fly over the Park Road. They
20 are. There's no question in my mind that we
21 are telling people that. Not me personally,
22 but staff. Is it enforceable? No. Is it in
23 writing? Not to my knowledge, but it could be
24 somewhere. Can it be changed? Absolutely.
25 Are we going to make a change in terms of how

1 we go about it? It appears to me that based on
2 your best practice recommendations we're going
3 to make a change, and that change is going to
4 be evaluated to see if there's an impact.

5 NANCY BALE: So no longer will
6 you -- you'll tell when you orient your Rangers
7 and staff you'll be telling them, "Don't say
8 that"?

9 PAUL ANDERSON: Yeah, well,
10 there's -- actually I've been making notes over
11 here as people are talking. There's a couple
12 of things that are pretty important to this
13 best practice implementation. The first one is
14 that it seems to me we need to have some pretty
15 precise or clear anyway factors or parameters
16 and criteria that we're going to monitor to
17 determine whether this thing is having an
18 impact or not. So that's going to be up to you
19 guys to do that pretty quickly. And I know
20 there's not much time but we need to -- we
21 don't want to lose this season in terms of our
22 monitoring.

23 Secondly, probably we need to be
24 talking to our sociologist to see what vehicles
25 we have that might be ongoing this summer that

1 we could use to gather some feedback. Because
2 feedback form complaints doesn't -- I mean,
3 it's really good stuff politically; but it's
4 not good stuff scientifically. For every
5 complaint there's nine people that are pissed
6 off and didn't write about it or didn't talk
7 about it. Statistically we know that. But
8 people that -- judging or basing your actions
9 on complaints alone doesn't make any sense
10 because all you're doing is using negative
11 feedback to try and change things, whereas
12 you're not getting any positive feedback to
13 tell you what the real impact of your changes
14 might be. And so while we can use complaints
15 to manage better, I don't think we want to
16 measure the success or failure of the program
17 based on complaints alone.

18 And in that regard it seems to me
19 once we figure out in May exactly what this is
20 all going to look like from the operators'
21 perspective and we factor the Park aircraft
22 into it as well, and we now have a pretty
23 consensus aircraft operations manager with some
24 pretty explicit direction and the resources
25 program that's being reined in significantly

1 from years past in terms of the helicopter use
2 that would include this project in our
3 orientation in the backcountry office. So when
4 you get a backcountry permit you get oriented
5 to this project, not from the standpoint of
6 look at what those aircraft are doing to the
7 backcountry but from the standpoint of we're
8 working together with the industry to try and
9 reduce impacts from -- noise impacts from
10 aircraft overflights. These are some of the
11 things we're doing and we'd appreciate you
12 paying attention and giving us input or
13 feedback when you're done so that we get a much
14 more objective evaluation than we might
15 otherwise get. And we can gather that
16 information; it's just that it's anecdotal, and
17 it's not -- it won't be -- you can back it up
18 by some of the stuff Davyd's doing; but it's
19 not going to be as useful as the more precise
20 scientifically sound data collection.

21 AMANDA SMITH: Is that
22 possible -- that kind of feedback and
23 orientation possible for this year?

24 PAUL ANDERSON: Yeah, it has to
25 happen this year if you're going to implement

1 this. You've got do that this year.

2 AMANDA SMITH: It would be nice
3 if it could be language that could be reviewed
4 by stakeholders.

5 PAUL ANDERSON: It should be
6 available. I mean, I can't guarantee that
7 we're going to -- we're going to start issuing
8 permits in a month.

9 AMANDA SMITH: Yeah.

10 PAUL ANDERSON: And I don't know
11 that we can get it written up and get everybody
12 to review it in a month. But it certainly
13 won't be a secret. So we could put it
14 together. And it's not always going to be
15 given in the same -- you know, there's five or
16 six or seven different people giving the
17 information. They're not all going to say
18 exactly the same thing but we can have the
19 message there in the writing just like this
20 that they should follow.

21 AMANDA SMITH: Sounds good.

22 PAUL ANDERSON: The
23 interpreters, et cetera, monitor bus traffic
24 and interpretation on the buses and that kind
25 of thing so we can kind of watch for what's

1 happening as well.

2 SALLY GIBERT: Maybe we could
3 help with, you know, like just ourselves as
4 part of our meeting follow-up maybe develop
5 like a one-page thing just maybe especially for
6 this area that talks about -- I just read what
7 you had, Tom. This is really good. But it
8 still doesn't even really get to the reasons
9 for it. The reason why it's like this. Some
10 of them it does but it could go farther.

11 TOM GEORGE: Sure.

12 SALLY GIBERT: And just to kind
13 of maybe frame it a little better. So if you
14 have, like, a handout, I mean, it doesn't mean
15 that it has to be a script but just to kind of
16 tighten it up a little bit.

17 PAUL ANDERSON: Well, I guess I
18 would prefer to have a script. I mean, not a
19 long script, a short script. Here's the
20 message that you need to deliver with
21 everybody. But then the other thing would be
22 if you guys wanted to help us put together, you
23 know, a one-pager, if you will, on what's going
24 on and why and what you can do to help, we
25 could post that at the backcountry office; and

1 we could post it on the Web site as well.

2 TOM GEORGE: Well, I do want to
3 point out that this is a real delicate thing.
4 Because I could see -- I mean, on the one hand
5 if we do nothing, things happen; everybody's
6 upset. On the other hand, if we tell
7 everybody, oh, look for aircraft all over the
8 place, we could in fact create the adverse
9 reaction that we're not looking for. So this
10 is something that has to be very delicately and
11 carefully and in a balanced way worked out
12 which is again the scary part. We're kind of
13 running headlong into the season at a rapid
14 rate. So, you know, there isn't a lot of time
15 to work on this.

16 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Do you think
17 there's value though, the fact sheet is almost
18 completed that where this is also shared
19 there's information about the Council and the
20 work of the Council so give people more of a
21 context for what's really going on? Would that
22 help give it --

23 TOM GEORGE: I'm sorry, I don't
24 understand. You're saying will the fact sheet
25 help? Yeah, I think it would.

1 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Just kind of
2 in giving people more like -- instead of
3 reactionary, you know, I heard -- gosh, I was
4 out there, I really heard aircraft, because
5 you've sensitized them. But in addition to the
6 script just a little bit of education to
7 people. Sorry. That it shared at the same
8 time, same place.

9 TOM GEORGE: I think that's
10 good. I guess I think we need to get working
11 on it because again, how the -- the wording is
12 important.

13 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay. So
14 Paul has just shared it's a month and people
15 will be in the backcountry. Is that realistic
16 for the group to --

17 PAUL ANDERSON: We could do it
18 today.

19 MIRIAM VALENTINE: You could do
20 it today.

21 SALLY GIBERT: We could frame it
22 out. We could sort of do the bullet point
23 thing today and, you know -- I'm not working.
24 I could -- and this is the first meeting where
25 I don't have immediate succession of

1 deadlines -- other deadlines after this meeting
2 so this is kind of a key transition for me.
3 I'm actually sort of feeling like a little bit
4 retired. So -- because I haven't been at all
5 until today. After today. Anyway. So, yeah,
6 if we wanted to outline some of this stuff then
7 this week I can -- I'm expecting to do my
8 follow-up right away while it's still fresh in
9 my mind.

10 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I guess I'm
11 not really sure what the goal is. I think in a
12 certain sense it makes sense to let people know
13 there's a change. On the other hand, there's
14 been a problem with impacts from air tours for
15 years and years and years; and we haven't been
16 prompting people. And it seems like the
17 education is maybe less with the backcountry
18 uses and more with the front country uses,
19 especially people in campgrounds and day
20 hikers. They're the ones that are potentially
21 going to be impacted by this change. And
22 that's where the rub is on this that this may
23 not work.

24 SALLY GIBERT: Well, see, I'm
25 thinking the education is going to be for

1 people like the campground volunteers and the
2 Rangers --

3 JOAN FRANKEVICH: The staff.

4 SALLY GIBERT: -- and bus
5 drivers.

6 JOAN FRANKEVICH: The bus
7 drivers.

8 TOM GEORGE: Yes. Yes.

9 SALLY GIBERT: They're really
10 going to need to understand about it and
11 they're also going to need to know that it is
12 sensitive. A lot of the bus drivers have real
13 strong kind of personal views and, I've
14 noticed, express them. And so no one's going
15 to change that. But if they can be kind of
16 made aware of the fact that, you know, this
17 stuff is delicate and it's not in concrete.

18 JOAN FRANKEVICH: That seems
19 more the audience. So all the staff training,
20 all the NPS staff, concessions staff, even if
21 we can let some of the hotel staff -- yeah --
22 more than the actual visitors who don't really
23 have the big picture and don't know how it
24 changed from the year past. They have no basis
25 of understanding.

1 PAUL ANDERSON: Well, as you
2 have pointed out in the past, you know, how the
3 staff presents the issue can bias the response
4 that you get. And my goal here would be to get
5 it to be as neutral a presentation as possible,
6 not to be pro or con but to get the facts out
7 there and explain to people that we are trying
8 to do something about it in a positive way, and
9 that we're concerned about it, and that our
10 hope is that things that we're doing are making
11 a difference. And, you know, I just -- I
12 thought about it a lot and I just don't see,
13 you know, short of low level bombing of the
14 Eielson Visitors Center that the people on the
15 buses are going to be overly impacted by
16 aircraft flying at 8,000 feet above the Park
17 Road. I mean, the sound of the bus is higher
18 than the sound of an airplane in a general
19 term.

20 TIM CUDNEY: Sound of the other
21 people talking on the bus is higher.

22 NANCY BALE: Yeah, there is a
23 best practice for height which is going to help
24 a little bit. I guess my view of the change
25 here is that it's a salutary change safety-wise

1 because where in the past there seemed to be
2 more tracks over the rugged part. Now the --
3 you have removed whatever perception that
4 operators should not fly close to the road.
5 And there's quite a bit of territory close to
6 the road. And so in reality I think this,
7 weather permitting, is a safer scenario than
8 what was being practiced before because it does
9 spread out operation. So in theory it's
10 something that could be done for safety's sake
11 totally and into the far future even if it had
12 minimal soundscape impact.

13 And then the other part of it was --
14 that didn't get into the final practice -- that
15 would affect what you train your staff to say
16 is that initially when Joan presented this one
17 of the things she said was really that what
18 this bubble is showing is a -- the most
19 statutorily sensitive backcountry plan was and
20 the place where the most people with ears are,
21 this area. And so this is the area that if you
22 can't avoid it -- and that somehow didn't get
23 into the final best practice. So we're not
24 just forcing people to fly over the road.
25 We're asking people to fly over the trench and

1 maybe even go north at times, weather and
2 turbulence and gas load and all that
3 permitting. So that didn't get in there and
4 kind of creates the impression that we're
5 forcing people to fly over the road which in
6 fact we aren't.

7 TOM GEORGE: That's right here.
8 I thought that's what that language is.

9 NANCY BALE: Well, it just
10 describes the area. It doesn't say that we're
11 asking people to fly outside of it.

12 TOM GEORGE: Oh, I see that.

13 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Yeah, the
14 original concept was to --

15 NANCY BALE: And so, you know,
16 although in fact, yes, there may be more planes
17 over in the general sort of wedge-shaped area
18 where the road is here and the planes are up in
19 here hopefully they'll be higher and hopefully
20 some of them will have also chosen to fly the
21 trench which was a suggestion that was made in
22 many, many meetings but didn't come into the
23 best practices. So I do agree, Tom, that there
24 may be something felt on the road. We don't
25 have a lot of -- as Davyd said, we don't have a

1 lot of past measures on the road. We have a
2 measure being taken this summer. We don't have
3 a lot of past measures to judge it. But we do
4 have some soundscape data from the past in the
5 general vicinity, five miles off the road
6 maybe. Eight miles off the road.

7 DAVYD BETCHKAL: At Cathedral
8 Mountain there was a site in 2007 that might --
9 probably --

10 NANCY BALE: There is some data
11 that we could run. And so I think that we're
12 probably -- we could be -- we could be worried
13 about more planes over the road a little bit
14 but I don't know if it needs to be a
15 centerpiece for our worry or concern. But
16 maybe in the best practice we do need to work
17 on somehow capturing that suggestion that was
18 with Joan to fly south of the range in addition
19 to flying closer to the road because that does
20 kind of mitigate this road-centric problem a
21 little bit. So I know that's been a lot --

22 TIM CUDNEY: Something south of
23 the range, and I can't speak for Greg, would
24 completely alter his --

25 NANCY BALE: Well, it wouldn't

1 be -- it would be as --

2 JOAN FRANKEVICH: It doesn't
3 work for Greg.

4 NANCY BALE: -- needed, where
5 needed, who needed, you know.

6 TIM CUDNEY: Sure.

7 TOM GEORGE: Well, in effect you
8 are encouraging flight south of the range
9 because it's in fact outside of the bubble
10 altogether.

11 NANCY BALE: But somehow that
12 language, you know, it may not be real clear
13 from this language.

14 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, but again,
15 now you've got to factor the weather and the
16 other elements into this --

17 NANCY BALE: A given.

18 TOM GEORGE: -- which I think we
19 have. I mean, that's how kind of we arrived at
20 where we are today because there are a lot of
21 times when the clouds stack right up there. So
22 we don't want to tell people, "Yes, you have
23 to -- the best practice includes flying south
24 of the range." I mean, that's where -- this is
25 really a very delicate balance because in kind

1 of going into this, and this is why, you know,
2 we kind of had in some cases pair-wise
3 conversations with each of the four operators
4 that kind of work on the north side here to
5 make sure we weren't putting down something
6 that in fact really is not achievable at all
7 for their operation. If so, it's -- you know,
8 defining of best practice and putting it on
9 paper isn't going to advance the cause in any
10 way, shape, or form.

11 PAUL ANDERSON: So for the long
12 term -- I mean, the thought that immediately
13 comes to mind is that the best practice is stay
14 out of the purple. That's the best practice.
15 And the fact is then if you stated that a
16 little differently it would be there are a
17 number of other operations besides flying in
18 the purple, weather and whatever dependent.
19 And one of those options is flying elsewhere in
20 the Valley over the road, another of the
21 operations is flying on the south side, et
22 cetera, et cetera, et cetera. But over time,
23 you know, we all sit here and talk because
24 we've developed this; we know what it means,
25 and we know what the discussion was; but it may

1 be over time that other operators wouldn't have
2 the benefit of that same conversation. So
3 having it out there might not necessarily be a
4 bad idea but not in the context of forcing
5 people to do that.

6 NANCY BALE: Never that.

7 JOAN FRANKEVICH: You know, if
8 we look back on the language, it was never the
9 intent of the language to say, "Don't go over
10 it." It was recognition that this is a
11 sound-sensitive area; avoid it if and when you
12 can if you want to. And then if you can't or
13 don't want to, then fly with these different
14 considerations.

15 Now in the past we kind of led with
16 that but -- so perhaps maybe it would work for
17 everybody if we maybe just kind of mention it
18 at the end. And what I just -- at the end of
19 page 2 -- so there's still one more sentence on
20 the other side about the campgrounds. Before
21 we get there what if we just added -- okay. So
22 it says in the remainder of the zone spread out
23 to minimize sound impacts in any one area.
24 What if we just added in the remainder of the
25 zone spread out to minimize sound impacts in

1 any one area or avoid the zone altogether. To
2 just give the -- because we have lost the
3 original intent which was this is a
4 sound-sensitive area.

5 TOM GEORGE: Well, I guess I
6 don't think we've lost the original intent at
7 all.

8 JOAN FRANKEVICH: No, I agree.
9 I'm fine with this.

10 TOM GEORGE: In fact I think
11 we've highlighted it just fine. And I have to
12 tell you at this point we have two of the major
13 operators that have to operate in this that are
14 not in the room and able to comment on how it
15 would or wouldn't impact their operation. So I
16 really don't want to mess with the language of
17 this for now. I would suggest putting it in
18 place, trying it. If we need to add more
19 explicit things later, if we need to modify it
20 in other ways later, let's do it later.

21 But this is -- I mean, we've worked
22 long and hard and especially starting with the
23 four people who are in there every day, weather
24 permitting, to come up with something that even
25 though it may be impacting their operation in

1 some cases in economic ways, they think they
2 can live with it. So I would recommend not
3 messing with it further at the moment; and then
4 in the future, if we need to come back and add
5 something, let's come back and add something to
6 it.

7 SALLY GIBERT: Joan, I would --
8 I can see what Tom's saying. And think that
9 since the operators that are the ones that do
10 the most flying in this area I certainly
11 understand that.

12 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I agree. I
13 agree.

14 SALLY GIBERT: That it doesn't
15 have to be explicit. And if it works out in
16 the long run when the audience is broadened
17 that may be the time to consider it in another
18 --

19 TOM GEORGE: And to add to your
20 point, the language -- this whole set of best
21 practices is quite specific to a finite and
22 discrete number of operators that train, talk
23 together. As we get further down the road to
24 the less frequent customers, and in fact I
25 think we're just about ready after we wrap this

1 up and see how it goes, I think we're about
2 ready to take that step and start working out
3 to the, you know, next most frequent users and
4 ultimately to general aviation itself. The
5 language we go out to general aviation with
6 might be quite different to express some of
7 those things as well.

8 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Yeah, that's a
9 whole different ballpark.

10 TOM GEORGE: This is a tightly
11 scripted audience who we have been able to
12 interact with very closely. That's why we have
13 the aviation working group and a forum to do
14 that kind of thing. So, yeah, I think the tool
15 we use here isn't necessarily the tool we use
16 in other places. But I don't think we should
17 try and design all those tools sitting here
18 today because we're kind of having to do this
19 in incremental steps. And I think this is a
20 very significant one that we're looking at
21 right now.

22 JOAN FRANKEVICH: No, I think
23 it's good; and I'm fine with this. But just
24 reiterating Nancy's point, we have shifted from
25 the original; we have lost some of that

1 original language.

2 NANCY BALE: And it's been fear
3 that's caused it.

4 JOAN FRANKEVICH: But this is
5 also --

6 NANCY BALE: That I think is
7 unreasonable fear, frankly; but I'm not going
8 to vote against it. But I do think it's
9 unreasonable fear because no one's forcing
10 anybody to do anything. There's not a great
11 big AWACS up there shooting darts at people.

12 TOM GEORGE: Not today -- not
13 today but Scott might have one there tomorrow.

14 NANCY BALE: I know clouds stack
15 up against the mountains, and you can't fly. I
16 mean, evil Nancy's not going to sit there going
17 you have to fly through those clouds.

18 TOM GEORGE: Evil Nancy, boy, I
19 want to get that -- that's going to stick.

20 NANCY BALE: Well, I mean
21 really, it's fear. Isn't it? Isn't it fear?

22 TOM GEORGE: I don't know that
23 it's productive to --

24 TIM CUDNEY: She's got a point,
25 especially everything that's lurking in the

1 House right now and everything that's lurking
2 with some of the other overflight issues that
3 we deal with in other states and other national
4 parks. We're still -- our best interest and
5 the best thing for everybody, especially the
6 air tour operators is voluntary measures. And
7 voluntary measures means giving up something.
8 Giving up something or mitigating what's going
9 on. I do not want to fall onto, you know,
10 regulation. Nobody here does. And, you know,
11 it means giving up on one side and hopefully a
12 little bit of understanding on the other side.
13 You know, we've come a long way in this
14 process. But, you know, it shouldn't be fear
15 but it should be education, you know, that
16 we're doing this for a better cause.

17 And, you know, I -- like I've
18 mentioned before, you know, if the economy
19 turns around and things look rosy down the road
20 we would like the ability to maybe add another
21 departure back into the Park, something that we
22 had years ago. Maybe add another aircraft or
23 so. But, you know, that's driven by economy as
24 well -- even doing that we still have to work
25 together with, you know, this process.

1 Shouldn't be fear on both sides.
2 Shouldn't be fear of, oh, my gosh, it's a
3 little bit of cloud activity today, I need to
4 kind of skirt over here. I hope somebody
5 doesn't see me, I'll have to put it in stealth
6 mode or something.

7 JOAN FRANKEVICH: You know, my
8 overall feel on this -- I think you're right.
9 I mean, I think that the operators -- they -- I
10 mean, they've been through too many meetings on
11 this so they know. And is this perfect? You
12 know, no. Is this what I intended, what I
13 originally presented? No. Is it reasonable?
14 Yes. You know, are we making progress? I'd
15 say absolutely yes. I think everybody's come
16 together and worked hard in good faith. And I
17 think it's a great -- you know, a great
18 outcome. And, Tom, I give you a lot of credit
19 for taking this on and shepherding it through
20 so I appreciate that.

21 TOM GEORGE: Strike that from
22 the record; I'll be roasted later. Thank you.

23 SALLY GIBERT: So it sounds like
24 sort of the best -- you know, one of those best
25 scenarios where nobody's happy but everybody

1 can live with it kind of situations.

2 TOM GEORGE: I think there has
3 been a lot of give and take in a number of
4 directions and a lot of understanding from a
5 number of directions as to why things either
6 are the way they are both on the ground and in
7 the air. So -- and it's also challenging --
8 some of these things mapped into very detailed
9 things, again, when the individual operators
10 get together or people that are actually out
11 there flying in air space in ways that it's a
12 little hard for us to actually comprehend and
13 articulate around this table. So that's where
14 we got to -- we need to stay at the 30,000-foot
15 level and let both the Park Service at the
16 10,000 and lower level do the things they need
17 to do and operators same way on their side of
18 it. So I think sometimes it is -- I mean, all
19 -- well, I can't speak for all of us but
20 several of us in this room tend to get in and
21 look at all the details and probably want to
22 put far too much detail into some of these
23 things that make life difficult down the road.
24 And I know in my case that's a struggle to
25 where do we actually stop at something that

1 conveys intent but isn't trying to micromanage
2 what each individual operator -- or as much as
3 I'd like to, you know, give more explicit
4 direction to the Park Service, what the Park
5 Service does. And I think at the moment we're
6 at a reasonable place with this.

7 And like I say, the reason this is so
8 short is I had a whole bunch -- a bullet list
9 of specific things I thought the Park Service
10 ought to do; but I cut them off before I handed
11 this out so we weren't getting into that area.

12 SALLY GIBERT: Well, it seems
13 like the things that I think would be really
14 helpful to mention to -- one of the things
15 that -- if somebody's not really thinking about
16 this, they're going to go, well, why do a few
17 backpackers get all the benefits at the expense
18 of the thousands of people that are on the
19 road? And so I think that it will be helpful
20 to mention that the best statutory factor is
21 that that area is designated wilderness, that
22 the road corridor does have a wilderness
23 exemption; and, again, we need to be careful of
24 wording that because that implies that, you
25 know, the pilots are supposed to fly exactly on

1 the road; and that's a problem. But I think
2 that can be word-smithed in a general way. But
3 to, you know, sort of address that larger sense
4 of, you know, back to the backcountry
5 management zones and, you know, the larger
6 intent that to manage those upper valleys away
7 from the road to, you know, favor those
8 wilderness characteristics which are supported
9 in both the plan and statute. And I think that
10 that is -- saying that in a short simple way I
11 think would be helpful.

12 TOM GEORGE: Let me suggest
13 then, why don't we consider and perhaps adopt
14 this thing and then we can at a break actually
15 maybe put on the screen and/or you or a couple
16 people could sit down and do a little word
17 merchanting and -- because if we try and word
18 merchant this thing utterly as a whole group
19 that will take the rest of the afternoon, we'll
20 make this an eight-hour meeting.

21 SALLY GIBERT: Right. And I do
22 see the two documents as different.

23 DAN MCGREGOR: I don't know if I
24 can clear up some of the concerns but I know as
25 far as our operation, this is clear. The

1 intent of what's happening here, the direction
2 that we're trying to go to, speaking with Greg,
3 very clear on that. You know, Tim obviously is
4 clear on this. That's three out of four that
5 are pretty crystal clear on what we're trying
6 to do here. So I kind of agree with Tom on
7 that, I think that we've got a great idea of
8 what's happening here.

9 You know, the point of this was to
10 have the flexibility to decide that so if we
11 try and fine-tune too much right now we might
12 misdirect what we're trying to achieve overall.
13 You know, I don't know if that helps the group;
14 but I think it's pretty clear on the practice
15 what the purple zone really means. You know,
16 and for us specifically, even Denali Air, you
17 know, that was kind of how we had shifted, you
18 know, to that purple area a little bit more and
19 focus on the spine and things like that.

20 NANCY BALE: Because it's
21 pretty.

22 DAN MCGREGOR: It's pretty and
23 it's scenic. You know, and that's why also
24 Nancy, like, the idea of the road corridor, the
25 trenches, those are two different things. You

1 know, that split on the spine, those are two
2 different viewings, scenarios really. So
3 having -- being able to move that or, you know,
4 redirect that to a different area and have that
5 flexibility on the north side is important.

6 NANCY BALE: Well, and the
7 trench is still in the designated wilderness so
8 I think weather protects it from being
9 overflowed too much.

10 DAN MCGREGOR: Quite a lot.

11 NANCY BALE: So if you want to
12 go to a quiet place go to the trench.

13 DAN MCGREGOR: Yeah.

14 SALLY GIBERT: And I just
15 noticed that the thing I was thinking of is
16 here actually already. It's in the first
17 paragraph.

18 TOM GEORGE: Well, thank you.

19 SALLY GIBERT: That is --

20 NANCY BALE: The protection of
21 wilderness.

22 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

23 NANCY BALE: I mean, you could
24 put two or three more sentences but --

25 SALLY GIBERT: I agree, we don't

1 need.

2 Joan.

3 JOAN FRANKEVICH: For Dan and
4 Tim. Your operations often fly a circular
5 route where you go over north of the range
6 first and come back on the south side. And
7 we've discussed in previous meetings reversing
8 that so that you're not -- so that you're
9 descending over the more sound-sensitive areas.
10 Is that something you're still considering?
11 That's a big change for you to really do as
12 well. I'm just curious what your thoughts are
13 on that.

14 DAN MCGREGOR: Speaking from our
15 side of it I think that -- I think that's
16 attainable for sure. I think that, you know,
17 it's counter -- yeah, that'll work. It's
18 doable. It gives us a little more room, power
19 settings. You know, it's going to be more of a
20 swing for us onto that south side to get, say,
21 to the trench or something if we are doing
22 those power settings climb-wise. But I think
23 it's -- I think it's certainly doable. And I
24 think that it's -- it's kind of a natural thing
25 for us to come off the mountain, we discussed

1 this before, coming off from altitude so we're
2 already going to have that so it's going to be
3 easier to maintain --

4 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Maintain on
5 the north side. Or what you're saying it's
6 going to be a little harder to reverse it
7 because you have to climb more quickly to get
8 over to the south side, is that what you're
9 saying about power settings?

10 DAN MCGREGOR: The constraints
11 that I see are that -- just that crossing the
12 range, you know, that's more the real world
13 practicality of it. You know, coming up Riley
14 Creek, you know, those funnels that we
15 discussed --

16 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Right, we
17 talked about that last time.

18 DAN MCGREGOR: -- instead of
19 just kind of the way they funnel is kind of a
20 direct route over -- over the purple area.
21 That's kind of a natural -- when you come up
22 those two spots that's where they exit. So
23 we're going to have to get up and shift which
24 isn't to say that it's not doable, you know, to
25 rapid-rate climb and then make a jog to the

1 south or to the north to clear that area. It's
2 doable. But it's -- like I said, it's not
3 the -- there's sort of a natural climb slope
4 that goes right out into that area. It would
5 be a training constraint that makes it a little
6 more difficult.

7 SALLY GIBERT: I have a
8 suggestion but it's only formatting but I think
9 addresses this rationale issue; and, Tom and
10 Tim and Dan, you can share whether this would
11 be problematic or not. Under nature of service
12 activity, to have that be limited to the first
13 sentence and then put a new paragraph starting
14 with "While the largest concentration." Break
15 that paragraph there and give it a new lead-in
16 of rationale.

17 TOM GEORGE: You know, we
18 haven't done that for any of the other best
19 practices, so why --

20 SALLY GIBERT: I know, but I
21 think just because this one is so -- just
22 because there's more mystery associated with
23 it.

24 TOM GEORGE: I think we're down
25 into -- I mean, you got words in there that say

1 what you're conveying. I don't think messing
2 with it further right now is going to help.

3 SALLY GIBERT: Okay.

4 TOM GEORGE: Let's just throw it
5 out there and let's try it. Again, we can come
6 back next year. We can modify, we can add,
7 delete, reformat.

8 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, it doesn't
9 change the outcome, you're right.

10 TIM CUDNEY: Yeah, and the
11 majority of the recipients are right here, you
12 know.

13 TOM GEORGE: This isn't for the
14 public. This is a technical thing for the --

15 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, I'm just
16 thinking, again, for the bus driver, you know,
17 orientation that they're --

18 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, and we need
19 to talk with Paul on those details. I don't
20 think we should be trying to design this
21 document to accomplish that purpose.

22 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. That makes
23 sense.

24 TIM CUDNEY: This is a question
25 for Paul. I talked to John Kenny briefly a

1 week or so ago and I asked him to maybe sit in
2 on this meeting and kind of explain how they do
3 some of their orientation. But it sounds like
4 you'll be participating in their new-hire
5 training or their orientation this spring. Do
6 you facilitate it or do you just --

7 PAUL ANDERSON: Well, they --
8 no. So we do several hours of training for all
9 the new employees, bus drivers and others.

10 TIM CUDNEY: But they have to go
11 through a recurrent training regardless.

12 PAUL ANDERSON: Yes, every year.
13 Every new -- every year every employee has to
14 go through the training.

15 TIM CUDNEY: So there's an
16 opportunity for you or a member of your team to
17 explain what's going on --

18 PAUL ANDERSON: Yes.

19 TIM CUDNEY: -- in a bipartisan
20 way.

21 PAUL ANDERSON: Uh-huh.

22 NANCY BALE: Who is John Kenny?

23 TIM CUDNEY: John works for
24 Doyon/ARAMARK joint venture. And he oversees
25 the transportation side of that as far as the

1 drivers.

