

**WOOD-TIKCHIK STATE PARK  
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday November 13, 2025 at 9:00 am at BBNA  
or by Teleconference with Microsoft Teams  
Dillingham, Alaska**



**-Agenda-**  
Roberts Rules of Order

**I. Call to Order 9:04**

Cody Larson called for a moment of silence and acknowledgement for John Landsiedel, a past ADFG alternate council member who tragically passed away this summer.

We will miss having him in attendance and as a part of the community as well. Take a moment to reflect on his contributions to the community.

**II. Roll Call/Establish Quorum**

Cody Larson- BBNA  
Lee Borden - ADFG  
Ben Shryock- ADNR  
Allen Ilutsik – Aleknagik  
Delores Larson- Koliganek (alternate)  
Absent:  
Abigail Flynn - Dillingham  
Wassilie Andrews – New Stuyahok

**III. Introductions**

Mark Schwantes – Hazel Mountain Outfitters  
Will Chaney – CEO NETC  
Robert Heyano – Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay  
Georgian Drey  
Alison Eskelin – Wood-Tikchik State Park  
Andy Angstman – TNL  
Bruce Ilutsik – Aleknagik Village Council  
Dan Boyd – Dan’s Rentals  
Gabe Davis – Sunday Air Taxi  
Greta Hayden- Pless – ADFG Sport Fish  
Jeff Ennega – Alaska Venture Fund (CWPP)  
Johnathan Salmon – Iguigig Village council  
KDLG – virtual assistant +  
Luke Schwantes – commercial fisherman  
Evelyn Lichwa – ADFG Game Division  
Lisa Shield – AK Venture Fund (CWPP)  
Mark Lisac – Nush Coop Board, resident

Mark Romo – Wood Tikchik Air  
Pat Vermillion – RCL  
Hanna Rafferty – State Parks Permitting  
Todd Rinaldi – ADFG wildlife management Coordinator  
Sue Flensburg – Dillingham resident, previous council member

**IV. Review and Adopt Agenda 9:13**

Ben Shryock – Motion to adopt, Delores Larson, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

**V. Elections**

Delores – nomination for Cody chair  
Allen Ilutsik nomination for vice chair – declined

Allen Ilutsik nominated Delores Larson for vice chair, Delores noted she was an alternate and not able to accept.

Recommendation from Robert Heyano- seat both chair and vice chair.

Ben Shryock – nominated Lee for Vice Chair

Continue with status vote to continue with Cody Larson – Chair and Lee Borden – vice chair –

**VI. Review and Approve meeting minutes (3.14.25)**

Delores – motion to approve, Lee 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

**VII. ADFG update –**

Evelyn Lichwa– ADFG wildlife update: moose population estimate in March didn't happen due to lack of snow. Removal efforts 2 wolves and 11 bears, shut down from court order. Caught 81 calves

Moose Harvest - 17B – 130 harvest, 17C 191 harvest

Completed caribou comp survey, numbers not finalized.

Not opening Same Day Airborne Wolf control this year.

Summer population estimate MCH – 16,276 with 8684 East, 7592 West

Lee Borden- Sport Fish- Nush river Kings well below escapement. EO to restrict bag limits. Stock of concern plan. Commercial fishery opened early, hit the trigger points in stock of concern plan. Fishing in beginning of season was not wide open based on action plan intent to conserve king salmon.

Good numbers on sockeye but not kings.

Nush King salmon Creel project- BBSRI funded. Report coming out from data, 24 published. Muklung Creek Coho Survey – first ever.

Resident species in the park doing well. Reports from users, resident species are as abundant and as large as ever, lots of smolt, res species feeding well.

BOF Proposals- 103 Proposed by Pat Vermillion and Scott Schumacher with RCL- prohibit chumming by sport fishing guides in all Bristol Bay Freshwaters. Current regs, only prohibited in areas closed to bait by guides. Would extend restriction to all waters of Bristol Bay. Currently only prohibited on Pak and Wok, would extend to all waters of the park.

Pat Vermillion – fishing guides have observed other lodges chumming in fisheries inside the park. Affects migration and feeding patterns of the fish. Eliminates the sportsman side. Clients have seen effect and becomes a draw. Would not likely affect many operations.

Scott Schumacher – puts fish of normal feeding habits. Changes behavior and concentrates fish in areas and make them more susceptible to deep hooking and mortality. Eggs- don't know where they've come from, may be some disease issues.

Ali Eskelin – have not seen it, but have received numerous reports

Lee Borden - Degrades Fair Chase –

Cody Larson – a little to broad for me as a Bristol Bay wide regulation. Steering fish by feed- most places I sport fish are already schooled with fish.

Ali Eskelin – have seen change in behavior of fish attracted to people instead of flushing away.

Lee Borden – fishermen shuffle steps – kicking up invertebrates and eggs. This proposal may not affect that activity.

Ben Shryock- noted in Kodiak - periods of time where bait is prohibited around steelhead run, protect deep hooking of steelhead.

Proposal 63 and 67 similar. 63- sport fish for king salmon non retention until 70,000 kings counted by sonar. Sport fisheries closure based on tides. Annual harvest of king salmon be submitted to department.

Proposal 67 retention prohibited until lower end of escapement is met. Close Stuyahok and Mulchatna until escapement met, 55,000 at sonar.

Less in- river harvest to affect the park. MORE FROM LEE- Tributary info Escapement – only made in 2018 and haven't made escapement since. 55-95,000. sub 40,000 in 2025 one of the worst years for escapement.

