

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o Office of Subsistence Management
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In Reply Refer To
OSM.R26050

MAY 07 2026

Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599

Stan Culling, Acting Refuge Manager
Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
6 Main Street
Dillingham, AK 99576

Dear Commissioner Vincent-Lang and Mr. Culling,

I write on behalf of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) to request the formation of a Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) Working Group.

The Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region. It was established under the authority of Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter establish the Council's authority to initiate, review, and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region.

The Council held a meeting March 15-17, 2026, in Bethel during which we discussed ongoing concerns about the MCH. These caribou have historically been an important subsistence resource for residents of our region, but we have been unable to hunt them in recent years due to the low population numbers and subsequent closed seasons. Our Council has been supportive of both State and Federal hunting closures on the herd, as well as the State's predator control efforts to help the herd rebound. We are requesting that a working group be formed to further enhance collaboration and communication on monitoring and rebuilding efforts.

The Council feels that the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group is a good model for an MCH working group. However, we are requesting that the MCH working group membership also include representatives from the Federal Regional Advisory Councils and State Fish and Game Advisory Committees in the range of the herd. We believe it is very important that local people are part of the working group, and that State and Federal agencies work together on a management and

rebuilding plan. We also ask that the working group discuss the Kilbuck Caribou Herd and identify potential opportunities for allowing a limited subsistence harvest on this resident herd while the MCH continues to recover. Lastly, we request that the working group be convened as soon as possible and meet before the end of this year.

Thank you for considering our request to form a working group. We look forward to your response. If you have any questions or would like to follow up, please contact us through our Subsistence Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid, at (907) 891-9181 or brooke_mcdavid@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Cleveland
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Chair, Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Aaron Poetter, Federal Subsistence Liaison, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Chair, Nushagak Advisory Committee
Chair, Togiak Advisory Committee
Chair, Lake Iliamna Advisory Committee
Chair, Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee
Chair, Stony River/Holitna Advisory Committee
Chair, Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee
Chair, Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee
Chair, Bethel Advisory Committee
Chair, Central Bering Sea Advisory Committee
Administrative Record