2 PAUL ANDERSON: He's the head of
3 concessions.

4 TIM CUDNEY: But he was very
5 responsive to what we're trying to do. And
6 we -- we helped them with servicing a lot of
7 their radio sites and computer sites and such
8 that's there in the Park.

9 NANCY BALE: I talked to the
10 drivers last summer. They asked me to come
11 orient them about the vehicle management plans.
12 If they ask me again I'll definitely -- if we
13 -- especially if we've put together language,
14 but even if we haven't I'll describe to them
15 what we did.

16 TIM CUDNEY: Well, it's also
17 like we talked earlier, you know, while you're
18 in the actual motor coach even if it's stopped,
19 you know, and you're doing a viewing it's very
20 difficult to hear stuff outside.

21 NANCY BALE: Oh, yeah.

22 TIM CUDNEY: Which is a good
23 thing. But still I think education is, you
24 know, going to be our biggest ally in this
25 especially for the amount of people that are

1 going in the Park. And some of those people
2 may or may not have already been on one of our
3 tours or are ready to take one of the tours --
4 one of the flights.

5 NANCY BALE: As we discussed.

6 SALLY GIBERT: So is there
7 anymore discussion about the actual best
8 practices as a stand-alone recommendation
9 discounting this other educational stuff?

10 NANCY BALE: So we're just
11 voting on this?

12 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, just --
13 just this, yeah. Seemed like -- okay. Do we
14 want a motion or --

15 TOM GEORGE: You might invite
16 public comment.

17 SALLY GIBERT: Oh, I'm sorry.
18 You're right. Yeah, that's right, I did want
19 to do that. Okay. So any other public comment
20 including Park staff?

21 TIM CUDNEY: Just got a note
22 from Charlie Sassara. "I apologize but could
23 not be there this morning. Please consider an
24 unexcused absence but one that I need to use."
25 That's all he said.

1 SALLY GIBERT: Does that mean he
2 might be coming in this afternoon?

3 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Doesn't sound
4 like it.

5 SALLY GIBERT: Any comments out
6 here?

7 DAN MCGREGOR: Yeah, I think --
8 I like the idea, I guess, of coming at it from
9 the heads, like, from the bus drivers' side
10 scenario. And that's because I think what we
11 discussed earlier if you put too much out there
12 that you plant the bug -- plant the seed of
13 what to be listening for. And I think we've
14 all done it in this group; anybody that's spent
15 some time in there spends more time thinking
16 about aircraft. I spend a ton of time thinking
17 about aircraft, and now when I go out there I
18 spend even more time thinking wouldn't think is
19 possible but it happens. So I think that's
20 good because I think then what happens if
21 somebody has some concerns or questions once
22 they're on the tour and they come back and say,
23 you know what, I noticed there was a plane,
24 affected my experience. And then that person
25 can at that point explain what's going on on

1 the tail end of it, maybe calming that down
2 versus saying it to a bunch of people who
3 probably wouldn't care in the first place, just
4 getting -- you're coming back from the return
5 side.

6 As far as practices, yeah, I think we
7 discussed it's a pretty good setup, and Tom and
8 I have been around this quite a few times.
9 Give it a try.

10 SALLY GIBERT: Anything else?

11 So do we want to do a motion or do we
12 want to just adopt it without objection or does
13 anybody --

14 TOM GEORGE: I think you want to
15 try and adopt it without objection since that's
16 been our standard practices.

17 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, that's
18 right. It's been so long since we --

19 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, that's right.
20 See.

21 NANCY BALE: Spin the dial.

22 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. So are
23 there any objections to just modifying our best
24 practices to incorporate this new piece?

25 Okay. Hearing none, it's in.

1 TOM GEORGE: I think a break is
2 in order.

3 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. Ten- or
4 15-minute break.

5 (A break was taken.)

6 SALLY GIBERT: Just to let you
7 know what I was doing on the break was I was
8 starting to work with some of you individually
9 on taking what we just did with north side and
10 developing essentially a handout for the Park
11 Service to give their bus drivers and other
12 employees. It's not public. It's a
13 combination of the recommendation -- the
14 recommendation, your paragraph with some
15 modifications.

16 TOM GEORGE: Well, but let's not
17 lose sight. Our job is to make recommendations
18 to the Park Service. It's their job to put
19 those into language that -- yeah.

20 SALLY GIBERT: A recommendation
21 for the fact sheet. Not a fact sheet but a
22 recommendation for their training purposes that
23 would also go with the fact sheet. That's
24 important.

25 Anyway, so I will continue to do that

1 and then I guess -- and then at some point get
2 it on computer so I'll look at it and do
3 fine-tuning. But I just wanted to announce my
4 intention.

5 JOAN FRANKEVICH: So we're going
6 to do that later today?

7 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, it's not
8 ready yet.

9 TOM GEORGE: She's going to skip
10 lunch to work on it.

11 SALLY GIBERT: I need to talk to
12 Tom because he's got both of these documents in
13 his computer I presume. And so it's
14 essentially cutting and pasting portions of
15 them together in one document. So maybe at
16 lunch we can work on that.

17 Okay. So moving on. Next thing is
18 let's just dispose of the fact sheet. I'm not
19 -- I'm not done. It's close. Trying to deal
20 with the formatting issues. As Miriam and
21 everybody discovered that how you format it has
22 a lot to do with how it communicates. So to do
23 a combination of formatting and content is
24 taking me longer. I should be focusing just on
25 content.

1 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, I thought we
2 were just writing up content. They've got
3 staff that's going to put it into format.

4 SALLY GIBERT: I'm not doing
5 final formatting, believe me. I don't know how
6 to do that. But just in terms of the
7 organization of the paragraphs and, you know,
8 we talked about whacking some stuff, shortening
9 some stuff, that's easy. And then I've already
10 done a lot of that. All the specific changes
11 that we talked about at the last meeting are
12 already done. What I haven't done is write up
13 those couple of paragraphs about the -- sort of
14 the intrinsic sort of non- -- the harder to see
15 values of the Council.

16 But I wanted to -- I needed to -- I
17 needed to finish up the other stuff to kind of
18 see how much space there was left to devote to
19 that because it was -- and it's already pretty
20 word dense and it needs to be not so word dense
21 from the last version that we looked at.

22 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Sally, before
23 you go off that, can I ask just for one -- Tom
24 was great in providing another photo. Remember
25 that was a -- this was the previous photo. And

1 so Tom shared -- let me see if I can.

2 TOM GEORGE: It's not my photo.

3 It came from K2.

4 MIRIAM VALENTINE: This one. So
5 in telling the story of -- let me get it all --
6 see if I can get it all on the screen. If that
7 is more the -- there was a desire to have a
8 better visual. Do you want to make a -- can we
9 make that decision today about --

10 SALLY GIBERT: Oh, sure. Yeah.

11 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Is this a
12 thumbs up? This is a better photo? Yeah?
13 Okay.

14 TIM CUDNEY: Yes. Recommended.

15 TOM GEORGE: Still gets the
16 essence of mountains and whatnot.

17 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, that's
18 good.

19 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay. That's
20 all I needed. Thanks.

21 SALLY GIBERT: New photo. Good.

22 TOM GEORGE: See, a little piece
23 at a time she's going to get this out of us.

24 SALLY GIBERT: I feel really bad
25 that I didn't finish my work on it. And

1 because, as Tom says, I get lost in the
2 details, I've made it harder for myself than I
3 needed to.

4 TOM GEORGE: Actually, can we
5 screen back because I think one other thing we
6 wanted to do was the -- we were discussing a
7 little bit earlier the -- where soundscape
8 stations --

9 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Oh, do you
10 have that on a --

11 TOM GEORGE: And he's got a
12 laser pointer where he can actually point to
13 the map --

14 MIRIAM VALENTINE: That we were
15 using.

16 TOM GEORGE: -- that we were
17 using before if you still have that.

18 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay. Sure.

19 TOM GEORGE: For those of us
20 that didn't follow the exact --

21 MIRIAM VALENTINE: I might have
22 the sound monitoring maps. It'll take me a
23 minute. Let me just pop this up because
24 otherwise we'll just waste time.

25 DAVYD BETCHKAL: So the upper

1 west branch of Toklat is pretty much right in
2 here. And then we're talking about one on
3 perhaps Cathedral Mountain, hereabouts.

4 TOM GEORGE: You say that's
5 where you had one in 2007?

6 DAVYD BETCHKAL: Yep. So this
7 one is 2007. Upper west branch of the Toklat
8 was '09.

9 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, both those
10 would probably be good for -- for change. I
11 mean, that one is kind of right on the
12 boundary; but I think if that's where -- I
13 mean, if that's where you collected data
14 before, that's where you collected data before.

15 DAVYD BETCHKAL: Yeah, and there
16 isn't any other good point that falls within
17 that shape. I mean, frankly it's kind of
18 fortuitous that we did sample there.

19 SALLY GIBERT: Where was the one
20 on the road corridor again?

21 DAVYD BETCHKAL: At Cathedral
22 Mountain. So I guess it's kind of hereabouts.

23 DAN MCGREGOR: Where do you
24 typically post those? High as you can get?
25 Certain aspects?

1 DAVYD BETCHKAL: It kind of
2 depends -- the -- if you -- you mean kind of
3 like in a real fine scale, like, how do I
4 choose the site or --

5 DAN MCGREGOR: Yeah.

6 DAVYD BETCHKAL: On the grand
7 scale they're chosen by the group.

8 DAN MCGREGOR: Yeah. I was
9 thinking more grand scale.

10 DAVYD BETCHKAL: It's on a
11 regular grid spaced --

12 DAN MCGREGOR: I'm sorry. On a
13 fine scale. Yeah, I understand the grid.

14 DAVYD BETCHKAL: On the fine
15 scale, trying to look to replace the summit
16 level. First of all wind is a lot troublesome.
17 If you get a real steep slope stuff always --
18 so finding a level spot relatively free from
19 obstruction --

20 THE COURT REPORTER: I can't
21 hear. I'm sorry.

22 SALLY GIBERT: He was just
23 asking where -- how he sites the -- the
24 detailed sense of how he sites the monitoring
25 stations, and he was describing how it needs to

1 be level and not a lot of obstructions nearby.

2 DAVYD BETCHKAL: Yeah. That's a
3 pretty good summary. Level and without
4 obstructions. So I don't really choose any
5 particular elevation. It's just try to get as
6 close as possible to the grip point and kind of
7 keep those basic selection principles in mind.
8 You know, things like if there's water that
9 might come up if it's put out in the early part
10 of season; you know, I don't want them to get
11 flooded or the cases to get filled up with
12 water. So avoid possible pooling spots, that
13 kind of stuff. I don't know.

14 SALLY GIBERT: Thank you.

15 Okay. So do you want to talk about
16 the workshop -- what we talked about at the
17 workshop on the day after the last meeting?
18 And Miriam has passed out this two-sided
19 handout, draft February 28th workshop.

20 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So I was
21 hoping -- this is specifically about February
22 28th, which was not a formal part of the
23 meeting, and the discussion that occurred. And
24 I'm going to pop up the map.

25 SALLY GIBERT: Before you pop up

1 the map what -- the part about the Council's
2 future we don't need the map.

3 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, I was going
4 to ask about that. It's my impression that --
5 I mean, we discussed the Council's future.
6 There was a general agreement that, yeah, we
7 think it should continue. The action at the
8 moment as I understand it is with the Park
9 Service to go through the formal process of
10 whatever it takes to renew since these things,
11 I guess, sunset on their own. So at least I
12 didn't leave with the impression there was any
13 Council action required at this time whatsoever
14 on that topic. Is that not the case?

15 SALLY GIBERT: Well, except for
16 the fact that that was not a Council meeting.
17 So if --

18 JOAN FRANKEVICH: And there were
19 very few people there.

20 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, that there
21 weren't a lot of people there. So -- I mean,
22 because right now on paper the Council has not
23 recommended to the Park Service that we even
24 continue. So I'm envisioning that this was the
25 meeting to do that, that we would, yes -- say,

1 yes, we want the Council to continue; and, you
2 know, here's why. And so the -- and that's
3 what we talked about at the last meeting which
4 was not a Council meeting formally. So to
5 essentially validate this if in fact that sort
6 of group-think at the workshop is reflected
7 with or without amendment of the full Council I
8 think it'd be helpful to go on record on that
9 which will help give Paul a formal -- something
10 formal from us that acknowledges, yes, we want
11 to continue; and we think we have a role.

12 TOM GEORGE: Can I just ask,
13 do -- I mean, what is the status of that at the
14 moment? In other words, do you need action
15 from the Council for that?

16 PAUL ANDERSON: No, not
17 specifically. I mean, certainly a
18 recommendation from the Council would be useful
19 but we can choose to recharter it or extend it
20 or not without a recommendation from the
21 Council if necessary.

22 TOM GEORGE: And has the Park
23 Service made a decision one way or another in
24 that regard?

25 PAUL ANDERSON: Well, I guess

1 the answer would be yes in that sense. But the
2 Park Service hasn't, the Park has.

3 TOM GEORGE: Nothing's gone
4 forward from the Park Service or from Denali?

5 PAUL ANDERSON: To Washington
6 for approval.

7 TOM GEORGE: Washington.

8 PAUL ANDERSON: Not yet. But it
9 will before the 30th of September.

10 SALLY GIBERT: Has it gone to
11 the region?

12 PAUL ANDERSON: No, not really.
13 I got a thing about where it might go in the
14 region -- beyond regional director. And I
15 don't know --

16 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So all I ask
17 from D.C. is there was discussion about it,
18 what's the process that we would need to go
19 through, like, you know -- what would be the --
20 because the charter now sunsets I don't --
21 we're in an extension mode right now. I mean,
22 they extended the charter to -- we've already
23 taken one action to get us to 2013. What does
24 the action look like and what is needed if we
25 choose to take it -- I mean, like, you know, I

1 asked what's the formal process that they need
2 at D.C.; and I have not had a response back
3 yet.

4 SALLY GIBERT: So there's
5 already been an extension?

6 MIRIAM VALENTINE: There was a
7 2011 piece.

8 TOM GEORGE: See, I think the
9 initial terms were, like, three years.

10 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Four years.

11 JOAN FRANKEVICH: That was just
12 to renew some of the members.

13 SALLY GIBERT: I thought that
14 was just for member terms not the Council as a
15 whole.

16 MIRIAM VALENTINE: There was
17 something that was done at the time that I'd
18 have to go -- that I want to clear up with
19 Melanie, our contact in D.C. about -- so how
20 did all those pieces fit together; and do we,
21 like, start with a fresh start going beyond
22 2013? If we do, it's a time to look at the
23 charter. Why does -- what's the goal of the
24 group and how it's comprised, which you
25 captured. We had discussion about that. How

1 many members are on it. I mean, it's a time to
2 look at the whole thing again. Okay. And then
3 for how many years would we charter that for?

4 But Paul's correct in that this group
5 is chartered by the Park which is different
6 than being chartered by the region or by
7 Department of Interior.

8 TOM GEORGE: That was something
9 I wasn't aware of.

10 JOAN FRANKEVICH: At some
11 previous meeting I don't -- I remember
12 discussing this because we made a list of
13 things that we thought we should summarize and
14 submit. We were talking about all our
15 different products that we had completed. And
16 I thought it was to get us renewed.

17 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Sally's got
18 it all taken care of.

19 SALLY GIBERT: This is another
20 handout that -- because it was related to
21 recommendations I didn't want to confuse
22 people. But we did talk about -- I think it
23 was at the fall -- our fall meeting this year
24 of '11. We've done more than just best
25 practices.

1 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Yeah, and we
2 came up with quite a list.

3 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, so we have
4 -- we talked about having on the Web page a
5 link to recommendations of the Council. And
6 right now it's a link the -- by the way, the
7 Web site changes that we made are good, really
8 good.

9 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Good.
10 Awesome.

11 SALLY GIBERT: They're not
12 perfect in terms of how I'd like them to be but
13 I know that the changes that I most would like
14 to see are changes that you can't make given
15 your rules for Web sites unfortunately. But,
16 yeah, it's really looking good. So if you go
17 to that -- I looked at it, like, yesterday. So
18 if you go to the recommendations line on the
19 front page there it says "the Council
20 recommendations." If you click that you get
21 the best practices document. You don't get all
22 of our recommendations, you just get best
23 practices.

24 So one of the changes we had already
25 talked about is having that link go to all of

1 the recommendations that would be of use to
2 people that are looking at the site. And so
3 that's what this is. And I've been working on
4 this for a long time and I think -- and the
5 introduction which is -- the introduction is
6 actually -- I think it's a slight expansion of
7 the introduction to the best practices in terms
8 of the safety first. But I need to look at it
9 and compare to see if it is an expansion or
10 whether it just looks different in a different
11 font. Anyway, so it includes all that. It
12 includes our initial working assumptions which
13 people wanted to have captured somewhere. It
14 includes the recommendations for the unusual
15 event feedback, shows a dialogue about the Park
16 Service on monitoring and the other monitoring.
17 And it included something else.

18 NANCY BALE: Is the
19 brainstorming list in there?

20 SALLY GIBERT: No.

21 So anyway so that's something that
22 I've been kind of compiling. And I don't
23 know -- I can't remember if I ever sent this
24 out for review. I thought I had but when I was
25 looking at my notes I couldn't find it. So I

1 may not have ever sent this out. And of course
2 this -- and this would be updated based on what
3 we just adopted just now. So anyway, I can
4 pass this out now or we can do it later. But I
5 just want to let you know that that's something
6 that I brought to the meeting today to get to.
7 Yeah, we do have other recommendations besides
8 the --

9 TOM GEORGE: I'd say pass it out
10 now. We don't have to chew up meeting time
11 right now discussing it.

12 SALLY GIBERT: So what caused
13 that question to come up? Anyway, yeah. And
14 actually if we did recommend that we would
15 continue it would make sense to put a
16 recommendation -- put that in here too I
17 suppose although it's kind of processing.

18 My understanding it was -- one of the
19 reasons why we talked about it at the last
20 meeting was so that we could, you know, help
21 the Park Service in their documentation.

22 TOM GEORGE: Shows what's been
23 the results of this group.

24 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

25 TOM GEORGE: Of course, the

1 other -- I mean, there are some other
2 Council-related activities such as a couple of
3 soundscape listening exercises and things we
4 did, which I think could be added. So I guess
5 what I'd suggest you do is circulate this to
6 the full Council knowing that we have people
7 absent today and give us all two weeks or some
8 defined period of time to get comments and
9 feedback back in.

10 JOAN FRANKEVICH: This is for
11 the -- I think I'm mixing apples and oranges.
12 This is for the Web site?

13 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, that was
14 prepared for the Web site as a comprehensive
15 list of recommendations that would be updated
16 as needed. In fact, as you can see on the --
17 you know, on it it would've been last modified
18 by the Overflights Council on....and so there'd
19 always be the most recent date so that whenever
20 you were looking at it you would know whether
21 it had changed.

22 TOM GEORGE: So when some other
23 recommendation was added that would be added
24 and this date would be updated?

25 SALLY GIBERT: And that date

1 would be changed, yeah.

2 JOAN FRANKEVICH: But we're
3 talking right now then about using these
4 documents as -- to go in a letter with
5 information on why this FACA group should
6 continue because this is the progress we're
7 making? Is that what we're talking about?

8 SALLY GIBERT: Not -- not, no.

9 JOAN FRANKEVICH: No. Okay.

10 SALLY GIBERT: So this was --
11 yeah, that's why I didn't want to confuse
12 things. The thing I just passed out would
13 be -- it has been designed to go on to be the
14 document that the link on the Web page goes to
15 when people want to look at what
16 recommendations we've made, which includes the
17 best practices and more. Because right now if
18 you click it the other stuff you don't see.
19 This could also be something that the Park
20 Service could use in its own communications in,
21 you know, the FACA charter, you know, as a link
22 or however you want to use it. But it does
23 include all that stuff and/or whatever else we
24 would want to include, like, our summer
25 monitoring listening session, which is just not

1 included.

2 So -- and then the -- and then the
3 other question is on the future of the Council,
4 whether we want to have a formal recommendation
5 about the future of the Council to the Park
6 Service to use however they're going to use it.

7 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Kind of sounds
8 like they don't need it; right? Is that what
9 you said?

10 NANCY BALE: A recommendation
11 you mean?

12 MIRIAM VALENTINE: I think
13 there's value if there truly is agreement by
14 the Council members that these are -- you
15 deliberated about it, you deliberated that it
16 should continue, that having it under the
17 Federal Advisory Committee Act is the best
18 model that -- I mean, you've brainstormed about
19 that. You've looked at the charter, that'll be
20 certainly management -- Park manager would have
21 influence on that but you've considered the
22 mix. I mean, providing what you have put --
23 Sally has kind of consolidated here you've
24 given it thought. You know, I would encourage
25 you to have it as -- come as a recommendation.

1 It can be considered then as we move forward in
2 looking at the future of the Council. I mean,
3 if it's not Paul sitting here it's the next --
4 I mean, it serves as a good educational tool
5 for the next manager, yeah? I don't know.

6 TOM GEORGE: And we're going to
7 add a chunk that, again, Paul is deemed
8 superintendent for life until the Council goes
9 out of business.

10 PAUL ANDERSON: Okay. We're not
11 renewing the charter.

12 TOM GEORGE: There's one way to
13 get out of this for all of us.

14 SALLY GIBERT: You know, it's
15 clear that there -- that this is, you know,
16 written with the sense that this is not like a
17 voluntary measure and that, you know, the
18 Council's not in charge of its future. You
19 know, like the -- you know, just sort of saying
20 minimizing turnover is a good idea, it doesn't
21 say we want, you know, Paul to ensure that all
22 of us, except for me, are personally renewed.
23 It doesn't say that. And I don't think we
24 should go there.

25 MIRIAM VALENTINE: But having

1 that -- if you've -- if you as a group feel
2 that minimizing turnover is to the benefit of
3 the conversation so that four-year terms
4 worked. Or maybe a six-year charter -- people
5 should be on for six years so that you don't --
6 I mean, like, that equates to something.

7 TOM GEORGE: I guess I think the
8 essence of what's in here all looks good and
9 what we talked about. I don't think exactly
10 the way it's worded here necessarily fits the
11 format of a recommendation. I'd be happy to
12 offer not in this meeting to take this and try
13 to turn it into a recommendation. I guess my
14 question though is rather than trying to fit
15 that into our schedule today is this something
16 we could do over e-mail?

17 SALLY GIBERT: That could be a
18 homework assignment.

19 TOM GEORGE: And get done in a
20 -- you know, over the next couple of weeks, not
21 wait till September but also not think we're
22 going to accomplish it today.

23 SALLY GIBERT: Right. We could
24 sort of adopt the content and --

25 TOM GEORGE: Adopt the content

1 and then the details to follow. That's always

2 --

3 SALLY GIBERT: And then you're
4 volunteering to set it up as a recommendation
5 for draft for review. Does that make sense?

6 TOM GEORGE: Okay.

7 NANCY BALE: I can't remember
8 when Davyd said the inventory would be
9 complete.

10 DAVYD BETCHKAL: So this is year
11 number seven. So then it would be --

12 TOM GEORGE: Three more; right?

13 NANCY BALE: 2015?

14 DAVYD BETCHKAL: Eight is '13,
15 nine is '14, ten is '15.

16 NANCY BALE: And then only after
17 that would be some NEPA thing maybe. That's
18 not up to you I'm sure. Yeah. But there was a
19 discussion of that, wasn't there?

20 PAUL ANDERSON: You mean as far
21 as modifying the soundscape plan?

22 NANCY BALE: Uh-huh.

23 PAUL ANDERSON: Yes.

24 NANCY BALE: So but it would
25 wait until after the inventory was complete?

1 PAUL ANDERSON: Well, I can't
2 remember what we said exactly. There's
3 something in the backcountry plan that says
4 2015 or something.

5 SALLY GIBERT: I thought it was
6 five.

7 MIRIAM VALENTINE: It was five
8 years from the time of the plan.

9 SALLY GIBERT: Which was
10 definitely less than --

11 TOM GEORGE: But I didn't get
12 the impression there was any hard correlation
13 between one and the other. I mean, to change
14 this would require NEPA action but I didn't
15 hear anything that said it either had to wait
16 or it would necessarily be tied to the
17 inventory process.

18 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, I don't
19 remember that either.

20 NANCY BALE: It makes sense from
21 the scientific standpoint because you've got a
22 baseline, especially if you're looking at wide
23 regions. But --

24 SALLY GIBERT: I think that
25 would be something that that -- that when that

1 was done that would be the appropriate time to
2 ask the question.

3 NANCY BALE: And that justifies
4 our continuing on for at least until then
5 because we might -- we would probably have
6 recommendations at that point. But I guess the
7 question is -- yeah.

8 SALLY GIBERT: I guess what your
9 point is that's potential additional rationale
10 for continuing, you know, while the monitoring
11 is -- baseline is filled in.

12 NANCY BALE: Uh-huh.

13 TOM GEORGE: There are those of
14 us that argued that we actually shouldn't set
15 soundscape standards in the first place until a
16 certain baseline had been achieved. That
17 recommendation didn't go anywhere either so,
18 again, I don't think this is a hard thing one
19 way or another.

20 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. Well, the
21 soundscape data is not the same thing as
22 standards.

23 TOM GEORGE: That's right.

24 SALLY GIBERT: Just data --

25 TOM GEORGE: That's exactly

1 right.

2 SALLY GIBERT: -- that informs
3 standards. Which -- so there'll be data and so
4 --

5 TOM GEORGE: And each year
6 there's more data which is helpful, very
7 helpful.

8 SALLY GIBERT: So any
9 recommendations from somebody besides me?

10 NANCY BALE: Regarding the
11 future?

12 SALLY GIBERT: Regarding what
13 we're doing with this.

14 NANCY BALE: Oh, with this?

15 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. Do you
16 guys want to adopt it in concept and give it to
17 Tom to turn into a recommendation?

18 NANCY BALE: To Tom? Did you
19 agree to take it?

20 TOM GEORGE: I did. Foolishly,
21 I did. I'd offer it to somebody else though if
22 they wanted it.

23 NANCY BALE: Well, if we were
24 going to recommend that our charter be renewed
25 could we also recommend the length of time we

1 anticipate being done?

2 TOM GEORGE: You know, I don't
3 think we know that or could agree upon that. I
4 think we should stick to the points that we
5 talked about and agreed to at the workshop --

6 NANCY BALE: They might ask
7 though.

8 TOM GEORGE: -- in interest in
9 simplicity.

10 SALLY GIBERT: I don't even know
11 what a good time frame is at this point. I
12 mean, I think, you know, maybe -- you know, I
13 don't know.

14 NANCY BALE: Probably five years
15 we could finish I bet. That makes it 2018.

16 TOM GEORGE: Depends on where
17 the future takes us and how things go.

18 SALLY GIBERT: And that -- I
19 mean, if you pick a number that also implies
20 that maybe you will be finished, and maybe that
21 isn't even the right question. It could be
22 that there is a value in having something like
23 this continue because it is voluntary to
24 maintain that participation. I'm not
25 advocating that, but I'm just saying that's

1 something we just don't know.

2 NANCY BALE: Yeah, I think Tom
3 -- we're giving Tom kind of a hard job.

4 TOM GEORGE: No, you haven't
5 because I'm just sticking to the points in
6 here.

7 NANCY BALE: And developing a
8 recommendation based on them?

9 JOAN FRANKEVICH: To give to the
10 Park Service, is that what we're --

11 TOM GEORGE: Yes, a Council
12 recommendation to the Park Service along the
13 lines of what's in here so you've got something
14 on paper that kind of captures the work that
15 was done at the work session.

16 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, something
17 that doesn't use the word "group-think" for
18 example.

19 TOM GEORGE: Right. Exactly.

20 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So, Tom,
21 you're going to get that through e-mail and
22 then are you going to -- are we going to not
23 have it formally presented to Park Service
24 until the fall meeting or is it something --

25 TOM GEORGE: I don't think it

1 has to wait. I think as soon as it's been
2 batted around and --

3 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay.

4 TOM GEORGE: And non-objected to
5 on e-mail I think it's good to go.

6 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay.

7 TOM GEORGE: I don't think we
8 have to wait. And that's where Sally's point
9 of adopting it in concept here today, the
10 specific language to follow.

11 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay.

12 NANCY BALE: What concept are we
13 adopting now?

14 TOM GEORGE: The concept
15 articulated in this section of this document.

16 NANCY BALE: Continue to use
17 informal --

18 TOM GEORGE: All of these things
19 right here.

20 NANCY BALE: Okay. So really we
21 are recommending that the Council should be
22 continued as a FACA charter group.

23 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Yes. And
24 we're basically saying --

25 NANCY BALE: We could just

1 simply say that and vote on it and be done and
2 you don't have to spend two months working on
3 it.

4 TOM GEORGE: No, I think the
5 essence is that they want some of the meat of
6 what the rationale and stuff is, which, again,
7 I think is nicely laid out here, we just need
8 to repackage it a little bit. Package it as a
9 recommendation as opposed to a set of kind of
10 meeting notes.

11 NANCY BALE: Yeah, I do think
12 that what I just said is a recommendation.

13 TOM GEORGE: Say it again.

14 NANCY BALE: That the Council
15 should continue as a FACA group.

16 TOM GEORGE: Why don't we just
17 shorten it to the Council should continue,
18 details supplied by this?

19 NANCY BALE: Okay. So this
20 first thing is the recommendation and then --

21 TOM GEORGE: The first
22 underlying statement ultimately is the
23 recommendation.

24 NANCY BALE: And then you're
25 just going to change the language.

1 TOM GEORGE: It may be
2 self-serving by some but it's a recommendation.

3 NANCY BALE: Our work is not
4 done.

5 TOM GEORGE: Sadly, no.

6 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. So we're
7 going to adopt this whole thing as a concept
8 and Tom is going to --

9 TOM GEORGE: To clarify what she
10 said, we're adopting essentially this first
11 sentence: "The Council should be continued,
12 details to follow."

