

Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Meeting Materials

SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Egan Center
Anchorage, Alaska
March 10-11, 2016

1:30 p.m. on March 10, 8:30 a.m. on March 11

TELECONFERENCE: call the toll free number: 1-866-560-5984 then when prompted enter the passcode: 12960066

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Public comments are welcome for each agenda item and for regional concerns not included on the agenda. The Council appreciates hearing your concerns and knowledge. Please fill out a comment form to be recognized by the Council chair. Time limits may be set to provide opportunity for all to testify and keep the meeting on schedule.

PLEASE NOTE: These are estimated times and the agenda is subject to change. Contact staff for the current schedule. Evening sessions are at the call of the chair.

AGENDA

*Asterisk identifies action item.

- 1. **Roll Call and Establish Quorum** (*Secretary*)..... SE-3
- 2. **Invocation**
- 3. **Call to Order** (*Chair*)
- 4. **Welcome and Introductions** (*Chair*)
- 5. **Review and Adopt Agenda*** (*Chair*) SE-1
- 6. **Election of Officers**
 - Chair (*DFO*)
 - Vice-Chair (*New Chair*)
 - Secretary (*New Chair*)
- 7. **Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes*** (*Chair*) SE-4
- 8. **Reports**
 - Council Member Reports
 - Chair’s Report
- 9. **Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items**
- 10. **Old Business** (*Chair*)

- a. NPS Proposed Rule on Subsistence Collections* (*Barbara Cellarius*).....218
- d. Stikine River subsistence fishery update (*Robert Larson*)

11. New Business (Chair)

- a. Call for Federal Fish and Shellfish Regulatory Proposals * (*Terry Suminski*).....225
- b. Approve FY2015 Annual Report* (*Robert Larson*) SE-11
- c. Identify Priority Information Needs for FRMP* (*Terry Suminski*)
- d. Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission appointment* (*Robert Larson*)

12. Agency Reports

- a. Use of cabins for subsistence in Glacier Bay National Preserve (*Jim Capra*) SE-19
- b. U.S. Forest Service report (*Tom Whitford*)

Unless a special report is requested by the Council, all other agencies should be prepared to only provide written reports for this meeting.

13. Future Meeting Dates*

- Confirm date and location of Fall 2016 meeting235
- Select date and location for Winter 2017 meeting236

14. Closing Comments

15. Adjourn (Chair)

To teleconference into the meeting, call the toll free number: 1-866-560-5984, then when prompted enter the passcode: 12960066

Reasonable Accommodations

The Federal Subsistence Board is committed to providing access to this meeting for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, closed captioning, or other accommodation needs to Robert Larson, 907-772-5930, robertlarson@fs.fed.us, or 800-877-8339 (TTY), by close of business on February 20, 2016.

REGION 1
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Seat	Year Apptd Term Expires	Member Name Community
1	2015 2016	Steve K. Reifentuhl Sitka
2	2004 2016	Frank G. Wright, Jr. Hoonah
3	1993 2016	Patricia Phillips Pelican
4	2000 2016	Michael A. Douville Craig
5	2002 2016	Harvey Kitka Sitka Secretary
6	2014 2017	Robert F. Schroeder Juneau
7	2014 2017	Albert H. Howard Angoon
8	2002 2017	Donald C. Hernandez Point Baker
9	2013 2018	Kenneth L. Jackson Kake
10	2015 2018	Raymond D. Sensmeier Yakutat
11	2010 2017	John A. Yeager Wrangell
12	2003 2018	Michael D. Bangs Petersburg Chair
13	2009 2018	Cathy A. Needham Juneau Vice Chair

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 27-29, 2015 SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Location of Meeting:

Alaska Native Brotherhood Meeting Hall, Yakutat, Alaska 99689

Time and Date of Meeting:

October 27-29, 2015; 9:30 a.m. starting time on October 27, adjourned 3:00 p.m. October 29.

Call to Order:

The fall, 2015 meeting of the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council was called to order Tuesday, October 27 at 9:35 a.m. Council members Jackson and Isaacs had an excused absence. Mr. Bertrand Adams provided an invocation.

Welcome:

A welcome was provided by Victoria Demmert, President of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe and Bert Adams, past chair of the Southeast Alaska Council. Yakutat is a hard place to get to but an even harder place to leave because you will leave a piece of your heart.

Review and Adopt Agenda:

The Council **approved the motion** to adopt the agenda as a guide (11-0) with the addition of an update regarding the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Petition under old business and an update on the petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf as a threatened and endangered species under new business.

Attendees:

The following persons attended some portion of the Southeast Alaska Council meeting either in person or by teleconference, in addition to the Council members.

Amee Howard	Anchorage	OSM
Anthony C. Johnson	Yakutat	Public
Barbara Cellarius	Copper Center	NPS
Bert Adams	Yakutat	Public
Cal Casipit	Juneau	USFS
Chuck Ardizzone	Anchorage	OSM
Jennifer Hardin	Anchorage	OSM
Eli Handlon Jr.	Yakutat	Public
Eli Handlon Sr.	Yakutat	Public
Gene Peltola Jr.	Anchorage	OSM
Glenn Chen	Homer	BIA
Harold Robbins	Yakutat	Public

Jeff Reeves	Craig	USFS
Jim Capra	Yakutat	NPS
Jon Jensen	Yakutat	Public
Justin Koller	Sitka	USFS
Larry Edwards	Sitka	Greenpeace
Lauren Sill	Juneau	ADF&G
Lee Wallace	Saxman	Organized Village of Saxman
Melinda Baker	Yakutat	Public
Mike Thompson	Yakutat	NPS
Nevette Bowen	Yakutat	Public
Orville Lind	Anchorage	OSM
Pippa Kenner	Anchorage	OSM
Ray Sensmeier	Yakutat	Public
Robert Cross	Sitka	USFS
Robert Johnson	Yakutat	Public
Robert Larson	Petersburg	USFS
Ryan Scott	Juneau	ADF&G
Sam L. Demmert	Yakutat	Public
Susan Oehlers	Yakutat	USFS
Terry Suminski	Sitka	USFS
Tom Whitford	Anchorage	USFS
Victoria Demmert	Yakutat	Yakutat Tlingit Tribe
Wayne Owen	Juneau	USFS

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

The Council **approved a motion** to accept the March 17-19, 2015 Council meeting minutes (11-0) as written.

Council Reports:

John Yeager reported that it was a successful sockeye season on the Stikine River and a successful moose hunt. Local residents are concerned with the number of illegal moose that have been taken and the effects on local fisheries by development of mines in Canada.

Cathy Needham reported that Don Hernandez is the new chair of the council's customary and traditional use determination working group. The sockeye salmon returns to Hetta Lake were poor this year and the needs of residents of Hydaburg were not met. There is a concern that these fish are being intercepted by the nearby commercial seine fishery.

Albert Howard reported that sockeye salmon are on ongoing issue to residents of Angoon and there have been low returns to all of the systems in the Chatham Straight area. Coho salmon were unusually early this year. There is a good population of deer near Angoon. Albert reminded the council that they should be speaking for their children and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) should be implemented as written not as someone wishes it interpreted.

Robert Schroeder reported that ANILCA has been a law for 35 years and has been generally successful in protecting subsistence uses and users. Climate change is happening and the council should include climate change in their discussions, be informed on data gathering efforts, and be well informed of land use activities.

Patricia Phillips reported that decisions by the Alaska Board of Fisheries affect the economic status of rural communities. In Pelican, the resident's way of life is an integration of commercial and subsistence activities. Climate change is affecting the habitat of most species of fish and wildlife in the Region.

Harvey Kitka thanked the council for the support of the council in closing the area near Sitka to commercial herring fishing. Sea otters have removed all the shellfish from the outer coast and those traditional foods are no longer available. As was observed in other areas, the sockeye salmon systems near Sitka had low returns.