Effect on park hypothetically extra kings in the park. Nuyakuk probably one of the smaller tributaries for abundance

Andy Angstman - Harvest of kings roughly in recent years? Ball park 2800-3000 harvest, 6000 previously. Less fish and effort has decreased, EO closures, 400 down to 170.

Proposals 55 repeal coho salmon management plan, used to tie in WR special harvest area, uncoupling that management, historical info from Rober Heyano.  
Wood River Special Harvest area proposals 58, 59, 64. Ancillary to the park.

#### **VIII. ADNR Update – Ben Shryock- SW Region Superintendent**

Public notice for scoping of state wide regulation changes- an initiative EO 360 – Gather ideas and suggestions, lower cost, streamline, reduce admin overhead, update in technology ie: e-bikes, drones, digital permits, etc. Comment period ended Oct 31- comment can still be submitted. No planned reg changes. 30 day public comment period for any proposed regulations.

Early stages of DPOR scoping process for boat ramp repairs improvements in Aleknagik. Plans to repair and extend ramp, slope reinforcement, armoring. Repairs to station in addition. No finished plan or design for project.

Ali Eskelin – LE Update – typical season, citations for failure to pay fees, vandalism, Recognize volunteerism – Leah Forss ACC, Mark and Alice Meyers, Mark is retired DNR commissioner, Rudi Von Imhof picked up an abandoned vessel from Chikuminuk Lake.

Hanna Rafferty – Park Permitting Update- review regulations, stipulations for special commercial use permits, for consistency.

#### **IX. Hydropower Feasibility Update – Will Chaney – Nush Coop.**

2025 not field season, developing draft licensing application, under review. Prior filings, study plan revision, ISR, USR meetings, consultation record, conceptual design and drawing continuing for draft licensing development. Koliganek village council removed name from any further development. Opted out of connection to power and removal of name from all records. 1.3 million gallons of diesel for a years worth of energy. 2 tides to transfer. DEC tank inspections required this year, \$500,000. Coated one tank, maintenance completed. Middle of December application.

Draft license application – review – submitted to FERC before holiday season, starts by 90 day comment period during holidays. Move to final license application thereafter.

Andy – Nuyakuk River gauge – notice on webpage for discontinuing stream gauge due to lack of funding. Valuable data resource.

Will Chaney- Jeff Corwin USGS secured funding for 2026. 1953 established. Nat'l Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Sue Flensburg – other opportunities for funding BBNA – could help tribes apply for grants to support instream flow monitoring. BBHLT website, Nush Mulchatna Rivers

Rec Plan. Bristol Bay leadership forum – Dec 11-12 Eagan Center opportunity to raise an issue with BBNA.

## **X. Public Comments**

Lisa Shield – Alaska Venture Fund – Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Dillingham and Aleknagik. Written for responders to region so they have info about the area. Community can map out action items for projects to improve safety during wildfire event. Increase in frequency of fire and lightning instances. 7500% increase in fire. Final stages of CWPP draft. Some interest and questions on prescribed fire on landscape. Draft documents online, will be finalized in December. Training, expenses paid, for chainsaw etc. for wildfire work.

Sue Flensburg posted CWPP Plan website and Let's Clear the Air video link, discussed potential funding sources, no grants awarded for Alaska.

Will Chaney – discussed fire history in area, 2019 tundra fires, VORTAC fire, Dillingham dump fire, structure fire in Dillingham. Volunteer FD got it under control. CWPP is acknowledgement of resources and lack thereof. South shore Aleknagik high risk area. Feedback from the Park valuable in this process.

Gabe- question about locations of potential prescribed burns.

Lisa and Will – no plans, no locations, BBNA working to reduce fuel loads.

Robert Heyano –noted the contributing factor of the park to the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run. Counting tower on Nuyakuk funded by BBSRI – sonar counted 1.7, Nuyakuk counted over 2M. Contribution of Nushagak and Nuyakuk surpassed Wood River this year. Nushagak highest in all of Bristol Bay.

Cody – comments of natural processes of the park.

Sue Flensburg – Important SOA provides funding to support Ali and operations of the Park. People lobby to ensure funding is sufficient.

## **XI. Board Comments**

Cody Larson- Natural environment and value of that can't be quantified as dollars in maintaining these natural settings. Fewer and fewer boreal wilderness settings like this. It is truly an international icon for conservation, a big resource in terms of maintaining wilderness on the planet. Wish to recognize public input, civil service for state and federal service. Thanks to AK Venture Fund to spearhead CWPP. Nushagak AC meeting 11/15, 10am, Curyung Tribal council. Volunteerism is how our tiny communities are best suited to manage this vast space we call home.

Lee Borden – available to answer questions about proposals, ways to participate, etc. Please reach out to me ADFG.

Ben Shryock – Thanks to Ali, Leah Forss and Mark and Alice volunteers. Thank Cody and Lee for taking leadership positions on the council and all council members to sharing their time and to all those listening and who have contributed today.

Delores Larson – Thank ADFG and FWS for all updates today. Main concern is Nush Coop is getting ready to file draft license application, while they have no deadline to do so. Express concerns and Koliganek has opted out and we knew New Stu and Ekwok do not support project. My concern is why rushing to apply for license application. Diverting max waterflow could reduce salmon population by 20%, risks likely underestimated. It's a huge concern we should all be aware of and talking about broadly throughout the region.

Allen Ilutsik- Thanks for meeting and all presentations.

Cody Larson– next meeting in March, option to hold special meeting at the call of the chair.

**XII. Adjournment 11:28**