13 SALLY GIBERT: And the rest of
14 it is sort of background to supplement that.
15 Got it.

16 TOM GEORGE: Which, again, I'll
17 supply and go out by e-mail for Council to
18 debate and refine.

19 SALLY GIBERT: And we'll dress
20 it up into a recommendation and we'll all
21 review it and -- quickly and --

22 TIM CUDNEY: Do, like, an e-mail
23 vote?

24 SALLY GIBERT: E-mail poll. No
25 meeting. Yeah. So we can just take care of

1 it.

2 Okay. So any objections to that
3 approach? Any other discussions?

4 Okay. So I will send it to you, Tom.

5 TOM GEORGE: Actually, I already
6 have it.

7 SALLY GIBERT: I'll send it to
8 you in an e-mail. Oh, that's right, you've
9 already got it.

10 TOM GEORGE: I've already got
11 it.

12 SALLY GIBERT: You've already
13 got it. I don't have to do anything.

14 Next housekeeping question, once that
15 is done should that be added to the thing that
16 will be on the Web site?

17 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Huh-uh.

18 SALLY GIBERT: No? I mean, it's
19 a fair question that could go either way.

20 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, let's just
21 get what we got so far.

22 SALLY GIBERT: Okay.

23 TOM GEORGE: That's a future
24 thing.

25 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, just want

1 to ask the questions while we're here.

2 Okay. The next thing is part of the
3 notes from the workshop regarding revisiting
4 the backcountry soundscape zones which is
5 associated with that map up there. Was this
6 discussed at all in the aviation working group?

7 JOAN FRANKEVICH: No.

8 TOM GEORGE: Not really. We
9 talked about it in general but I don't think we
10 had a copy of the map to look at.

11 JOAN FRANKEVICH: In my -- even
12 at the February 28th meeting, I mean, there was
13 a small group of people that put this together.
14 Even that group, which was a pretty small
15 group, didn't discuss it as a whole. So I
16 think we're still at preliminary concept. I
17 don't feel like this has really been discussed.

18 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, because I
19 was kind of assuming that this was going to
20 remain that way, that we would not adopt this
21 or act on this other than acknowledge its
22 existence and that we're still pondering it
23 kind of.

24 NANCY BALE: It kind of
25 describes the situation.

1 JOAN FRANKEVICH: As it is
2 currently.

3 NANCY BALE: With, you know,
4 some tweaking -- a little tweaking here and
5 there. But then it's kind of interesting that
6 it's on -- I'd forgotten that it was on this
7 map that contains the GPSs of the flight
8 patterns because it actually is fairly accurate
9 in describing where it's busy, where -- you
10 know, but then if you look at the colors of
11 what the backcountry plan intended, that the
12 old park B you see where there is the biggest
13 conflict is the area we just worked on. So I
14 guess we really should be proud.

15 TOM GEORGE: Yeah.

16 NANCY BALE: And then some of
17 the things that we recognized and acknowledged
18 that the area of the Park that borders on the
19 Parks Highway and the entrance area is really
20 unchangeably more noisy. And it also has a jet
21 flight path over it and lots of aviation too.
22 So, you know, that was reflected in the work
23 group's pushing back of the bubble away from
24 the eastern boundary of the Park. So that's
25 been embedded I think through all of our brains

1 anyway, not science particularly, that we know
2 that's noisier there; and we don't see a way to
3 make it low.

4 And then of course unless all the
5 aircraft that approaches the mountain from the
6 east flies outside that MED zone then that area
7 is never going to be as quiet as the area to
8 the west. So, you know, it kind of -- it
9 does -- with some minor tweaking it could be
10 done, express the situation we have right now.
11 And I think probably one of the biggest
12 problems we're going to have is keeping that
13 medium zone medium. I think that's a huge
14 future problem and not having it, you know,
15 gradually become hot. I think that's the key
16 problem for the Council and for the Park
17 Service and for the operators.

18 TOM GEORGE: I think this
19 concept of rezoning, again, recognizing active
20 practices I think is a good way forward. And
21 of course along with this would go
22 eventually -- you know, looking at and
23 redefining actually what the standards within
24 those zones are, which, again, there's data
25 collection going on to support and there's at

1 least one science project if not more that are
2 collecting information that will eventually
3 inform that whole discussion. But I think this
4 concept of identifying areas like this actually
5 is a very constructive way forward.

6 NANCY BALE: And, Sally, you
7 were talking about the area -- the Kichatna
8 area, the southwest area that Brian had talked
9 about.

10 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, it was kind
11 of a -- sort of like a mountain -- it was like
12 a -- sort of a concise mountainous area that,
13 if I recall correctly, I don't know what to
14 call it.

15 NANCY BALE: And in the plan I
16 think that already the -- wasn't it determined
17 at the meeting that scenic flight landings have
18 already been basically prohibited there? Is
19 that right, Davyd? By the backcountry plan.

20 TIM CUDNEY: Where is this?

21 JOAN FRANKEVICH: You can only
22 land where there's portals; right? So --

23 NANCY BALE: So landing for
24 scenic. And in the low -- bottom of the low,
25 that area that's in the preserve.

1 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, I think we
2 need to come back and talk about that. I don't
3 think that's accurate. I think the truth is
4 that anybody to go in and land has to get a
5 concession permit from the Park Service.

6 TIM CUDNEY: If you're doing it
7 for --

8 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Commercially.

9 TOM GEORGE: For commercial
10 purposes.

11 NANCY BALE: But I think it's
12 only for taxi that it's been authorized. Now,
13 I don't know, do --

14 TIM CUDNEY: There are taxis
15 that have a concession permit.

16 NANCY BALE: But taxiing, you
17 know, to stay over.

18 PAUL ANDERSON: There's a
19 difference between where you can land for
20 scenic glacier landing flights and where air
21 taxis can land. And I'm not -- I can't speak
22 intelligently to the restrictions specifically
23 right now, but air taxis have a lot more
24 flexibility in where they can go essentially
25 anywhere outside the old Park with a permit for

1 the purposes of dropping off and picking people
2 up for overnight trips.

3 NANCY BALE: But I do think that
4 landing to snap a picture and leave is not
5 allowed there in the backcountry plan. I'd
6 have to look it up though.

7 PAUL ANDERSON: Landing is
8 allowed for air taxis. Air taxi landings are
9 allowed.

10 NANCY BALE: But only for
11 leaning overnights.

12 PAUL ANDERSON: Right.

13 NANCY BALE: Not for snapping a
14 picture and then leaving.

15 PAUL ANDERSON: Yep.

16 SALLY GIBERT: I'm not sure if
17 it's actually -- I don't think it's prohibited.
18 I think it's more that there had been an
19 absence of permits in that area for that type
20 of landing because it's kind of far away and
21 it's not cost-effective.

22 PAUL ANDERSON: You know, I
23 don't know exactly what it says. But we did
24 point out that there are certain specific areas
25 where glacier landings are authorized to occur:

1 The Pica, the Eldridge, the Ruth, and the
2 Kahiltna base camp. And there is not an intent
3 on the part of the Park to expand that. So if
4 somebody came in and said, "Well, we want to do
5 scenic glacier landings in the Kahiltna
6 Spires," we'd say no. We can't preclude you
7 from doing a scenic tour over the Kahiltna
8 Spires which adds to this problem, but we can
9 preclude you from landing your aircraft there
10 as part of a glacier landing operation.

11 TIM CUDNEY: But it's still open
12 to general aviation.

13 PAUL ANDERSON: Right. Well,
14 the old Park -- to noncommercial aviation the
15 old Park is open as well.

16 TIM CUDNEY: And that's where
17 occasionally I'll get some concerns: Well, I
18 saw an airplane land at X.

19 PAUL ANDERSON: Right.

20 NANCY BALE: I know I'm just
21 reiterating Brian's concern about it as being a
22 place where -- that could be reserved for
23 climbers. I think that was his kind of
24 thought.

25 SALLY GIBERT: It was -- I think

1 I was -- he was -- just kind of wanted to kind
2 of state in, like, a potential recommendation
3 format that if there is, you know, demand to
4 have more glacier landing areas it's good to
5 have the clarification from Paul that not --
6 that that's an area that you don't want to
7 expand that activity into.

8 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Yeah, but --
9 and it's too bad Brian's not here. But it was
10 more than just landings, it was flightseeing in
11 general.

12 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, and
13 flightseeing in general.

14 NANCY BALE: Which would be --
15 that would be totally voluntary, but whether
16 you were willing to issue permits for scenics
17 would be not -- it would be something the Park
18 Service would have to determine.

19 TOM GEORGE: Consciously do or
20 not do; right. But to me the whole point of
21 that discussion, again, led to the nature of
22 things where there is and isn't activity today
23 to help us understand and go toward this notion
24 of considering a different set of zones over
25 what were in the original backcountry plan. So

1 I think, I mean, to me that was really the
2 purpose of all those discussions. And I think
3 that's the -- you know, this Council is going
4 to eventually, probably not today, make a
5 recommendation that would be of that nature.

6 SALLY GIBERT: Right. Yeah.
7 Now what I wanted to just add to what Nancy
8 said about one of the challenges is going to be
9 to keep the medium area medium. And I think
10 another challenge is sort of the long-term
11 thinking about keeping -- keeping the low areas
12 low. And if there's some specific ways to do
13 that, such as looking at that area and -- as a
14 potential recommendation, and I'm not proposing
15 that we make a recommendation now because it
16 hasn't been through vetting at all, of looking
17 at that area, whatever that area -- however
18 that was defined as an area avoided for
19 flightseeing and to recommend that the Park
20 Service not consider expanding landings in
21 there in the future. But anyway, because I
22 just sort of saw that as a specific potential
23 recommendation that I was trying to make sure
24 that people recommended that was discussed and
25 could move into the vetting process.

1 AMANDA SMITH: I just would like
2 to say that Brian asked that it be read into
3 the record the number of glacier landings last
4 summer. It was 1,994 according to the
5 visitors' survey.

6 TOM GEORGE: What's that number?

7 AMANDA SMITH: 1,994.

8 SALLY GIBERT: Landings or
9 people landing?

10 AMANDA SMITH: That's commercial
11 airplane flights with landings.

12 TIM CUDNEY: So that doesn't
13 give you a user number; it just gives you
14 number of landings.

15 AMANDA SMITH: It compares with
16 a user number later in the document which is
17 passengers. And that's ranked at about 15,222
18 if I'm reading this right.

19 TIM CUDNEY: I thought 5.1
20 approximately.

21 AMANDA SMITH: And that number,
22 1,994, is -- it appears to me that it's -- at
23 times that's a little on the low side. 2011
24 was low with the peak being in 2001, which was
25 25,000 -- sorry, 2,569.

1 NANCY BALE: In 2001?

2 AMANDA SMITH: In 2001. The
3 high number, if I'm reading this right, the
4 high number which was in 2001 was 2,569. And
5 that was commercial airplane flights with
6 landings.

7 NANCY BALE: And that included
8 the Kahiltna landing climbers and all the
9 portals?

10 AMANDA SMITH: Uh-huh. And I
11 don't know record-wise if it makes sense that
12 the visitor -- the whole visitor use document
13 gets submitted or just the page or just reading
14 it out loud. I don't know if it matters to the
15 Council.

16 NANCY BALE: I wonder if that's
17 digital.

18 DAVYD BETCHKAL: Absolutely.

19 MIRIAM VALENTINE: It was sent
20 to everyone.

21 NANCY BALE: I think it should
22 go up on the Web then.

23 AMANDA SMITH: It's pretty cool
24 information. And not, you know, completely
25 comprehensive, but there's a lot of information

1 here.

2 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Maybe six
3 weeks ago.

4 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Brian
5 requested this information from Andrew
6 Ackerman. And when he received it I was copied
7 on it. I just turned around and sent it to
8 everybody.

9 NANCY BALE: Well, all it says
10 in the plan is scenic air landings will be
11 allowed in the red areas, if you all have your
12 map, the management area A. But it didn't say
13 they'll be prohibited in all the other areas.
14 I don't think the Park Service likes to use
15 prohibitory language. It does say scenic air
16 touring will be allowed on glaciers and all
17 areas designated as management area A which is,
18 you know, Ruth and approaches to the mountain,
19 and interestingly, that area by Cantwell. I
20 don't know if you could get a scenic tour in
21 there.

22 PAUL ANDERSON: They're going to
23 land at the Dunkle Mine.

24 SALLY GIBERT: So we can --
25 like, on the Web site we have -- you know, we

1 have things that are submitted associated with
2 individual meetings and we can just go ahead
3 and add this data set to our --

4 TOM GEORGE: As Council
5 documents.

6 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, Council
7 documents. Yeah, that's interesting.

8 AMANDA SMITH: They project the
9 number out as well actually into 2018 of how
10 many they anticipate which I also thought was
11 interesting. I don't know the methodology for
12 that but they project it out going up, coming
13 down, going up, coming down, well, actually
14 coming down.

15 TOM GEORGE: Do they show their
16 past projections against actual counts now,
17 just out of curiosity?

18 AMANDA SMITH: Not that I see.

19 DAVYD BETCHKAL: I wouldn't read
20 too much into those things.

21 AMANDA SMITH: Thanks.

22 SALLY GIBERT: What is it out of
23 curiosity?

24 AMANDA SMITH: Down. The trends
25 go down.

1 TOM GEORGE: Don't tell Tim,
2 please.

3 AMANDA SMITH: And that's --
4 that looks like it's mountaineering.

5 SALLY GIBERT: So is there
6 anything more we want to do with this zone
7 concept? Just let it sit there for a while and
8 just rally around kind of background? We want
9 to send it to a working group or not -- just
10 not worry about it right now?

11 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I'm sorry,
12 what?

13 TOM GEORGE: Which?

14 SALLY GIBERT: I'm just
15 wondering now that we brought it up and we
16 said, okay, the work group did, is there a next
17 step? Is it --

18 TOM GEORGE: I think we talk
19 about it in the September meeting.

20 SALLY GIBERT: Okay.

21 TOM GEORGE: I don't see us
22 jumping into something right now.

23 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I lost you.
24 About what?

25 TOM GEORGE: These zones.

1 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Oh, the low,
2 medium, high?

3 TOM GEORGE: Yeah.

4 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. We could
5 just bump it for further consideration at the
6 next meeting. Not necessarily for action but
7 just to kind of --

8 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Yeah, I'm not
9 really sure where we're going because this is
10 if and when the backcountry management
11 standards are revised, that's kind of like an
12 initial piece what our recommendations might
13 be. Is that --

14 SALLY GIBERT: Well, to me it
15 could do multiple things. It could be a base
16 document for future recommendations regarding
17 the backcountry management plan soundscape
18 standards specifically. And it could also
19 inform future best practices.

20 TOM GEORGE: I guess I think the
21 Council should be working, you know, thinking
22 about this over the summer, studying it and
23 coming back this fall and looking at it and
24 with the idea of considering a recommendation
25 to the Park Service to rezone along these

1 lines. So in other words, to help drive the
2 process rather than sit around and wait for the
3 process to come to us based on our ten years
4 now of --

5 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Yeah, if
6 that's the case, I mean, I haven't looked at it
7 this closely or thought about it.

8 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, well, that's
9 why I say not today. We don't want to take any
10 action today but we should be looking at this.
11 And we should at the fall meeting be ready to
12 perhaps take some action at that time. In the
13 meantime by circulating this to the Council
14 members and beyond we've got some basis to
15 start to study it and think about it and get to
16 the details we have to get to before we can
17 make a recommendation.

18 NANCY BALE: Well, the main
19 thing I see there is a message for the future.
20 It may not even be the basis of new standards,
21 it could be. But it also -- here's the
22 situation that we have. This is our situation
23 right now that there's not very much soundscape
24 intrusion in the low area, and maybe those
25 words aren't very good. There's a fair amount

1 more in the medium area and there's quite a lot
2 in the high area, especially, you know, if you
3 don't include around where Cantwell is that's
4 -- there's not really a high disturbance of
5 traffic there compared with, you know, Ruth and
6 all that which was what the backcountry plan
7 identified as the area that was statutorily
8 kind of preserved and --

9 TOM GEORGE: Actually I think
10 there is a lot of disturbance in that area due
11 not to Park-related activities but due to the
12 fact that it's the major flyway between
13 Anchorage and Fairbanks that has traffic go
14 through there.

15 NANCY BALE: Well, I don't mean
16 Cantwell so much as I mean, you know, after it
17 turns and moves along the south side like that.
18 There may be an area -- you know, that's the
19 cloudy area where the clouds back up. So there
20 may be an area that's not -- but, you know,
21 that's just a minor tweaking.

22 But I guess I do think the challenge
23 really is for all of us who are sitting here,
24 the operators and others, to look at that and
25 think, well, what do you want the air

1 service -- it's two after your air service to
2 be confronting in the Park. You know, do you
3 have some -- do you as an air service have some
4 druthers about the future of sound in Denali,
5 and if so, what would your voluntary measures
6 and voluntary suggestions be for -- to maintain
7 at least that? You know, because that is going
8 to be constantly under threat, you know.

9 TOM GEORGE: Well, I think it
10 goes a step beyond that. I think if we don't
11 change it to something like this we have a
12 train wreck in our future based on the
13 monitoring, that data we've collected so far.

14 NANCY BALE: Well, there's total
15 conflict between the soundscape standards as
16 identified in the medium zone --

17 TOM GEORGE: Exactly.

18 NANCY BALE: -- and what's
19 happening. So, yeah, there's a huge conflict
20 there but it certainly could get worse even if
21 we adjusted the standards up.

22 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, without
23 question. Yeah. Yeah.

24 NANCY BALE: Yeah, so there's
25 another thing -- there's something else besides

1 just adjusting the standards up to kind of more
2 cope with the level of use. There's something
3 about that level of use, and what operators
4 would accept as the kind of environmentally
5 sensitive cost of doing business. Like, is
6 another aircraft or another route in our future
7 as an air service if we want to keep medium
8 medium. And again, there's nobody telling you.
9 It's just a matter of, I guess, drinking that
10 Kool-Aid that everybody wants to leave that
11 medium a high. And so that's not really up to
12 me or the Park Service; it's really up more to
13 the operators to internalize that as something
14 they want to keep that way. Because otherwise
15 it is going to -- it'll go high unless the
16 economy completely goes south, which we hope it
17 won't; right?

18 TOM GEORGE: Well, I guess I
19 think it's a lot broader than just that though
20 is the point. I think we all have to get
21 eventually to a place they is achievable. And
22 we ain't there today with the current
23 backcountry plan and the current standards.

24 NANCY BALE: Oh, and I agreed
25 with you and said that. But, you know, the way

1 it's happened with western civilization is --
2 you know, so we decide in a park that we want
3 to manage -- we have to all buy into that,
4 including the operators, because they're the
5 ones whose decisions are going to really make
6 the difference because it's their air space;
7 it's not the Park's.

8 TOM GEORGE: Actually it's the
9 FAA's air space, just for the lack of them
10 being here to say that for themselves.

11 NANCY BALE: You know what I
12 mean.

13 TOM GEORGE: It's a balance
14 among all the players I think is the upshot.

15 NANCY BALE: But there's going
16 to be no forcing the Park Service -- there's
17 going to be no forcing by the Park Service
18 except for landings. That's the only place
19 they can force. The other part is just
20 internalizing that message that we're flying
21 over a National Park so we want to protect it.
22 I think that's the most important -- I guess in
23 my mind that's the most important thing. You
24 know, if I owned an air service I would respect
25 that. But I don't own an air service and maybe

1 my air service would lose money.

2 TOM GEORGE: Tim might be
3 willing to sell. You should talk to him at the
4 lunch break.

5 NANCY BALE: You know, I guess
6 it is -- there's got to be some kind of, you
7 know, meeting of the minds between the profit
8 that you make and the ideals that you support.
9 There has to be -- you know, there has to be
10 some place in there where you can have a viable
11 business and still keep an area a certain way.

12 And I'm sorry, Joan, you were going
13 to say something?

14 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, and also
15 it's a few minutes before 12:00.

16 NANCY BALE: I wanted to say it
17 as well as I could say it. Maybe I'm not
18 really saying it that well.

19 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, well, I
20 think you're saying that -- I mean, you've said
21 these things before and I think it's --

22 NANCY BALE: I don't want to be
23 boring.

24 SALLY GIBERT: Well, anyway. I
25 think it's important context.

1 Joan?

2 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Well, I just
3 don't -- I mean, yes, progress and things
4 inevitably get busier and busier but I guess
5 we're not willing at all to throw in the towel
6 over Denali. And I think there's a lot of
7 other possibilities and ways this can go. And,
8 you know, it's not out of the realm of
9 possibilities that, you know, someday there
10 might be air tour management plans like the
11 Lower 48 or there might be some sort of
12 regulation or restriction because it hurts my
13 heart to even see that medium over that area.
14 So I'm not willing to say that it's a foregone
15 conclusion that that's where it'll go.

16 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, some of
17 these could get better and some could get
18 worse.

19 NANCY BALE: I don't think
20 anyone said that.

21 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Okay.

22 NANCY BALE: That wasn't said by
23 me.

24 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Oh, that's
25 what I -- that was my take-away so maybe I

1 misunderstood.

2 NANCY BALE: No, I was just
3 describing what's going on, not that I'm happy
4 about it.

5 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Okay. Yeah,
6 well, I know that.

7 NANCY BALE: Or that in the
8 future I'm happy to have it go from medium to
9 high, but that the challenge will be a multiple
10 challenge, you know, from all the stakeholders
11 not just the regulators.

12 JOAN FRANKEVICH: That's what
13 we're doing here.

14 SALLY GIBERT: So for the
15 purposes of -- and I am planning on doing
16 meeting notes. So for purposes of my meeting
17 notes I'm going to say we talked about this and
18 that everybody should be prepared to talk about
19 it more in the fall meeting. And that this
20 is -- you know, basically does a couple things
21 that reflect the current situation in kind of a
22 fresh way. It -- you know, we'll be able to
23 further reform best practices as we continue to
24 do that. And that it also is helpful sort of
25 baseline impact -- impact information that will

1 again inform any Council recommendations on the
2 backcountry recommendations. So it does those
3 three things. And that's not an action, that's
4 just a -- there's no action.

5 TOM GEORGE: Summary.

6 SALLY GIBERT: Summary. Yeah.

7 So should we take a lunch break?

8 Now's a good time. Coming back at 1:00 p.m.

9 (A break was taken.)

10 SALLY GIBERT: John Leonard is
11 here so we'll start with him. John, do you
12 want to step up to the table?

13 JOHN LEONARD: Yeah, I can do
14 that. I didn't have a real set agenda.
15 Last -- I believe it was the spring, beginning
16 of last year, was end of March or early April.
17 Sometime in that time I had reported back about
18 our monitoring best practices for 2010. And
19 the way we left the conversation was that as
20 the staff on the south side we were more than
21 happy to continue that monitoring but we needed
22 some guidance from you all as to what you'd
23 like to see us continue to monitor. Looking
24 back at the transcript we talked about other
25 areas besides high up on Denali. And we never

1 got any feedback on what the best practices
2 were for the other areas as well as if you'd
3 like us to continue to do that.

4 So we are kind of right at the start
5 of the season and we still have some time to
6 implement some monitoring if you would like.
7 We just need to know what it is, when, best
8 practices. And, you know, a year like last
9 year is kind of an example of sometimes the
10 limited bandwidth we have, we had a really busy
11 year last year and the monitoring isn't
12 unfortunately something we're able to do all of
13 the time depending on what's happening on the
14 mountain. But hopefully in a typical year we
15 can get back and get some good feedback as to
16 what's happening. But we were kind of waiting
17 to hear back as far as best practices for 2011
18 and other areas. And anyway I think just as
19 things got going and whatnot we never got back
20 the information or information was never given
21 to us as far as what they are, what you
22 would've liked to see. So here we are again
23 and we're just putting Park personnel out in
24 the field to do monitoring if you guys would
25 like.

1 SALLY GIBERT: Tom?

2 TOM GEORGE: Well, I think -- I
3 mean, first of all we haven't changed any of
4 the best practices on the south side. The
5 effort this year has gone into working on the
6 north side. And so we'll be, you know,
7 reissuing the document with an additional best
8 practice that's on the north side only. But,
9 yeah, we'll obviously get you the document with
10 all the south side things. And I think at
11 least in my mind, again, the highest priority
12 is the -- which I think we called exceptional
13 events -- I don't have the words right in front
14 of me.

15 SALLY GIBERT: Unusual event.

16 TOM GEORGE: The notion if
17 there's something that is specifically contrary
18 to one of those best practices that you observe
19 to get that feedback back to the community as
20 soon as possible, realizing that's a --
21 that's -- you know, may vary depending on where
22 people are at the time, but sooner than the
23 following September, just so that the air tour
24 operators can run it to ground and see if it
25 was one of their aircraft, what's going on and

1 if there's a corrective action that's needed to
2 taken.

3 No, I think at one time there'd been
4 -- we talked about it, this notion, you know,
5 some other kind of baseline journaling. And my
6 recollection was that you'd said that, well,
7 you tried that one season or something and
8 there were some problems with it so you're
9 pretty much focusing on the exception
10 monitoring aspect of it. But I think that is
11 what we're -- at least what the operators want
12 the most is to -- if there's something that is
13 really significantly in contrast with what best
14 practices in specific areas identifies to know
15 about that as soon as possible just so they can
16 check it against what's going on in their
17 individual operations and either take a
18 corrective action or provide feedback, you
19 know, if it's something else. And, again,
20 that's where the Council is. Okay, if there's
21 some problems up there that aren't the defined
22 air tour operators it's another segment of the
23 aviation community. We know down the road
24 we're going to be working on those other
25 segments. And so that feedback would help us

1 understand what those segments might be and
2 start to design a strategy for reaching out to
3 them as we get a little further along.

4 SALLY GIBERT: Tom, I would say
5 on the journaling thing I think that -- this is
6 like a year ago so it's good to be revisiting
7 it -- was that, you know, we sort of recognize
8 that, I mean, you can't require your Rangers to
9 do that because they've got a full plate. But
10 if any of them are compelled to make notes
11 either at the end of the season or once a week,
12 once a day, whatever they're -- if there are
13 things that they have general observations that
14 they've noticed especially people that have
15 been there for more than a year or two that any
16 anecdotal or overview summary stuff is also
17 valuable to the extent that it's available.

18 JOHN LEONARD: The hard thing
19 for me is -- I think that's -- dealing with
20 subjective viewpoints is kind of tough. I
21 prefer to have things that are measurable
22 because we have some people that will say, "Oh,
23 man, it's so loud I couldn't do anything." And
24 that's just a subjective point of view. So as
25 much objectiveness as we can have in the

1 observation I think is probably what you'd
2 prefer.

3 SALLY GIBERT: Right. Well, and
4 on that front the one feedback that I think we
5 all were happy to hear from the first time that
6 some of the south side recommendations went
7 into place that we -- I think you did read us
8 just a few sentences that a Ranger who'd been
9 up there a long time said, "Wow, I could tell a
10 difference." And that was -- you know, that's
11 a recognition of a measurable change without
12 being able to put a number to it. So that was
13 very useful.

14 TOM GEORGE: So we'll take any
15 positive feedback you can provide.

16 SALLY GIBERT: So even if that's
17 the kind of thing that that's all it is, that's
18 useful. But you're right, whether it's noisy
19 or not noisy, you're right, that's pretty
20 subjective and not that helpful.

21 JOHN LEONARD: And we can get
22 you a fair amount of information, you can wade
23 through it and I guess find value in what you
24 find. But the journaling that we'd attempted
25 was a pretty detailed number of aircraft per

1 day. I forget, it was kind of a --

2 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, there were a
3 bunch of parameters to it. Yeah.

4 JOHN LEONARD: Yeah. And the
5 capture rate on that seemed to be difficult
6 just because of other tasks and things that
7 were happening.

8 TOM GEORGE: And I guess that's
9 where I'm saying I think at the moment the
10 exception observations probably, you know, are
11 our highest priority because, again, that's
12 something that's potentially actionable
13 information if we get it while it's fresh. So
14 I guess the question to you is: Do we need to
15 revisit at all what the distribution channel of
16 that is? Because my recollection, which may be
17 fuzzy and it's a good thing Suzanne walked in
18 the door, is that it'd go to her and she'd
19 actually get it out to whoever -- who all and
20 whoever needed to look at it so you weren't
21 trying to have to chase down half a dozen
22 people or something.

23 SUZANNE RUST: I'll chase them
24 down.

25 JOHN LEONARD: And that's how

1 we've left it that I'd drop Suzanne a note or
2 give her a call.

3 You know, to get the renewed or same
4 best practices from you that you'd like us to
5 monitor, those exceptional events, would be
6 helpful here in the next few days.

7 TOM GEORGE: No problem.

8 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, it's ready
9 to go because it hasn't changed for a while, at
10 least a year. So that's available right now.

11 TOM GEORGE: Well, tomorrow.

12 SALLY GIBERT: Well, tomorrow
13 but it doesn't require any additional work on
14 our part to get that to him.

15 JOAN FRANKEVICH: John, when
16 your Rangers did the journaling a couple years
17 ago, because I remember you or somebody reading
18 from some of them, and it seemed like it was
19 quite helpful information. I didn't realize
20 that that hadn't worked well.

21 JOHN LEONARD: The observations
22 of best practices and journaling, those seemed
23 to. But we tried a pretty detailed journal of
24 each event, noise, audible; it was kind of a
25 detailed --

1 JOAN FRANKEVICH: For every
2 single time they saw a plane?

3 JOHN LEONARD: Yeah.

4 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Oh, too much.
5 Yeah, they can't -- but could they do a summary
6 at the end of the day, you know, kind of keep a
7 mental note, you know, it was really cloudy
8 and, you know -- I mean, it does help over
9 time, you know. You know, did you hear five
10 planes? You know, did you hear 50? You know,
11 last year you heard 50, this year you heard 80.
12 You know, I think there's value to that.

13 JOHN LEONARD: What I would
14 purport is if there was some structure in which
15 you'd like us to gather the information that
16 you gave that to us instead of us creating it,
17 I think that might -- so everybody's on the
18 same page.