Don Hernandez reported that climate change was clearly evident on Prince of Wales Island; there was no snow on even the highest mountains in January, there was the strongest winds and highest rainfall ever reported for April, the driest May, and record breaking rain events in October. There was a high pink salmon forecast but a disappointing return.

Mike Douville reported a concern with conservation of sockeye salmon at Sarkar River; the subsistence fishery occurs in marine waters. The number of illegal moose taken in Units 1B and 3 should be a concern to the council. Warming water temperatures could be affecting the viability of salmon eggs and logging under State standards does not provide adequate protections to fish and wildlife.

Frank Wright reported that the new hydroelectric facility in Hoonah will save about 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel each year. Although it is too late to save the clams, sea otters are being hunted and the hides locally processed. The deer population is healthy due to recent management actions that restricted hunting and mild winters. The frequency of ferry service to Hoonah is being reduced and that will cause prices to increase.

Art Bloom reminded the council that healthy subsistence resources depend on quality habitat.

Mike Bangs reported that ADF&G and the residents of Petersburg are concerned with the magnitude of illegal moose harvest.

Recognition of Bertrand Adams for Service on the Council:

Wayne Owen, region 10 director of wildlife, fisheries, ecology, watershed and subsistence for the Forest Service, presented Bert Adams with an engraved gold pan for his extraordinary service to the subsistence program. Barbara Cellarius presented Mr. Adams with a plaque from the National Park Service for Mr. Adams 15 years of service to the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission.

FY2014 Annual Report Reply:

The council reviewed the Annual Report and noted that monitoring water quality on streams entering the U.S. downstream of potential sources of pollution in Canada should be a priority for all the land management agencies. The response to the council's concerns with the implementation of the correspondence policy was incomplete and did not provide a definitive solution.

Public and Tribal Comments:

Larry Edwards, the Southeast Alaska representative for Greenpeace, provided the council with a review of the State and Federal timber sale plans for Southeast Alaska. The State has requested Congress transfer two million acres of Federal Public Land to become a State forest. This transfer would not be good for subsistence users because State forest practices do not provide adequate protection for fish and wildlife habitat. The proposal to trade State Mental Health Lands with the Forest Service will allow for additional timber harvest. The State Board of Game should spend more time in defining harvest objectives for deer. Mr. Edwards also provided a couple of corrections to the Forest Service briefing paper regarding wolves in Unit 2. He is also concerned that the Agencies are not giving adequate considerations to genetic bottlenecks that are present at low population levels.

Lee Wallace, Organized Village of Saxman, supports the new proposed rule but noted that the direct final rule has not been published in the Federal Register. He recommended that the council write a letter to the Secretaries in support of the new rural determination rule. Mr. Wallace supports increased access to broadband internet service in rural communities and recommends that the Office of Subsistence Management do a better job at updating their website.

Harold Robbins informed the council that cabins in Dry Bay that were permitted for commercial fishing support can no longer be used for subsistence fishing, hunting and trapping outside of the normal commercial fishing season. Chairman Bangs asked Mr. Robbins to write a letter to the council with the specifics of his concern. Staff will become more familiar with this issue prior to the next council meeting.

Victoria Demmert, President of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, provided the council with a history of the settlement of Yakutat. The community has several new projects that have had YTT involvement including: the new totem at the senior center, the school lunch program, the new health clinic, social services, a language and culture program in the school, cabin rents and a realty program. There is a good working relationship between the Tribe, the corporation and the municipality of Yakutat; all working together for the betterment of the residents of Yakutat.

Jon Jensen believes there are flaws in the plan for management of moose near Yakutat. He recommends there should be a registration permit issued to a household instead of a permit to each individual. It is not fair for some households to take several moose while some households have none. Jon supports the use of rod and reel as legal gear for subsistence.

Old Business:

Rural Determination: Chuck Ardizzone reported that the direct final rule for changes to the rural determination process is in Washington DC now and will be published in the Federal Register soon. The Board will meet in January, 2016 to look at options for how to make non-rural determinations.

Customary and Traditional Use Determination Working Group Report: Don Hernandez, the new chair of the working group, described work by that group since the last council meeting and provided the council with a recommendation for how to move forward. He explained how there has been confusion by the other councils and the Southeast Council does not have to propose changes to the current regulation to implement the regulations according to the intent of the council. The council agreed to write a letter to the Board that explains how the council would likely respond to proposals for changes to customary and traditional use

determinations. **Motion approved** (11-0) of draft language and to request the Board forward the council's position to the Secretaries.

Kootznoowoo Inc. Petition for Extraterritorial Jurisdiction: Wayne Owen, U.S. Forest Service, reported that the Board has sent a letter to the Secretaries summarizing the results of the local solution to issues raised in the Petition for Extraterritorial Jurisdiction and the agreement between Kootznoowoo Inc. and the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The Forest Service is also engaged the Angoon Cooperative Association and the community of Angoon to address local economic development solutions.

New Business:

Wildlife Proposals

WP16-01; Unit 2, Deer Season Change

Proposal WP16-01, submitted by the Craig Tribal Association (CTA), requests that non-Federally qualified subsistence users be limited to the harvest of two deer from Federal public lands in Unit 2 and the season ending date for Federally qualified subsistence users be extended from December 31 to January 31.

Comments: There were no Tribal Consultations, Agency comments, State Advisory Committee comments, or public testimony.

There were two written public comments, both of which were received after the end of the public comment period and not included in the council book. The comments from the Organized Village of Kasaan and the Klawock Cooperative Association supported this proposal.

Alaska Fish and Game: Ryan Scott, ADF&G, testified that the State was opposed to this proposal.

ADF&G is concerned that extending the season would increase the number of female deer harvested and contribute to a future conservation issue. Reducing the harvest limit for non-federally qualified hunters is not appropriate as there is not a current conservation concern.

Council Action:

The council decided this proposal contained two unrelated provisions and wanted to consider each topic separately. To expedite that process, the Council divided the proposal into WP16-01a, changing the season ending date from December 31 to January 31, and WP16-01b, reducing the non-federally qualified annual harvest limit from 4 deer to 2 deer.

Council action on WP16-01a: **Approved** (10-1) to change the Unit 2 deer season ending date from December 31 to January 31.

Rationale: The Council did not think that extending the season would significantly increase the harvest of female deer. Female deer make up only 4% of the current harvest, the population is increasing and the season change would not cause a conservation concern. Many subsistence users do not have adequate freezer systems and would value the opportunity to harvest fresh meat in January. The season ending date in Unit 4 is January 31 and that works well at providing for local needs of residents in that area. During council discussions, it was stated that it was a traditional activity to harvest a deer when needed and a January season would provide for the continuation of this traditional use of deer.

Council action on WP16-01b: **Failed** (1-10) to change the non-federal harvest limit from 4 deer to 2 deer.

Rationale: The Council determined that because there was no conservation concern with deer in Unit 2, there was no justification to reduce the harvest of deer by non-federal users. Adopting this portion of proposal WP16-01 would be detrimental to non-qualified users without reason.

WP16-02; Unit 1C, Deer Season Change

Proposal WP16-02 was submitted by Monte Mitchell of Gustavus and requests that the Federal season for deer in Unit 1C be extended from Aug. 1–Dec. 31 to Aug. 1–Jan. 31. This proposal would add 31 days to the season.

Comments: There were no Tribal Consultations, Agency comments, State Advisory Committee comments, written public comments or public testimony.

Alaska Fish and Game: Ryan Scott, ADF&G, informed the council that the ADF&G is opposed to this proposal. The mainland areas of Unit 1C have a low density of deer and the area is subject to severe winter conditions that could make deer in this area especially vulnerable to harvest during a January season. Extending the season into January is unnecessary to provide for deer hunting opportunities and may result in conservation issues. Pleasant Island is only minutes away from Gustavus, has a 6 deer harvest limit and has a January season.

