

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

Ahtna Subsistence Local Advisory Committee

Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The Council's official designation is the Ahtna Subsistence Local Advisory Committee (Committee).
2. **Authority.** The Committee is established under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior as set out in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 3111 et seq.) and in furtherance of 16 U.S.C. § 410hh-2. The Committee is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The objective of the Committee is to assemble local residents with knowledge of area conditions and traditional management practices, along with State and Federal biologists and officials, to seek area-specific solutions to the unique and challenging problems of hunter access, wildlife management, and competition for wildlife resources that exist in the area. These problems have prevented local rural residents and Alaska Natives from meeting their subsistence needs and continuing their cultural practices for many years.

The activities of the Committee will be restricted to the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory, as that area is defined by the enclosed map.

4. **Description of Duties.** The Committee possesses the 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 and management of wildlife on public lands within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory.
 - b. Provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter impacting or relating to the subsistence uses of wildlife on public lands within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory.
 - c. Encourage local participation by those with knowledge of the needs, practices, and uses of people in the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory in the decision making process affecting the taking of wildlife on the public lands within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory for subsistence uses.

- d. Collect, gather, and disseminate Ahtna traditional ecological knowledge and customary and traditional management practices, based on the regional peoples' special geographical, historical, and cultural connections to the lands, waters and wildlife in the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory, for incorporation into federal subsistence wildlife management plans, policies, and proposals.
 - e. Make recommendations concerning policies, standards, guidelines, and regulations to the Secretary, the appropriate Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, the Subsistence Resource Commissions, the Federal Subsistence Board, and the Federal land managing agencies.
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Committee 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 Committee 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 \$150,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.0 staff years.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is the Subsistence Council Coordinator for the Southcentral or Eastern Interior 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 local advisory committee's 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 Committee will be permitted to meet at least 2 times per year but may meet less often if the Committee Chair concludes that a meeting is unnecessary, and at such times as designated by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.

11. Termination. The Committee is subject to biennial review and will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless prior to that date, the Charter is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Committee will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

12. Membership and Designation. The Committee's membership is composed of representative members as follows:

The composition of the Committee will be designed to ensure diversity of viewpoints and geographic diversity. In particular:

- Six residents of the Ahtna region traditional territory who are knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to subsistence uses of wildlife within the area and who are knowledgeable about Ahtna traditional needs, practices, and uses, to be nominated by the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission;
- One representative each from the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission, and the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission and nominated by the Councils and Commissions; and,
- One representative from the State of Alaska, to be nominated by the Governor.

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 up to a 3-year term. A vacancy on the Committee will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

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

Members of the Committee will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Committee and subcommittee members other than the State representative who are engaged in Committee, 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 Committee or subcommittee member may 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 purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Committee for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The Committee 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 Committee, and formally and informally established subcommittees or other subgroups of the Council, must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2, or 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

Date Signed

Date Filed