19 NANCY BALE: You know, you might
20 check with Pete because he was talking to us a
21 little bit about having -- he's deployed. It's
22 a different deployment for their Rangers, the
23 backcountry Rangers, but they're having to do
24 some monitoring in the backcountry plan
25 standards, camp site disturbance. And I can't

1 remember, maybe the members can help me, maybe
2 they were going to do, like, five-minute
3 attended listening sessions and they had
4 paperwork for that. But you could check with
5 Pete and see what he was going to have his
6 people do. And if it's not something that your
7 Rangers would have a big problem with; if you
8 both did the same thing, that might be really
9 cool.

10 JOHN LEONARD: And my people are
11 Pete's people. I work for Pete.

12 NANCY BALE: You own them in
13 June and July, don't you? Sort of.

14 JOHN LEONARD: Not really.

15 NANCY BALE: Your folks don't
16 rotate off the mountain to the north side
17 during the climbing season, do they?

18 JOHN LEONARD: No.

19 NANCY BALE: They stay on the
20 mountain. And then they -- in August they
21 deploy up to the Park?

22 JOHN LEONARD: At times. But
23 the majority are staff that are based and can
24 work out of Talkeetna from mid-March through
25 the end of July. And we have a few of us that

1 go up and work up north at different times.
2 And we have -- I think last year we had a
3 patrol up at the Muldrow Glacier which we don't
4 have one this year but there'll be one next
5 year. And so we do have people on the north
6 side a little bit in the Alaska Range but not
7 so much in the road corridor, off the road
8 corridor areas.

9 I -- you know, we could have each of
10 the Rangers do kind of a download, but if there
11 were things that you guys would like to see, if
12 there were just, you know, five things that you
13 wanted them to address or something like that,
14 that would be good. I always -- I worry
15 sometimes about the reliability of information
16 that we get later in the year. Anyway, it's
17 nice to get it. It seems like people at times
18 can either diminish things later on or
19 typically seems to amp them up a little bit,
20 especially if they're asked about them.

21 TOM GEORGE: It is incredibly
22 subjective. My evidence for that is people I
23 stay with off the south end of Merrill Field
24 here, I hear an airplane go over and I make
25 some comment on that airplane; and they say,

1 "What airplane?" They're used to it. It is in
2 the background. Depending on what you're doing
3 you'll hear -- I mean, yes, if you're stopping
4 and listening you'll hear more. If you're busy
5 doing something you may not hear what's going
6 by you. So it is highly subjective which does
7 make it a challenge to try and pull together
8 from different observers and say things are
9 either better, worse or whatever.

10 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, it's almost
11 like they're going to say on a really busy day
12 by definition they're going to say it's better
13 because they didn't -- they weren't -- they
14 didn't hear it.

15 JOAN FRANKEVICH: They were
16 focused on something else.

17 SALLY GIBERT: They didn't hear
18 it. If it's a boring day and it's really quiet
19 and something, they're probably going to hear
20 it three or four times.

21 JOAN FRANKEVICH: So Tom and
22 Suzanne, you're saying the everyday journaling
23 and the everyday perceptions are not -- after
24 that one year that was sufficient and you're
25 just more interested in the unusual feedback?

1 SUZANNE RUST: I'm catching up
2 here. I don't know what you were saying.

3 TOM GEORGE: I don't either.
4 It's okay.

5 SUZANNE RUST: I was just
6 thinking as I came in, but it seems like
7 whatever we do should stick to the best
8 practices, what questions we should be asking.
9 I mean, our focus is to see if these things are
10 working or not working. That's really the
11 focus of this group. So, you know, how many
12 airplanes or what -- if -- anything that's
13 outside of this, of these practices is what I
14 would say we're really --

15 TOM GEORGE: Well, I mean, I can
16 see if there's an objective way of getting it.
17 Just like Davyd's collecting data with machines
18 that sits out there and records continuously
19 for a period of time.

20 SUZANNE RUST: That should be
21 the first priority. It's not the only thing.

22 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, but I
23 think -- yeah, what I think is most helpful
24 right now, again, to evaluate whether the best
25 practices are working and whether people are

1 following them is that kind of exception
2 reporting and lets us know in cases where --
3 and actually I guess what I'm thinking is maybe
4 one of the Talkeetna operators would -- ought
5 to come to one of your sessions or something
6 and brief -- again, the words on paper are one
7 thing but it may be better actually with maps
8 and stuff to explain how these are supposed to
9 work so that your Rangers have that
10 understanding that they carry with them out to
11 the field so that that's even their baseline on
12 what these best practices represent. And for
13 them to have the opportunity to ask questions,
14 "Well, does that mean thus-and-such or what and
15 not?" I mean, is that, Suzanne, something that
16 can be done if there's an interest or a -- I
17 don't know if you guys have an opportunity for
18 that or not.

19 SUZANNE RUST: And I'm just
20 wondering how -- I mean, even if we made --
21 there's this information, just -- it'd be --
22 it's always nice to have like a little
23 checklist with you of the important points
24 that -- you know, so that when you --

25 TOM GEORGE: Well, and I think

1 -- and I guess we need to look back through the
2 records. I think we did do that. You know,
3 what kind of an airplane it is, single engine,
4 multiengine, didn't in fact we discuss about
5 identifying military aircraft at one point?

6 SUZANNE RUST: We did do that.

7 TOM GEORGE: And something about
8 the nature of whatever estimates of whatever
9 this -- this exception that was observed.
10 Somebody orbited for half an hour. It was a
11 single passby. Anything -- again, the color of
12 the aircraft. And, again, we can review and if
13 we can't find it we'll make something up. But,
14 again, with the idea of simplicity.

15 SUZANNE RUST: Short.

16 TOM GEORGE: Short and sweet,
17 yeah.

18 SUZANNE RUST: So event feedback
19 is really the focus.

20 TOM GEORGE: Create new. Excuse
21 me.

22 SUZANNE RUST: I like make it
23 up. I thought that was great.

24 SALLY GIBERT: So it actually
25 seems like it might be kind of simple then to

1 make sure that you and the backcountry Rangers
2 up there that are -- mountaineering Rangers
3 understand the best practices. And if that
4 would be helpful to have Suzanne or somebody do
5 a briefing for them, that would be something
6 that was available. And that -- and the best
7 thing that they could do would be once they
8 have the understanding of what the
9 recommendations are that if they sort of pay
10 attention on a daily basis to when they see
11 sort of the egregious, obvious somebody that's
12 not following it to make a note of that in as
13 much detail of the type of aircraft and what
14 exactly was not going right. And then the more
15 egregious it is the more urgent it is to get
16 that reported to you and Suzanne. Would that
17 be a good summary?

18 JOHN LEONARD: And the current
19 best practices are very self-explanatory for
20 all of us. I don't think we need an in-depth
21 explanation for what they are. And I agree
22 with the more egregious -- you'd think the
23 feedback would be quicker. My understanding is
24 something was brought up to the Council about a
25 military -- potential military overflight at

1 base camp or something that was told to -- from
2 one of our long-time Rangers to Brian that kind
3 of brought it up. That was something that I
4 never heard about. And at a later date it
5 seemed like it was kind of amped up a little
6 bit. But that's -- information back to me like
7 that six months is of little value.

8 TIM CUDNEY: We had the
9 discussion earlier.

10 TOM GEORGE: Yes. Yep, and
11 we're in the same boat.

12 TIM CUDNEY: On the -- when the
13 climbers check out how much time or how much
14 detailed information is either asked of them or
15 they have to provide?

16 JOHN LEONARD: Part of the
17 permit process is that they're required to
18 check out. One member of their group is
19 required to check out. And we ask them -- we
20 get dates on the mountain. We get height or
21 elevation that each party member has reached,
22 whether or not there was anybody injured or
23 anybody suffered from frostbite, altitude
24 illness, if there's any trash on the mountain.
25 Those sorts of things. So we sit down probably

1 somewhere less than 15 minutes with at least
2 one person from each party that checks out.
3 And in some cases they're in a hurry to catch a
4 flight and they drop something off and give us
5 a call the next day. We're not at 100 percent,
6 but pretty high capture rate on that.

7 TIM CUDNEY: Without doing a
8 pointed aviation-related or sound-related
9 question is there a way to try to solicit
10 feedback of what would you prefer to do
11 different next time or what would you prefer
12 different next whether -- I think you know what
13 I'm looking for, Tom, is what kind of question
14 can you ask that is not identifying that there
15 was X, Y, Z aircraft or what but to get that
16 hard information. And that hard information
17 can be relayed back to the committee members or
18 the operator to find out did this particular
19 aircraft or was this particular aircraft A, B
20 or C company and at that particular date. And
21 that's what we were talking about this morning
22 is getting feedback as soon as possible so we
23 can identify that it in fact was a commercial
24 air tour operator and that should be following
25 the best practices. And we're just looking for

1 ways, you know. And we talked about this with
2 the visitors' center checkout procedure on the
3 north side. You know, you don't want to just
4 plant the seed of an aircraft or helicopter did
5 disturb your wilderness, you know --

6 TOM GEORGE: Didn't it?

7 TIM CUDNEY: -- experience. But
8 it's the same thing that's like -- that's like
9 as an operator I offer a AAA discount but it's
10 not posted anywhere. They have to ask for it.
11 The other side -- you want to get as much
12 information out of somebody without identifying
13 that, hey, we know there are a lot of air --

14 AMANDA SMITH: You're looking
15 for that information.

16 TIM CUDNEY: Yeah.

17 TOM GEORGE: Not biasing them
18 with the question you ask.

19 TIM CUDNEY: Right. Correct.

20 SUZANNE RUST: What about asking
21 a question just -- I mean, it would in general
22 provide good feedback to the Park, what
23 could've made your Park experience better. You
24 know, something that was general, that was
25 broad enough, you know, somebody -- and that

1 would be the opportunity because somebody
2 thinks at that point -- if somebody asks me
3 that question when I go -- because I've had
4 friends ask me with their businesses to come in
5 and to go through, you know, their business and
6 what would've made the experience better.
7 Well, when I went to -- and then I think, oh,
8 well, when I went to the rest rooms, you know,
9 there was water splashed all over the place. I
10 mean, I start thinking more critically but also
11 thinking more of what could improve the
12 situation. What -- how can --

13 And the other thing is it makes
14 people feel important to have their opinions
15 heard. So people I think invest. I think
16 there's value. You know, we want to be cared
17 about and we all want to be important. And by
18 asking a broad question I think we would
19 solicit all kinds of good feedback that
20 actually would be good for the Park. You know,
21 not seeing trash on the mountain or not --
22 something at base camp or -- that the -- you
23 know, too many vehicles passing me and all the
24 dust or, you know, I saw a bunch of airplanes,
25 you know, or I heard a bunch of airplanes, that

1 was really troubling. And I think we would
2 glean some interesting information. And I
3 think what it does is it doesn't bias the
4 person giving the information.

5 TIM CUDNEY: The challenge is --
6 and, Suzanne, I know you do the same thing is
7 we solicit comments from all our tours both in
8 Juneau and Denali. When people get off the
9 tour they're trying to move to their next
10 excursion or their next deal. Just like John
11 says, you know, when you're checking off of a
12 10-, 15- or 24-day climb or whatever you want
13 to get the heck out of there. You want to get
14 moving. So there's got to be a way to do this
15 that you get the valid information. You know,
16 it's easy for somebody to do. We could supply,
17 like, postcards and a return self-addressed
18 stamped envelope to basically take this home
19 and, you know, send it back in, do it on the
20 airplane while at least it's fresh in your
21 mind. It is a challenge to get that
22 information.

23 SUZANNE RUST: Well, and saying
24 we value your feedback.

25 JOHN LEONARD: We -- our final

1 question, you know, on our little sheet is any
2 other comments. We all ask it a little
3 differently. I typically ask people, is there
4 anything that the National Park Service can do
5 to improve your next visit. There are all
6 little variances of that. And it doesn't seem
7 to really elicit much response. It was great.

8 SUZANNE RUST: Is it done in
9 person? You're doing that in person? And
10 people -- man, I have to say when somebody asks
11 me I really think hard. I'm thinking, okay,
12 what can you do to -- because, you know, we can
13 all improve. Really? There's nothing we
14 could've done? Nothing?

15 JOHN LEONARD: I think we
16 have -- about half of our climbers are
17 foreigners. And our National Park experience
18 is -- you know, I'm biased of course; but our
19 National Park experience is a lot different
20 than in other countries. Though for some of us
21 it might not offer the solitude as we would
22 hope, if you're coming from someplace else,
23 it's like, wow; it's clean; it's this; it's
24 that.

25 I know it's probably a delicate

1 subject but from my perspective things have
2 gotten significantly better but I don't see any
3 change in the comments. Even when things were
4 louder we didn't get many comments about
5 overflight noise.

6 TIM CUDNEY: Because of sheer
7 number though. I mean, you're only dealing
8 with a small number of climbers versus on the
9 north side where there's close to 500,000
10 people visiting the Park, be it on the bus or
11 whatever. I'm not saying 500,000 backpackers,
12 but I'm just saying there's a vast difference.
13 And like you said, the foreign -- the foreign
14 market is --

15 AMANDA SMITH: I think it has to
16 do with how those people got there. I mean,
17 the comments are from people who've flown in
18 and flown out for the large majority. You
19 know, when I've flown into the Ruth Glacier,
20 maybe I don't want to hear the sounds of the
21 people jumping off the plane and jumping back
22 on, but that's how I got in there so I'm not
23 going to complain about it. If I walked in
24 there I'd complain about it. You know, and
25 there are a few people that do walk in there.

1 And I don't know if they check in and check out
2 with you but it's less likely or at least less
3 likely to complain about it. Its
4 understandable. But you're right, there is a
5 volume issue as well. But, you know, it's
6 something people who go in on the buses know
7 they have to get out of earshot of buses to
8 experience that.

9 PAUL ANDERSON: So I guess I
10 would -- listening to the conversation offers
11 up two thoughts. The first one is we have
12 objective information to some degree from the
13 soundscape station. And if we were to ask
14 visitors, the climbers checking out, is there
15 anything that comes immediately to mind that we
16 could -- that could be -- that would improve
17 their experience. You know, if they're really
18 upset about aircraft noise they're going to say
19 something.

20 TOM GEORGE: They're going to
21 articulate, yeah.

22 PAUL ANDERSON: If they don't
23 say anything there, to me that would say not
24 that there isn't a problem necessarily but that
25 it's not of such a magnitude that it would

1 cause them to comment on it. So, again, you
2 know, the complaint would tend to be the
3 exceptional circumstance there than the norm.
4 But, you know, if you want to know whether it's
5 a real problem that probably would give you
6 some information that would bear on that issue.

7 JOHN LEONARD: Yeah, we get --
8 and I know Miriam looks for them but we get so
9 few comments from climbers on -- it seems like
10 a big year would be just a couple.

11 PAUL ANDERSON: We probably get
12 more than that.

13 JOHN LEONARD: From climbers
14 coming out only.

15 PAUL ANDERSON: I mean, we get
16 comment cards at the superintendent's office
17 from climbers who complained about aircraft
18 noise or airplanes on the mountain. I would
19 guess half a dozen or more a year.

20 TOM GEORGE: Sounds like they
21 don't come through the Talkeetna Ranger Station
22 then.

23 PAUL ANDERSON: I don't know
24 where they come through. They may be picking
25 up the cards at Talkeetna and mailing them in.

1 JOHN LEONARD: And like I said,
2 you know, we get typically one person from the
3 group. And, you know, that's going to be
4 subjective too. But I don't know how we try to
5 emphasize and get more of that information
6 unless you get closer to the heart of it, you
7 know, asking something.

8 TOM GEORGE: Well, I guess, I'd
9 make -- I think you're absolutely right to have
10 a general question, not to have a leading
11 question. So the only suggestion I'd make is
12 you might actually split that in two parts.
13 What did you like the most and what was -- what
14 did you like the least. That's a high and a
15 low. Or at least think about what I liked the
16 most and thus-and-such. Well, what'd you like
17 the least and see what trickles out there. And
18 again, that's not being biased toward any
19 specific element of it but it does actually
20 maybe force you to think about two things
21 rather than just what hits you off the top of
22 the head.

23 SUZANNE RUST: And people can
24 come up with something. They should be able to
25 come up with something. They can always come

1 up with something they liked.

2 TOM GEORGE: And if they don't
3 come up with anything they don't like we're not
4 complaining about that either.

5 JOHN LEONARD: So we'll get they
6 don't like the fee.

7 TOM GEORGE: Well, we all got to
8 be ready to take our hits on this.

9 JOHN LEONARD: No, I think that
10 actually is a good idea to do it that way. Do
11 you see any problem with that?

12 PAUL ANDERSON: No, that sounds
13 good.

14 SUZANNE RUST: And it's very
15 clear. And it really does put them in a place
16 to think I can contribute and I can come up
17 with something. You know, people can usually
18 come up with something.

19 JOHN LEONARD: It's funny, we
20 try to ask them as nicely as we can to get
21 feedback but they feel like they're going to
22 get whacked if they say something bad. We
23 don't get a lot when we say, is there anything
24 we can do to make your experience better any
25 final comments.

1 SUZANNE RUST: What do they
2 think the checkout is? I mean, are they
3 feeling that it's -- is it intimidating?

4 JOHN LEONARD: No, I think -- I
5 think they really just see it mostly as, "Hey,
6 we're back safe." And if they're foreigners
7 they want to get a certificate that says they
8 got to the top. That's, you know, some
9 validation they actually summited Mt. McKinley,
10 but outside of that --

11 SUZANNE RUST: Hold their
12 certificate until they give -- give us some
13 feedback.

14 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: There might
15 be some culture issues going on with people
16 willing to give negative feedback, not being --
17 to an authority figure like a Ranger and they
18 might squelch themselves.

19 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I was going to
20 say the same thing because you're much less
21 likely I think -- a person -- especially if the
22 person is personable and you've just had a nice
23 relationship with them to give something
24 negative. I mean, how many times when you've
25 had a bad meal or something went wrong in a

1 restaurant and when you leave, you know, the
2 hostess says, everything okay or the waitress
3 says, everything okay, I usually don't bother
4 to say anything. I just leave. I just nod and
5 leave.

6 SUZANNE RUST: I say something.

7 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Do you?

8 SUZANNE RUST: I do.

9 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I rarely do.

10 SUZANNE RUST: And say it nicely
11 but what's best is -- it just always cracks me
12 up when somebody -- you say, you know, "How was
13 your meal?" You know, "It was cold." "Oh,
14 okay."

15 JOAN FRANKEVICH: And they don't
16 -- and you can tell it's not going to go
17 anywhere.

18 SUZANNE RUST: Not, "You know
19 what, let's buy you a cup of coffee or let's do
20 something." Okay. That just went into the
21 vacuum, nonresponsiveness.

22 TOM GEORGE: So is the person
23 who collects this information a big burly
24 in-uniform Ranger or some non-assuming,
25 nondescript --

1 JOHN LEONARD: We're all pretty
2 non-assuming, nondescript.

3 TOM GEORGE: Again, you want to
4 think about that as to whether -- whoever's
5 doing the asking at the end, if you can have
6 that once removed from the authority figure
7 element of this. Again, I don't know how that
8 works.

9 JOHN LEONARD: You know,
10 everybody's going to be in uniform. I don't
11 know that any of us are any more imposing
12 necessarily than others. But part of -- we try
13 to get -- and it doesn't always happen just
14 with the pace of things but we try to have a
15 Ranger do the checkout just in case there is
16 information that needs to be --

17 TOM GEORGE: Yeah. Okay. So it
18 is a --

19 JOHN LEONARD: -- acted upon.

20 TOM GEORGE: Okay.

21 JOHN LEONARD: But I think just
22 what was mentioned in how we ask that question
23 instead of an open-ended, is there any comments
24 or whatnot. Give us what you like the best and
25 what you like the least. And I would probably

1 think that we're going to get a lot more
2 information. It's kind of -- it reminds me of
3 when I was in high school working retail,
4 they'd tell you, "You never ask anybody if they
5 want help because they'll tell you no." You
6 never give them an answer that they can just
7 give you an easy no. You need to open them up
8 to actually get what did you like the least,
9 what did you like the --

10 SALLY GIBERT: Because you can
11 give an answer of -- you can answer what did
12 you like least without being critical or
13 without implying that something was wrong or
14 whatever. Yeah.

15 SUZANNE RUST: You know, another
16 thing is to preface it with creating an
17 environment for them to make the comment. You
18 know, we really appreciate or we really value
19 comments, that's how we make our Park a better
20 place. And getting the perspective of
21 different people helps us to set our goals or
22 something so that they know that they're
23 helping you rather than making you feel bad as
24 if you didn't do a good job.

25 JOHN LEONARD: I think it's --

1 you know, part of it is the people that come,
2 they got in there by airplanes. And what do
3 they all want? They all want a K2 or Hudson
4 hat. That's like one of the very memorable
5 parts of their experience.

6 SUZANNE RUST: You should give
7 those at the end with the --

8 JOHN LEONARD: But that's --
9 when you look at people's pictures from their
10 trips that is a huge part of their experience
11 is their flight in and flight out. So, yeah,
12 it's kind of like with military flights, I can
13 think of my time growing up, climbing, some of
14 the highlights of my trips were getting buzzed
15 by an A-6 coming through the cascades. That
16 was just like, wow, I can see his eyes when he
17 flew by. I think it'll be interesting to see
18 and we could try and add some very minor
19 adjustments.

20 TOM GEORGE: That I think will
21 be fascinating.

22 JOAN FRANKEVICH: So to get
23 back -- so we're asking them -- he was asking
24 us what he wants -- so we want them to report
25 as quickly as possible unusual events, and is

1 that pretty much all you guys really need?

2 SALLY GIBERT: Unusual events
3 relative to the backcountry -- relative to the
4 recommendations, best practices specifically.

5 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, I think
6 that's the most important thing.

7 JOAN FRANKEVICH: And just to
8 monitor are air tours flying where the best
9 practices recommend? Is the two? And is that
10 sufficient for you, John, or do we need to
11 follow up more closely?

12 JOHN LEONARD: I think that's
13 clear. The Ruth is -- that's newer. That's
14 what was the addition last year.

15 NANCY BALE: Newer?

16 TOM GEORGE: Right.

17 JOHN LEONARD: Because we hadn't
18 attempted that at all. And this next week we
19 have groups going out on the Ruth and they'll
20 be out in the spring a bit. Kahiltna Pass
21 crossing and the upper mountain are
22 straightforward and the same as before. And
23 what I will stress is just trying to get the
24 information back as quick as we can. I hate
25 probably as much as you guys when I hear

1 something six months later.

2 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, that'd be
3 good.

4 JOHN LEONARD: And we'll just
5 stick to this and we'll discuss it -- I'll
6 discuss it tomorrow with the staff. We have a
7 morning meeting every morning and we'll get it
8 out and get it going.

9 TIM CUDNEY: How many are
10 registered again for this year?

11 JOHN LEONARD: You know, right
12 now we're at just about 1,000. But we have
13 some of our guided concessions that aren't
14 counted in there. I would expect it to be
15 right about 1,200.

16 TIM CUDNEY: Okay. And what is
17 the cap again?

18 JOHN LEONARD: Fifteen.

19 TIM CUDNEY: Fifteen. Okay.

20 JOHN LEONARD: Where I see --
21 it's hard. We don't have hard numbers on it
22 because in the Ruth and non-old Park areas we
23 don't have required registration. But it just
24 feels like we're getting significantly more
25 people in these other areas.

1 TIM CUDNEY: And the same pilot
2 for the B-3 is flying this year as was last
3 year so there's good continuity there?

4 JOHN LEONARD: Uh-huh.

5 TIM CUDNEY: Good.

6 JOHN LEONARD: We have two
7 back-up pilots this year. And actually today
8 as we speak the military's in with three Black
9 Hawks helping us put in base camp. So we'll
10 start doing the monitoring on Wednesday.

11 TIM CUDNEY: Great.

12 JOHN LEONARD: Any other things
13 that I can help with?

14 TOM GEORGE: Sounds good.

15 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, thank you
16 for coming in.

17 JOHN LEONARD: And I will just
18 get back with Suzanne on anything and hopefully
19 we'll have a less hectic year so we can get
20 more stuff, more monitoring done.

21 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. And we'll
22 get the south side package to you tomorrow.

23 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, what you've
24 got there is accurate and you can take with
25 you. We'll come out with something that

1 doesn't have yellow on it within 24 hours. But
2 you've got all the information you need. But
3 wait a minute, do you have the full -- does he
4 have the full thing?

5 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

6 TOM GEORGE: It's just that page
7 3 is on the back of page 2.

8 JOAN FRANKEVICH: It doesn't
9 matter for south side though I don't think.
10 That's the north side stuff. So only changes
11 this year, John, relate to the north side.

12 TOM GEORGE: To the north side.
13 So there aren't any changes on the south side.
14 However, nor were there last year after this
15 time. So I guess we somehow weren't following
16 through if you didn't have this stuff on the
17 Ruth last summer.

18 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, the
19 summer --

20 TOM GEORGE: So we got to
21 scratch our heads about that just a little bit,
22 make sure --

23 SALLY GIBERT: The summer 2010
24 was the last time we changed the best
25 practices.

1 TOM GEORGE: Yeah. So have to
2 think about that a little bit.

3 JOHN LEONARD: I seem to
4 remember that shortly after the general meeting
5 that there was going to be a smaller work group
6 that we were going -- that was going to get
7 together and finalize things before they got to
8 us. But it seems that the meeting was about
9 this time last year, maybe a little bit
10 earlier. I don't know if the meeting happened
11 prior to that. I don't know where it --

12 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, this is more
13 -- something we'll have to follow up on just to
14 make sure that if we are making changes in the
15 future that they're actually getting to you in
16 a timely fashion. So we'll look at that. But,
17 yeah, what you've got there should be
18 everything you need for south side stuff.

19 JOHN LEONARD: It's all
20 straightforward then and we don't have as much
21 exposure time on the Ruth as we do on Denali,
22 but do our best to keep a lookout. And --

23 TOM GEORGE: Sounds greet.

24 JOHN LEONARD: And our time as
25 most climbers' time on the Ruth is a time when

1 the scenic air traffic is active. I don't know
2 what time you guys really start getting busy,
3 mid-May. That's when a lot of the climbers,
4 you know, start to curtail at that time.

5 SALLY GIBERT: Okay.

6 NANCY BALE: Do you anticipate a
7 longer season this year because of the deeper
8 snow pack? Or people make their arrangements
9 so far ahead of time they can't really change?

10 JOHN LEONARD: Yeah, I think
11 that's more the case, especially with the
12 amount of commercial use we get. And though --
13 I think we've gotten more snow. It'll be
14 interesting to see what's really up on the
15 glacier. I've heard reports that the Ruth
16 isn't very good.

17 SUZANNE RUST: Yeah, the Ruth
18 isn't very good. So we're thinking that that
19 might end more quickly. We're looking -- we
20 actually went out and scouted out other spots
21 just looking for where we might be. The Pika
22 looks pretty good. The Ruth, we don't think
23 it's going to last for very long and we're
24 coming up with a strategy for how to land
25 airplanes actually so that we don't tear up the

1 runway and have it -- you know, Otters in one
2 lane, smaller airplanes in another so that we
3 try to make them last. Because that's where
4 we're concerned about. You can see crevasses
5 across the Ruth.

6 JOHN LEONARD: In my just a
7 little over ten years here it's been really
8 surprising to me how much the fern line has
9 moved up, the amount of standing water on the
10 Kahiltna. Last August it looked like you could
11 almost boat all the way down the Kahiltna from
12 the base of Ski Hill at about 7,800 feet to
13 just huge glacial ponds. And it was late
14 August, maybe early September flying up onto
15 the Ruth, it was all ice. It was -- I mean,
16 the whole gorge was all ice.

17 NANCY BALE: You mean water that
18 had frozen?

19 JOHN LEONARD: It was down to
20 glacial --

21 TOM GEORGE: Snow melted off so
22 you're down to bare ice.

23 JOHN LEONARD: It seems like if
24 anything -- we'll see what this year's snowfall
25 season is. It seems like the season's actually

1 getting shorter. And that's really because of
2 the landing.

3 I don't -- it's not necessarily --
4 you might be interested, Nancy. We had -- we
5 got a report from one of Suzanne's pilots last
6 Saturday of snow machiners that had ridden all
7 the way into the wilderness up to the 11,000
8 foot level on the Kahiltna. Kahiltna Pass up
9 to the base of the --

10 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Into the
11 wilderness?

12 JOHN LEONARD: Yeah.

13 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Did he get a
14 ticket?

15 JOHN LEONARD: We were there on
16 scene less than an hour and a half after we got
17 the report and they were already out of the
18 Park and we couldn't track them down. And we
19 were there very quickly and I was surprised
20 that they were able to get out of the Park.
21 It's amazing what the new machines will do and
22 where they'll go. But they actually went --
23 rode right through a climbing party's camp,
24 asked them for fuel. They were apparently
25 looking for fuel. I'm assuming it'll --

1 NANCY BALE: Do you guys have a
2 press release on that?

3 JOHN LEONARD: You know, I was
4 thinking about that. I was fairly confident
5 that we'd be able to find them. Is this
6 something that we really want to release
7 because it's almost advertising.

8 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, it's almost
9 an invitation.

10 JOHN LEONARD: But I would
11 suspect that the footage will wind up on You
12 Tube or something like that.

13 TOM GEORGE: Might help you
14 track them down.

15 JOHN LEONARD: It seems like
16 that's the way things go lately. But I sure
17 hope it doesn't become a trend. The route that
18 they found was a very doable route. They came
19 in off the Peter's -- we were able to
20 essentially track them back to the Forks
21 Roadhouse or what was the Forks Roadhouse. But
22 they came in from there down onto the
23 Tokositna, up over -- up Bear Creek, down
24 Granite Creek and then up the Hidden. And they
25 were able to go over a -- they found a pass

1 that was to the west of Second Shot and then
2 down on the Kahiltna and just rode all the way
3 up. And I would suspect if they hadn't ran out
4 of either fuel or daylight they would've gone
5 all the way to 14 because what they had ridden
6 was less than what was ahead of them to get up
7 there.

