

Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199
Phone: (907) 786-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3898
Toll-Free: 1-800-478-1456

In Reply Refer To:
R26067

AUG 04 2026

Sara Boario, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Kevin Pendergast, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Don Striker, Regional Director
National Park Service
240 West 5th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Regional Director Boario, State Director Pendergast, and Regional Director Striker,

I write on behalf of the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) to request a comprehensive evaluation of predator management on Federal lands to support the recovery of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH). The Council seeks your agencies' cooperation in assessing feasible approaches and, where appropriate, working jointly with the State of Alaska on Intensive Management efforts aimed at reducing predation pressures within the herd's range.

The Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in the Seward Peninsula Region. It was established by the authority in 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 also reviews resource management actions outside its regions that may impact subsistence resources critical to communities it serves. The Council provides a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations regarding any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region.

During our public meeting in Nome on March 30–31, 2026, the Council expressed serious concern regarding the continued decline of the WACH population and supported Wildlife Special Action request WSA26-01 to reduce the caribou harvest limits to four bulls and no cows in Units 22, 23, and the southwestern portion of 26A. At that time, the Council also received a report of high calf mortality rates in the southern portion of the WACH calving grounds attributed to brown bears and heard observations from Council members about increasing wolf numbers in portions of Unit 22. These discussions underscored the urgency of implementing targeted predator management measures to address the significant role predators—particularly wolves and bears—play in caribou mortality.

The Council unanimously voted to submit a Board of Game (BOG) proposal requesting implementation of an Intensive Management Plan across the herd's range to curb caribou mortality as a result of predation. Council members further observed that proactive predator control could also benefit the Seward Peninsula's resident caribou herd.

Because much of the affected region consists of Federal land, the Council respectfully requests that your agencies evaluate the feasibility of implementing predator control measures within Units 22, 23, and 26A and coordinate closely with the State of Alaska on its Intensive Management efforts. At present, no State-led Intensive Management actions are underway for WACH; however, proposals will be reviewed by the BOG at their upcoming meeting in January 2027. Without Federal participation, any State-led effort alone may be insufficient to achieve meaningful, landscape-level conservation outcomes. The Council believes that a unified approach is essential to supporting the recovery and long-term viability of the WACH.

The Council acknowledges the complexities associated with wildlife management across predominantly Federal landscapes. Nonetheless, the herd's "critical, declining" status warrants timely, coordinated action to assess and, where appropriate, implement predator management strategies together with other conservation measures.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter. If you have any questions or would like to follow up, please contact me through our Subsistence Council Coordinator Gisela Chapa at (907) 310-6129 or gisela_chapa@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,



Louis Green, Jr.
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Interagency Staff Committee
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Office of Subsistence Management
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Aaron Poetter, Federal Subsistence Liaison, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Administrative Record