

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Technical Committee

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Downtown Marriott, 820 W. 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

8:30 Call to Order

Introductions

Review and approve agenda

8:40 2018 Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WAH) – Herd population status, other metrics – Alex Hansen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG)

9:30 Calf survival study – technical information & results – Alex Hansen, ADFG

10:00 Break

10:15 Technical Committee Recommendation to WACH Working Group regarding herd status and management level¹ – Key points to address in recommendation to Working Group

11:00 Presentation – Annual variability of WACH calving – Matt Cameron, National Park Service (NPS)

11:30 Presentation – Analysis of interchange of caribou between herds – Alex Prichard, ABR, Inc. – Environmental Research and Services

12:00 LUNCH

1:30 Implementation of Registration Permits – ADFG

Discussion of implementation of registration permits RC800 and RC907. What more should be done to increase understanding of the permit and how the data is used, and to increase reporting. Was there follow-through on ideas discussed at the 2017 TC meeting, which included the following?

- Make is possible to submit harvest reports online
- Offer option of reporting to tribal office or regional organization (e.g., Maniilaq)
- Show communities how the data is used to maintain a healthy herd and provide for sustainable harvests

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”.*

- In addition to working with vendors to distribute permits, make them available through other organizations (e.g., NANA, IRAs)
- Involve vendors in community meetings to build familiarity
- Put more information in Caribou Trails about how to get the registration permit (available online), the importance of reporting harvest, etc.
- Bring translators to the village when meeting with the public

2:15 Presentation – Monitoring caribou foraging availability using satellite imagery, Central Arctic Herd – Heather Johnson, US Geological Survey

2:45 BREAK

3:00 Presentation – WACH migration and potential impacts of proposed road corridors identified through the Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resources (ASTAR) project – Tim Fullman, WACH Working Group member

3:30 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 have been reaffirmed each year since. Are these still the current priorities? What is our progress on addressing these information needs?

Research Priorities (2014-2017)

- 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

4:30 Communication & Outreach – Brittany Sweeney-USFWS, Heather Jameson–ADFG
Hear from the TC on highest priority outreach and communication tools, themes and needs.

4:50 Wrap-Up / 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, 2019.
- WACH Bibliography – HOMEWORK task. Review and update attached WACH bibliography for web posting. Comments to Jan Caulfield at janc@gci.net by January 30, 2019.

5:00 Adjourn Technical Committee Meeting