8 NANCY BALE: How many?

9 JOHN LEONARD: Three.

10 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: You said
11 you went after an hour and they were --

12 JOHN LEONARD: Yeah.

13 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: How? By
14 helicopter?

15 JOHN LEONARD: Uh-huh.

16 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: But, I
17 mean, like you said, if you see them, obviously
18 you try to land, they're going to take off. So
19 you'd hope they might try to play by the rules
20 but obviously they knew what they were doing
21 was illegal.

22 JOHN LEONARD: If we would've
23 been able to find them I'm sure they would've
24 got them to stop.

25 TOM GEORGE: They have ways.

1 JOHN LEONARD: That Gatling gun.

2 TOM GEORGE: They would have
3 called in the Air Force.

4 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: There you
5 go.

6 JOHN LEONARD: Just a side note.

7 NANCY BALE: Thank you. That
8 was entertaining. Have a safe season.

9 JOHN LEONARD: Thanks.

10 SALLY GIBERT: Yep, thank you
11 very much for coming in.

12 So, Tom, do you want to talk about --

13 TOM GEORGE: Why don't you give
14 us a five minute break and I'll plug a computer
15 in so we can --

16 SALLY GIBERT: Okay.

17 Five-minute break.

18 (A break was taken)

19

20

21 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. We're
22 checking stuff off the list here.

23 And I think next -- at lunch Tom and
24 I were talking about this sort of following up
25 on north side and Paul's interest in having

1 some kind of documentation about what -- you
2 know, what the north side is all about and
3 potential training stuff. So -- and I've
4 talked to a couple of you but not everybody
5 about that. So I think I'm going to ask Tom to
6 describe where I think we're at, the proposal
7 is in terms of outline. He's got stuff up
8 here.

9 So, Tom, do you want to introduce it
10 so that's not just me talking?

11 TOM GEORGE: Sure.

12 We've kind of been up and down the
13 detail scale a couple times today, but the
14 thought is we've got the best practice which is
15 a technical document essentially. We think
16 probably it would be smart to send with that a
17 cover memo from the Park Service -- to the Park
18 Service, which in this case would be Paul, from
19 the Council, which means Sally would probably
20 sign it as chair. Again, just emphasizing that
21 this is a big change. And let me scroll down a
22 little bit more so that you can look at all the
23 words now that you've seen the to, the from.

24 Now this is short. So this is
25 saying, hey, here are some of the things we

1 think need be done. In other words, this is
2 not a detail of what those things are. We are
3 not at this point writing a briefing sheet or
4 doing other things, but this is to convey to
5 the Park Service and all stakeholders that,
6 hey, we got a big change in the works here so
7 -- and there's some risks associated with it so
8 we think actually that everybody should be
9 aware of that and do whatever they can to help
10 this -- to help manage this transition.

11 Is that a fair statement?

12 SALLY GIBERT: Uh-huh.

13 TOM GEORGE: So with that, why
14 don't I just shut up and just let you read some
15 words.

16 SALLY GIBERT: And, Nancy, while
17 you're looking at it, some of the changes that
18 you and I talked about are not reflected in
19 here. Some are but others are not. And the
20 reason is that this is not the training
21 materials but it's more -- as Tom said, it's a
22 higher level just for Paul, not for public
23 consumption, not for the Web site. And that
24 sort of puts the point on it of what's going to
25 be an issue with this. And then -- and then

1 the next step would be potential training
2 materials. Anyway just so you have the
3 context.

4 TOM GEORGE: We did though this
5 second sentence: "This practice affects a
6 large section of the core wilderness
7 backcountry use area" which is one of the
8 things you were --

9 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Okay. So this
10 is to Paul. This is not the language that
11 would necessarily go -- okay.

12 TOM GEORGE: Correct, yes.

13 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Okay. Because
14 I'm thinking --

15 TOM GEORGE: This is a Council
16 recommendation to Paul saying we need to do --
17 and it's not -- if you read it it actually
18 isn't just to Paul, it says some of the rest of
19 us need to do things too. Now, again,
20 obviously the Paul and Sally will be flushed
21 out a little more formally. This was just to
22 get a -- so we could look at the rest of the
23 language.

24 TIM CUDNEY: I think that's a
25 search or other administrative functions. Last

1 paragraph. Last sentence last paragraph says a
2 search.

3 TOM GEORGE: Well, the thought
4 was if you had an active search going on for
5 somebody that was going to have a lot of flight
6 activity in a certain portion of the back --
7 and you had people that were going to go out
8 backpacking in that unit in the next day or so.

9 TIM CUDNEY: They'd know. Yeah.

10 TOM GEORGE: Let them know so
11 that they're put on notice.

12 SUZANNE RUST: You may change
13 that to wildlife surveys and search and rescue
14 flights.

15 TIM CUDNEY: Just a little more
16 --

17 SALLY GIBERT: Search and
18 rescue?

19 TIM CUDNEY: Yeah, definition on
20 it, Tom?

21 SUZANNE RUST: Well, is it
22 search and rescue flights or search and rescue
23 --

24 TIM CUDNEY: Search and rescue
25 may not involve -- may involve other modes of

1 --

2 SUZANNE RUST: I know, but are
3 we worried about the other modes?

4 SALLY GIBERT: No. An aerial
5 search and rescue?

6 SUZANNE RUST: Yeah, we're
7 worried about the aerial.

8 TOM GEORGE: Okay. It looks
9 like I have to take it out of reading mode to
10 make changes so stand by.

11 SALLY GIBERT: I think aerial
12 search and rescue.

13 TOM GEORGE: I knew I could
14 count on the group.

15 Administrative aviation functions
16 then I presume?

17 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

18 NANCY BALE: Going back up to
19 the main paragraph, I would say "There could be
20 an increase of air traffic above the Park
21 Road," because that almost sounds like there
22 could be some increased traffic on the road.
23 You know, it's the fifth sentence after the
24 comma. "There could be an increase of air
25 traffic above the Park Road."

1 SALLY GIBERT: Air traffic. So
2 add "air" in front of traffic.

3 NANCY BALE: "There could be an
4 increase of air traffic above the Park Road."

5 SUZANNE RUST: Instead of along;
6 right?

7 NANCY BALE: Well, it just --
8 you know. And then air traffic not just
9 traffic. I would tend to put a comma after
10 road then. So there could be an increase of
11 air traffic above the Park Road, comma, which
12 is liable to evoke visitor comments in the
13 future.

14 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I just have an
15 overall question on our goal on this. Is our
16 goal to educate bus drivers and Park staff or
17 is our goal to educate visitors or both?

18 TIM CUDNEY: Both.

19 JOAN FRANKEVICH: So we're not
20 worried about predisposing visitors?

21 SALLY GIBERT: The goal of this
22 is neither of those. The goal of this is high
23 level. So it's, like, Paul and his predecessor
24 or whatever that is.

25 TOM GEORGE: Successor.

1 SALLY GIBERT: Successor. So
2 this is an intro -- this is like saying we know
3 that we're rattling some big cages and so we're
4 just letting you know that we're rattling some
5 big cages and that we want them to do some
6 education.

7 JOAN FRANKEVICH: With both
8 staff and visitors?

9 SALLY GIBERT: Well, education,
10 period. And then the next document, for lack
11 of a better word, which is separate from this
12 which isn't done yet --

13 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Okay.

14 SALLY GIBERT: -- would be some
15 --

16 TOM GEORGE: Might be closer to
17 the briefing sheet in bullet one; right?

18 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. Yeah.
19 That would be -- so what -- yeah, so the
20 training tool for bus drivers or others could
21 be -- would be embodied in that first bullet.

22 TOM GEORGE: I guess we're
23 not -- I mean, I think what we're saying this
24 is a big change, we all need to work on
25 managing this transition. Now -- and how that

1 rolls on, here's some things you might do to
2 help with that. I don't think we're getting
3 into saying you should do exactly this with
4 visitors or exactly that. We're suggesting
5 some of the elements that might be part of
6 that. There are certainly things that could be
7 part of that that aren't listed here.

8 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Okay. I get
9 it. Thank you. Okay. So this is more just a
10 heads up; we made a big change; we want you to
11 be aware of it and that it's a good idea --

12 TOM GEORGE: And be proactive to
13 help --

14 JOAN FRANKEVICH: -- in letting
15 others know. Okay. Thank you.

16 NANCY BALE: I might wish to
17 maybe define -- not define but describe that
18 change a little bit more by after the first
19 sentence saying this changes the result of the
20 collaborative effort between operators, the
21 Park Service and the aircraft advisory council
22 or stakeholder groups.

23 TOM GEORGE: Don't you think
24 Paul knows that given that it's coming from
25 this Council?

1 NANCY BALE: But the next guy's
2 going to get it too. You know, and it might be
3 good to be sure he's educating that this a
4 collaborative process.

5 SALLY GIBERT: Well, but by that
6 time the fact sheet will be done.

7 NANCY BALE: Okay. All right.
8 And I still don't think we need to put the
9 forcing of planes north. I don't -- I still
10 don't think we need to get that specific. I
11 would prefer -- but I'm willing accept it. I'd
12 prefer just saying "By adopting the best
13 practice there could be changes in air traffic
14 patterns over the affected area." Boom.

15 TOM GEORGE: So strike the zone
16 immediately north of the crested -- I mean, I'm
17 okay with that.

18 SUZANNE RUST: Can I ask a
19 question about that? But isn't that what we're
20 doing?

21 NANCY BALE: Well, there's also
22 the option to go south or to fly all the way
23 outside, but those options aren't suggested in
24 this. You know, so I'm beating on a dead horse
25 here. But it's sort of -- it makes the

1 statement that the only thing that's going to
2 happen as the result of this is more planes
3 over the Park Road. Well, maybe, but we really
4 don't absolutely know, do we?

5 TOM GEORGE: Well, if those -- I
6 understand now what you're talking about. If
7 those other changes happen it'll even be better
8 yet. This is the change we're worried about
9 having an adverse impact that we think needs
10 attention.

11 NANCY BALE: Okay.

12 TOM GEORGE: So I take your
13 point. And I hope in fact a lot of what you're
14 hoping will be happening, but that's not the
15 concern we need to mitigate. So I don't think
16 adding verbiage and stuff to talk more about
17 this is -- since we don't need to do anything
18 there whereas we do need to do something
19 specific to this perspective change.

20 NANCY BALE: You know, I hate to
21 see it get out to bus drivers saying, oh,
22 they're sending a bunch of planes over the
23 Park.

24 SALLY GIBERT: But this won't.
25 This won't.

1 NANCY BALE: What this is
2 telling is actually saying to the
3 administrators: You need to develop routing
4 sheets for your educators about these changes.
5 Well, the only changes that are specified in
6 there are all of a sudden there's all these
7 planes over the Park Road. So we don't want
8 accidentally, you know, the bus drivers to all
9 of a sudden, well, they told us there's going
10 to be a lot more planes. You know how the game
11 of gossip works.

12 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, absolutely.
13 And that's why actually -- and we're trying to
14 work on but it was clear that it was beyond the
15 scope of a single lunch hour to work on --

16 NANCY BALE: It's a tough one.

17 TOM GEORGE: -- on a more
18 detailed what might be input to a briefing
19 sheet.

20 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, for
21 example, what would actually go to the bus
22 drivers might be something like what you and I
23 talked about rather than targeting just that
24 one thing to say aircraft use over the Park
25 Road corridor will likely change; more aircraft

1 may be present at times; however, they will
2 typically fly higher and quieter when possible.
3 So that's a more neutral, more complete
4 representation of it. But that's a level of
5 detail. We don't need to be quite so neutral
6 and kind of politically correct for this
7 because, I mean, yes, we're trying to address
8 that issue; but this is sort of highlighting
9 that we know that that's where the -- that's
10 where the attention is. So it kind of brings
11 it out -- brings it forward for the --

12 NANCY BALE: As long as that
13 gets through, you know, all the meetings.

14 SALLY GIBERT: We could say
15 that -- something like, you know, one -- you
16 know, one outcome. Other than saying by
17 adopting -- saying one outcome of adopting best
18 practices could be or is likely to be or
19 something, to sort of point out that there are
20 other outcomes but that we're noticing this
21 one. We're talking about this one.

22 SUZANNE RUST: We're concerned
23 about this one.

24 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

25 JOAN FRANKEVICH: And I -- I

1 don't know if we need -- I mean, I would hope
2 the -- I think that the focus that should go
3 out to bus drivers and staff visitors is we are
4 -- we've made a change to improve things for
5 everybody. So, you know, focus not on you're
6 going to notice a change; it's going to get
7 worse, but we made a change to improve things
8 for everybody; you may notice some changes.
9 Your feedback is appreciated. Something like
10 that. Yeah, I think we've got to be careful of
11 --

12 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, I think we
13 have to be incredibly careful.

14 JOAN FRANKEVICH: -- we're going
15 to fly more over the Park Road.

16 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, that's right.

17 JOAN FRANKEVICH: But we've
18 changes to improve things.

19 MIRIAM VALENTINE: With the
20 intent to improve things.

21 SALLY GIBERT: For everyone.

22 SUZANNE RUST: That's great.

23 MIRIAM VALENTINE: With the
24 intent to improve things.

25 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Yeah.

1 Something along those lines for the staff
2 visitors.

3 SUZANNE RUST: And if we get
4 feedback that it doesn't work out we haven't
5 predisposed people to --

6 TOM GEORGE: To, yeah, be
7 negatively --

8 SUZANNE RUST: You're right.
9 That's the fairest way for people to approach
10 the --

11 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Yeah, we want
12 them to know we're working hard to improve
13 things. If it backfires we'll -- you know,
14 that's fine. We don't need to go there because
15 we're working to improve things.

16 NANCY BALE: I do think it's
17 good for -- to really mention how the four
18 north side commercial outfitters and the Park
19 Service are collaborating together, you know,
20 that when you see a plane there it's making an
21 effort. I don't know how you get that in a
22 couple of sentences.

23 TOM GEORGE: Well, again, I
24 think that goes -- you know, Paul doesn't need
25 to be told that. That would go in the next

1 level down.

2 SALLY GIBERT: That goes into
3 the next level down.

4 TOM GEORGE: So Sally's
5 feverishly taking notes.

6 NANCY BALE: This isn't because
7 NPS told them to; it's because they determined
8 it together in a collaborative process.
9 Because there tends to be this kind of NPS said
10 to do this, NPS said to do that.

11 SALLY GIBERT: The collaborative
12 process and the intentions are all -- that is
13 important.

14 And is it clear what those bullets
15 are? Are these, like, examples of the types of
16 follow-up that could be -- because this is not
17 just to the Park Service. Like the third one
18 down is -- we were talking about that at lunch
19 that it's not just the Park Service that, you
20 know, should be sharing this but pretty much
21 all of the Council members that have
22 constituencies to the extent that's appropriate
23 which is going to vary considerably from one
24 member to the other to, you know, be
25 appropriately informing their constituents that

1 there's some changes going on.

2 NANCY BALE: The third bullet,
3 air tour operators explain -- to whom are they
4 explaining? To their clients or to anybody
5 that wants to ask them?

6 TOM GEORGE: You took the
7 question right out of my -- Tim, this is for
8 you. Earth to Tim.

9 TIM CUDNEY: Go.

10 TOM GEORGE: Third bullet here.
11 And I think you've mentioned this or talked
12 about this in the past. I mean, you guys have
13 an opportunity also to tell people as they're
14 getting on or off your aircraft that, you know,
15 elements of this tour are designed to do thus
16 and such, whatnot. So is that a reasonable and
17 -- Suzanne, is that a reasonable thing?
18 Reasonable wording?

19 TIM CUDNEY: It is.

20 TOM GEORGE: I mean, the big
21 thing here is that we're just saying that it's
22 not only the Park Service. In fact other
23 stakeholders can and should do things as well.

24 TIM CUDNEY: The number-one
25 complaint that we would get from -- and I say a

1 majority of our passengers -- are that we
2 either didn't show them enough wildlife or we
3 didn't get close enough to wildlife. Then we
4 have to expound on this further. And as I
5 mentioned in the last meeting this is the first
6 year that we put this type of information in
7 our brochure saying that we're doing different
8 measures to basically meet some of this stuff.
9 And I'll share that with folks if you want that
10 verbiage. And it's the first time we've ever
11 done it. We've also incorporated it with some
12 of our Juneau operations because of the fly
13 neighborly because part of our crew down there
14 has to go over the city of Juneau and then out
15 a ways. So that basically just touches on it
16 and then it would expound to how we would
17 explain it a little better in detail.

18 TOM GEORGE: Because as has been
19 pointed out here before often -- tomorrow or
20 yesterday's backcountry visitor is potentially
21 also an air tour visitor. So this is yet
22 another way to reach them and show them, again,
23 that this collaborative -- everybody's kind of
24 working together.

25 TIM CUDNEY: Well, I beg to

1 differ.

2 TOM GEORGE: Gee, I thought
3 those were words out of your mouth. So please,
4 straighten me out.

5 TIM CUDNEY: Not the backcountry
6 visitor. The person on the bus.

7 TOM GEORGE: On the bus. Okay.
8 All right. I stand corrected.

9 TIM CUDNEY: I can almost
10 guarantee you that we're not going to --
11 somebody that has just hiked with a backpack
12 for seven days or six days on 13, 17 or 18 is
13 not going to pay 400 -- \$199 for a flight tour.
14 See what I'm saying?

15 NANCY BALE: They're probably
16 digging in their back pocket for their lunch
17 money.

18 TOM GEORGE: That's a good
19 correction. However if we look at the
20 400,000-plus Park visitors that is that biggest
21 segment --

22 TIM CUDNEY: Absolutely.

23 TOM GEORGE: -- of the Park
24 visitor pie. Okay. I stand corrected.

25 TIM CUDNEY: I did that for you.

1 SUZANNE RUST: I know you did.
2 I'm just thinking about how to
3 implement it in a really positive way. It's
4 hard, you know, all the things we tell our
5 pilots to do in briefings. I like the idea of
6 making some positive statement in our brochures
7 or in our promotional materials setting the --
8 whether people would get it though, you know,
9 for the --

10 NANCY BALE: I think more and
11 more people will resonate and the reason why is
12 that there's articles about silence and natural
13 sounds more and more prominent in magazines and
14 newspapers. There was a big thing in the New
15 York Times recently. So it's getting known
16 more. And also people in fact are noticing the
17 diminution of the soundscape in cities and
18 towns. So they can resonate to the fact that
19 you're considering -- you know, your operations
20 are trying to protect this jewel.

21 SUZANNE RUST: Right. That it's
22 -- that we're part of the solution.

23 JOHN LEONARD: Yeah. Well, it
24 -- I don't know if this body, but it very well
25 might be, you know, like, the green star

1 program that businesses get to show that we're
2 operating in a green manner because we -- you
3 know, and I'm sure there's some criteria to
4 earn that green star. Well, there could be
5 some certification, you know, I'm a Denali Park
6 flyer, whatever, you know.

7 SUZANNE RUST: That's a really
8 cool idea I think because what it does is we
9 work to comply -- it recognizes the operators.
10 It recognizes that we're making an effort and
11 that we're trying to do the right thing. And
12 maybe there is something, I don't know.

13 DAN MCGREGOR: Perhaps like a
14 standardized statement like a small fine print
15 that is like a symbol with a little statement
16 about we engage in practices that best protect
17 the soundscape for Denali Park. And it's a
18 little symbol like the recycle symbol or
19 whatever.

20 SUZANNE RUST: I think that
21 could be so cool.

22 TOM GEORGE: And it's not a
23 wildlife symbol.

24 SUZANNE RUST: Yeah. I
25 really -- Joan, I really like that because what

1 it does is it takes it and shifts it into
2 something that's a positive. And it also gets
3 people's attention and it's an education.
4 We're educating the public on one, the value of
5 national parks, the value of the soundscape,
6 the value --

7 JOAN FRANKEVICH: And it also
8 helps, you know, I worry about the future, you
9 know, when all these businesses sell and we get
10 a whole new group of people who aren't educated
11 to this process and it kind of formalizes like
12 the best practices but even more to carry on,
13 you know, well into the future, well after this
14 Council doesn't exist.

15 TIM CUDNEY: When these
16 businesses sell, that's a novel concept.

17 SUZANNE RUST: When we retire.
18 Move to -- yes.

19 SALLY GIBERT: So maybe this --
20 would this -- this particular piece would in
21 fact benefit by another sentence toward the end
22 that, you know, along the -- capturing this
23 positive stuff, you know, that even though
24 there's -- you know, this is not the language
25 but essentially even though this is

1 controversial but, you know, we're making
2 progress toward a positive outcome for
3 everybody. That's not necessarily it but
4 something along those lines that captures the
5 good intentions, the collaboration and the
6 improved outcomes for everybody.

7 NANCY BALE: Well, we could
8 still put in that second sentence that I
9 advocated.

10 AMANDA SMITH: I'm just still
11 hoping that beyond this document, the next two
12 tiers down, that that's the main thing that's
13 going to get conveyed.

14 SALLY GIBERT: Yes.

15 AMANDA SMITH: Primarily,
16 predominantly that we're working together,
17 changes are getting made. Where those changes
18 are happening to some degree we're not going to
19 describe I hope because we don't want to probe
20 or lead.

21 SALLY GIBERT: Yes.

22 AMANDA SMITH: I think we can't
23 impress too much that this is a collaborative
24 effort where these stakeholders are working
25 together.

1 TOM GEORGE: Okay. I'm adding
2 the word positive, proactive.

3 AMANDA SMITH: And
4 collaborative.

5 TOM GEORGE: God, now we got it
6 all. Motherhood, apple pie and baseball.

7 JOHN LEONARD: That part that
8 Joan mentioned to me just seems brilliant, and
9 to launch that and put that forward. When you
10 start to make a best practices or something
11 actually viable or monetize it that's going to
12 really get people on board it seems like. And
13 if I was on the back of a plane and I saw a Web
14 site, I'd say what is this best practices stuff
15 that you guys are doing. I think that would
16 really help educate. It's just a fantastic
17 idea.

18 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Right. I like
19 that idea that you -- but the realty of talking
20 to every guest about this seems overwhelming
21 but to have it in your brochures or even have a
22 little certificate, this operator, you know,
23 follows best practices to help the soundscape
24 of Denali.

25 SUZANNE RUST: Be a logo. It

1 can be a logo. And this -- you know, this
2 person does or this operator does this. I
3 really like that because what it does for us is
4 it validates that it's something important,
5 that we're considering it. We're doing these
6 things in the best interest of the Park. And
7 it's hard to argue with that. It's hard for
8 clients that want to see wildlife on the north
9 side to argue with something that's a value of
10 the Park. Say, you know -- it also provides
11 people with a concrete mental picture of
12 something that's happening. It makes it real
13 like green star makes it real. You know,
14 you're part of the green star program because
15 you're doing these things. People recognize
16 that. So that's a -- I think it's an amazing
17 idea. And I think it would be -- I imagine
18 that all the tour operators would love to have
19 that on their brochure.

20 SALLY GIBERT: So as an aside
21 should I put down sort of future Council
22 business work on a green star program concept?

23 TOM GEORGE: Well, I'd capture
24 it as a note but I don't know the Council has
25 to or should do that. Let these guys do it and

1 tell us all about it.

2 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Which guys?

3 TOM GEORGE: The operators. The
4 medallion --

5 SALLY GIBERT: I think the
6 Council can facilitate that discussion.

7 TOM GEORGE: Okay. Well, if you
8 want more work for the Council, put it down.

9 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Somebody's got
10 to be the -- somebody's got to figure out what
11 the criteria is and who -- you know, so --

12 SUZANNE RUST: Right. And it
13 doesn't usually come -- would it come from the
14 operator? Would it come from an independent
15 recognition like when Park Service, you know,
16 awards --

17 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Let's make
18 Park Service do it.

19 SUZANNE RUST: That's what I was
20 thinking, Park Service awarding the, you
21 know -- that you get the -- since you've
22 participated in this.

23 TOM GEORGE: Well, medallion's
24 kind of doing this for aviation safety at one
25 level. If you're a medallion member and you've

1 achieved these stars for these accomplishments
2 in theory that makes you a safer carrier. And
3 that's something people include in some of
4 their literature. I mean, that's an example of
5 that type of thing.

6 SUZANNE RUST: Don't want to
7 make it real difficult.

8 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I don't even
9 know that we need to figure it out right now.
10 It's certainly not going to happen this summer.

11 SUZANNE RUST: But I love the
12 idea.

13 SALLY GIBERT: I think that
14 since I won't be chair anymore I'll just say
15 that for this one, for the green star thing, I
16 think that it's -- it probably will need to
17 start with a -- just as a self, you know,
18 proclamation, that, you know, we are following
19 the best practices as opposed to a
20 certification because how are you going to do
21 that at least at this early stage. So I think
22 it should start with we're proud of the fact
23 that we follow these things. And then another
24 step might be -- another increment might be an
25 award or recognition or something like that.

1 I'd be leery about, you know, a true
2 certification program.

3 SUZANNE RUST: Yeah, probably
4 so. But I like the proclamation that this is
5 what we stand by. We've signed on, we
6 volunteer, you know, we're taking an extra
7 step.

8 JOAN FRANKEVICH: And it
9 needn't -- I mean, I could see this Council
10 just, you know -- you know, we could make a
11 list of probably, you know, five pretty simple
12 things, you know. This operator follows the
13 best practices, you know -- this, you know -- I
14 don't. You know, provides training on the best
15 practices for its pilots, you know, this
16 operator, whatever. You know, we come up with
17 a couple of things. And I don't know. I think
18 we can just leave it to the operators to say,
19 yes, we -- you know, we comply with this and --
20 something we're thinking about in the future.

21 TOM GEORGE: Agenda for next
22 meeting just to let people think about it and
23 flush it out.

24 A question for Amanda. Amanda, are
25 there any elements, looking at this bulleted

1 list, that backcountry users, could, should do
2 that should be included here? Focused on the
3 Park Service and air tour operators. That's a
4 question. I don't know.

5 AMANDA SMITH: Well, it's not --
6 well, no, not for this document yet.

7 NANCY BALE: When I was talking
8 about that third bullet I was going to suggest
9 that instead of tours you would put flight
10 operations.

11 TOM GEORGE: Why?

12 NANCY BALE: Because it actually
13 gets more to the point.

14 SUZANNE RUST: Where are you?

15 NANCY BALE: Air tour operators
16 explain that their flight operations are
17 designed to be responsive to soundscape
18 considerations.

19 TOM GEORGE: Oh, instead of the
20 word tours, is that what you're saying?

21 NANCY BALE: Yeah, because
22 that's kind of a generic, like, the tour begins
23 on the ground, you know. I mean, what you're
24 changing really is your flight ops.

25 SUZANNE RUST: Right.

1 TOM GEORGE: I think we're down
2 to a pretty fine level of subtlety. I mean, so
3 you're saying make this flight operations?

4 NANCY BALE: Well, actually
5 that's a more positive statement too.

6 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, I think
7 that's a good change.

8 AMANDA SMITH: The other piece
9 that's important is it's not just backcountry
10 users; it's also the folks staying at Teklanika
11 campground, right? And I don't think they're
12 considered backcountry. They don't go through
13 the same backcountry process that someone who's
14 hiking for seven days and getting a permit is.

15 TOM GEORGE: Right.

16 SALLY GIBERT: And actually even
17 people on the road.

18 AMANDA SMITH: And people on the
19 road.

20 SALLY GIBERT: Because there's
21 stuff in here that addresses that too.

22 AMANDA SMITH: So stuff working
23 with Park users, I mean, that would be a
24 change. You know, backcountry users are such a
25 very limited --

1 TOM GEORGE: Do we keep it in
2 there and say and other Park users or do we
3 just replace it?

4 AMANDA SMITH: Backcountry and
5 Park users. That sounds great.

6 TOM GEORGE: So we don't use the
7 backcountry flavor.

8 AMANDA SMITH: Yeah, because
9 that number by regulation is really small, our
10 backcountry users.

11 SALLY GIBERT: And, Tom, what
12 about the -- and what about the third -- the
13 last part there, that's sort of a separate
14 thing.

15 TOM GEORGE: This?

16 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. We talked
17 about that being almost like a separate
18 recommendation.

19 TOM GEORGE: Oh, yeah. Yeah,
20 let's -- this was included in here but in
21 talking about it over lunch the question is --
22 the thought here is that if and when the Park
23 Service knows about specific things that are
24 going on that are going to impact visitors,
25 which could be mountain climbers, could be, you

1 know, backcountry users or other Park visitors
2 to let them know about it. There are going to
3 be game surveys conducted over the next two
4 days in the area or headed to or something,
5 again, as a proactive measure.

6 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I wonder how
7 practical that is.

8 DAN MCGREGOR: Not so much a
9 blanket to every user.

10 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, much targeted
11 -- targeted to the people that it would affect
12 and stuff. And, Tim, I think years ago you
13 brought up this notion that you provide
14 feedback to the Park Service in the event
15 weather forces you to deviate and go in some of
16 the areas that you'd normally stay out of, et
17 cetera, so that if complaints come you could --
18 they'd have a ready answer to know what's going
19 on and perhaps be able to explain it to people
20 in near real time. This is a step beyond that.
21 Is -- and I agree, actually this goes beyond
22 the scope of this document. If it was to be
23 acted upon it probably should be considered a
24 separate recommendation.

25 TIM CUDNEY: Now that, quote,

1 weather area is part of the -- one of the best
2 practice areas now.

3 TOM GEORGE: Yep, that's right.

4 TIM CUDNEY: So it's kind of a
5 moot -- not going to say moot point but it --
6 we're doing things that at one time was -- not
7 going to say frowned upon but it was not an
8 approved practice. Just like Paul said
9 earlier, you know, there's nothing in the Park
10 bylaws or statutes that says you can't -- an
11 air tour operator can't fly up and down the
12 Park Road. But he also said he would prefer
13 they didn't.