Council Action: **Failed** (0-11)

Rationale: The council determined that a January season in Unit 1C would be inappropriate as it may result in a conservation concern with excessive harvest during severe winters on a population with generally low densities. This regulatory change is not beneficial to subsistence users as Pleasant Island is immediately available to residents of Gustavus, has a higher deer density, a six deer harvest limit and a January season.

WP16-03; Unit 1-5, Goat Harvest Limit Change

Proposal WP16-03 was submitted by Monte Mitchell of Gustavus and requests an increase to the limit of mountain goats a designated hunter may have in possession from one to three in Southeast Alaska (Units 1-5).

Comments: There were no Tribal Consultations, Agency comments, State Advisory Committee comments, written public comments or public testimony.

Alaska Fish and Game: Ryan Scott, ADF&G, testified the State is opposed to this proposal as it has the potential to cause a conservation concern with goat populations. Goats are managed on a point system on a small geographic area and the potential for one person to take three goats at one time will likely cause overharvest of some hunt areas.

Council Action: **Fail** (0-11)

Rationale: Adopting this proposal will likely result in a conservation concern with goats in some small hunt areas. Many hunt areas have low quotas and the potential for one person to harvest three goats is a significant management risk. Mountain goats are at generally at low densities and populations are in decline in several portions of Units 1-5. Allowing designated hunters to have 3 goats in possession may decrease the selection of only male goats and result in the serial depletion of goats in local areas. The council is also concerned about wastage of goats as the proper care and transportation from the field of three goats is problematic.

WP16-04; Unit 1C & 5A, Moose Definition

Proposal WP16–04 was submitted by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and requests that the term “antlered” be removed from the moose harvest regulations in Unit 5B, and Unit 1C remainder.

Comments: There were no Tribal Consultations, Agency comments, State Advisory Committee comments, written public comments or public testimony.

Alaska Fish and Game: Ryan Scott, ADF&G, testified that the State supports this regulatory change because it will align Federal and State regulations.

Council Action: **Support** (11-0)

Rationale: This regulatory change will align Federal and State regulations, reduce regulatory complexity, decrease confusion by users regarding the definition of a legal moose, and reduce enforcement concerns without any detrimental effects on subsistence users.

WP16-05; Unit 2, Deer In-season Management Authority

Proposal WP16–05 was submitted by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) and requests removing the language stating the Unit 2 deer harvest limit may be reduced to four deer in times of conservation.

Comments: There were no Tribal Consultations, Agency comments, State Advisory Committee comments, or written public comments. Lee Wallace, Organized Village of Saxman, testified that the Saxman Tribe supports this proposal and noted that the regulation was originally put in place because of special circumstances that are not present any longer.

Alaska Fish and Game: Ryan Scott, ADF&G, testified that the State supports adopting this proposal as it will allow the in-season management authority for the Federal managers to be similar to the in-season management authority of State managers.

Council Action: **Support** (11-0)

Rationale: The council supports providing the Federal in-season manager the same management flexibility as the State in-season manager. Adopting the proposal is consistent with the program’s obligations as described in ANILCA and retaining the regulation is unnecessary. Removing the only option to restrict deer harvest in Unit 2 for Federal in-season managers is consistent with Board direction as specified in the recent delegation of authority letter and is consistent with management authority for deer provided to the other in-season managers in the region.

WP16-06; Unit 5, Definition of Nunatak Bench

Proposal WP16–06 was submitted by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and requests adding a definition of “Nunatak Bench” to the Unit 5 Federal subsistence regulations.

Comments: There were no Tribal Consultations, Agency comments, State Advisory Committee comments, written public comments or public testimony.

Alaska Fish and Game: Ryan Scott, ADF&G, testified that the State supports this proposal and considers it “housekeeping” but necessary because the State and Federal have different management jurisdictions in this portion of Unit 5.

Council Action: **Support** (11-0)

Rationale: The area referenced as “Nunatak Bench” is included in Federal subsistence regulations but there is no definition of that area. Defining the area will provide subsistence users with area bounda-

ries and reduce enforcement concerns. The council considers this housekeeping without any conservation issues. The council recommended the Unit 5 map in the new regulatory booklet clearly depict the boundaries of Nunatak Bench.

WP16-07; Unit 1-5, Trapping Beaver with a Firearm

Proposal WP16-07 was submitted by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) and requests that firearms be allowed for harvesting beaver in Units 1-5 under Federal subsistence trapping regulations.

Comments: There were no Tribal Consultations, Agency comments, State Advisory Committee comments, written public comments or public testimony.

Alaska Fish and Game: Ryan Scott, ADF&G, testified that the State supports adopting this proposal as it would align Federal and State trapping regulations.

Council Action: **Support with modification** (11-0), the modified language specifies that firearms may not be used on National Park Service lands. The modified regulation would read:

In Units 1-5, a firearm may be used to take beaver under a trapping license during an open beaver season, except on National Park Service lands.

Rationale: There is no conservation concern by adopting this proposal because beaver populations appear to be healthy and hides must be sealed. This regulation will reduce the need to issue nuisance harvest permits for beaver, align Federal and State regulations and increase the food quality of beaver taken for subsistence. It will benefit subsistence users by allowing the take of beaver encountered while trapping other species. Modifying the proposal to exclude National Park Service lands will align this regulation with National Park Service rules.

WP16-08; Unit 2, Use of Deer Harvest Tags

Proposal WP16-08 was submitted by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) and requests deer harvest ticket #5 be validated out of sequence to record female deer taken in Unit 2.

Comments: There were no Tribal Consultations, Agency comments, State Advisory Committee comments, written public comments or public testimony.

Alaska Fish and Game: Ryan Scott, ADF&G, testified that the State recommends adopting this proposal. There are no insurmountable issues with use a tag out of order in Unit 2 and there is a need to validate the harvest of female deer.

Council Action: **Support** (8-3)

Rationale: There was not a unanimous opinion regarding this proposal. The minority reminded the council there was no real evidence that there is misuse of the current deer tagging system, there is no evidence that this regulation will be effective, and residents of Unit 2 that hunt in other units will be subject to unnecessary enforcement actions. The majority concluded this regulatory change was necessary to improve enforcement of the female deer harvest regulations as it allows the harvest of female deer to be validated. The regulation will not restrict subsistence use of deer and will not contribute to a conservation concern. The council is confident that hunters will not be subject to enforcement action when hunting in other units if tag number 5 has been used in Unit 2.

WP16-09; Unit 3, Close Marten Trapping Season on Kuiu Island

Proposal WP16–09 was submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and requests that the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) close the Federal subsistence marten trapping season on Kuiu Island in Unit 3.

Comments: There were no Tribal Consultations, Agency comments, State Advisory Committee comments, written public comments or public testimony.

Alaska Fish and Game: Ryan Scott, ADF&G, recommended the council support the proposal as written.

There is an extensive amount of information available to support the conclusion there is a low abundance of marten and a low abundance of prey on Kuiu Island.

Council Action: **Support with modification** (9-2), the modification would close the January and February portion of the season and allow the December portion of the season to remain open. The modified regulation would read:

Units 1, 2, 3 (except Kuiu Island), and 4 – Marten (Trapping) Dec. 1-Feb. 15

No limit

Kuiu Island portion of Unit 3

Dec. 1-Dec. 31

No limit

Rationale: The council was concerned that without a trapping season, there would not be an opportunity to recognize when the marten population increases. The modification is a significant reduction in the length of the season and will likely reduce the potential harvest by 58%. Sealing marten is required and will allow harvests to be documented as well as facilitate communication between trappers and the management Agencies. A December only season provides an opportunity for the continuation of subsistence uses and provides for the conservation of marten on Kuiu Island.

