

**Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH)
Working Group Meeting**

December 12-13, 2018

8:30 am – 5:00 pm each day

Downtown Marriott, 820 W. 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group Mission:

“To work together to ensure the long term conservation of the Western Arctic caribou herd and the ecosystem on which it depends, and to maintain traditional and other uses for the benefit of all people now and in the future.”

DAY 1 – WACH Working Group, December 12

8:30 Call to Order (15 min)

Invocation

WACH Working Group Roll Call / Establish Quorum

Introduction of Working Group members and state and federal agency leads

Approval of Agenda – Preview meeting binder

New Working Group Member & Alternate appointments

8:45 Guest Elder – Mr. Ben Sampson, Noorvik (40 min)

9:25 BREAK (20 min)

9:45 Point Lay High School Presentation – Onion Portage (25 min)

10:10 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Summary Information (95 min)

10:10 Herd population, trend, calf survival, and other indicators of herd size and health – including Technical Committee recommendation on status of the herd – Alex Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) (50 min)

11:00 Monitoring caribou movements and distribution – Kyle Joly, National Park Service (NPS) (15 min)

11:15 Caribou collaring – Will we need a new method in the future? (30 min)

WAH Working Group Meeting – Agenda (continued)

11:45 LUNCH (90 min)

1:15 Working Group Members' Observations and Discussion about the Herd, Harvest, Collaring, etc. (45 min)

2:00 WACH Cooperative Management Plan Review & Revision (60 min)

- Report and recommendations from the Working Group subcommittee and agencies that have worked on proposed updates to the 2011 management plan.
- Working Group discussion of key issues / questions.
- Next steps – Process and schedule for completing the management plan revision.

3:00 BREAK (15 min)

3:15 US Department of the Interior Undersecretary Joe Balash (45 min) – Opportunity for Working Group discussion with Undersecretary Balash about proposed resource development projects on lands managed by the Department of the Interior within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

4:00 BREAK (15 min)

NOTE – *The following two presentations (4:15-5PM) may be omitted if the Working Group needs more time for discussion or action related to the WACH Cooperative Management Plan revision (see 2:00PM session, above).*

4:15 Traditional Stewardship of Caribou (30 min) – *Presentation/discussion about local caribou hunter success groups working to promote traditional wildlife/hunting conservation approaches.*

4:45 ADFG Community Harvest Surveys for 2016-2017 – Buckland, Koyuk, Noatak (15 min) – *Beth Mikow, ADFG Division of Subsistence*

5:00 Adjourn Day 1

WAH Working Group Meeting – Agenda (continued)

Day 2 – WAH Working Group, December 13

8:30 Call to Order / Announcements / Review Day 2 Agenda

8:35 Resource Development in the Herd's Range

8:35 Resource Development Committee Report (25 min) – Tim Fullman, Committee Chair

9:00 Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Project – Update on state and federal review processes – with Working Group Q&A

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process – Tina McMaster-Goering, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (15 min)
- National Park Service Environmental and Economic Analysis – Greg Dudgeon, NPS (15 min)
- State of Alaska – Don Perrin, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management & Permitting (10 min)
- Working Group questions and discussion regarding Ambler Road project (20 min)

10:00 BREAK (20 min)

10:20 Continue Resource Development Topics

10:20 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) – Information on BLM's revision of the NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan – Sarah LaMarr, BLM (20 min)

10:40 Working Group Discussion of resource development issues related to the Western Arctic herd – Next steps for participating in Ambler Road processes. Review draft scoping letter for NPRA Integrated Activity Plan revision. Other topics. (65 min)

11:45 LUNCH (90 min)

1:15 Wildlife Harvest Regulations (75 min)

- Upcoming Board of Game process for Interior & Arctic/Western Region – regulatory proposals due May 1, 2019 for Board meeting in January 2020 – Phillip Perry, ADFG (15 min)
- Federal Subsistence Board proposal process and timeline – Chris McKee, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Office of Subsistence Management (15 min)

WAH Working Group Meeting – Agenda (continued)

- Implementation of registration permit RC800 and RC907 – Alex Hansen, ADFG (15 min)
- Working Group discussion – Next steps for Working Group participation in state and federal wildlife harvest regulatory processes (30 min)

2:30 BREAK & WORKING GROUP PHOTO (30 min)

3:00 Communication Committee Report (20 min) – Heather Jameson, ADFG; Brittany Sweeney, USFWS

3:20 Business Meeting – Actions - Assignments (90 min)

- Approval of 2017 WACH Working Group Meeting Summary
- Election of Vice-Chair for term 2019-2021
- Committee Membership – Review & reconfirm
- Complete Action Items & Confirm Assignments
- Next Meeting – Date / Location

4:50 Closing Comments – Working Group members

5:00 ADJOURN