

Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) Working Group Meeting

December 10-11, 2025, 8:30am - 5:00pm

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

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 – Wednesday, December 10

8:30 Call to Order

- Invocation
- WACH Working Group Roll Call / Establish Quorum
- Introduction of State and Federal Agency Leads
- New Working Group Member & Alternate Appointments for Consideration
 - Seat 1 Chair – Anchorage AC: Matt Moore
 - Seat 4 Chair – Elim, Golovin, White Mountain: Dean Peterson
 - Seat 4 Alternate – Elim, Golovin, White Mountain: Charlie Brown
 - Seat 12 Chair – Pt Hope, Pt Lay: Leonard Barger
 - Seat 14 Alternate – Conservationists: Ben Sullender
 - Seat 15 Chair – N Seward Peninsula: Alfred Weyiouanna
 - Seat 15 Alternate – N Seward Peninsula: Nora Iyatunguk
- The following seats are vacant and need representation.
 - Seat 1 Alternate – Anchorage AC
 - Seat 7 Chair – Kivalina, Noatak
 - Seat 10 Alternate – Lower Kobuk River
 - Seat 19 Alternate – Upper Kobuk River
 - Seat 20 Chair – Atkasuk, Utkiagvik, Wainwright
- Approval of Agenda – Preview Meeting Binder

8:40 Guest Elder – Samson Henry, Allakaket (35 min)

9:15 Round Robin Updates – What’s been going on since 2024? (30 min) 2 minutes per member.

9:45 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Status and Management Level (45 min)

Western Arctic Herd Overview and 2025 Census – Alex Hansen, AK Department Fish & Game

10:30 Break (15 min)

10:45 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Status and Management Level Continued (30 min)

NPS Caribou Monitoring - Kyle Joly, National Park Service (NPS)

11:15 Working Group Discussion and Decision on Herd Management Level per the 2019 WACH Cooperative Management Plan (30 min) - Review Technical Committee recommendation.

11:45 LUNCH (90 min)

1:15 Management Implications of the Herd Management Level (60 mins)

Based on the Management Level decision of the working group, review the management recommendations identified in Table 2 of the 2019 WACH Cooperative Management Plan and current State/Federal harvest regulations relevant to the recommendations. Develop proposals to submit to the Board of Game and comments to the Federal Subsistence Board as appropriate.

WACH Working Group Meeting – Agenda (continued)

- 2:15 Alaska Fish & Game Advisory Committees: A review of the Advisory Committee Process** (45 min) – Art Nelson, Executive Director, Board of Fisheries and Sam Kirby, Arctic Region Advisory Committee Coordinator, AK Department Fish & Game
- 3:00 BREAK** (15 min)
- 3:15 NANA and Red Dog MLE Updates** (60 min) – Liz Qaulluq Cravalho, Vice President of Lands, NANA and Jason Louvier, Project Superintendent, Economic Development & Sustainability Department, NANA
- 4:15 Update on Guides and Transporters in the Western Arctic National Parklands** (10 min) – Annie Carlson, Integrated Resources Program Manager – Western Arctic National Parklands
- 4:25 Public Comments**
- 5:00 ADJOURN DAY 1**

DAY 2 – Thursday, December 11

- 8:30 Call to Order / Announcements / Review Day 2 Agenda**
- 8:35 Business Meeting – Actions - Assignments** (~90 min)
- Review and Confirm Any Day 1 Actions and Resolutions
 - Approval of 2024 WACH Working Group Meeting Summary
 - Committee Membership – Revise / Reconfirm
 - WACH Working Group Membership - primary members and alternates
 - Election of Chair for 2026 - 2028
 - Business / Action Items & Confirm Assignments
 - Meeting Location: Anchorage vs Kotzebue
 - Next Meeting – Date / Location
- 10:00 BREAK** (15 min)
- 10:15 Resource Development in the Herd's Range** (60 min) – Tim Fullman, Resource Development Committee Chair
- Research Paper Presentation** – Behavioral responses of migratory caribou to semi-permeable roads in Arctic Alaska – Tim Fullman, The Wilderness Society
- 11:15 Western Arctic Herd Community Outreach and Survey Project** (20 min) – Helen Cold, Arctic Area Subsistence Resource Specialist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Marianna Mallory, Subsistence Resource Specialist, AK Department Fish & Game
- 11:35 Communications, Education, and Outreach Update** (25 mins) – Deb Lawton, Wildlife Education Associate – Region 5, AK Department Fish & Game Division of Wildlife Conservation
- 12:00 LUNCH** (90 min)
- 1:30 Ancient Seasonal Landscape Use of Caribou in the Western Arctic: New Insights from Old Antlers** (15 mins) – Joshua Miller, Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati
- 3:45 Closing Comments – Working Group members** (30 min)
- 4:15 ADJOURN**