

**Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish & Game
Advisory Committee Meeting & Elections
Tuesday, January 13th, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Tok ADF&G
Conference Room and by web/teleconference**

Upper Tanana 40-Mile advisory committee Meeting minutes Jan 13 2026
(*automated summary captured by zoom software*)

Meeting Attendance and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM with Members Leif Wilson, Jake Combs, Thor Jorgensen, Matt Snyder, and Dan Shepard present, while Frank and Peter Tallis were absent. Bruce Ervin was present online. The roll call was conducted a quorum was established, and it was noted that some members were absent or unable to attend.

Meeting Minutes and TMA Update

The meeting began with introductions and a note from Interior about an upcoming computer restart. Interior confirmed a quorum with five members present, Also present was KyleCambell, Bruce Ervin, Aiden Hunter, and Marie Jamison. The agenda was approved, and previous meeting minutes from December 16, 2025, were reviewed and approved. Interior mentioned that minutes from the previous year were unavailable but would be addressed for the next meeting. The group discussed the chairperson's report, which included a letter about the TMA and governor's tag that Matt had prepared and sent to Kyle for review.

Harvest Management and Population Review

The committee discussed the retirement of Frank Ensminger after 45 years of service, noting that he will not seek reappointment. They reviewed harvest management plans and success rates for moose and sheep in various regions, finding that Unit 12 and the Delta controlled use area had comparable success rates.

Aiden presented data showing that only about 81% of The hunters claiming to be and hunting as federally qualified subsistence in the 40-Mile Caribou Herd hunt were actually eligible as subsistence users.

The moose population in Unit 20E was stable but still below target levels. The committee expressed concern about the low harvest numbers and discussed potential factors contributing to the decline, including predation and habitat quality.

Moose Hunting and Election Updates

The group discussed moose hunting patterns, noting that moose are concentrated in remote areas with low hunting pressure, and that upcoming brush growth may limit access. They explored potential solutions including controlled burns, which DNR is now more receptive to due to staff retirements and training needs. The conversation ended with an election discussion, focusing on filling expired seats including two Tok-designated positions and an undesignated seat.

Board Seat Nominations and Elections

The group discussed and completed board seat nominations, with all candidates being elected unopposed. Jake nominated Matt Snyder for an undesignated seat, Thor Jorgensen for a Tok seat, and Dan Shepard for an alternate Tokeseat. Bruce offered to fill a one-year undesignated seat, and Peter Tallis was nominated for another undesignated position. The newly elected board members include Jake for a three-year Tok seat, Matt Snyder for a three-year undesignated seat, and Bruce and Peter for one-year alternate designated seats.

Officer Elections and Caribou Harvest

The group conducted officer elections, with Jake nominated for vice chair and Peter Talus for secretary, both positions being filled. Bruce offered to contact Northway about representation, while Interior noted they would reach out to Tetlin and Tanacross. The committee reviewed the 40-mile caribou herd harvest plan, noting decreased quotas and concerns about non-resident harvests, particularly in Zone 2 where 70% of the harvest was taken by non-residents.

Non-Resident Hunting Quota Regulations

The group discussed regulatory proposals for non-resident hunting quotas, with the HMC recommending allowing non-residents in all zones when quotas exceed 1,000, Zone 2 only when between 400-1,000, and restricting non-resident hunting in all zones when quotas fall below 400. They noted that last year's quota was 500 and observed that non-residents took 70% of the available harvest in Zone 2, though other zones remained closed due to lack of caribou. The discussion also covered increasing subsistence harvests and the potential implementation of federal quotas, with managers being receptive to alternative management strategies.

Sheep Management Strategy Discussion

The committee discussed several topics related to wildlife management, particularly focusing on sheep populations and potential management strategies. They explored options for predator control, habitat improvement, and monitoring efforts in the TMA. The group agreed to review previous proposals and consider drafting new ones for intensive management of sheep populations. They also discussed the need for more data on sheep mortality and movement patterns. The committee decided to meet again on February 17th to further discuss comments to proposals in the Southcentral Area. Deadline for Comments is March 6, 40-Mile harvest management plans and potential proposals for the interior.