14 JOAN FRANKEVICH: He didn't say
15 that.

16 TIM CUDNEY: Yes, he did.

17 SALLY GIBERT: No, he said he
18 doesn't say that but he knows that that
19 cultural message is out there.

20 TIM CUDNEY: Right. Okay. Have
21 to be careful what he says.

22 TOM GEORGE: Yeah. Well, so I
23 guess the question of the moment though is
24 something like this word considering, not
25 considering. I mean, I'm happy to -- I mean,

1 it ought to go out of this document because it
2 does go beyond the scope of this document.

3 TIM CUDNEY: I think the more
4 information so you're covering all your bases
5 the better.

6 SALLY GIBERT: I was thinking
7 the way this would actually work is since
8 there's somebody now that's sort of in charge
9 of aircraft operations for the Park; that's
10 correct, right? There's somebody that kind of
11 has a handle on the big picture with the
12 planes.

13 MIRIAM VALENTINE: An aviation
14 manager for the Park.

15 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. So to the
16 extent that the aviation manager knows in
17 advance that there will be particular flights
18 taken that, you know, are going to be outside
19 the protocols and, you know, may be
20 particularly noticeable to the backcountry
21 users that to the extent possible, like
22 everything else, that if that person could let
23 the Rangers in charge of the wilderness -- at
24 the wilderness center who are issuing the
25 backcountry permits to the extent that that

1 person knows that there's going to be stuff
2 going on to inform that wilderness desk so that
3 those Rangers or staff that are staffing that
4 desk can say, again, to the extent they have
5 the information available, so they're trying to
6 shop around for a unit that, well, you might
7 want to know there's going to be some
8 potentially low level flight wildlife surveys
9 in this area. If that's a problem for you, you
10 might want to select somewhere else. And
11 that's obviously going to be very imperfect and
12 a lot of stuff's going to get missed. But to
13 just start to work on that to the extent it's
14 possible, just give it a try.

15 DAN MCGREGOR: Read, like,
16 regarding specific aviation operations. Fine
17 tune that a little bit. More materials and
18 awareness regarding specific aviation
19 operations including wildlife surveys and air
20 search. There could be these specific events
21 or these special events in this area.

22 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, which is
23 different than letting people know that, by the
24 way.

25 SUZANNE RUST: And it's not

1 unusual or special.

2 TOM GEORGE: So in fact what
3 we're talking about this section down here
4 would be at some point a separate
5 recommendation which we would flush out and put
6 detail to. So in other words, I'm taking it
7 out of this document and holding it for -- I
8 mean, at this point the idea's kicking around
9 enough to know is this a reasonable -- is this
10 something we should waste the Council's time
11 and Park Service's time pursuing or not. If it
12 is, we'll carry it forward and we'll do more
13 homework on it and we'll bring it back at
14 another meeting and flush it out as a
15 stand-alone recommendation. If it's not, it
16 just gets deleted and forever gone.

17 SALLY GIBERT: So maybe this is
18 going into the homework assignment category of
19 maybe Miriam or somebody can talk to Pete and
20 sort of find out what might be doable so that
21 we can -- and if there's some room there to
22 talk about it then, you know, we can be working
23 on a recommendation for next fall.

24 TIM CUDNEY: Dan, have we had
25 Pete at any of the spring meetings?

1 MIRIAM VALENTINE: He was here
2 last meeting.

3 TIM CUDNEY: No, I mean at our
4 135 operators' meetings in the spring at
5 Denali. It would not be a bad idea to invite
6 him.

7 DAN MCGREGOR: Collin is the
8 only one that's made --

9 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: Collin's now
10 the aviation manager in addition to --

11 TIM CUDNEY: I thought it was
12 Pete.

13 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: At least it's
14 temporarily Collin.

15 TIM CUDNEY: Collin's still in
16 our call list so that's fine. He knows what's
17 going on.

18 SALLY GIBERT: We don't have to
19 list names.

20 TOM GEORGE: Who's the new guys?
21 Pete, the new Pete.

22 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: Pete Webster.

23 TOM GEORGE: Thank you.

24 NANCY BALE: Sally, maybe we
25 could attach the discussion of this

1 recommendation for a request for agenda
2 appearance of a Park Service person to kind of
3 renew what Guy Adema discussed with us two
4 years ago, three years ago, about Park ops and
5 what the Park is doing to control their ops
6 regarding soundscape. And then in connection
7 with that agenda presentation then we could
8 discuss that because it would be related.

9 SUZANNE RUST: Just thinking
10 about that, I'm glad you brought that up. And
11 I'm just thinking back. Have we seen something
12 from Park Service, I mean, one of the
13 discussions we've had in the past is about how
14 Park Service was going to change their
15 operations.

16 NANCY BALE: The last time we
17 had an in-depth presentation was when Guy Adema
18 did it. That was awhile ago.

19 JOAN FRANKEVICH: At least two
20 years ago.

21 SUZANNE RUST: I thought we were
22 working toward -- I'm just trying to remember.
23 Working toward a specific -- that they were
24 going to present a plan or --

25 NANCY BALE: And I know Paul

1 said they're working on it. He said that at
2 lunch.

3 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: I might be
4 able to address that. Starting this year and
5 next year we've funded some additional work to
6 very carefully document PS Aviation's table for
7 this group and others. There may be some
8 changes in operations. But more what I know
9 about and can speak to is that we are going to
10 be tracking all our administrative aircraft
11 through the automatic flight following system
12 and other means and having manual report on
13 where we land, how often and with what
14 aircraft.

15 SUZANNE RUST: And are you going
16 to be tracking the airplanes you hire as well?

17 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: Yes.

18 SUZANNE RUST: You'll be doing
19 that because you can do that through the
20 Spidertrack?

21 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: Right. And
22 there's other vendors that have that service
23 but that's the plan. So whether it's a vendor
24 aircraft or a contract aircraft or the Park
25 plane, we're going to be able to present what

1 we did, what our impact was. And so we're
2 going to learn how to do that this year and
3 make it easy and in the future have it.

4 SUZANNE RUST: And do you have
5 any sense in the past years, I mean, is there
6 any document that shows the change in use,
7 like, if it's gone up or -- from year to year?
8 Because, you know --

9 DAVYD BETCHKEL: I don't think
10 there is anything.

11 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: Do you mean
12 in Park Service?

13 SUZANNE RUST: Yeah.

14 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: No.

15 SUZANNE RUST: I just was blown
16 away the first time it was presented how many
17 hours. It was like 12- or 13- -- 1,200 hours
18 the Park Services uses.

19 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: We could
20 guess. And if there's big fire years those are
21 going to be higher aviation use.

22 SUZANNE RUST: I think it's a
23 worthwhile thing and I think it's worthwhile to
24 look at other years.

25 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: We did a

1 pilot a couple years ago just to figure out how
2 to get the data. And you might have seen some
3 of the results. And that was just a limited
4 sample. And so we're taking that and trying to
5 upgrade it a bit and then institutionalize it.
6 And that's -- the marching orders are to make
7 that happen over the next two years.

8 SUZANNE RUST: That's good to
9 know.

10 JOAN FRANKEVICH: So, Dave,
11 could you or someone give us a presentation on
12 kind of what NPS use has been in the past and
13 what changes you've made to help the soundscape
14 and this Spidertrack program and what you're
15 hoping to accomplish?

16 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: I don't know
17 when the fall meeting will be, but this fall
18 we'll have a report for the 2012 operations but
19 it won't be able to say much about change. We
20 do have that reference, kind of the pilot
21 study, I think it was 2009. So we could take a
22 sample congruent with our 2009 data and compare
23 it to what we come up with this summer.
24 However, I don't have any confidence that the
25 2009 data captures everything. I think we

1 caught our contract shift and our Park plane
2 but the vendors were not captured because that
3 was probably pre the requirement of vendors
4 having automatic flight following. So it
5 wouldn't really -- so comparison, yeah, we
6 could fudge our way through it but it wouldn't
7 really be valid.

8 SUZANNE RUST: I guess one of
9 the things when we started -- even just started
10 this whole adventure together, that was one of
11 the -- one thing that was important and set out
12 as a priority. And that's something I haven't
13 seen really in the years. I mean, we've been
14 here a number of years. You know, we're making
15 progress but I don't think Park Service -- I
16 don't know, I mean, because it's -- I think
17 we've kind of overlooked that over the years.
18 Are you laughing at me or with me?

19 TOM GEORGE: Both. It's
20 government; the wheels turn slow.

21 SUZANNE RUST: But you know
22 what, if they're holding our -- we're making
23 progress. I mean, even reviewing, having a
24 committee, having a something.

25 JOAN FRANKEVICH: They need to

1 be making progress too.

2 SUZANNE RUST: Yes, because
3 we're meeting and they're -- I mean, they're
4 telling us --

5 TOM GEORGE: Well, to their
6 credit you just heard that they are actually
7 putting in place a program to --

8 SUZANNE RUST: They are.

9 TOM GEORGE: -- monitor air
10 activities.

11 SUZANNE RUST: They're
12 monitoring. But you can still -- you know, you
13 think about things you can be doing, ideas,
14 brainstorming.

15 JOAN FRANKEVICH: We had this
16 conversation at lunch with Paul. And he was
17 mentioning a lot of things that he's been
18 starting to do or the Park's been starting to
19 do that haven't been done in the times past.
20 Like, having -- I don't want to speak for him
21 because I don't have it all clear, but things
22 like having this aviation manager approve all
23 flights before they go flying outside of the
24 wilderness unless they're absolutely -- even if
25 it means longer and takes more time and fuel if

1 they don't need the wilderness for the research
2 or whatever they're doing, they fly around it,
3 things like that. I think we need to know
4 about those things.

5 SUZANNE RUST: I think document,
6 you know, even that start begins a dialogue
7 because what you're doing is you're collecting
8 data. But there are things that are happening
9 that we're not even aware of nor could we even
10 comment on because we don't know. We don't
11 know what we don't know.

12 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: So when we
13 have a report on our operations and it's
14 spatially explicit, which it will be, you'll be
15 able to visualize it.

16 SUZANNE RUST: Yeah, but we
17 don't know what decisions are behind that. I
18 mean, I think that that's -- it's the two-part
19 part of it; right?

20 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Right. I
21 mean, there's the strict science, like Dave is
22 speaking about. But they're, yeah, just
23 general practices. And Paul or somebody else
24 might be the one to address that over the
25 years.

1 SUZANNE RUST: And the thing is
2 is Paul -- I mean, I don't know how long Paul
3 will be here.

4 NANCY BALE: September 30th.

5 SALLY GIBERT: Oh, September
6 30th?

7 NANCY BALE: That's what he
8 said.

9 SUZANNE RUST: But best
10 practice -- I'm just thinking of why aren't
11 there -- you know, as they move forward,
12 especially before he leaves, developing a best
13 practices document for them.

14 NANCY BALE: Perhaps he would
15 agree -- if we can meet before September 30th
16 he would agree to come talk to us, do an exit
17 statement. He and Dave could present it, the
18 different aspects of the issue.

19 SALLY GIBERT: That would be
20 nice.

21 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: Collin would
22 be able to speak to this, sort of the internal
23 policy and it's there but it's not -- it's more
24 just culture. It's probably not written down
25 anywhere.

1 SUZANNE RUST: But that's
2 important.

3 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: We could move
4 on that. That's a good idea.

5 SUZANNE RUST: That's really
6 important. Because if you lose -- if you don't
7 write it down and track it, it can be lost from
8 manager or superintendent to superintendent
9 to -- and if we don't know what people were
10 doing before -- I mean, it's invisible. I
11 don't know about you guys, but it's invisible.
12 I don't know what you're doing. I have no idea
13 what -- how everything runs. So how could we
14 even comment on --

15 JOHN LEONARD: There's policy.
16 It's not just folklore. We have minimum tool
17 analysis that we're required to do for
18 projects. Aviation projects are run through
19 compliance. When it comes to search and rescue
20 and things like that, that hasn't happened.
21 But there is official policy on how we manage
22 those things. It's not 100 percent but most of
23 the projects are scrutinized unnecessarily and
24 we see more than -- it's just not some
25 institutional knowledge that Paul is the keeper

1 of. I think explaining that --

2 TOM GEORGE: So let's put it on
3 the list as an agenda item for the fall meeting
4 just to get a briefing of where we are on this.
5 I think that would be helpful for us to know
6 and appreciate what's going on administratively
7 behind the scenes to work on this since we're
8 all in this together.

9 JOHN LEONARD: And the data
10 collection, the work that was done in '09, the
11 real baseline is going to be '12 or '13.

12 TOM GEORGE: Yeah.

13 JOHN LEONARD: Because we were
14 --

15 TOM GEORGE: '09 was a prototype
16 I think to -- those were great maps by the way.

17 JOHN LEONARD: But I would say
18 moving forward we should have a very, very high
19 degree of accuracy on what we're capturing and
20 have nearly 100 percent of every administrative
21 flight.

22 TOM GEORGE: And do those AFF
23 reports include altitude so we could do a
24 three-dimensional.

25 JOHN LEONARD: It could.

1 TOM GEORGE: Right now with
2 Google Earth for example we can turn this best
3 practice thing -- I'm still trying to figure
4 out how to do it -- into a three-dimensional
5 thing. So you see the volume and then you
6 could import GPS tracks to show where they went
7 through, over under or under through.

8 SALLY GIBERT: Sounds like Space
9 Mountain.

10 Okay. So moving on because I'm
11 realizing it's after 3:00 already.

12 TOM GEORGE: So I think, Sally,
13 this goes on the list to pick up and talk about
14 in the fall.

15 SALLY GIBERT: In the fall. Got
16 it.

17 TOM GEORGE: So the memo -- I
18 won't delete it from here so I'll move it to
19 another document. So the memo stops at the
20 bulleted list.

21 SALLY GIBERT: Right. Okay.

22 And then I think especially given the
23 time we have unless we have time at the end to
24 get back to it, that maybe we should just say
25 that, you know, Tom and I'll do the first cut

1 at some sample language or whatever that might
2 be useful for Paul for a training tool. And
3 we'll kind of work on that. We're not drafting
4 it for Paul, but just giving him some stuff to
5 play with. So we'll play with that and
6 circulate it -- take it as far as we can. And
7 whatever we get we'll give to Paul and it's not
8 going -- it's just going to be informal because
9 it's going to be his tools. Then that applies
10 for basically all the Council members if they
11 want to do education within their own
12 constituencies that'll be appropriate to draft
13 for their audience.

14 One tiny backtracking on the workshop
15 summary. I just wanted to get any feedback on
16 the people that that were at that particular --
17 at the workshop, not the meeting. The
18 workshop. Are there any people here -- are any
19 people that were not at that that are listed
20 and vice versa, is anybody missing because this
21 was pretty -- and who's Sam? Sam is --

22 DAVYD BETCHKEL: Hooper.

23 SALLY GIBERT: So anybody
24 that -- if that's wrong let me know. Joan and
25 I were trying to figure it out. I had almost

1 no notes. She had some notes. These are petty
2 much Joan's notes for who was there.

3 Okay. So let's turn to the Web site
4 recommendations next if that's okay. Nobody's
5 gotten this electronically, but they will. So
6 now that we've kind of finished -- I think we
7 probably finished most of our active
8 recommendations that are on here. This was my
9 proposal for how to put all this stuff together
10 for the Web site so that it wasn't just the
11 best practices. A couple of little things that
12 this does that best practices -- that is
13 different from best practices is the -- this
14 introduction about the objective, safety first
15 and work in progress, there's a few small
16 changes. Tom, we're talking about the Web
17 recommendations, the compilation of the --

18 TOM GEORGE: Keep going, I'll
19 catch up.

20 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. The
21 compilation of all the recommendations, not
22 just best practices for the Web site that we
23 would update and keep updated as we change it.
24 This one would be April 28th, 2012.

25 Anyway, I was just saying that

1 there's a couple of small word differences
2 between this and what's in the best practices
3 document. And Tom and I talked about that.
4 And I think that's okay to have the best
5 practices be exactly the way it is. And then
6 do things like change -- for example, the
7 Denali Overflights Council for the Web page
8 have our full name Denali National Park
9 Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council just, you
10 know, amend the best practices document for the
11 Web site, make it more -- this is the full
12 Council.

13 The other thing that I did relative
14 to that that is noticeable is that the end of
15 best practices there's a -- the last sentence
16 is that summary, about designed to reduce sound
17 impacts and subject to refinement and revision.
18 I took that language and the first part of it I
19 built into the objectives -- the objective up
20 here. That is now in the objective. And
21 subject to refinement and revision is now in a
22 slightly expanded work in process. And I think
23 that we actually talked about these first three
24 paragraphs although -- then that's the addition
25 of the new stuff from this meeting in yellow.

1 But I think we've talked about this language as
2 it's been revised but I can't remember for
3 sure. So this is an opportunity to kind of
4 look at that, you know, sort of fresh. And
5 there's no substantive difference between the
6 best practices document, it's just more
7 formatting and a little -- and a little bit
8 more flushed out.

9 TOM GEORGE: Just to be clear
10 what we're talking about essentially is, again,
11 each of these documents is written to a
12 specific audience. The best practice audience
13 is principally the air tour operators. The
14 people that are going to be out there doing
15 things.

16 SALLY GIBERT: Right. And then
17 sort of own it.

18 TOM GEORGE: So, yeah, we may
19 need to do a little tweaking here to write kind
20 of an intro to that that would explain to a
21 wider audience what the subsequent document --
22 the actual technical best practices document,
23 working from, what it's for, what it's doing.

24 SALLY GIBERT: Right. And then
25 as Tom and I were talking about at lunch,

1 there's also this -- as you know there's this
2 intention to work with this material as part of
3 a longer-term effort to get the information out
4 to other pilots that wouldn't necessarily look
5 like this and probably would need to look a
6 little bit different to be tailored to more of
7 a general audience. But that's not what this
8 is either. This is just a compilation.

9 JOAN FRANKEVICH: So along those
10 lines maybe an introduction or somewhere we
11 need to make clear that this is a document the
12 Council has created for air tour operators to
13 follow so there's no confusion that we're
14 telling general aviation this is for them.

15 SALLY GIBERT: No, I think it's
16 just a compilation of our recommendations to
17 date and to the extent that a private pilot may
18 understand what that means, they can go for it;
19 but it's not designed for that.

20 TOM GEORGE: But the intro could
21 do especially what she's saying. Yeah.

22 SUZANNE RUST: So the Web
23 site -- let me just make certain because I'm
24 catching up. The Web site document is whose
25 audience?

1 SALLY GIBERT: Currently the Web
2 site -- when you go to the Web site and it's
3 been reformatted a little bit, it's much better
4 now. So right now when the -- it talks about
5 kind of the general statement how the Council
6 makes or has made recommendations about best
7 practices. Okay. So there's a general
8 statement about that. The word recommendations
9 is now highlighted so you can click on it,
10 which is perfect.

11 SUZANNE RUST: This would be --

12 SALLY GIBERT: So right now if
13 you click on it it goes to the best practices
14 -- aviation working for best practices. So
15 what I'm proposing -- which is not all of our
16 recommendations. So what I'm proposing and
17 been talking about for a while is developing a
18 new document that that is incorporated into,
19 that has other things in it as well, like the
20 working assumptions and some of the other
21 things that we have done that are actual
22 recommendations but they're not part of,
23 quote/unquote, best practices.

24 SUZANNE RUST: Got it. It's a
25 broader document that's more inclusive.

1 TOM GEORGE: But a broader
2 series -- I mean, we actually want our various
3 recommendations on here so you could go back
4 and say, oh, in 2004 we did this
5 recommendation, in 2007 we did that
6 recommendation; right? In other words, we
7 would end up with all of Council's
8 recommendations and significant activities on
9 this site.

10 SALLY GIBERT: They're not
11 dated. I mean, somebody could take the time to
12 do that.

13 TOM GEORGE: And we're going to
14 need to do that as part of it.

15 SALLY GIBERT: Well, right now
16 they're just a master date. We could put a
17 little -- I don't know if it's worth it to put
18 a -- I mean, what difference does it make
19 whether something was done in 2010 or 2009?

20 TOM GEORGE: I think it may --
21 in the future, again -- a recommendation has a
22 time and place, the need for it.

23 SALLY GIBERT: Well, maybe as
24 another homework assignment after getting this
25 one done to go back and fill that in, that

1 might be a good thing to do.

2 So this would include all of the best
3 practices as they're exactly worded now.

4 SUZANNE RUST: And other
5 recommendations. Basically this is our
6 history. This is the history of
7 recommendations that we've agreed on that are
8 includes. I like the dating. I know that that
9 sounds --

10 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I do too.

11 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, I actually
12 do.

13 SUZANNE RUST: But I like that
14 it's a history and somebody coming back in 25
15 years will see a progression.

16 SALLY GIBERT: It may not be
17 hard to add the dates because there's not that
18 many of them.

19 JOAN FRANKEVICH: So, Sally, I'm
20 presuming so -- and I haven't looked at the Web
21 site for a while -- it'll be a link to Council
22 recommendation. And then it's not one document
23 with all this together; right? Then you'll
24 have links, best practices, working
25 assumptions.

1 TOM GEORGE: I think that's what
2 we need to do so it doesn't become just a
3 colossal run-on thing. Again, I'll work on it
4 with you.

5 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, because
6 right now it's one document because it's not
7 colossal.

8 JOAN FRANKEVICH: It seems to me
9 we want to separate those things.

10 TOM GEORGE: Separate it and let
11 people get to a specific thing rather than
12 amalgamated into one endless document that it's
13 buried somewhere in the middle of.

14 SALLY GIBERT: That's a good
15 point.

16 TOM GEORGE: I'll send you a
17 draft of something, how's that? And obviously
18 anything we do we'll spread out to the whole
19 group before it gets finalized.

20 SALLY GIBERT: Right. Okay.
21 That sounds good.

22 Okay. So is that -- is that an
23 objective something we should keep working on as a
24 homework assignment to tie off sooner rather than
25 later?

1 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I have a
2 couple things we might want to add.

3 TOM GEORGE: After the fact
4 sheet.

5 SALLY GIBERT: After the fact
6 sheet, yeah.

7 NANCY BALE: Do we have any
8 recommendations from 2011?

9 SALLY GIBERT: We did. Let me
10 think. I think we might have done something in
11 November.

12 NANCY BALE: Maybe we should
13 have a little committee where we could call
14 around a bit if we're going to list things
15 chronologically, we might have some other stuff
16 we came up with, that would be worthy of
17 including in addition to this.

18 SALLY GIBERT: And we could --
19 it's always going to be -- we can fill in more
20 stuff later too.

21 NANCY BALE: But it probably --
22 you know, put the links on per date perhaps.

23 TOM GEORGE: We'll work on this.
24 We're way down in the weeds at the moment.

25 SALLY GIBERT: Right. Okay.

1 NANCY BALE: Well, Tom, would
2 you like some help?

3 TOM GEORGE: I would be
4 delighted.

5 NANCY BALE: I would be willing
6 to help with Web posting. I have a lot of
7 stuff on my computer. School's over in four
8 weeks so I will have more time.

9 SALLY GIBERT: So I will send
10 you -- I'll send both of you the electronic
11 version of this thing to start with. Okay. So
12 is there anything more about this --

13 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Yes.

14 SALLY GIBERT: Okay.

15 JOAN FRANKEVICH: So a couple of
16 things that we might want to add to this list
17 of recommendations is we wrote a JPARC -- the
18 letter to the JPARC. And then if we change the
19 name to Council products or recommendations and
20 products we could also add the sound-sensitive
21 areas map. It may already be there somewhere
22 else, I'm not sure.

23 SALLY GIBERT: I don't think it
24 is. So is that -- so that has -- that's ready
25 for so-called prime time up until now?

1 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Well, that's a
2 good question.

3 TOM GEORGE: What map are you
4 thinking of?

5 JOAN FRANKEVICH: This one.
6 We're just talking about what we've --

7 TOM GEORGE: Sure, that's a
8 product that we've created. Absolutely. You
9 bet.

10 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, I think
11 it's been around a long enough time that it is
12 --

13 JOAN FRANKEVICH: But I think we
14 should name -- that we might need to rechange
15 the name of the link from recommendations to
16 recommendations and Council products.

17 TOM GEORGE: Council products,
18 which is recommendations and other --

19 SALLY GIBERT: Council products.

20 NANCY BALE: Joan, would you
21 like to be on this working committee?

22 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I'm really
23 booked up for about the next four to six weeks
24 so depending on when you're working on it.

25 TOM GEORGE: Everybody's going

1 to get their shot at reviewing this. You know,
2 the biggest thing is we got to -- we'll put out
3 an initial list and whatnot, let anybody look
4 and see if we're missing anything off of it.
5 Get that information back and then we can tweak
6 and finalize. It's going to take a couple
7 passes but I don't think this is a colossal
8 effort.

9 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, it isn't
10 that hard; it's just important to get it done.

11 Anything else about the Web,
12 consolidating our work history?

13 Okay. So next, Scott, do you want to
14 do your --

15 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Yeah,
16 sure.

17 All right. Sally just asked me to
18 give a quick -- as long as you want, five-,
19 ten-minute update just on what JPARC is doing.
20 I mean, Joan mentioned a little bit. But I
21 think most of you are aware that Alaskan
22 Command is working the JPARC which is Joint
23 Pacific Alaska Range Complex. And on
24 March 30th, we did release the draft EIS. And
25 most -- everyone in this audience is pretty

1 familiar. This is Tom's version of the draft
2 EIS. It's approximately 1,200 pages of a lot
3 of information, which you can see Tom has
4 started, done a really good job of trying to go
5 through this. You can see all his sticky
6 notes. But it is pretty unrealistic for people
7 to go through this unless you're like Tom and
8 just absolutely dedicated.

9 TOM GEORGE: Or stupid.

10 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: The draft
11 EIS is out on the streets, and it was on March
12 30th. I'll go through these slides here. And
13 we actually came up. ALCOM -- again, we have a
14 contract that we're paying a lot of money to
15 help us run the NEPA process. And the biggest
16 thing I just wanted to tell this group, because
17 we're obviously very interested in public input
18 and what we're doing on Denali. And ALCOM is
19 very concerned about -- make sure we're going
20 the JPARC appropriately and in accordance with
21 NEPA.

22 SALLY GIBERT: Was March 30th
23 the starting point or the ending point?

24 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: March
25 30th was the first date that it was released to

1 the public. And we are actually in a 70-day
2 comment period that currently ends on June 7th.
3 So that's approximately 70 days. And in that
4 time frame -- I'm going to go through this
5 briefing right here and show you there's
6 actually a big public outreach. We're going to
7 be hitting the road for almost ten days going
8 the great circle route from Anchorage up north
9 on the Glennallen up over to Fairbanks, back
10 down through Talkeetna and Healy stopping I
11 think at ten different places.

12 But real fast before I go into this,
13 the big thing is how this applies to what we're
14 doing is that it doesn't. JPARC, there was the
15 original ten proposals; it's now up to 12
16 because they actually broke some -- the ones
17 that were confusing in two to make it more
18 clear for people to understand because, like
19 you said, it's just so overwhelming at some
20 points. I mean, I deal with this every day;
21 Tom deals with it every day, and it can get
22 confusing.

23 But the way with this affects what
24 we're doing I'm saying is very, very little.
25 And that's by design. JPARC will actually help

1 Denali overflight in my opinion because if
2 JPARC is enacted in some degree it will take
3 away what little flying we do in the Susitna
4 MOA and push it more into the Fox MOA, the Fox
5 expanded MOA and the Paxon MOA which are all
6 part of the proposals. So for our concern here
7 this may be just kind of some good gee whiz
8 information to pass out to people because we do
9 want inputs.

10 So this is just -- and this is the
11 standard briefing we have. It just shows you
12 where we are. This is the EIS time line. The
13 big red arrows up there at the top, it shows
14 where you are. We're on March 30th through
15 June 7th, 2012. The draft EIS hit the streets
16 on March 30th. And by law we're required to
17 give the public a 45-day comment period. We're
18 actually at 70 days out through June 7th
19 because of the 1,200 pages. Extremely complex
20 and a lot of -- like I said, I think the
21 contractor's paid by the page; that's why you
22 get a document that's just absolutely -- I mean
23 it is not realistic. But like I said, we
24 appreciate Tom taking the time to do this and
25 other aviation interest groups that have an

1 interest to look at this.

2 But that's where we are. We've
3 already done the first three on this side. We
4 did have a good scoping period back in early
5 '11, which some of those comments in that
6 scoping period, which was public input,
7 affected the draft EIS. And what originally we
8 put out has changed because of public comment.
9 So we want everybody to know that public
10 comment does and can affect what the Air Force
11 or the DOD is trying to do. And that's where
12 we're headed.

13 Looking at the rest of the time line
14 there after the June 7th closeout we'll take
15 all those comments, digest them and come out
16 with a final EIS. Of course, after that's
17 released some time in 2013 there's an
18 additional 30-day waiting period. Then it
19 becomes a record of decision by the Secretary
20 of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Army.
21 And then somewhere probably more like 2014 we
22 get the record of decision. And at some point
23 then for the airspace issues we'll attempt to
24 make some request to the FAA. Not only are we
25 asking for some MOA, the Army's asking for some

1 restricted airspace. And that's a huge
2 difference between what they're asking for, an
3 MOA and restricted airspace because one is a
4 policy-making decision, the other one is not.
5 So a restricted area takes a lot more effort
6 and a lot more time.

7 So JPARC is still a good two years
8 away from being reality but this is the time
9 now to get some input from everybody.

10 Got any questions as we go, just go
11 ahead and ask me.

12 This is just what our objective are.
13 I'm not going to read them but we want to make
14 sure we're in compliance with NEPA. You know,
15 there is a JPARC Web page. I think it's here
16 at the end. But you can get as much
17 information on this as you want. And we're
18 just trying to get the word out.

19 You know, the key point is that we
20 want to get information from the public. And
21 we're trying to find out how this would affect
22 you as a business, as a concessionaire, or as a
23 citizen. And these are our objectives and what
24 we're trying to do and want to make contacts
25 with everybody out there and make people aware

1 of what we're doing. Some of you guys have
2 more experience with NEPA. If you have any
3 suggestions, please come and talk to me about
4 it.

