



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board Meeting Advisory



Forest Service

For Immediate Release:
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Federal Subsistence Board to Hold Public Hearings on the Rural Determination Process

From August 20 through October 30, 2013, the Federal Subsistence Board will hold several hearings throughout Alaska to accept public testimony and written comments on the Federal Subsistence Management Program's rural determination process. Each hearing will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Attend in person or telephonically. All testimony presented at these meetings will be recorded for the public record. Written comments received, including any personal information provided, will be available to the public.

The hearing schedule is as follows:

Barrow

Aug. 20	North Slope Borough Assembly Chambers	1-866-560-5984, Passcode: 12960066	Contact: Eva Patton (907) 786-3358 eva_patton@fws.gov
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Kotzebue

Aug 21	Northwest Arctic Borough Chambers	1-877-638-8165, Passcode: 9060609	Contact: Melinda Burke (907) 786-3885 melinda_burke@fws.gov
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Ketchikan

Sept. 24	Ted Ferry Civic Center	1-866-916-7020, Passcode: 37311548	Contact: Robert Larson (907) 772-5930 robertlarson@fs.fed.us
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Kodiak

Sept. 24	Best Western Kodiak Inn	1-866-560-5984, Passcode: 12960066	Contact: Carl Johnson (907) 786-3953 carl_johnson@fws.gov
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Bethel

Oct. 2	Yupit Piciryarait Cultural Center	1-866-560-5984, Passcode: 12960066	Contact: Alex Nick (907) 543-1037 (800) 621-5804, ext. 257
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alex_nick@fws.gov

Copper Center

Oct. 1	Kluti Kaah Community Hall	1-866-916-7020, Passcode: 37311548	Contact: Donald Mike (907) 786-3629 donald_mike@fws.gov
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Fairbanks

Oct. 8	Pike's Place Lodge	1-877-638-8165, Passcode: 9060609	Contact: Melinda Burke (907) 786-3885 melinda_burke@fws.gov
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Nome

Oct. 8	Aurora Inn	1-866-560-5984, Passcode: 12960066	Contact: Alex Nick (907) 543-1037 (800) 621-5804, ext. 257 alex_nick@fws.gov
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Anchorage

Oct. 15	To be determined	1-888-455-5897, Passcode: 3344290	Contact: Jack Lorrigan (907) 786-3953 Jack_lorrigan@fws.gov
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Fairbanks

Oct. 16	Pike's Place Lodge	1-866-560-5984, Passcode: 12960066	Contact: Eva Patton (907) 786-3358 eva_patton@fws.gov
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Dillingham

Oct. 29	City Hall Council Chambers	1-866-916-7020, Passcode: 37311548	Contact: Donald Mike (907) 786-3629 donald_mike@fws.gov
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Title VIII of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provides a subsistence priority for rural Alaska residents for harvesting fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands. Only residents of communities or areas determined to be rural are eligible under Federal subsistence regulations for the subsistence priority.

The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture are responsible for the process by which the rural determinations are made. The Federal Subsistence Board uses the Secretaries' process to make the rural determinations.

In 2009, the Secretary of the Interior called for a review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program to "ensure that the program is best serving rural Alaskans and that the letter and spirit of Title VIII [of ANILCA] are being met." As a result of the review, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture directed the Federal Subsistence Board to conduct a review of the rural determination process and develop recommendations for the Secretaries on how to improve the process.

The Federal Subsistence Board initiated a review of the rural determination process on December 31, 2012 with the publication of a Federal Register Notice requesting comments on the following components of the process: population thresholds, rural characteristics, aggregation

of communities, timelines and information sources. The deadline to submit comments is November 1, 2013.

In addition to the hearings listed above, the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils will be meeting during the weeks of the public hearings in the same communities to discuss, among other things, the rural determination process. Public testimony and written comments will be accepted at these meetings.

The Federal Subsistence Board plans to meet April 15–17, 2014 in Anchorage to review all the comments it received during the public comment period. The Board will then make recommendations to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on possible changes to improve the process. These recommendations will be based on the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils' recommendations, results of Tribal and ANCSA corporation consultations, and public comments.

If the Secretaries make changes to the rural determination process, a proposed rule will be published in the Federal Register as required by the Administrative Procedure Act.

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. Please check before you go. For updated public hearing information, visit the Federal Subsistence Management Program website, <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/index.cfml>, or contact the Office of Subsistence Management at 800-478-1456, (907) 786-3888 or by e-mail, subsistence@fws.gov.

Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program and on the rural determination process is available on the Federal Subsistence Management Program's website.

If you need special accommodations for disabilities, please contact the meeting coordinator or the Office of Subsistence Management approximately one-week prior to the meeting.

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