

Western Arctic Caribou Herd

Technical Committee

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Anchorage Marriott Downtown – Anchorage Room
829 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska

8:30 Call to Order

Introductions

Review and approve agenda – Additional topics to discuss?

8:40 2017 Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WAH) Overview & Photocensus– Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG)

9:30 Technical presentation – Calf survival study – ADFG, National Park Service (NPS)

10:15 BREAK

10:30 Technical presentation – Using GPS to identify calving areas - NPS

11:00 Technical Committee Recommendation to WACH Working Group regarding herd status and management level¹ – Key points to address in recommendation to Working Group.

11:45 LUNCH

1:15 Implementation of Registration Permit – ADFG

Discuss how harvest data from the registration permits is being collected, analyzed and used. Any need to adjust the permit system, outreach, etc?

1:45 Possible future herd management tools – ADFG, NPS

Discussion of management tools (e.g., harvest by sex) that are not proposed at this time, but could be considered in the future if the herd population remains at a lower level.

¹ *The 2011 WAH 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”.*

2:15 WAH Cooperative Management Plan – Discuss proposed process & timing for review and update of the management plan over the next two years. Key points to address in recommendation to Working Group. Confirm who will present on this topic to the WG on Dec. 13.

2:45 BREAK

3:15 Research presentation – “Effects of environmental features and sport hunting on caribou migration in northwestern Alaska” – Tim Fullman, Kyle Joly, Andrew Ackerman

3:45 WACH Research Priorities

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 reaffirmed in 2015 in 2016. Are these still the current priorities? What is our progress on addressing these information needs? Is any change needed in how the TC approaches this task of identifying priority information needs and working to meet them?

Research Priorities (2014-2016)

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

4:15 Technical Committee Assignments

- Ongoing Management & Research – HOMEWORK task. Review and update attached list of on-going management and research activities for web posting. Comments to Jan Caulfield at janc@gci.net by January 30, 2018.
- WACH Bibliography – HOMEWORK task. Review and update attached WACH bibliography for web posting. Comments to Jan Caulfield at janc@gci.net by January 30, 2018.

5:00 Adjourn Technical Committee Meeting