5 And like I said, I know Joan was
6 worried that you guys put some inputs in about
7 the Susitna MOA. And I can tell you that those
8 were read and there's going to be less traffic
9 in Susitna MOA if JPARC happens. We use the
10 Susitna MOA very little. And that's why I like
11 this group because I'm not a target here. One
12 of the few meetings I'm at. So we did take the
13 comments, I'm glad those came in. And we made
14 sure that we're going to continue to stay --
15 you know, first off there's a 5,000 AGL ceiling
16 and it's a very small MOA so we use it very
17 seldom right now, even more so in the
18 summertime when there's a little bit more
19 activity. So hopefully the military continues
20 to stay out of the way of Denali National Park.

21 This is the one I want to kind of
22 talk about. The public hearing schedule is --
23 this is what we're doing. It goes through 7
24 June. Of course there's a lot of political
25 interest in this whole issue. As well, you

1 guys are aware the concern about closing
2 Eielson -- or not closing Eielson. I'm sorry.
3 Take that back. Possibly relocating some F-16s
4 from Eielson down to Elmendorf. Officially
5 that is what the chief of staff of the Air
6 Force has stated. They are still reviewing it.
7 That is well above my pay grade. We got the
8 Senators fighting that battle, and whatever
9 we're told to do we'll support.

10 This public hearing date of 11
11 through 23 May is where we're going to hit the
12 road with about 12 people and go around and
13 talk to everybody. And that is the schedule
14 right now. As you can see it's going to last
15 about 11 days, and it's just going to do the
16 great circle route to go to each one of these
17 towns and sit down for approximately
18 two-and-a-half hours, give a briefing to give
19 the exact details of each proposal, make sure
20 they can answer all the questions and try to
21 solicit as much feedback as you can.

22 Not only can you give official
23 comments during this public hearing session you
24 can of course do it online. And those comments
25 are all treated the same. By showing up in

1 person doesn't give you more weight than if you
2 go online and make a comment. So I'm sure I'll
3 see Tom at some of these.

4 This is even the planned time line.
5 It's all very military. It's going to be the
6 same procedures and times everywhere. There'll
7 be an open house just to let people talk and
8 ask. We'll have subject matters experts there
9 to discuss each proposal. Then we'll actually
10 do a presentation, again, to educate people so
11 they understand. And then basically from 7:15
12 to 21:00 the formal public testimonies are
13 going to be presented by the people who choose
14 to get up and speak. This is just -- again,
15 this is a very legal process, and that's the
16 way it's supposed to be to give everyone a
17 chance to voice their opinion. There's a whole
18 lot of comments there. I kind of highlighted
19 the one in red, that every person that gets up
20 is going to be asked to limit their comments to
21 four minutes so that everybody has a chance to
22 speak and get their concerns heard because
23 that's what -- you know, that is -- by law we
24 want to hear those. So that's our objective.

25 And you notice that second-to-last

1 one there's a format that if you start going
2 over you'll get a warning flag. And then
3 you'll be told to stop. If you don't listen to
4 the yellow, card you get a red card; then you
5 get escorted out.

6 This is even -- just a quick map of
7 how every -- each of those locations we're
8 going to go to are going to be set up. The DS
9 is displayed in folder one -- proposal one,
10 two, three, four, five, six, seven. Some of
11 them we have together. You can see at the top
12 you're going to have the court reporter. We're
13 going to have seating for -- depending on where
14 we are -- for anywhere from 30 to 200 people
15 and just give everyone an opportunity to talk.

16 This is just a quick listing of who's
17 going to be there. These are the names of the
18 people on the left-hand side. And then out of
19 our 12 proposals that are on the right, these
20 are subject matter experts that will be there
21 at all of the presentations to answer the
22 questions. So, of course, for the Air Force,
23 Lt. Col. Mike Cabral, the first one up there,
24 he's our F-22 pilot; and he'll be answering a
25 lot of questions. And then Maj. Bill Moody, he

1 works in the 11th Air Force base shop right
2 beside me and he'll be answering a lot of
3 questions on the MOA.

4 Questions?

5 And just part of the outreach, again,
6 this is a briefing that goes to Gen. Hoog so he
7 sees what we're doing. Again, we've reached
8 out through all these local papers and we're
9 just trying to reach out to the public. And
10 any of you guys have any other ideas to give to
11 me, please come up and talk to me. We're going
12 to knock this thing out in the next 70 days.
13 There are some requests that, you know, is 70
14 days really enough time to do this. Tom's a
15 little busy so there may be some requests for
16 some additional time. At this point it's not
17 my decision whether they'll be granted time but
18 we've already tried to give as much time as
19 possible. You know, time is money and we got a
20 contractor who's under contract.

21 NANCY BALE: This is incredibly
22 complex.

23 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Yeah.

24 Anybody have any questions or
25 concerns that can help all of us in terms of

1 aviation, how we can help protect Denali or
2 anything else that you guys -- yes, ma'am?

3 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Thanks, Scott.
4 Can you speak a little bit more to the content
5 specifically about the Susitna MOA and the
6 changes that are planned in the JPARC plan for
7 the Susitna MOA and how that's going to shift
8 traffic away and --

9 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Well, the
10 Susitna MOA's probably not -- I don't know, Tom
11 might be telling me because I haven't found it
12 yet. I don't think it's -- it's probably
13 vaguely mentioned.

14 JOAN FRANKEVICH: That was my
15 next question. Where in the -- can you tell me
16 what pages to read?

17 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: This is
18 the last slide. I think this could be -- I
19 want to maybe propose this for changing the
20 Overflight Committee picture. Just my
21 suggestion.

22 TOM GEORGE: Would you explain
23 to him what we're witnessing here?

24 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Yeah.
25 That's a C-130 that at that point what it's

1 doing is expending probably a massive dump of
2 flares. And what those flares do -- so if that
3 aircraft is flying in Afghanistan and someone
4 attempts to shoot at it with a SAM, which is a
5 surface-to-air missile, there's sensors on
6 board that will pick up the heat signature when
7 that thing is launched; and the aircraft
8 detects it. And through automated as well if
9 we visually see it those are -- it can carry up
10 to 300 flares. And you jettison flares. And
11 all those flares come out at, I don't know, 900
12 degree temperatures. So now the missile is
13 coming at the aircraft because it's zeroing in
14 on engines because that's a heat source. But
15 now these flares are shooting out from the
16 aircraft that are actually hotter than the
17 engine. So the missile now says, 'Oh, I want
18 to go to the hottest spot.' So it goes after
19 the flare which is burning hotter and just
20 misses the aircraft and, you know, hits the
21 flare and just keeps on going.

22 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Wow, that's
23 way cool.

24 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: So
25 it's -- we do practice that. We don't have to

1 do it too often. We do it inside a restricted
2 area. Okay. You'll never see this out flying
3 around. And even when we do it -- it's pretty
4 good to see. If we do it in a restricted area
5 the fire danger must be low; there must be fire
6 trucks. Most of that will burn out before it
7 ever hits the ground. That is part of the
8 training, that's the way the air crews train to
9 protect ourselves. But it's a pretty cool
10 picture to see it throwing out a bunch of
11 flares.

12 All right. What do you got, Tom?

13 TOM GEORGE: Go ahead and talk
14 about it. I don't know if I've got something,
15 but I'll look and see if I can find something
16 that shows a map just to help.

17 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: The
18 Susitna MOA, because like I said, that is the
19 least used MOA that we have. And because
20 there's a 5,000 AGL floor and it's the smallest
21 we do not fly the F-22s there on a regular
22 basis. Only time they really go up there is
23 for what we call a functional test flight where
24 they'll go up there and be a single aircraft
25 just to test the parameters of the aircraft.

1 So there's no dogfighting. Previously F-15s
2 used to go there and practice maneuvers but the
3 F-22s do not go to Susitna in formation to
4 practice maneuvers. They'll go up there in
5 single ship. But it's not specifically stated
6 in here that this MOA will have decreased use
7 but it's easy to tell when you read the way we
8 want to do more training in the expanded JPARC
9 MOA, which is the Fox expansion and the Paxon
10 that is going to be our main training venue
11 because it's so much more effective for the Air
12 Force and it's actually closer and it's got a
13 better area for us to train in.

14 So I would say once JPARC happens you
15 will continue to see decreased use in Susitna
16 MOA. We do plan to keep that on our books
17 because it does -- it does play a role for us
18 when we need to put a single aircraft up there
19 to do some functional test flight.

20 TOM GEORGE: Okay. Scott,
21 here's probably your best thing. So here's the
22 Susitna MOA today. And the existing Fox MOA is
23 this solid line. And they're proposing
24 extending it actually to I think this dashed
25 line.

1 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: As Tom's
2 showing you right there, originally the dark
3 brown we suggested going all the way down to --
4 yeah, we originally had suggested -- the Air
5 Force -- we were going to almost bring this
6 line all the way down. That was actually about
7 only 20 miles north of Wasilla. As we all know
8 there's a ton of VFR traffic in the
9 Wasilla/Palmer area. So some of the -- this is
10 what the Air Force wanted. Basically after
11 talking with the public in the scoping
12 period -- this is where changes happen -- we
13 realized that is not realistic and it's not a
14 good answer for everybody involved. So we --
15 what came out in the draft EIS is we moved that
16 back up about another 20 to 25 miles up to the
17 north. And this dotted line here represents
18 what is -- I think now is proposal E on the Fox
19 MOA expansion. And this is win/win for the
20 FAA. The FAA likes this better. All the GA
21 people like it.

22 As you're also aware, Lake Louise is
23 right over here somewhere and previously it was
24 going to -- the Fox MOA would've been
25 completely over Lake Louise which is a major

1 recreational area. So now the line will
2 actually just go across the very top of Lake
3 Louise and leave that Lake Louise recreational
4 area untouched so that people out there don't
5 have to see airplanes. But this is a good
6 example of input that came from the public that
7 we've changed.

8 This area is called the Paxon MOA
9 which we're still working on to get. But you
10 can see the Susitna MOA, due to the
11 restrictions there, as soon as we come out of
12 Elmendorf it's quicker to get in the corner and
13 go and you've got such a much -- I mean, you
14 probably have twice the distance to train in.
15 So every, you know, training plan I've seen
16 with the JPARC we're going to continue to use
17 the Fox and the Paxon, whatever we end up
18 getting.

19 So Susitna MOA will continue to be
20 there but, again, the amount of use that we've
21 had -- I was just talking to Paul. I asked
22 him, you know, how often does he see aircraft
23 over there. I don't know, the other Ranger guy
24 left, but some of you guys live up there. It
25 seems like we don't seem to have a problem with

1 military aircraft in the MOA too much. And I
2 guarantee our next Red Flag is in June. And
3 we'll be looking out for any stray airplanes
4 that might have taken a wrong turn to go
5 through Denali.

6 NANCY BALE: Well, I think you
7 said that it's when they're transporting,
8 sometimes they're transporting them between
9 bases.

10 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Oh, yeah.
11 Well, there -- I mean obviously --

12 NANCY BALE: They'll veer over
13 and play around in Denali.

14 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Well, and
15 depends on what -- I mean, Davyd gave us a real
16 great -- gave me a great photo last year of a
17 C-17 definitely inside the Park. So that
18 airplane was probably going from Anchorage up
19 to Fairbanks, and for some reason decided to
20 cancel, which means get off a flight plan and
21 go VFR through the Park, which is legal as long
22 as he's at least 2,000 AGL. It's not -- but in
23 guidance with the -- local guidance from
24 Elmendorf and Eielson, that is not accepted
25 practice. That is -- you know, they are not to

1 go VFR through the Park because we respect our
2 neighbors. And like I said, it creates a lot
3 of headache for people who live here.

4 And we do have more problems with TDY
5 air crews, the people who come up here. You
6 know, they're flying and if they happen to have
7 a chance to maybe cancel and, you know,
8 everybody wants to see Denali, that does
9 happen. But the policy of both the 3rd wing
10 and 354th wing is when they're briefed they're
11 told that, you know, not to do that. When they
12 are caught they are normally grounded and, you
13 know, I think we've had probably since I've
14 been here in '04 we've had a decrease of
15 people, you know, deviating through Denali. So
16 I tell Davyd if he finds anymore pictures that
17 they're worth at least a Coke or something for
18 every picture he gets.

19 DAN MCGREGOR: Is there a
20 different standard for, say, A-10s?

21 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Well,
22 there are no A-10s now stationed in Alaska.
23 And right now --

24 DAN MCGREGOR: I saw three of
25 them coming up the Toklat.

1 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: When?

2 DAN MCGREGOR: August.

3 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Of last
4 year?

5 DAN MCGREGOR: Yeah.

6 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Okay.

7 Yeah. But, no, all the A-10s that were up at
8 Eielson are no longer here. A-10s, I'm trying
9 to think, they may come back up for Red Flag
10 Alaska exercise in June. I can confirm to you.
11 I can get back to you on that. But the A-10s
12 operate VFR exclusively almost. So I think
13 when the A-10s were at Eielson they probably
14 did a little bit more flying into Denali.

15 DAN MCGREGOR: Yeah, and
16 typically lower level VFR.

17 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Exactly.
18 And, I mean, again, that's some great training
19 for them to do, kind of low level route through
20 the mountains, through the higher mountains
21 through there.

22 DAN MCGREGOR: They were pretty
23 low. Less than 2,000.

24 TOM GEORGE: And, again, to
25 point out, you know, in the latest -- I think

1 you got brochures back there; right?

2 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Uh-huh.

3 TOM GEORGE: There's now a phone
4 number listed to call if you see anything like
5 that out of the ordinary that let's say is
6 cause for concern with the whole notion, again,
7 that it gets back to folks while it's fresh and
8 they can actually go see who it was as opposed
9 to nine months later. So those numbers are now
10 in that document.

11 SALLY GIBERT: I think that
12 phone number should be captured in our -- that
13 recommendations thing. Maybe it's in that
14 letter or maybe in relation to the comment or
15 something. Somewhere that ought to be a --

16 JOAN FRANKEVICH: In the best
17 practices?

18 SALLY GIBERT: I don't know
19 about best practices but somewhere in the
20 recommendations section. I'm just thinking --

21 TOM GEORGE: Aviation
22 information. I mean, that sounds like that's
23 aviation information just like the Denali --
24 the map that gives weigh points and guidance.
25 So I think that's where that belongs.

1 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. I'm just
2 kind of thinking, like, if I saw somebody
3 tomorrow, how would I get that number. And, of
4 course, I would call you. But there should be
5 a place to go and get that number easily.

6 DAN MCGREGOR: That's on the Web
7 site as well?

8 SALLY GIBERT: It needs to be on
9 the Web site.

10 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: And as
11 Tom was talking about, back in the back there I
12 put some -- there's two pamphlets back there.
13 And you guys can each -- I encourage you to
14 grab one of each. And the reason there's two,
15 I'll explain. But one is our current listing
16 and it basically just shows all the MOAs really
17 clearly. But you can see where the military
18 aircraft will fly. One's a blowup of
19 Fairbanks. And on the back, like Tom said,
20 there's a very good listing of all the numbers
21 to call if you hear safety concerns which would
22 be different than a noise complaint so that you
23 can call because we want to resolve them and we
24 want to correct them. So -- and like I said,
25 besides that you guys all have my number so any

1 one of you guys can call me personally. And,
2 you know, Miriam's done that occasionally when
3 she saw helicopters in Talkeetna when they
4 shouldn't be. So please feel free to do that.

5 The second thing is the other
6 brochure is actually one more for the Anchorage
7 bowl area. And it is just one that talks about
8 midair collision avoidance. And it just shows
9 some little graphic photos of here in the
10 Valley of where the C-17s fly a lot so the GA
11 person can try to avoid it. Again, we really
12 don't fly north into Denali. But I encourage
13 you guys both to take one and look at them and
14 pass them out to any of your aviation friends
15 and feel free to disperse the number however
16 you can.

17 So in summary, we'd like your
18 comments on JPARC. If you have time to read
19 this, go for it. I think Tom's further than
20 me. I kind of get -- I'm looking at certain
21 sections. Tom gets to look at them all because
22 the Army sections I don't need to worry about
23 as much. But Tom needs to worry about them
24 all. And we really do want the public comment
25 period to try to shape this airspace so it's a

1 win/win for everybody involved so that we
2 continue to use Alaska as a great aviation
3 training ground which is good for the state of
4 Alaska; it's great for the Air Force. And, I
5 mean, it's just a win/win all the way around.

6 DAN MCGREGOR: As far as the Fox
7 1 area, what is -- what do you think the
8 percent increase would be from -- you said that
9 most of the Susitna stuff will be going into
10 the Fox 1.

11 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Right.
12 Well, what's nice about -- I mean, when
13 you're -- are you concerned just from the way
14 you guys fly up there?

15 DAN MCGREGOR: Well, yeah.
16 Like, you know, even Tim goes out that
17 direction in order to kind of mitigate, you
18 know, change route out of the Park entirely.

19 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Well, I
20 mean since Eielson basically lost all their
21 A-10s, the amount of aircraft that have been
22 based here in Alaska, the fighters that use the
23 MOAs have actually decreased. I mean, we have
24 less F-22s here than we do have F-15s, and
25 obviously we just have a smaller squadron. So

1 that overall in the last four years since that
2 transition, we've lost more fighter aircraft
3 that are actually stationed here, which drives
4 your daily sortie count for training. So, I
5 mean, really just to give you a percentage to
6 say that you're going to have, you know, maybe
7 ten percent more training, that would kind of
8 be just a guess on my part. But I would say
9 that -- I mean, right now, you know, we don't
10 really use Susitna at all for daily training.
11 If we get a better airspace we can probably
12 train a little more effectively. But the
13 numbers aren't going to really increase just
14 because we have better airspace to allow us to
15 have better training.

16 DAN MCGREGOR: And probably
17 spread out over a larger area.

18 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Right.
19 Spread out over a larger area so that one guy
20 doesn't get as much noise over his house.

21 DAN MCGREGOR: And the floor is
22 -- there was some comment on the floor's going
23 to change from 5,000 AGL.

24 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: That is
25 correct. On the Fox MOA the proposal is to

1 take it from 5,000 AGL down to 500 AGL. That's
2 one of the options that we know is of great
3 concern for a lot of people. And that's
4 probably -- I think will be a lot of comments
5 will come on that because --

6 DAN MCGREGOR: That's pretty
7 low.

8 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Tom's
9 been through this before back in '97 when it
10 first came out.

11 TIM CUDNEY: Why do they
12 randomly pick such a dramatic change? I mean,
13 why wouldn't they have, like, tried for, like,
14 3,000 or something? I'm just throwing it out
15 there.

16 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: I don't
17 know. Those are some good questions. Just
18 that the need to continue to train lower is why
19 we're doing this. Again, that's why this is
20 such a good process because the military says
21 what do we want for optimum training. And what
22 we want for optimum training is not always
23 what's best for everybody involved. That's why
24 your comments will help drive what we end up
25 with.

1 DAN MCGREGOR: Yeah, because
2 there's operators starting to go out that
3 direction, and that's going to be more of a
4 conflict issue for sure.

5 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Absolutely
6 .

7 DAN MCGREGOR: And then
8 restricted airs, is there a change on
9 restricted airs?

10 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Yeah, the
11 restricted airs -- restricted airspace are
12 actually going to be Eielson/Fairbanks bowl
13 area. There's actually three different
14 restricted areas that are proposed on the
15 table. The biggest most controversial one is
16 they're trying to put one over Delta Junction.
17 There's a battle area complex there and they're
18 trying to put a restricted area over there
19 which was tried before and did not meet with
20 success. But the military -- you know, we're
21 military so we told them, no, we'll try again
22 because the mission has changed; and we'd like
23 that opportunity to continue to use the assets
24 because we've already built a huge
25 infrastructure on the ground. The second one

1 is -- we're trying to talk about doing some
2 expansion of 2211 and 2202 which is, you know,
3 just kind of southwest of Eielson Air Force
4 Base. And then we're also trying to expand
5 2205 to a degree.

6 And some of these are, again, for
7 better training. We're looking at UAVs which,
8 you know, talking about Park Service airspace.
9 You know, somewhere down the line I think in 20
10 years there'll be a lot more UAVs flying around
11 the Park doing wildlife counts with high-def
12 cameras which will be very -- you know, weigh
13 100 pounds, very quiet, and again that will
14 help the soundscape of Denali. But that's
15 still a FAA battle. That's probably, I don't
16 know, 15, 20 years off, Tom?

17 TOM GEORGE: Oh, it's here
18 today. Just depends on how long it's going to
19 take to get a resolution to it.

20 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Before we
21 have some UAVs out there flying.

22 So the restricted airspace we just
23 know it's going to take a lot longer to get
24 through the regulatory process because that is
25 a rule-making action with the FAA.

1 Joan?

2 JOAN FRANKEVICH: No, I'm good.

3 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: Anybody
4 else?

5 We appreciate the comments. And
6 please make a -- go to the Web page or go to
7 one of these. I'm going to try to get to some
8 of them as well so maybe I'll see you there.

9 SALLY GIBERT: Thank you.
10 That's good.

11 I'm presuming at this point that it's
12 probably -- and it's up to you guys -- is there
13 any interest in trying to develop some Council
14 comments or is it better to just let individual
15 Council members, if they so choose, to comment
16 directly on behalf of their constituents? Is
17 there any interest in developing a little
18 mini-work group in the short term to try and
19 draft Council comments? I'm not going to
20 volunteer for that one.

21 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I mean, Scott,
22 it sounds like -- it sounds like as always the
23 military has appreciated Denali and tried to
24 avoid it. But as we've heard air tour
25 operators in the past, they have seen flights

1 in that area. I mean, we did write a letter to
2 express that. I don't know that there's a
3 whole -- I mean, doesn't sound like they
4 changed the boundaries any and I think that's
5 highly unlikely they would. Do you think our
6 --

7 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: I would
8 say if you're trying to do a Council letter, I
9 mean, obviously I'm a member of the Council, I
10 say you could. But like I said, they treat
11 every comment as one of its own. You know, if
12 we wrote -- you know, because they want to give
13 due process to every comment that comes in
14 there. So if there's the comment from our
15 Council as opposed to a comment from an
16 individual I think it would be better if you
17 had 12 comments from each of the committee
18 members if they so choose to do that. Just
19 right now I -- from our perspective I'm trying
20 to think what -- as a committee what we could
21 say to the JPARC that's of interest to them. I
22 mean, Tom knows this just as well as I do but I
23 don't see JPARC infringing really at all on
24 Denali.

25 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, I guess I

1 think a starting point would be to go back and
2 review the letter that was written already.
3 And if there isn't any new or additional
4 information figure the comments in. If there's
5 new or additional information then that's
6 something we should talk about.

7 SALLY GIBERT: One of the main
8 things that that letter did was forward the
9 comments -- the best practices to date then.
10 So I guess maybe a homework assignment would be
11 to check and see if there had been any new --
12 any new applicable best practices. But I don't
13 think there are.

14 TOM GEORGE: I don't either. I
15 think we're working at two different levels of
16 granularity.

17 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Yeah, what our
18 letter did was just explain who we are and just
19 kind of try to emphasize to the military that
20 the MOA overlaps some of the most -- some of
21 the most highly used flightseeing routes
22 probably in the state, and that air tour
23 operators have seen military flights there; and
24 it has caused them distress. If you feel
25 like -- I don't know that there's much we could

1 reiterate on that, but I don't really --

2 SALLY GIBERT: There's no point
3 in saying it again.

4 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Do you feel
5 like that -- I mean, that was one single letter
6 among some bigger concerns. Do you think
7 anybody's going to remember that or -- I mean,
8 our goal was to heighten awareness to the
9 military that there's a great deal of use here
10 and there have been conflicts.

11 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: And I
12 would say that we are very -- we, speaking on
13 behalf of the Air Force, yeah, we are very
14 aware of what Denali represents to the state.
15 And that's why none of the -- if we were going
16 to go after those 12 proposals I don't even
17 know which one we would think is going to
18 affect Denali really because none of them are a
19 player in Denali's airspace. So I think what
20 we've already done is good because we would
21 just be -- it would be more like a general
22 interest letter, hey, we just want you to know
23 this. And I would say that we are definitely
24 aware that Denali National Park is there. They
25 know there's an Overflight Committee. And

1 they'll read it, and they'll look at it; but as
2 soon as they see there's no proposal that we're
3 targeting they're going to -- they'll log it,
4 but then they're going to go on to the next one
5 and spend more time on the guy who has a
6 problem with the restricted area over the
7 backs.

8 TOM GEORGE: That would be my
9 letter.

10 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Yeah, I think
11 we tried to highlight, you know, our concerns;
12 and we've done that. And I don't really see
13 anything additional to really add to this
14 process.

15 LT. COL. SCOTT BABOS: I concur.

16 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Thanks, Scott.

17 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, thank you.

18 Is there anything more that we need
19 to do before we start talking about our next
20 meeting and maybe just a refresh on our
21 homework assignments or what's going to happen
22 this summer? Are we ready to move into that
23 now? Anything else?

24 TOM GEORGE: I think we ought to
25 take a five-minute break.

1 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. Let's take
2 a break for five minutes.

3 (A break was taken.)

4 SALLY GIBERT: So maybe the
5 first thing we should do is try and schedule
6 the next meeting, a date. And I was hearing
7 earlier that if Paul's leaving on
8 September 30th that if we scheduled one before
9 he leaves that's a good thing.

10 JOAN FRANKEVICH: He might not
11 say that.

12 SALLY GIBERT: Well, I know.
13 He's not here to defend himself.

14 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So why is
15 that a -- you know, it's a good thing because?

16 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Because we
17 were talking about getting updated on Park
18 Service flight activities over the Park. And
19 at lunch he was telling me a lot of things that
20 have changed internally, and he might be the
21 best person to capture that because it's not
22 necessarily --

23 MIRIAM VALENTINE: I would just
24 caution that right before --

25 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Somebody

1 leaves is not a good time.

2 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Yeah, it's
3 not usually the best time. But if that's
4 something of interest to the Council we can,
5 you know, ask Paul to have it recorded or for
6 him to brief not only who's ever going to be
7 acting superintendent but, like, Dave was
8 mentioning that he's going to be doing the --
9 it could be somebody like Dave or Collin as the
10 aviation manager kind of sharing that
11 information with the Council. I mean, I would
12 love to have Paul, I just don't want you to
13 get -- you know, I don't want your expectations
14 to be really high in September.

15 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Well, why
16 don't -- I mean, September's a good time for a
17 fall meeting if we can. And if Paul can make
18 it fine; and if he can't, fine.

19 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay.

20 AMANDA SMITH: Late September.

21 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Late
22 September. Yeah. He's leaving September 30th?
23 That's his last day?

24 MIRIAM VALENTINE: You know, I
25 thought it was the 26th but.

1 JOAN FRANKEVICH: We don't
2 usually meet in September? Do we wait till
3 October?

4 SUZANNE RUST: It was earlier in
5 September not -- am I --

6 SALLY GIBERT: We have met at
7 various times. We've met as early as, like, 6
8 or 7 and like 12, 15 or something. Right in
9 there somewhere.

10 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Oh, my gosh,
11 we've already scheduled one.

12 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, the 28th of
13 September we have a tentative date on our
14 calendar.

15 SALLY GIBERT: You know, I was
16 wondering if that had already happened. Okay.
17 28th.

18 AMANDA SMITH: Wow, it's on
19 there.

20 TOM GEORGE: Next item.

21 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

22 DAN MCGREGOR: Is that in
23 Anchorage?

24 TOM GEORGE: I don't think a
25 place was specified yet.

1 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Talkeetna's a
2 good --

3 NANCY BALE: Talkeetna is nice
4 at that time. Well, sometimes it's raining.

5 AMANDA SMITH: So possibly in
6 Talkeetna or Denali?

7 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I thought at
8 one point many, many meetings ago because we
9 had done Denali a couple times, we've done
10 Fairbanks and I thought we were going to kind
11 of try and concentrate on Talkeetna, Wasilla,
12 Anchorage, kind of in that area. No?

13 SALLY GIBERT: I think we've
14 been -- yeah, at first we were making an effort
15 to really get spread around. But over time
16 we've been focusing more and more on what's
17 most convenient for people because we pretty
18 much know -- you know, we're not picking up new
19 groupies, depending on where we go.

20 DAN MCGREGOR: Overflight
21 groupie?

22 TOM GEORGE: Valued stakeholder.

23 AMANDA SMITH: I think groupie's
24 more fun.

25 SALLY GIBERT: But I do think --

1 I mean, Talkeetna is -- it's close. It's
2 closer to where some of the action is. It's
3 not hard for Anchorage folks. Denali's
4 definitely the hardest one because that takes
5 the most time to get there.

6 JOAN FRANKEVICH: And we have so
7 many people coming from Anchorage.

8 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, it's more
9 expensive. It's more time-consuming.

10 TOM GEORGE: Well, if you have a
11 summer meeting event in Denali, and I don't
12 think you need the -- the fall one doesn't need
13 to be there. But I think you better commit to
14 something that's somewhere close to the thing
15 we're actually doing every now and then just to
16 check in.

17 SALLY GIBERT: I think that's a
18 good idea, and that'll be the next item we talk
19 about.

20 So is Talkeetna better than
21 Anchorage?

22 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I think
23 Talkeetna in September sounds good.

24 TOM GEORGE: Miriam, from an
25 administrative point of view is that workable?

1 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay. So
2 this is the deal because we still messed up
3 trying to pay Amanda the last time she traveled
4 to Talkeetna. Okay. If you're -- as a Council
5 member if you will be doing invitational
6 travel, that's got to be all lined up ahead of
7 time. So that means two weeks before you
8 travel I have to have regional director
9 approval of your travel. So the rules have
10 changed to simplify it. And so that -- if
11 you're thinking you're going to get reimbursed
12 for that day even for, like, mileage and meals
13 the -- I'm going to put a cutoff date on it.
14 So if your paperwork isn't in I'm assuming
15 you're making a donation to the National Park
16 Service. Okay. That's the only huge
17 administrative, like, oh, man, we just -- it
18 just takes us forever to get through that.

