

Unit 23 Working Group May 14-15, 2015

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers
163 Lagoon Street, Kotzebue, Alaska

Thursday, May 14
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, May 15
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

***Public radio station KOTZ will broadcast the meeting on
Wednesday, May 14, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm and
Thursday, May 15, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Tune to 89.9 FM or AM 720, or listen via the web at www.kotz.org***

AGENDA

Meeting Topics

- Update on Western Arctic herd population, movement, and harvest data.
- Report on March 2015 Board of Game meeting, changes to caribou harvest regulations. Update on Federal Subsistence Board consideration of regulation changes.
- Discuss 2014 hunting season & preparation for 2015 season
- Education efforts (general public, pilots, youth)
- Federal and state agency planning, permitting, management, and enforcement topics related to reducing hunting conflicts in Unit 23
- Research reports
- Public comment session – By phone or at Assembly Chambers
Thursday, May 14, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Dial 1-800-268-5851
- Discussion of additional topics and recommendations raised by Working Group members

Thursday, May 14

9:30 a.m. *Coffee/Refreshments*

10:00 a.m. Welcome, Moment of Silence, Introductions – Review Agenda / Revise if necessary

- List of Unit 23 Working Group members
- Summary of recommendations made by the Working Group at past meetings (*reached by group consensus*)

10:15 a.m. Unit 23 Big Game Population, Hunter & Harvest Information
Brandon Saito, Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G)

11:00 a.m. Unit 23 Caribou Harvest – Regulation Changes

- State Regulation Changes affecting Western Arctic Herd harvest, adopted March 2015 by Alaska Board of Game
Jim Dau, ADF&G
- Federal Subsistence Program – Regulatory proposals received in spring 2015 regarding Western Arctic Herd
Chris McKee, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Office of Subsistence Management
- Working Group questions & comments

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Working Group Discussion (*more discussion time on Day 2*)

- 1) Discussion of 2014 hunting season and preparation for 2015
- 2) What changes in user conflicts might there be, with the herd population decline and hunt regulation changes?
- 3) Recommendations regarding ways to prepare for and reduce conflicts?

2:00 p.m. Public Comment Opportunity regarding user conflicts related to hunting in Unit 23 – Call-In & In-person Comments

Comments by phone, dial 1-800-268-5851

To participate in Kotzebue, please come to the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers. Time per comment may be limited, to ensure opportunity for those who want to speak.

3:00 p.m. Break

Thursday, May 14, continued

3:20 p.m. Education Update – Update on Unit 23 education initiatives (general public, youth, pilot education, work with Federal Aviation Administration)

Meghan Nedwick, ADF&G

3:50 p.m. State & Federal Agency Management – Agency presentations and Working Group comments/discussion

- Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
Susan Georgette, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management – Squirrel River Management
Alan Bittner, Bureau of Land Management
- State of Alaska – Permitting of guides/transporters & status of Guide Concession Program
Valerie Baxter, Department of Natural Resources

5:00 p.m. Adjourn for the day

Friday, May 15

8:30 a.m. Coffee/Refreshments

9:00 a.m. Welcome

9:10 a.m. Federal Agency Management – Agency presentations and Working Group discussion

- Noatak National Park & Preserve
Stephanie Stephens, National Park Service (NPS)
- Research Reports
 - Non-subsistence hunting in Noatak Preserve
Andrew Ackerman, NPS

10:20 a.m. Break

10:40 a.m. Continue research reports

- Noatak Traditional Knowledge Project
Gabriela Halas, University of Alaska Fairbanks
(*teleconference*)

Friday, May 15, continued

11:00 a.m. Working Group Discussion & Action

- Topics raised by Working Group members
- Follow-up on presentations or public comments
- Working Group Recommendations / Actions
- Future of Unit 23 Working Group – meet again in 2016?

12:15 p.m. Assignments / Wrap up

12:30 p.m. Adjourn

Additional information about the Unit 23 Working Group can be found at the project web site:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=plans.unit23>