



National Park Service Update
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council Meeting
October 28-29, 2024

Subsistence Update

The Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) met in-person and via teleconference on April 24-25, 2024 in Anaktuvuk Pass. Primary discussions were based around the Board of Game meetings, both the Western Arctic/Western Region meeting held in Kotzebue in January 2024 and the Interior/Eastern Arctic Region meeting held in Fairbanks in March 2024. There was additional discussion on the Ambler Access Road project, as well as NPS staff updates on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and commercial use operations in the Park and Preserve. Due to a lack of quorum, no action was taken on specific meeting items. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for November 13-14, 2024 in Fairbanks and via teleconference. At this upcoming meeting, there will be continued discussion on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and Dall's sheep management.

For more information, please contact Marcy Okada at marcy_okada@nps.gov and (907) 455-0639

Western Arctic Caribou Herd

The Western Arctic caribou herd moved into a lot of various places this past winter. They made it further south than we've seen in the past few years. Quite a number of them went into the Nulato Hills. Some were up on the North Slope between Atqasuk and Nuiqsut, some were in the western part of Gates of the Arctic, but none of the collared Western Arctic caribou were in the Anaktuvuk Pass area. Last year was a fairly hard winter and there were a number of mortalities, but not as bad as the winter of 2022-2023 which was an exceptionally bad year. In conjunction with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 50 satellite collars were deployed this spring based out of Kotzebue - 46 collars on females and 4 collars on males.

For more information, please contact Kyle Joly at kyle_joly@nps.gov

Dall's Sheep Survey

The National Park Service conducted distance sampling surveys for Dall's sheep from June 28th – July 8th, 2024 in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on BLM and State managed lands surrounding the Dalton Highway Management Corridor. Surveys were flown in the Ikillik Preserve area in the northeast corner of Gates of Arctic as well as areas around Anaktuvuk Pass. Population estimates will be generated and distributed later this winter. We have a new Dall's sheep ecologist, Zack Delisle who started earlier this year in March.

For more information, please contact Zack Delisle at Zackary_delisle@nps.gov