19 SALLY GIBERT: Like three weeks
20 or something? What's your must?

21 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So be sure of
22 the 28th. Like, if that's the date that
23 everybody's feeling confident in, if you're
24 going to require travel, then we should start
25 now so that it's not any emergency for

1 everybody and that you're all in the system.
2 You have to go in multiple databases. And no
3 problem, yeah.

4 TIM CUDNEY: So we just send you
5 the request, that here's what we're doing for
6 that particular date. Like, we put in our date
7 --

8 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Yeah, I know
9 it should be that easy but unless you have
10 filled out literally three pieces of paper that
11 kind of allow you to be direct deposited, allow
12 the admin folks to put -- it's a little bit of
13 work. It's not a problem; it's just that it
14 takes time. And it can't be on the 26th.
15 People can't call, and say I'd love to travel.

16 JOAN FRANKEVICH: You can't do
17 it after the fact? Because what if I say --

18 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Oh, no.

19 JOAN FRANKEVICH: -- I'm going
20 to drive and then I catch a ride with somebody
21 else.

22 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So you always
23 anticipate your most expensive.

24 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Okay.

25 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So if

1 everybody's okay with that, and I apologize it
2 is cumbersome, but there's a high degree of
3 accountability for invitational travel right
4 now in the National Park Service. If we're all
5 good with that Talkeetna is fine.

6 Now last time we had it at the AMS,
7 Alaska Mountaineering School, yeah. And
8 that -- there was comments that that worked
9 well.

10 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

11 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Kind of well.
12 Yeah. Okay. I'll ask if they're available
13 again.

14 SALLY GIBERT: What was that
15 called again?

16 MIRIAM VALENTINE: It's AMS. So
17 the Alaska Mountaineering School.

18 TIM CUDNEY: Is the hotel open
19 then or they're probably closing by then.

20 MIRIAM VALENTINE: You know, the
21 CIRI Hotel should be actually open. Is that
22 what you're asking?

23 TIM CUDNEY: Because if some of
24 us were to stay the night before or --

25 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So you won't

1 fall under federal per diem -- I don't think we
2 ever fall under federal per diem at the CIRI
3 Hotel, but, like, you know, certainly the
4 Roadhouse. We've done a couple of other places
5 downtown that honor federal per diem.

6 SALLY GIBERT: So do you want to
7 give people a deadline for when they have to
8 tell you?

9 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay. So
10 we're still good with the 28th, yeah? And
11 we're still thinking about Talkeetna. So how
12 about -- I need to know if you're traveling and
13 expecting to be reimbursed no later than the
14 7th.

15 TIM CUDNEY: Of?

16 MIRIAM VALENTINE: September
17 7th.

18 SALLY GIBERT: Is that
19 reasonable? Do you need to make it a little
20 sooner?

21 TOM GEORGE: Well, you said two
22 weeks before, that's three. But, yeah, if that
23 works out.

24 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Well, because
25 I'm just going to, like, crank it in. Most of

1 you have figured out how to do this. So I will
2 go ahead and make -- see who -- before that I
3 will figure out the form piece. So all you'll
4 need to do is send me on the 7th what you
5 intend to do travel-wise.

6 TOM GEORGE: Okay. Good.

7 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. Talkeetna,
8 September 28th. Travel; let you know by
9 September 7th what the plan is.

10 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Yeah, like, I
11 will send out a note in August and then you're
12 cut off after September 7th. Yeah. Okay.

13 AMANDA SMITH: Clear.

14 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Right on.

15 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. Great.

16 Okay. So in terms of what happens
17 between now and then I'm thinking that we have
18 three categories. One is tying off stuff from
19 this meeting. So short-term homework
20 assignments. Anything that we want to do in
21 the summer as kind of a topic, and any prep for
22 fall -- for the September meeting. I know
23 there's at least one -- there were several
24 things for that.

25 So maybe starting with the short term

1 to tie off this meeting. Things I have on my
2 list so far include that Davyd, you're going to
3 put -- set the soundscape monitoring points for
4 this -- for 2012 on the best practices map.

5 DAVYD BETCHKEL: Yep. Right on
6 the list.

7 TOM GEORGE: Well, we'll put it
8 on a map.

9 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

10 TOM GEORGE: Okay.

11 NANCY BALE: Be nice to have it,
12 you know, with the line.

13 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, relative to
14 those boundaries. Yeah. And I'll work with
15 you on that if you want to.

16 DAVYD BETCHKEL: Yeah.

17 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. And I'm
18 going to e-mail the -- no, you've already got
19 it. Tom is going to reframe the group-think as
20 -- into a --

21 TOM GEORGE: Recommendations.

22 SALLY GIBERT: --
23 recommendation.

24 And Tom's going to forward the south
25 side best practices or the entire package of

1 best practices to John Leonard so that he can
2 make sure that as part of his follow-up on
3 monitoring, he can be sure that he has the
4 latest.

5 TOM GEORGE: I'll send it to
6 everybody.

7 SALLY GIBERT: Okay.

8 TOM GEORGE: I'll include him
9 directly so he doesn't have to bug anybody else
10 to get it.

11 SALLY GIBERT: Tom and Nancy
12 were going to draft -- what were you guys going
13 to draft?

14 NANCY BALE: Links for the Web
15 site.

16 SALLY GIBERT: The consolidated
17 recommendations and products, that's right.

18 TOM GEORGE: Yep.

19 SALLY GIBERT: And I'm going to
20 write all these things down and send them up
21 for review, but I just want to make sure I get
22 everything.

23 I'm going to send out a draft fact
24 sheet. Hopefully sort of final but doesn't
25 have to be perfect. And I'm not going to -- I

1 may sort of set it up sort of like roughly
2 formatted; but I'm not -- it's not going to be,
3 quote/unquote, formatted just so you know. So
4 the formatting is not as important as the
5 words. And I may not do that at all because if
6 it's too hard I won't.

7 And then I think, Tom, you and I were
8 going to work on that -- sort of the third tier
9 for north side on some training
10 recommendations.

11 TOM GEORGE: North side info
12 sheet let's call it.

13 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, that's a
14 better thing than training. Info sheet for
15 NPS, i.e., bus drivers.

16 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Can I ask a
17 question on that? You had -- Nancy had
18 mentioned that she has in the past been asked
19 to speak to the bus drivers on the issues. And
20 I'm just kind of wondering is this north side
21 info sheet, some of the suggestions you had was
22 clearly NPS's responsibility. To these target
23 groups -- targeted stakeholder groups like the
24 bus drivers are you -- is that an NPS -- I
25 mean, I'm just asking the question. Do you

1 envision Park Service handling that as well
2 or --

3 SALLY GIBERT: I think so.

4 TOM GEORGE: Anything we do goes
5 to Paul or, you know, the Park as a
6 recommendation or input document. So we're not
7 out doing individual training.

8 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

9 AMANDA SMITH: Except to our own
10 stakeholder groups if appropriate.

11 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, individual
12 members can do their own thing with their own
13 stakeholders using whatever materials they feel
14 is appropriate.

15 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay. So you
16 are going to have that out soon because I was
17 just thinking the bus drivers was a May date.

18 TOM GEORGE: Soon. Which means
19 when it shows up in your e-mail boxes for
20 review you're going to have to turn it around
21 quickly.

22 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. So
23 anything you get from Tom and me is going to be
24 ASAP to look at. We're not going to do
25 anything on JPARC as a group.

1 Okay. I think that might be it for
2 short term.

3 And then just jumping to the prep for
4 fall. For fall I have -- think about the --
5 that so-called, you know, green star equivalent
6 program.

7 TIM CUDNEY: Eco-star.

8 NANCY BALE: That sounds awfully
9 close to Aerostar.

10 SALLY GIBERT: I think we're
11 thinking of that being sort of a bottom-up
12 thing. Let the air tour operators that would
13 be most interested in starting with that maybe
14 play around --

15 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, put Tim and
16 Suzanne on the agenda for a briefing on that
17 next fall.

18 TIM CUDNEY: You know, there is
19 a push by Royal Caribbean right now for
20 sustainable tourism. And it has to do with
21 more environmentally friendly aircraft, boats,
22 everything to where you get a branded stamp.

23 SALLY GIBERT: So this could be
24 one of the things you put on your application.

25 TIM CUDNEY: I'll get right

1 after it.

2 TOM GEORGE: Is this something
3 your group is involved or would be interested
4 in?

5 SUZANNE RUST: ATIA?

6 LOIS WIRTZ: Well, ATIA doesn't
7 do it but I'm on the board for Adventure Green
8 Alaska. And they do certifications. And
9 they're actually going to work with what he's
10 recommending or trying to get involved with
11 that. But I spoke briefly here to Sally about
12 it and the drawback that I see is that if they
13 were to develop a certification for this
14 particular thing in addition to the other
15 tourism businesses it's the kind of thing where
16 you, the airlines, would have to join and pay
17 every year. And I don't know if that would be
18 a deterrent for you or not.

19 SUZANNE RUST: It's something we
20 can talk to you about.

21 SALLY GIBERT: Plus it would be
22 a certification program which means somebody
23 has to -- that's the hardest part for me I
24 think is that it's --

25 TOM GEORGE: Well, but if

1 somebody's doing that -- is this a topic maybe
2 for a working group as opposed to two or three
3 people.

4 TIM CUDNEY: Yeah. Like what I
5 mentioned, it'd be driven by the -- it's
6 customer driven. You know, it's customer
7 driven so they can brand the products a little
8 bit better. This company has done X to meet
9 these standards. Basically like a medallion
10 program for environmental compliance. More
11 better and safer -- excuse me, not safer but
12 more sustainable tourism.

13 SALLY GIBERT: So I think a work
14 group is a good idea to just continue these
15 discussions over time leading up to the fall
16 meeting. Does that make sense?

17 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, because,
18 again, that's a way for things to come --

19 SALLY GIBERT: Right.

20 TOM GEORGE: -- from beyond just
21 the immediate scope of this Council back to the
22 Council. So I'd say try that.

23 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. Who wants
24 to be on that?

25 TIM CUDNEY: I'll help.

1 SUZANNE RUST: I'll be on it.

2 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. So Tim and
3 Suzanne. How about you guys can be the
4 co-chairs.

5 SUZANNE RUST: I was just
6 thinking Tim should be the leader.

7 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I would be
8 interested in helping with that.

9 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. So Tim,
10 Suzanne, Joan.

11 Anybody else? Who are you pointing
12 to?

13 Lois?

14 LOIS WIRTZ: I probably will
15 suggest that the president or someone do it
16 because I just joined the board and I'm kind of
17 green. But I could certainly get someone to
18 come and talk more intelligently about what --

19 TOM GEORGE: Green is what this
20 is all about.

21 JOAN FRANKEVICH: It'd be great
22 to learn how that program works even if we
23 didn't use it. It would probably give us ideas
24 on how to --

25 SALLY GIBERT: So, Lois or

1 somebody else.

2 LOIS WIRTZ: That would be
3 Talkeetna that you'd want this for is this
4 going to be --

5 SALLY GIBERT: I think on the
6 short term it's just --

7 LOIS WIRTZ: Oh, just the work
8 group.

9 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, work group.

10 LOIS WIRTZ: Well, put my name
11 down and I'll make sure one of us is involved.

12 JOAN FRANKEVICH: What's the
13 name of that group, Lois?

14 LOIS WIRTZ: Adventure Green
15 Alaska. They're the only one in Alaska for
16 tourism businesses.

17 SALLY GIBERT: And you're a new
18 board member?

19 LOIS WIRTZ: Uh-huh.

20 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. That's
21 good to know.

22 Anybody else? Doesn't have to be a
23 Council member. And of course it doesn't have
24 to be -- and it can be -- other people can
25 become involved too obviously just to get them

1 --

2 DAN MCGREGOR: I'm sure I'll be
3 conferring with these guys about it.

4 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. I'll put
5 your name down.

6 TIM CUDNEY: See, you aren't
7 just a groupie.

8 DAN MCGREGOR: I'm legitimized.

9 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. There's a
10 work group. So you guys can go off and figure
11 out what you're all about and we'll hear about
12 it in September.

13 TIM CUDNEY: Homework.

14 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah.

15 And then we talked about -- my notes
16 say Miriam will talk to the aviation manager
17 about getting a briefing next fall about what
18 Park Service is doing to respond to best
19 practices and any other measures that the Park
20 Service is taking to address -- reduce and
21 address sound issues.

22 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Dave, will
23 you speak on that in the fall?

24 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: Yeah, or
25 someone will.

1 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Yeah.

2 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: I'll make
3 sure someone does it.

4 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. Okay.

5 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Thank you.

6 SALLY GIBERT: And then --
7 that's part one. And the other one was finding
8 out before the fall meeting whether there's any
9 value or any room to talk about the
10 recommendation that was up on the screen up
11 there about whether or not there could be any
12 information provided in advance for disruptive
13 air traffic over wilderness backcountry units
14 to alert the wilderness desk about that ahead
15 of time so they can inform hikers.

16 TOM GEORGE: And who would be --
17 who in the Park Service should be or is in the
18 best position to provide some feedback or
19 consider that?

20 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Pete Webster.

21 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: Yeah, or
22 going through the aviation manager because they
23 would know those numbers.

24 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah. That's
25 what I figured that for us we don't -- I think

1 we can just sort of talk to Miriam and let her

2 --

3 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: Right. We'd
4 have to figure that out.

5 SALLY GIBERT: Right.

6 TOM GEORGE: But, yeah, to get
7 that on the agenda I think is a --

8 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, it's a good
9 -- if there's some room to talk about that --
10 if there's anything that can -- if there's some
11 room, that's one. Then before the September
12 meeting to -- maybe this is another work
13 group -- to put together a recommendation for
14 potential consideration on what we might
15 actually recommend back to the Park Service
16 along those lines.

17 NANCY BALE: Along the lines
18 of backcountry desk --

19 SALLY GIBERT: Along the lines
20 of having somebody within the Parks Service
21 alert the wilderness backcountry desk of future
22 disruptive unusual aircraft activity that might
23 influence peoples' decisions to go into various
24 backcountry units knowing that it's going to be
25 --

1 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So your first
2 question is: Can we make that happen?

3 SALLY GIBERT: Is there any room
4 to even -- is it worth even --

5 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So if there
6 is room then internally we'll make it happen.
7 So what did you want to come back to the
8 Council on? And then we would report.

9 SALLY GIBERT: I think the
10 interest was making a recommendation that that
11 happen.

12 TOM GEORGE: Well, we only need
13 to make a -- I mean, if the Park Service either
14 is or decides to do something like that already
15 we don't have to make a recommendation. So I
16 guess I think at the moment we're --

17 SALLY GIBERT: Or we could make
18 a recommendation right now that we would like
19 to -- if that can happen, do what you can. Or
20 we cannot do it at all.

21 TOM GEORGE: I guess I think we
22 should explore it a moment. And after we get a
23 little further in exploration, it either drops
24 as a bad idea or rises to some other level.

25 SALLY GIBERT: That's what the

1 first step is.

2 MIRIAM VALENTINE: I think it's
3 okay to run it as a pilot for a summer.
4 Because what you're really talking about is a
5 communication network, who's linked in and how
6 are we messaging out. And it will probably
7 take a summer to figure out how to fine-tune if
8 nothing else a simple process.

9 NANCY BALE: It might be an IT
10 issue almost.

11 MIRIAM VALENTINE: I was
12 thinking about that earlier because I was
13 thinking there was a dispatch component in
14 there.

15 TOM GEORGE: Facebook.

16 MIRIAM VALENTINE: We do that in
17 the Park. I mean, you could use --

18 SALLY GIBERT: And this is only
19 for the wilderness --

20 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Unusual.

21 SALLY GIBERT: Only where
22 there's backcountry units, where there's
23 permits issues in the wilderness. So like
24 south side is not an issue. The north addition
25 is not a --

1 NANCY BALE: Well, any unit.
2 Some units are in the additions like the ones
3 around Kantishna, might be worthwhile to
4 include them.

5 MIRIAM VALENTINE: We'll figure
6 it out.

7 NANCY BALE: Wherever there's
8 units, but basically it's in the wilderness for
9 the most part.

10 SALLY GIBERT: So we're going to
11 ask Miriam to see what might be possible and go
12 there.

13 NANCY BALE: This kind of fits
14 in with the general discussion of Park Service
15 best practices too.

16 Were we going to -- we were going to
17 assign planning an outing in Denali to
18 somebody?

19 SALLY GIBERT: Yeah, that's the
20 last category of summer activities. Actually
21 that's where I think I'm at next.

22 Okay. So under summer activities
23 things I heard were encouraging individual
24 Council members to visit the Park and just get
25 a sense of how things are going, like,

1 especially along the Park Road corridor. And,
2 Tim, I think you mentioned something about the
3 aviation working group maybe getting together,
4 like, sometime in August?

5 TIM CUDNEY: Yeah, end of July,
6 early August after we've had a chance to try
7 some of the new practices.

8 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. So that's
9 a target for you guys?

10 TIM CUDNEY: Uh-huh.

11 NANCY BALE: This is just -- I
12 don't intend to make this a long topic but you
13 all use some kind of self-tracking software; is
14 that right?

15 TIM CUDNEY: Uh-huh.

16 NANCY BALE: So is there a way
17 that you can kind of say to each other at the
18 end of the summer 30 percent of the time we
19 flew in the purple or 25 percent, and 20
20 percent of the time we flew between the purple
21 and the Park Road, and 20 percent of the time
22 we flew between the Park Road and the northern
23 boundary of the bubble, and, you know, 15
24 percent of the time we flew in the trench? I
25 mean, is there a way to collate but not, like,

1 identify exactly that you could talk with each
2 other and then kind of figure out how you did?
3 Is that -- or is that going to be really hard
4 because it's lots of crunching and IT?

5 DAN MCGREGOR: We don't have
6 Spidertracks.

7 NANCY BALE: So you don't have a
8 way to collate?

9 SUZANNE RUST: And we're just
10 bringing them on board so it's not -- it's not
11 something that will happen this summer. I
12 mean, it'll happen for us this summer out of
13 the Talkeetna office.

14 NANCY BALE: And for you it's
15 not as significant.

16 TIM CUDNEY: We have it but I
17 have to pull it from our base center in
18 Louisiana which tracks it all.

19 TOM GEORGE: But maybe if you
20 come up a level -- instead of trying to get a
21 level of specificity -- I guess I think what
22 you're looking for is feedback from at least
23 the principal operators as to what extent they
24 were able to implement best practices.

25 TIM CUDNEY: Lot of that

1 information I'm not going to say is proprietary
2 but it's also used in monitoring some of our
3 pilots, what they're doing. Because if they
4 exceed or they drop below some of the
5 recommended altitude levels, so we use that for
6 a variety of reasons. But if it came to where
7 we received a report of X individual flying at
8 Y on what their perception, is I can provide a
9 snapshot of altitude exactly where they were.
10 And, you know, it's called a purple trail, the
11 whole route and all that stuff. It'll say you
12 were right or that was a lot further away than
13 you think it is.

14 There's some of that stuff, and I
15 think I've shared it before, it's very
16 detailed. And we use it for, you know, kind of
17 training, as well as keeping people in line, as
18 well as monitoring what they do.

19 NANCY BALE: It's not an attempt
20 to find offenders.

21 TIM CUDNEY: No. No. No.

22 NANCY BALE: It would be just to
23 see does that actually work; can you actually
24 spread out like this. It's kind of more that
25 kind of thing.

1 TIM CUDNEY: Well, see, it'll
2 work but all the operators have to be -- Denali
3 Air and Talkeetna Air all have to be on the
4 same thing. It's like, okay, here's where
5 Era's going, here's where X is going, here's
6 where Greg is going. To show all my daily
7 flight path wouldn't do that much.

8 SUZANNE RUST: You'd have to see
9 the big picture of everyone.

10 TIM CUDNEY: But it's a start.

11 NANCY BALE: Well, you know if
12 you just came up with percentages of time that
13 you were in -- no actual maps with tracks on
14 it.

15 TIM CUDNEY: Sure.

16 NANCY BALE: Something that was
17 anonymous.

18 TIM CUDNEY: That's available.
19 I'd have to figure out how to do a queue or a
20 report on it but it's not that --

21 NANCY BALE: The whole idea with
22 the Spidertracks is it would make it easy
23 maybe, or maybe not. Maybe it would still
24 require a lot of crunching.

25 TIM CUDNEY: It's only easy

1 because they're selling it that way. Really
2 it's not that easy. You have to load a lot of
3 information, unless you do it every day it's
4 difficult.

5 NANCY BALE: I know about
6 programs that purport to be easy.

7 Just a thought.

8 SALLY GIBERT: And did somebody
9 mention that they thought -- was it you, Tom,
10 having an informal Council confab somewhere?

11 TOM GEORGE: The initial thought
12 was just to actually identify a date about
13 two-thirds of the way through the season to
14 invite people to get together and kind of check
15 in with whatever feedback either we have
16 individually or has come to us from any means.
17 And last break I think that concept got
18 expanded into Miriam generously offering if we
19 actually wanted to, like, ride a Park bus out
20 to Teklanika campground or something, spend
21 some time there so it's not all just on the bus
22 and then return to base. And then of course,
23 you know, have a potluck at Paul's place since
24 he's not here to defend himself.

25 SALLY GIBERT: There we go.

1 TOM GEORGE: But something that
2 would provide us an opportunity to both get out
3 in the area as well as compare notes partway
4 through the season. And obviously that
5 wouldn't be a formal Council meeting. There
6 would be no reimbursement from the Park Service
7 for it. But it would be an opportunity to get
8 together and --

9 JOAN FRANKEVICH: So are you
10 envisioning that's when it would -- would that
11 dovetail with the work group meeting Tim
12 mentioned to just kind of review what's
13 happening on the north side and how it's
14 working?

15 TOM GEORGE: Well, I haven't
16 compared notes so I don't know what Tim's
17 envisioning, but it possibly could.

18 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Dave has a
19 suggestion.

20 DAVE SCHIROKAUER: If it all
21 falls in place a hike up to the soundscape
22 station on Cathedral would be possible as part
23 of that.

24 DAVYD BETCHKEL: Be kind of a
25 neat field exercise.

1 TOM GEORGE: Just upped the
2 ante.

3 NANCY BALE: I'm available the
4 3rd and 4th of August, or anywhere -- maybe
5 like 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th. Then on the 11th I
6 think DCC's having a meeting so I wouldn't be
7 available and then I start school.

8 TOM GEORGE: Well, you
9 identified around the end of July, first of
10 August is a reasonable time in the season to do
11 something like this.

12 TIM CUDNEY: Yeah.

13 TOM GEORGE: So how about around
14 the weekend of the 3rd of August?

15 TIM CUDNEY: Put a little
16 potential tentative --

17 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Davyd, is
18 that when the sound monitoring station would
19 need to go in?

20 DAVYD BETCHKEL: I believe that
21 one's going to go out starting beginning of
22 July, and then it would go on through August.

23 TOM GEORGE: So it would be
24 there and operating -- we'd have to be real
25 quiet and tippy-toe up to it.

1 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So what I'm
2 interested in is picking a time when there's
3 still a lot of flying going on. So Dan, I'm
4 going to ask you -- so if --

5 DAN MCGREGOR: Definitely a lot
6 of flying going on.

7 MIRIAM VALENTINE: In first part
8 of August?

9 DAN MCGREGOR: Sure.

10 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So you would
11 be -- in using the road corridor, the
12 possibility of going over Teklanika is high
13 or --

14 DAN MCGREGOR: I mean, yeah. If
15 it came to the point where you wanted to try
16 and coordinate, like, flights at the best
17 practices altitude or something like that. I
18 mean, if the weather's good we could set
19 something up like that.

20 SALLY GIBERT: That's a good
21 idea.

22 DAN MCGREGOR: That's certainly
23 not out of the way. Try that. Return leg at
24 8,000 feet and just see what you guys think.

25 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Teklanika has

1 a minimum three-night stay. Savage might be
2 easier.

3 MIRIAM VALENTINE: That's true.

4 TOM GEORGE: I hope this is not
5 a three-night exercise.

6 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Unless we can
7 get a waiver from the Park Service.

8 TOM GEORGE: We only need one
9 night; right?

10 NANCY BALE: I'd be happy to
11 make a three-day commitment but maybe not
12 everybody else.

13 TOM GEORGE: Yeah, three days is
14 a little much.

15 NANCY BALE: Is it two nights
16 and three days, Joan?

17 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Three nights.
18 Well, I suppose if you drive your own vehicle.
19 If you took a bus -- but then you'd have to
20 take all your gear on there.

21 TOM GEORGE: Well, maybe Savage
22 is the overnight and it's a day trip out and
23 hike up to -- how does that sound? And that
24 way we could take the bus and not have to mess
25 with cars.

1 SALLY GIBERT: That's true.

2 JOAN FRANKEVICH: Meet at
3 Savage, take the bus from there.

4 TOM GEORGE: Miriam, is that
5 doable? Can you pull strings for us to do
6 that?

7 MIRIAM VALENTINE: So -- I'm
8 sorry. Firm the date up. I'm going to take it
9 back.

10 TIM CUDNEY: 3rd or 4th?

11 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Of August.

12 Okay. So we'd be overnighting in
13 Savage on the night of the 3rd.

14 TOM GEORGE: I think that sounds
15 good.

16 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay. So how
17 many people want to go?

18 TIM CUDNEY: Put in our trip
19 request now?

20 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Yeah, kind
21 of.

22 SALLY GIBERT: Except you don't
23 get paid.

24 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay. So
25 let's say that we have like half a dozen.

1 Okay. And we're just going to go on a VTS, a
2 transit bus out, yeah? Yeah, Davyd, that
3 works?

4 DAVYD BETCHKEL: Seems like it
5 would work.

6 NANCY BALE: From Savage, you
7 mean, out into the Park?

8 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Yeah.

9 NANCY BALE: What size of group
10 do you need to have the group campground?

11 MIRIAM VALENTINE: I was
12 thinking eight.

13 SUZANNE RUST: Is it better to
14 have more people than --

15 MIRIAM VALENTINE: I don't think
16 it really matters to tell you the truth. Let
17 me see what I can do about Savage. We'll start
18 there.

19 TOM GEORGE: So this sounds like
20 something we'll have to work via e-mail a
21 little bit to firm up.

22 NANCY BALE: Savage has a locker
23 where you put your food; right?

24 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I'm sure they
25 all do.

1 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay. So how
2 about by July 15th we're going to firm this up.
3 So I will commit to looking into the logistics
4 and getting a reservation. But we'll have a
5 drop-dead date of July 15 for people to
6 participate. Does that work?

7 Davyd, that gives you enough time?

8 DAVYD BETCHKEL: Yeah.

9 NANCY BALE: Will the new Savage
10 Alpine Trail be finished and open?

11 AMANDA SMITH: Yes. Close --
12 not quite. SCA crews will be working on it, I
13 can tell you that part. SCA crews and the
14 Denali trail crews -- it's -- I think they have
15 them scheduled through the end of August. And
16 it's not just up to SCA but I know that we're
17 scheduled in that.

18 NANCY BALE: I could easily
19 spend a couple of nights. I could spend the
20 3rd and the 4th.

21 MIRIAM VALENTINE: By yourself.
22 Okay. Right on.

23 NANCY BALE: Everybody else -- I
24 mean, the Council -- I'll just -- maybe if --
25 you and I should talk because you'd be making

1 reservations for the 3rd but I might want to
2 extend mine to the 4th.

3 SALLY GIBERT: It actually would
4 be good to have two nights for most people
5 because that gives you an entire day to do
6 something. Otherwise, you're spending your
7 whole day getting there and your next whole day
8 leaving; and when are you going to do anything?

9 NANCY BALE: You're right. So
10 really two nights does make more sense.

11 SALLY GIBERT: You really kind
12 of need two nights.

13 MIRIAM VALENTINE: I can't do it
14 on the 2nd, but I can do it on the 3rd. But I
15 can make the reservation. You guys can -- and
16 I'll just join you the second day.

17 TOM GEORGE: So go 3rd and 4th
18 then. And that way people can cut out if they
19 want to, they can stay around if they want to.
20 You got flexibility without --

21 SALLY GIBERT: Sure.

22 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay. So I'm
23 going to run the logistics on the campground,
24 the bus tickets and coordinating with David to
25 go out to the sound monitoring. And I'm going

1 to assume that we're going to have at least six
2 people. Okay. All right.

3 NANCY BALE: Can you make it,
4 Joan?

5 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I can't make
6 those dates. I got a family campout that
7 begins on the 5th. But that's okay.

8 SALLY GIBERT: And I will not be
9 able to be at the September meeting. I'm going
10 to be out of state. But I'm sure I won't be
11 chair then so that's okay.

12 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Are you going
13 to be able to make the campout?

14 SALLY GIBERT: Uh-huh.

15 MIRIAM VALENTINE: Okay.

16 SALLY GIBERT: I think so, yeah.
17 My intention is yeah.

18 JOAN FRANKEVICH: I have one
19 other brief thing. When we talked about
20 putting the sound-sensitive areas map on the
21 Web site and Dave brought up when you looked at
22 it and looked at the title after seeing that
23 other map with the low areas it wasn't -- on
24 first glance it wasn't obvious we were talking
25 about visitor impact. So he suggested adding

1 sound-sensitive visitor areas to the title.

2 Anybody have any objections? Okay.

3 TOM GEORGE: Great idea.

4 NANCY BALE: I can change that

5 on the map and PDF it up.

6 SALLY GIBERT: Sound-sensitive

7 visitor areas.

8 JOAN FRANKEVICH: North side

9 best practices. Cheers to the group.

10 SALLY GIBERT: Okay. Done

11 early.

12 (Whereupon the meeting was concluded at

13 4:50 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, KRISTIN L. O'REILLY, Notary Public for the State of Alaska, and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that the proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later transcribed by computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken at that time; and that I am not a party to, nor do I have any interest in, the outcome of the action herein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 30th day of April, 2012.

Kristin L. O'Reilly
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 12/18/2014