DRAFT Version 11-3-26

Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) Working Group Meeting

December 9-10, 2026, 8:30am - 5:00pm

Hotel Captain Cook
939 W 5th 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 9

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 16 Chair – Reindeer Herders: Harry Karmun
  - Seat 16 Alternate – Reindeer Herders
  - Seat 20 Chair – Atqasuk, Utkiagvik, Wainwright: John Hopson Jr.
  - Seat 19 Alternate – Upper Kobuk River:
- The following seats are vacant and need representation.
  - Seat 1 Alternate – Anchorage AC
  - Seat 7 Alternate – Kivalina, Noatak
  - Seat 10 Alternate – Lower Kobuk River
- Approval of Agenda – Preview Meeting Binder

8:40 Guest Elder - Frank Katchetag, Unalakleet (35 min)

9:15 Round Robin Updates – What's been going on since 2025? (30 min) 2 minutes per member.

9:45 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Status and Management Level (45 min)
Western Arctic Herd Overview – Alex Hansen, AK Department of 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

11:15 Working Group Discussion and Decision on Herd Management Level per the 2019 WACH Cooperative Management Plan (45 min) - Review Technical Committee recommendation and determine herd management level

12:00 LUNCH (90 min)

1:30 Review 2026 WACH WG Proposals Submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board (15 min)
Special Action Request to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding bag limits, cow hunt and bull harvest limits – Lisa Gregiagin, Office of Subsistence Management

1:45 Review Board of Game Proposals (1 hour)
Upcoming BOG Proposals for Western Arctic/Western Region – Alex Hansen, AK Department Fish & Game

WACH Working Group Meeting – Agenda (continued)

2:45 **BREAK** (15 min)

3:00 **Feedback and Proposal Development** (90 min)
Discuss and provide feedback on upcoming Board of Game proposals. Identify and develop any comments to the Board of Game and/or proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board

4:30 **Public Comment** (30 min)

5:00 **ADJOURN DAY 1**

DAY 2 – Thursday, December 10

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 2025 WACH Working Group Meeting Summary
- Committee Membership – Revise / Reconfirm
- WACH Working Group Membership - primary members and alternates
- Business / Action Items & Confirm Assignments
- Next Meeting – Date / Location
- Agency Discussion on Future of the Working Group

10:00 **Working Group Action Items** (30 min)
Opportunity for further action items, proposals, etc. for Working Group discussion and vote.

10:30 **BREAK** (15 min)

10:45 **Working Group Action Items** (30 min)
Opportunity for Working Group vote and discussion for Management Plan amendments.

11:15 **Resource Development in the Herd's Range** (60 min) – Tim Fullman, Resource Development Committee Chair

12:15 **LUNCH** (90 min)

1:45 **Western Arctic Herd Community Outreach and Survey Project Update** (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

2:05 **Seward Peninsula Collaring Update** (20 min) – Letty Hughes, Wildlife Biologist – Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, National Park Service

2:25 **Communications, Education, and Outreach Update** (20 min) – Katie Hansen, Wildlife Education Associate – Region 5, AK Department Fish & Game Division of Wildlife Conservation

2:45 **Working Group Photo & Break** (30 min)

3:15 **Closing Comments – Working Group members** (45 min)

4:15 **ADJOURN**