Review of the 2016 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan: Jennifer Hardin and Terry Suminski reviewed the history of the fisheries resource monitoring program and explained the five project proposals received for this funding cycle. The Council was asked to review the project ranking from the technical review committee and comment whether the projects align with the council’s priority information needs and whether the council agrees with the new evaluation process. Mr. Suminski reported that there is less need to document escapement into Hatchery Creek due to the construction of a fish pass at the partial barrier. The council **adopted a motion** (9-1-1) to move the Hatchery Creek project to the bottom of the priority lists for both the 2014 and 2016 funding cycles. The council also directed staff to **write a letter** to the Regional Forester asking that she allow the use of other (NFWF) Forest Service funds to augment FRMP funds. The council also directed staff to **prepare a review** of the council’s priority information needs for fish and wildlife for consideration at the March, 2016 meeting.

Presentation of Length of Service Awards: Tom Whitford presented Mike Douville with a 15 year length of service award from the Office of Subsistence Management. Cathy Needham and John Yeager each received a 5 year length of service award.

Summary of Wildlife and Fisheries Special Actions and Harvest Reports: Jeff Reeves summarized the special action in-season management actions (5 wildlife and 1 fish) for this year. He also provided the council with a table of fish harvests from the sport and subsistence fisheries.

Requests for Reconsideration: Chuck Ardizzone reported that the Office of Subsistence Management has three requests for the Board to reconsider fisheries regulatory decisions. The first is the closed area for herring in the Makhnati Islands area near Sitka, the second is regarding the subsistence fishery on the Kasilof River and the third is regarding the subsistence fishery on the Kenai River. The Threshold Analyses are being prepared but it is time consuming since there are over 700 requests to revisit the decisions on the Kasilof and Kenai Rivers.

Annual Report items for 2015: The council identified the following items for the 2015 Annual Report:

1. Funding for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan projects is important to the entire program and should be maintained at current levels and opportunities for funding projects from other sources investigated.
2. Mining in Canada on streams flowing into Alaska has the potential for significant negative effects on the Region's fisheries resources. All subsistence users should be concerned.
3. The council is interested in how the petition for extraterritorial jurisdiction for the marine waters in Chatham Strait is being resolved and whether the local solution approved by the State Board of Fisheries is being effective in passing sockeye through the commercial fishery to provide for escapement and subsistence use of those stocks.
4. The prohibition on subsistence use for cabins and other facilities that were permitted for commercial activities within the Glacier Bay and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Preserves doesn't make sense to the council. Depending on the content of the report that is being prepared on this subject, the council may wish to add this topic to the final Annual Report.
5. The council has expended considerable efforts in reviewing the customary and traditional use determination process as requested by the Secretary of The Interior. After several years of discussion, the council has decided not to submit a proposal to change the current customary and traditional use determination regulations but instead approved a letter to the Board which outlines the council's policy and interpretation of the current regulations. This policy is specific to the Southeast Alaska Region and acknowledges that the policy may not be applicable to the rest of the state due to the wide variation of conditions and considerations that are present in other regions.
6. Adequate returns of Sockeye Salmon to the terminal areas, sufficient to provide for escapement and subsistence fishing, are a continuing concern to the council. The council will work with staff to identify those systems in greatest need of information concerning total returns, interception rates and escapement requirements. The council requests the Board support any future requests for technical assistance required to define and identify specific data gaps.
7. Interception of salmon and halibut by commercial fisheries both within and outside of the Southeast Alaska Region has been an ongoing concern and the subject of previous annual report issues. The council is interested in remaining aware of the magnitude of these removals, particularly in the long-line and trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska, and efforts to control or reduce the level of by-catch. The council requests the Board provide a comprehensive summary of this issue and an analysis on the effects of these interceptions on subsistence use of these fish stocks.

Petition to list the Archipelago Wolf as Threatened or Endangered: Terry Suminski, Jeff Reeves and Ryan Scott provided an update on the status of the petition and plans for managing wolves in Unit 2. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing a ruling in December 2015. The 2015-16 wolf harvest quota for Unit 2 is a total of nine wolves and was arrived at through collaboration between the State, Tribes,

local users, and Federal managers. It is anticipated that the harvest will be closed in-season through a joint news release.

Designated Hunter Program: the council is concerned that the designated hunter program is not functioning to the benefit of subsistence users and asked staff to prepare an informational summary of the program by the March 2016 meeting.

Agency Reports:

U.S. Forest Service: Tom Whitford reported that the fy2016 budget for the subsistence program is two and one-half million dollars, about three hundred thousand less than fy2015. Approximately one hundred thousand is allocated to the Office of Subsistence Management, fifty thousand to law enforcement, seven hundred thousand to the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, three hundred thousand to administration of the subsistence program on the Chugach National Forest and one point six million for the Tongass National Forest. Robert Cross and Jake Musslewhite are new employees on the Tongass and Cal Casipit is retiring at the end of the year.

National Park Service: Mike Thompson and Barbara Cellarius reported that the marine debris clean-up program was a big success. There are two studies that are being funded, the first is to study the effects of cruise ships on harbor seals and the second is an ethnographic overview of the Glacier Bay and Wrangell-St. Elias park lands near Yakutat. The NPS funded a field trip for Yakutat students to visit the ancestral village site at Dry Bay this year. During this trip and at the likely location of a battle between Russian traders and the original residents, students recovered an ancient musket from an eroding riverbank.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Section: Lauren Sill reported that the Department is currently on household use and patterns of use surveys for Haines, Hydaburg and Hoonah. There appears to be funding available to complete similar studies in other communities in the future. Subsistence halibut surveys are completed every two years.

Office of Subsistence Management: Orville Lind reported that Ameer Howard has been hired as the policy coordinator and hiring the remaining vacant staff positions is a high priority.

Future Meeting Dates

The Council is anticipating an interesting and successful joint winter council meeting in Anchorage March 7-11, 2016. The council agreed to meet in Petersburg on October 25-27, 2016 for the fall 2016 meeting.

The Council meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m., October 29, 2015.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

/s/ Robert Larson

October 29, 2015

Robert Larson, DFO, USFS Subsistence Management Program

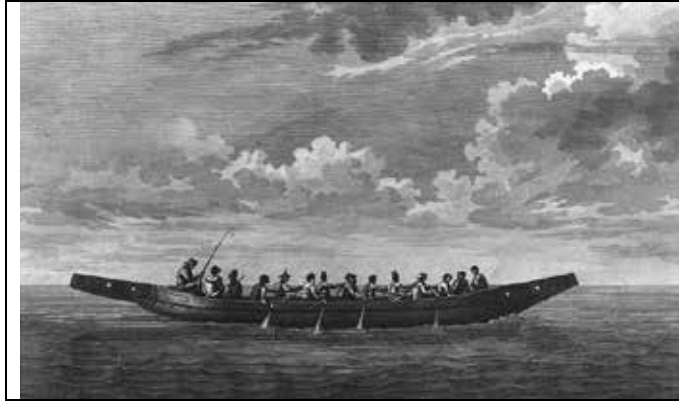
/s/ Mike Bangs

October 29, 2015

Mike Bangs, Chair, Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

DRAFT



***Southeast Alaska
Subsistence Regional
Advisory Council***

**Michael Bangs, Chairman
P.O. Box 1733
Petersburg, Alaska 99833**

RAC SE15050.RL

Mr. Tim Towarak, Chair
Federal Subsistence Board
c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Subsistence Management
1011 E. Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Greetings Chairman Towarak:

This is the fiscal year 2015 Annual Report of the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) as authorized under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Section 805(a)(3)(D). The Council wishes to share information and raise a number of concerns dealing with implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses in the Yakutat and Southeastern Areas.

