JOINT STATEMENT

Diverse Group of Alaskan Stakeholders Gather to Strengthen Relationships and Explore the Future of Wildlife Management

Anchorage – September 30th - October 1st, 2026

Representatives from organizations across Alaska met at the Campbell Creek Science Center over two days to build relationships, increase trust and transparency, better understand different perspectives, discuss challenges facing Alaska's wildlife, and explore opportunities for future collaboration. This meeting was organized by a steering committee that included Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Chugach Regional Resource Commission, and was led by independent facilitators from outside Alaska. Members of other organizations were invited but were unable to attend on these dates.

CONVERSATIONS INCLUDED:

- Current landscape of organizations in the room, including barriers to and opportunities for trust and collaboration
- The values, experiences, and assumptions that shape how individuals and organizations approach wildlife management and other stakeholders
- What does more trust look like between stakeholders with competing values?
- Communication exercises to help participants understand each other's perspectives outside of a debate structure and identify assumptions
- How Alaska's changing climate is affecting wildlife habitats and populations
- Expectations for wildlife harvest for food security and other desires
- Management tools for adaptation to change
- How current regulatory processes and data transparency influence decision-making and public trust for wildlife management
- Can a group like this identify a shared purpose to hold diverse perspectives long enough to make progress?

Getting together such a varied group was a first step in hearing differing viewpoints, finding common ground, and building trust. The gathering was not intended to produce immediate policy recommendations or consensus. Instead, participants expressed interest in continuing the conversation, strengthening relationships across different organizations and perspectives, and exploring whether a shared purpose can emerge around the future of Alaska's wildlife. The group plans to reconnect in the coming weeks to reflect on the first gathering, hear how the conversations were received within participants' organizations and communities, and consider what a future gathering could accomplish.

Signed,

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