

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Technical Committee

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Marriott Anchorage Downtown
820 West 7th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501

- 1:30 Call to Order**
Welcome & Introductions
Review and approve agenda
- 1:40 2022 Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) – Herd population status, other metrics (50 min)**
Alex Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG)
- 2:30 Technical Committee Recommendation to WACH Working Group regarding herd status and management level¹ – Key points to address in recommendation to Working Group (30 min)**
- 3:00 Break (20 mins)**
- 3:20 WACH Research Priorities – Working Group Technical Committee Members’ Input (80 min)**
- Brief presentation about research priorities (20 min)
 - Discussion (60 min)

The Technical Committee is tasked with annually “evaluating progress toward meeting information gaps identified by the Working Group” (2011 plan, p. 15) and annually updating a “priority list of information needs” (p. 26).

The following research priorities were identified by the TC in 2014 and have been reaffirmed each year since. Are these still the current priorities? What is our progress on addressing these information needs?

Research Priorities (2014-2018)

- Continue to use satellite collars (or other improved technology) to collect data about the herd’s movements
- Subsistence harvest information
- Snow/weather/climate data and effects of these factors on the herd
- Effect of predation on the herd

¹ *The 2011 WACH Cooperative Management Plan (p. 17) requires that “agency biologists will evaluate the status of the herd in the Technical Committee meeting and develop recommendations on herd management level for the Working Group. Population size, trends in adult mortality and calf survival, sex and age composition, range condition, caribou body condition and health, and other factors determined by the Technical Committee will provide the basis for evaluating the herd condition and management level that is reported to the Working Group”.*

- Cumulative effects of roads and other infrastructure development on the herd and its habitat

4:40 Technical Committee Assignments

- Ongoing Management & Research – HOMEWORK task. Review and update attached 2022 list of on-going management and research activities for web posting. Comments to Holly Spoth-Torres at holly@huddleak.com by January 30, 2023.
- WACH Bibliography – HOMEWORK task. Review and update attached 2018 WACH bibliography for web posting. Comments to Holly Spoth-Torres at holly@huddleak.com by January 30, 2023.

4:50 Any other topics?

5:00 Adjourn Technical Committee Meeting