In 2015, the Council met in Sitka, March 17-19, and in Yakutat, October 27-29. During the March meeting, the Council submitted a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) with the Council's comments in support of the new rural determination process and a letter to the Board asking for additional staff assistance in understanding the current customary and traditional use determination regulations. The Council also drafted five proposals to change Federal subsistence wildlife regulations. The Council supports the efforts of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the Forest Service, the Office of Subsistence Management and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game supporting the subsistence needs of the residents of Angoon. During the October meeting, the Council noted that monitoring the water quality on streams entering Alaska below mining locations in Canada should be a priority for all land management agencies. The Council would like to remain informed regarding the effectiveness of recent actions by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Alaska Board of Fisheries to provide for the continuation of subsistence uses by residents of Angoon. The Council approved a letter to Beth Pendleton, the USFS Regional

Mr. Towarak

Forester, expressing concerns over a reduction in funding for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and a letter to the Board with a recommendation on implementation of current customary and traditional use regulations.

From its various discussions, the Council has identified the following issues to bring to your attention with this annual report:

1. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program

Funding for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan projects is important to the entire program and should be maintained at current levels and opportunities for funding projects from other sources investigated. The Council has written a letter to the USFS Regional Forester with these concerns, but the Board should be aware and concerned that funding for several informational needs is being reduced and important projects are being cancelled. The Council would be very interested to know if the Board is aware of opportunities for partnering with other Agencies or non-governmental organizations.

2. Transboundary Mining

Mining on streams in Canada that flow into Alaska has the potential for significant negative effects on the Region's fisheries resources. This topic was the number one priority issue identified by the Council in its 2014 Annual Report. The Council submitted letters to the Board in March and October of 2014 and remains concerned that local concerns are not being heard. There is a water quality program being initiated on some transboundary rivers this year and the Council requests Board support for the continuation of that project.

3. Petition for Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

The Council is interested in how the petition for extraterritorial jurisdiction for the marine waters in Chatham Strait is being resolved and whether the local solution approved by the State Board of Fisheries is being effective in passing Sockeye Salmon through the commercial fishery to provide for escapement and subsistence use of those stocks. The Council requests the Board engage the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to determine if additional Sockeye Salmon stock-of-origin genetic studies are warranted and whether subsistence needs are being met by the residents of Angoon.

4. Use of Cabins on Park Service Land

There is currently a prohibition on subsistence use of cabins and other facilities that have been permitted for commercial activities within Glacier Bay and Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserves. This prohibition does not make sense to the Council. The Council is aware that the National Park Service is currently preparing a report related to this issue, and looks forward to reviewing the report. Depending on the content of that report, the Council may provide further comment to the Board on the issue.

5. Customary and Traditional Use

The Council has expended considerable efforts in reviewing the customary and traditional use determination process, as requested by the Secretary of the Interior. After several years of

Mr. Towarak

discussion, the Council has decided not to submit a proposal to change the current customary and traditional use determination regulations but instead approved a letter to the Board which outlines the Council's approach to and interpretation of the current regulations. This is specific to the Southeast Region and acknowledges that it may not be applicable to the rest of the state due to the wide variation of conditions and considerations that are present in other regions. The Council requests the Board reply to the Council with an evaluation of the recommendation contained in the letter.

6. Terminal Area Escapement

Adequate returns of Sockeye Salmon to the terminal areas, sufficient to provide for escapement and subsistence fishing, are a continuing concern to the Council. The Council will work with staff to identify those systems in greatest need of information concerning total returns, interception rates and escapement requirements in addition to importance to subsistence use. The Council anticipates the need for additional technical assistance and hopes that the Board will support any future requests for staff support required to define and identify specific data gaps.

7. Salmon and Halibut Interception

Interception of salmon and halibut by commercial fisheries both within and outside of the Southeast Region has been an ongoing concern and the subject of previous annual report issues. The Council is interested in remaining aware of the magnitude of these removals, particularly in the long-line and trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska, and efforts to control or reduce the level of by-catch. The Council requests the Board provide a comprehensive summary of this issue and an analysis on the effects of these interceptions on subsistence use of these fish stocks.

Thank you for considering the management and program issues of concern to the Council. Please address any questions with this letter directly to Mr. Robert Larson, Council Coordinator, U. S. Forest Service, Box 1328, Petersburg, Alaska 99833, (907) 772-5930, robertlarson@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

Michael Bangs
Chair

cc. Federal Subsistence Board
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Eugene R. Peltola, Jr., Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Acting Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief, Office of Subsistence Management
Robert Larson, Council Coordinator, United States Forest Service
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record

Backcountry and Wilderness Stewardship Plan

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Newsletter • January 2016



Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve is in the process of preparing a Backcountry and Wilderness Stewardship Plan. The purpose of this plan is to guide the management of backcountry and wilderness character and resources in Wrangell-St. Elias within the legal framework of the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, and National Park Service (NPS) policy and regulations.

Public scoping process

Official public scoping for the Backcountry and Wilderness Stewardship Plan occurred from May 2015 through November 2015. Public scoping consisted of three primary components – interviews held with stakeholders, public meetings, and briefings to stakeholder groups. For an in depth description of the public scoping process and analysis of comments received, see the [“Public Scoping Report”](#) released in January 2016.

The dominant themes received in public scoping were as follows: 1) there are currently very few issues or visitor impacts in the backcountry and wilderness and we should manage to keep it that way; 2) the current lack of regulations is part of the character of this wilderness and should be retained if possible; and 3) NPS administrative use contributes to impacts to wilderness character and should be acknowledged and managed.

Topic areas – as defined by public comment

The topic areas described below have been revised based on public input. Specific feedback on topics and subtopics is identified here and will correspondingly be addressed in the plan.

Airstrip maintenance and management

Identifying which airstrips are maintained, if any, and how maintenance will occur is part of this topic - for instance, if maintenance is conducted by the NPS or in coordination with commercial operators. Development of new airstrips will be evaluated in this topic, as will potential limits to establishing new airstrips. How airstrips facilitate or hinder dispersal of use across the park will be considered.

Cabin maintenance and management

How cabins are used and how maintenance should occur is the focus of this topic area. Identification of which cabins, if any, should be actively maintained by the NPS or other user groups will be addressed. How cabins are managed, including options relating to reservation systems will be considered, as will the role of cabins in providing for public health and safety.

Motorized use

Use of snowmachines, ORVs, and helicopters by visitors, local residents, and the NPS is the primary focus of this topic. How, where, and for what purposes these technologies are used will be addressed, including the recreational use of snowmachines. Based on impacts to wilderness resources and character, possible limitations will be considered to some forms of motorized use and for certain purposes.

Visitor use & impacts

This topic will address potential impacts to visitor experience and wilderness resources stemming from increased visitor use, as well as temporal and geographic concentration of use. Concerns associated with different user groups and particular types of use, such as private pilot use, base camping, and horse use will also be addressed. Evaluation of impacts will focus on social trails, campsites, campfire rings, garbage, human waste, and other similar impacts. The role of the NPS in facilitating visitor experiences relating to trails, signs, and advertising, among other factors will be addressed. Defining elements of the desired “visitor experience” and “visitor expectations” for different areas in Wrangell-St. Elias will be part of this topic.

Commercial use

It is anticipated that commercial use by air taxis, sport hunting guides, and guiding services will be addressed as separate, but interrelated uses. Self-regulation by commercial operators will be considered, as will methods for the NPS to supplement this process. An extent necessary determination, which addresses levels of use by commercial operators, will be part of the plan.

Subsistence

Subsistence use and traditional activities in backcountry and wilderness will continue to be provided for in this plan.

Cumulative effects

This topic will address how different actions and activities conducted by visitors, administrators, commercial users, and scientific researchers cumulatively effect wilderness character. The character of Wrangell-St. Elias as predominately unregulated will be considered. Contributions to cumulative effects by the other topic areas in the plan will also be addressed.

