

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group Meeting

December 15, 2021 1:00pm – 5:30pm
via Video (Zoom) and Teleconference Connections

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.”

Agenda

1:00 Call to Order (15 min)

Video (Zoom) & Teleconference Logistics

WACH Working Group Roll Call / New Member Approvals / Establish Quorum

Review Agenda

1:15 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Status (75 min)

1:15 Western Arctic Herd Overview and 2021 Census – including Technical Committee recommendation on status of the herd per the 2019 WACH Cooperative Management Plan (30 min) – Alex Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG)

1:45 National Park Service (NPS) Caribou Monitoring (10 min) – Kyle Joly, NPS

1:55 2023 North American Caribou Workshop, to be held in Alaska (10 min) – Kyle Joly, NPS

2:05 Working Group decision on herd status per the 2019 plan (25 min)

2:30 State of Alaska Wildlife Harvest Regulations (30 min) – Alex Hansen, ADFG

2:30 Report on Western Arctic Herd registration permits (10 min)

2:40 Statewide proposal 245 to eliminate requirement to salvage rib meat on the bone for caribou (includes Units 23 and 24) – Comments due to Board of Game, February 18, 2022 (20 min)

3:00 Break (10 min)

3:10 Federal Wildlife Harvest Regulations (40 min) – Lisa Maas Grediagin, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM)

- Proposal WP22-47: Proposal to allow calf harvest on federal lands in Unit 22. (NOTE: Proposal was submitted by WACH Working Group)
- Wildlife Closure Review WCR22-45: Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) review of whether to retain current closure of portions of Unit 23 along the Noatak River to harvest of caribou by non-Federally qualified users.

WAH Working Group Meeting – Agenda (continued)

- Wildlife Special Action WSA 21-01: OSM discussion with Working Group members about proposed special action to close Federal public lands in Units 23 and 26A to harvest of caribou (and moose) by non-Federally qualified users. (FSB deferred action on this special action request and will reconsider prior to the 2022 hunting season.)

3:50 Resource Development Committee Update (30 min) – Tim Fullman, Chair, WG Resource Development Committee

4:20 Community Harvest Results for Deering, Kobuk, Noatak, Shishmaref (10 min) – Helen Cold, ADFG Subsistence Division

4:30 Business meeting (60 min)

- Approve 2020 WACHWG Meeting summary
- Communication Committee report -- Key topics to include in 2022 *Caribou Trails* newsletter
- Nominations for Vice Chair for 2022-2024 term (ballot to be mailed later to WG members)
- Business / Action Items
- 2022 Working Group meeting – Date / Location

5:30 Adjourn