Miscellaneous

This topic will address items raised in public scoping that do not fall within one of the other topic areas. Installations in wilderness, use of modern technology, how the park is advertised, and the role of the NPS in day-to-day activities will be addressed here.



Data collection**Assessing on-the-ground impacts**

Quantifiable data regarding impacts created by visitors has been collected since 2014, including information on social trails, campsites, campfire rings, airstrips, cabins, and other information. The purpose of this information is to evaluate how on-the-ground impacts are changing over time given site-specific conditions and how the impacts correlate with trends in visitor use over time.

In 2014 and 2015, a total of approximately 510 miles were traveled looking for impacts. Of this total distance travelled, approximately 72 miles were found to have discernable impacts from social trails – though most of the impacts observed have been extremely minimal. A summary of the trips conducted and impacts observed is available in Table 1.

The impact assessments conducted to date have observed relatively few impacts. As a result, Wrangell-St. Elias generally has the opportunity to make small revisions in management as necessary to preserve existing conditions.

Table 1. Summary of trips conducted and impacts observed.

Trip Location	Percent of route with discernable impacts	Condition class* and explanation of rating
Allie's Valley to Bremner	5%	1 – Essentially no impacts from modern human activity were found.
Baultoff to Horsfeld	90%	4 – Extensive horse trails, many impacted campsites, and some trash associated with camps were observed.
Black Mountain	N/A**	
Bremner to Tebay Lakes	1%	1 – Essentially no impacts from modern human activity were found.
Donoho Basin	48%	5 – Extensive social trails, trash, campfire rings, were observed, as well as instances of improperly disposed human waste.
Dadina to Sanford Plateau	1%	1 – Essentially no impacts from modern human activity were found.
Glacier Creek	12%	2 – Minimal impacts, including minimal social trails and some impacted campsites were observed on this trip.
Hanagita Lake	N/A**	
Hidden Lake to Lakina	6%	2 – Minimal impacts were observed on this trip. Impacts observed included social trails, some impacted campsites, and campfire rings.
Huberts Landing	13%	2 – Some impacts, including social trails, trash, and some impacted campsites, were observed on this trip.
Iceberg to Bremner	4%	1 – Essentially no impacts from modern human activity were found.
Jaeger Mesa	5%	1 – Essentially no impacts from modern human activity were found.
Jacksina Creek	0%	1 – Essentially no impacts from modern human activity were found.
Kotsina River	N/A**	
Nutzotin Mountains	21%	3 – A relatively high number of social trails, as well as campsites, campfire rings, and trash were observed on this trip.
Ross Green Lake	1%	2 – Minimal impacts were observed, namely impacted campsites and human waste.
Skolai Pass	9%	3 – Some social trails, campsites, and campfire rings were observed.
Skolai to Wolverine	26%	4 – Social trails, as well as campsites, campfire rings, and trash were observed on this trip.
Solo Creek to Chisana	37%	4 – Many horse trails, as well as some impacted campsites and associated trash were observed on this trip.
Steamboat Hills	0%	1 – Essentially no impacts from modern human activity were found.
Tana and Chitina Rivers	N/A**	
Wolverine to Amphitheatre	6%	2 – Minimal impacts were observed, namely social trails.
Wrangell Plateau	13%	2 – Minimal impacts were observed, namely social trails and some trash.

* Condition class is a comprehensive evaluation of the overall condition of the route/trip on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 as the least impacted and 5 as the most impacted. This scale is relative to conditions observed here at Wrangell-St. Elias and incorporates observations of social trails, campsites, trash, human waste, and other factors.

** These trips were conducted in a way that precluded their being counted proportionately to the other trips; for instance, when the trip did not allow continuous data collection or the primary purpose of the trip was for another project.

Data analysis

Analyzing visitor use trends

The majority of access to park backcountry and wilderness is facilitated by commercial operators, including air taxis, guided recreational services, and hunting services. Commercial operators are required to submit actual use reports to the park each year. The park is currently analyzing data in these reports to determine trends in visitation, including levels of use, the popularity of various locations, and types of use, among other variables. The purpose of this information and analysis is to use trends in visitation to inform future management strategies. This project is ongoing and more results will be released in the near future.

Data from the past five years of visitor use facilitated by commercial operators is summarized below. In general, visitor use in the backcountry and wilderness has increased since 2010 (Figure 1). The average trip length in backcountry and wilderness areas from 2010-2014 was 4 days. Sport hunting was the activity which received the highest number of user days (Figure 2).

Top 10 most visited locations:

1. Skolai Pass
2. Iceberg Lake
3. Nizina
4. Wolverine
5. Fosse
6. Solo Creek
7. Mac Coll Ridge
8. Snag Creek
9. Lakina River
10. Glacier Creek

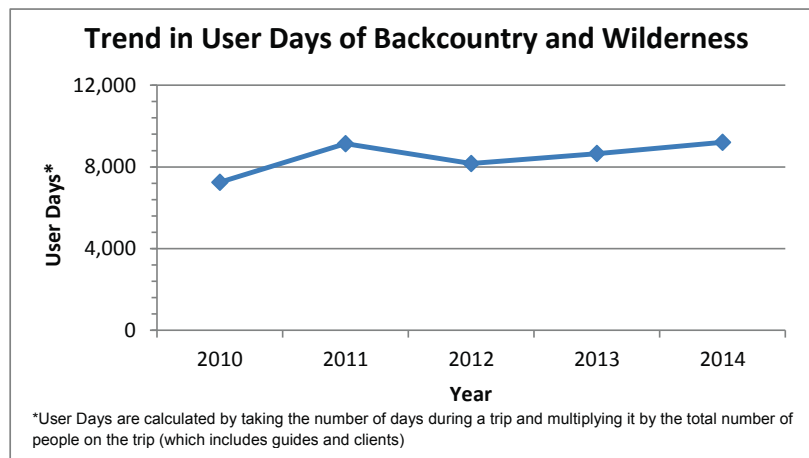


Figure 1. Trend in user days of backcountry and wilderness from 2010-2014.

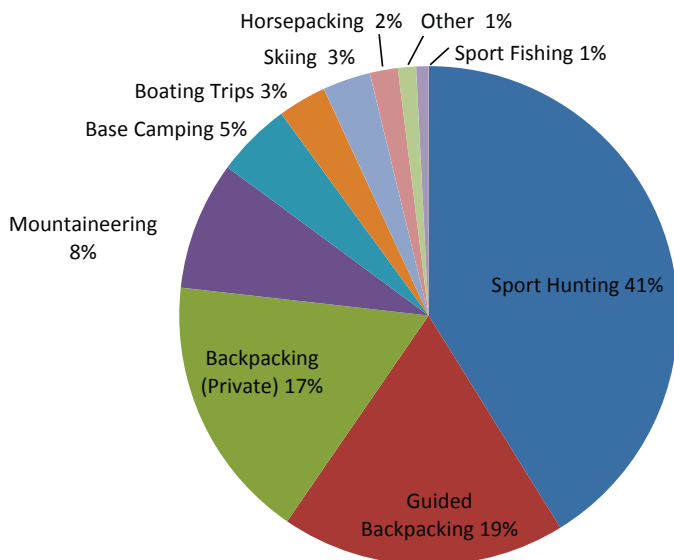


Figure 2. Summary of user days by activity, from 2010-2014.

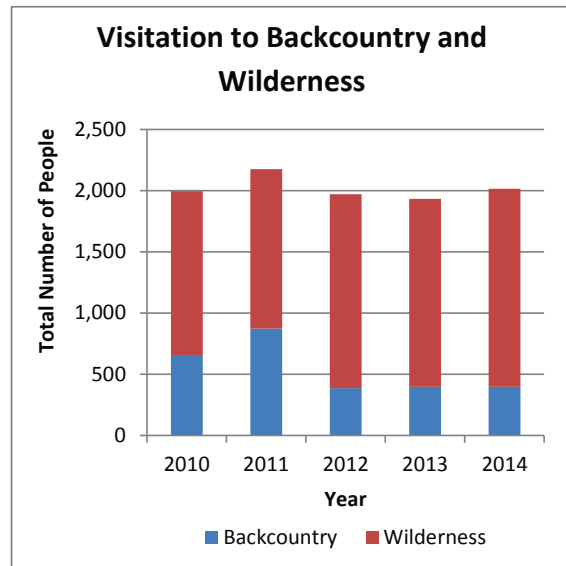


Figure 3. Dispersal of visitors across backcountry and wilderness.

Next steps in the planning process

Proposed action development

Based on the feedback received in public scoping, a Proposed Action will be developed. This Proposed Action will delineate management zones, and will identify desired future conditions, indicators, measures, standards, and thresholds for each zone. It is anticipated that the Proposed Action will be released by the summer of 2016. Public comments on the Proposed Action will be solicited.

Development of management alternatives

Based on the comments received on the Proposed Action, a suite of Management Alternatives will be developed. The Management Alternatives will articulate a variety of approaches regarding desired conditions, indicators, measures, standards, and adaptive management actions. Public comments on the Management Alternatives will be solicited.

Draft EA

Based on the comments received on the Management Alternatives, a Draft EA will be developed. The Draft EA will synthesize the management alternatives into a comprehensive document that analyzes the affected environment, impact topics, and identifies an NPS preferred alternative. Public comments on the Draft EA will be solicited.

Final EA

Based on the comments received on the Draft EA, a Final EA will be released, accompanied by a Finding of No Significant Impact statement.

How to stay involved

Staying up to date

The plan email list is the best way to make sure you are kept up-to-date about the planning process and opportunities for participation. To verify that you are on the email list or wish to receive updates via mail, please contact us at the information provided in the "Submitting Comments" section below.

Submitting comments

Official public comments will be accepted at several stages of the planning process, as outlined above. You can submit comments via email, regular mail, or on the internet at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=44299>

Written comments may be mailed to:
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
ATTN: Bruce Rogers
P.O. Box 439
Copper Center, Alaska 99573

Comments may be emailed to:
Bruce_Rogers@nps.gov

For more information about the plan or planning process, please contact Bruce Rogers, project manager, at 907-822-7276.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yakutat District Ranger Station
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Wrangell – Saint Elias National Park & Preserve
P.O. Box 137
Yakutat, Alaska 99689

Tel: 907-784-3295 · Fax: 907-784-3535



The following is a summary of subsistence uses and patterns in the Dry Bay area that includes Glacier Bay National Preserve and the NPS regulations that govern the use and permitting of cabins within the Preserve. This is presented to inform the SE Regional Advisory Council on the area and the process of managing cabins for subsistence and other uses on NPS lands in Dry Bay and state-wide. Please contact Jim Capra, Dry Bay Ranger with questions at the above numbers or james_capra@nps.gov

The Dry Bay area maintains a traditional Tlingit culture with influences from the Eyak and Athabascans, as well as Russian, English and American traders and miners. Commercial fishing is the primary industry. Residents of such communities as Yakutat, Gustavus, Hoonah, Elfin Cove, Pelican, Excursion Inlet and Sitka engage in subsistence uses near the boundaries of Glacier Bay National Preserve. Community resource gathering activities include such things as hunting, fishing, digging for clams, gathering firewood, and collecting food items from berries to herring and gull eggs. Historical resource utilization patterns, such as fish camps or communal seal hunts, are linked to traditional social and subsistence use patterns. Sharing of resource occurs between communities, as well as within communities throughout the region.

Most fish and game harvest under federal subsistence regulations are limited to Yakutat residents only. Some of the major resources used for subsistence are bears (black and brown), deer, goat, moose, furbearers, ptarmigan, waterfowl, marine mammals, salmon, trout, halibut, crab, clams, berries and other edible plants (such as wild celery, ferns, and kelp), alder, spruce, and other wood resources. Access to the Preserve is almost completely by aircraft because of the hazard of taking a small boat along 60 miles of coastline in the Gulf of Alaska.

The vast majority of subsistence resources harvested in the National Preserve are salmon and moose. Salmon are taken with set gillnets in the East Alsek and Alsek Rivers usually with the same gear and skiffs used for commercial fishing. Access is normally by ATV to a net site or boat landing site. A skiff is used to pull the net out and pick the fish, then the fish are transferred to an ATV for transport back to camp. Recorded harvest in the East Alsek River since 1989 has varied from 60 to 335 salmon with no record of harvest for eleven years in the period. The vast majority of the harvest is sockeye salmon with incidental catches of Chinook, Coho, Chum and Pink salmon.

Moose are taken under a combined State/Federal registration permit. From October 8th through October 21st the National Preserve (and all adjacent USFS lands) is open only to Yakutat residents for moose hunting. From October 22nd to November 15th the season is open to all hunters. Annual harvest for the entire hunt has varied from 1 to 8 since 1990 with the majority taken by Yakutat residents. Few Yakutat hunters use Dry Bay for moose hunting unless they have their own aircraft because of the cost and availability of a charter flight to the National Preserve.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yakutat District Ranger Station
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Wrangell – Saint Elias National Park & Preserve
P.O. Box 137
Yakutat, Alaska 99689

Tel: 907-784-3295 · Fax: 907-784-3535



In 2009 the NPS finished an EA that designated Off Highway Vehicle trails and routes. Many duplicate trails and a few trails with unacceptable resource impacts were closed and the total trail mileage went from over 90 miles to 61. The process considered subsistence access as a primary use of the trail system and continue to improve conditions on the designated trails.

Four qualified subsistence users have commercial fishing camps within the Preserve. The camps are designated for support of commercial fishing only. The NPS has allowed subsistence use of the cabins on a case by case basis and is trying to form a process that would be consistent with other subsistence use of cabins across the region. To support subsistence users the NPS allows free use of the East Alsek Public Use Cabin during the Moose season for Yakutat residents.

36 CFR Regulations

§13.40 Taking of fish.

(a) [Reserved]

(b) *Fishing.* Fishing is permitted in all park areas in accordance with applicable State and Federal law, and such laws are hereby adopted and made a part of these regulations to the extent they are not inconsistent with §2.3 of this chapter.

(c) *Commercial fishing.* The exercise of valid commercial fishing rights or privileges obtained prior to December 2, 1980, pursuant to existing law in Cape Krusenstern National Monument, the Malaspina Glacier Forelands area of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve, and the Dry Bay area of Glacier Bay National Preserve, including the use of these park areas for existing campsites, cabins and other structures, motorized vehicles, and aircraft landings on existing airstrips, may continue provided that all such use is directly incident to the exercise of those rights or privileges.

(1) *Restrictions.* The Superintendent may restrict or revoke the exercise of a valid commercial fishing right or privilege based upon specific findings, following public notice and an opportunity for response, that continuation of such use of a park area constitutes a direct threat to or significant impairment of the values and purposes for which the park area was established.

(2) *Expansion of uses.* (i) A person holding a valid commercial fishing right or privilege may expand his or her level of use of a park area beyond the level of such use in 1979 only pursuant to the terms of a permit issued by the Superintendent.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yakutat District Ranger Station
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Wrangell – Saint Elias National Park & Preserve
P.O. Box 137
Yakutat, Alaska 99689

Tel: 907-784-3295 · Fax: 907-784-3535



(ii) The Superintendent may deny a permit or otherwise restrict the expanded use of a park area directly incident to the exercise of such rights or privileges, if the Superintendent determines, after conducting a public hearing in the affected locality, that the expanded use constitutes either:

(A) A significant expansion of the use of a park area beyond the level of such use during 1979 (taking into consideration the relative levels of use in the general vicinity, as well as the applicant's levels of use); or

(B) A direct threat to, or significant impairment of, the values and purposes for which the park area was established.

(d) *Use of native species as bait.* Use of species native to Alaska as bait for fishing is allowed in accordance with non-conflicting State law and regulations.

(e) *Closures and restrictions.* The Superintendent may prohibit or restrict the non-subsistence taking of fish in accordance with the provisions of §13.50.

[71 FR 69333, Nov. 30, 2006, as amended at 80 FR 64343, Oct. 23, 2015]

CABIN USE FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING ACTIVITIES

§13.150 Use for authorized commercial fishing activities.

The use of a campsite, cabin or other structure in conjunction with commercial fishing activities authorized by section 205 of ANILCA in Cape Krusenstern National Monument, the Malaspina Glacier Forelands area of Wrangell-Saint Elias National Preserve, and the Dry Bay area of Glacier Bay National Preserve is authorized pursuant to the provisions of §13.40(c) of this chapter and the terms of a permit issued by the Superintendent.

CABIN USE FOR SUBSISTENCE PURPOSES

§13.160 Use of cabins for subsistence purposes.

(a) A local rural resident who is an eligible subsistence user may use an existing cabin or other structure or temporary facility or construct a new cabin or other structure, including temporary facilities, in a portion of a park area where subsistence use is allowed, pursuant to the applicable provisions of subparts F through V of this part and the terms of a permit issued by the Superintendent. However, the Superintendent may designate existing cabins or other structures that may be shared by local rural residents for authorized subsistence uses without a permit.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yakutat District Ranger Station
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Wrangell – Saint Elias National Park & Preserve
P.O. Box 137
Yakutat, Alaska 99689

Tel: 907-784-3295 · Fax: 907-784-3535



(b) For purposes of this section, the term “local rural resident”, with respect to national parks, monuments, and preserve, is defined in §13.420 of this chapter.

§13.161 Permit application.

In order to obtain or renew a permit, a person shall submit an application. In the case of an application to renew a permit issued pursuant to §13.160, if no circumstance relating to the permittee's occupancy and use of the cabin or structure has changed in the interim, applicable material submitted by the permittee to satisfy the original application requirements is considered sufficient and need not be resubmitted. The following information is required to be included in a permit application:

- (a) An explanation of the applicant's need for the cabin or structure;
 - (b) A description of an applicant's past, present and anticipated future subsistence uses relevant to his or her need for the cabin or structure;
 - (c) A blueprint, sketch or photograph of the cabin or structure;
 - (d) A map that shows the geographic location of the cabin or structure; and
 - (e) A description of the types of occupancy and schedule for use of the cabin or structure.
- All information may be provided orally except the cabin blueprint, sketch or photograph and the map.

§13.162 Permit issuance.

(a) In making a decision on a permit application, the Superintendent shall consider whether the use by local rural residents of a cabin or other structure for subsistence purposes is customary and traditional in that park area and shall determine whether the use and occupancy of a new or existing cabin or structure is “necessary to reasonably accommodate” the applicant's subsistence uses. In making this determination, the Superintendent shall examine the applicant's particular circumstances, including but not limited to his or her past patterns of subsistence uses and his or her future subsistence use plans, reasonable subsistence use alternatives, the specific nature of the subsistence uses to be accommodated by the cabin or structure, the impacts of the cabin or structure on other local rural residents who depend on subsistence uses and the impacts of the proposed structure and activities on the values and purposes for which the park area was established.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yakutat District Ranger Station
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Wrangell – Saint Elias National Park & Preserve
P.O. Box 137
Yakutat, Alaska 99689

Tel: 907-784-3295 · Fax: 907-784-3535



(b) The Superintendent may permit the construction of a new cabin or other new structure for subsistence purposes only if a tent or other temporary facility would not adequately and reasonably accommodate the applicant's subsistence uses without significant hardship and the use of no other type of cabin or other structure provided for in this subpart can adequately and reasonably accommodate the applicant's subsistence uses with a lesser impact on the values and purposes for which the park area was established.

§13.164 Permit terms.

The Superintendent shall, among other conditions, establish terms of a permit that:

- (a) Allow for use and occupancy during the harvest or gathering of subsistence resources, at such times as may be reasonably necessary to prepare for a harvest season (*e.g.*, opening or closing a cabin or structure at the beginning or end of a period of use), and at other times reasonably necessary to accommodate the permittee's specified subsistence uses;
- (b) Prohibit residential use in conjunction with subsistence activities; and
- (c) Limit the term of a permit to a period of five years or less.

§13.166 Temporary facilities.

A temporary facility or structure directly and necessarily related to the taking of subsistence resources may be constructed and used by a qualified subsistence user without a permit so long as such use is for less than thirty days and the site is returned to a natural condition. The Superintendent may establish conditions and standards governing the use or construction of these temporary structures and facilities which shall be published annually in accordance with §1.7 of this chapter.

§13.168 Shared use.

In any permit authorizing the construction of a cabin or other structure necessary to reasonably accommodate authorized subsistence uses, the Superintendent shall provide for shared use of the facility by the permittee and other local rural residents rather than for exclusive use by the permittee.

**Department of the Interior
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory (Council).
2. **Authority.** The Council is renewed by virtue of the authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)), and under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. 410hh-2. The Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The objective of the Council is to provide a forum for the residents of the Region with personal knowledge of local conditions and resource requirements to have a meaningful role in the subsistence management of fish and wildlife on Federal lands and waters in the Region.
4. **Description of Duties.** The Council has authority to perform the following duties:
 - a. Recommend the initiation of, review, and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
 - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the Region.
 - c. Encourage local and regional participation in the decisionmaking process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the Region for subsistence uses.
 - d. Prepare an annual report to the Secretary containing the following:
 - (1) An identification of current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the Region.
 - (2) An evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the Region.

- (3) A recommended strategy for the management of fish and wildlife populations within the Region to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs.
 - (4) Recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.
 - e. Appoint one member to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in accordance with Section 808 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).
 - f. Make recommendations on determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.
 - g. Make recommendations on determinations of rural status.
 - h. Provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.
 6. **Support.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council through the Office of Subsistence Management.
 7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's functions are estimated to be \$175,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.15 staff years.
 8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Subsistence Council Coordinator for the Region or such other Federal employee as may be designated by the Assistant Regional Director – Subsistence, Region 7, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will:
 - Approve or call all of the advisory committee's and subcommittees' meetings,
 - Prepare and approve all meeting agendas,
 - Attend all committee and subcommittee meetings,
 - Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and
 - Chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.

9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet 1-2 times per year, and at such times as designated by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Council will be inactive 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless prior to that date it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

Thirteen members who are knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and who are residents of the Region represented by the Council. To ensure that each Council represents a diversity of interests, the Federal Subsistence Board in their nomination recommendations to the Secretary will strive to ensure that nine of the members (70 percent) represent subsistence interests within the Region and four of the members (30 percent) represent commercial and sport interests within the Region. The portion of membership representing commercial and sport interests must include, where possible, at least one representative from the sport community and one representative from the commercial community.

The Secretary of the Interior will appoint members based on the recommendations from the Federal Subsistence Board and with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.

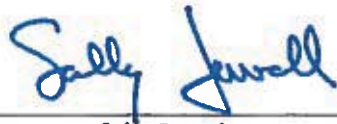
Members will be appointed for 3-year terms. A vacancy on the Council will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

Council members will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary for a 1-year term.

Members of the Council will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Council and subcommittee members engaged in Council, or subcommittee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter in which the member has a direct financial interest in a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department.

14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of compiling information and conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The Council Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.
15. **Recordkeeping.** Records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees or other subgroups of the Council, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, and other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.



Secretary of the Interior

NOV 20 2015

Date Signed

DEC 03 2015

Date Filed