

MEETING SUMMARY

Wolverine Creek Management Committee

October 6, 2005

Anchorage Senior Center

5:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Meeting purpose: To discuss ADF&G funding for next season, guide training for next year; Guideline #3, and review the WCMC Charter.

Meeting participants

Committee members and alternates: Mark Bell, Alan Helfer, Fred Hirschmann, Jeremy Schimmel (by phone), Tom Thibodeau.

Meeting attendees: Shelly Helfer, John Czarnecki, Bob Pease

ADF&G staff: Wayne Dolezal, Mark Fink, Mike Harrington, Grant Hilderbrand, Doug Hill, Cindi Jacobson, Joe Meehan

Welcome and opening remarks

Cindi Jacobson welcomed everyone. The members of the Wolverine Creek Management Committee (WCMC), members of the public, staff, and other attendees introduced themselves. Grant thanked everyone for their commitment to the WCMC process. Joe gave a brief summary of the last meeting concentrating on the decision to not move forward with user fees since the federal grant that has been used to date is no longer available for match. Joe also provided a brief update regarding a proposal for operating a large dinner-cruise pontoon boat at Wolverine Creek. Joe reviewed what happened at the last meeting (5/4/05), and the group adopted the summary with no changes.

Season in Review

Doug distributed a letter from John Ellison, Ellison Air for the group to review. He provided an overview of the previous season using the management objectives as an evaluation tool. In summary, he:

- noted that there was a small ADF&G crew this year and only 44 days on site;
- reviewed the management objectives; and
- said that although there were some problems, overall the past season was good.

A hard copy of the presentation is available upon request (call Cindi at 267-2301)

Guide Training

Joe reviewed the purposes of conducting a WC guide training class before the next season starts. It will contain specifics for WC as well as general background on bears and bear behavior. John Hechtel will take the lead with Doug Hill and possibly others assisting. Some members requested the class be video taped and made available to guides unable to attend the class. A suggestion was made to contact Susan Fisler at the Kenai River Center and structure the class similar to their Kenai River guide training. Also, include all fishing operators/guides/transporters on the Kenai Peninsula. Another suggestion was to include information on how

guides can self-police the area. Training will be held in Anchorage (1 class) and Kenai/Soldotna (1 or 2 classes), last 2-3 hours and possible dates were discussed.

Guideline 3

Joe talked about Guideline 3 stating that bleeding fish in nets is still a concern. There was a group discussion about the guideline and some slight modifications were made to the wording. The wording that was agreed upon was:

Wording for Guideline 3:

Storing Your Food, Fish & Garbage – Store your food, fish and garbage in sealed, rigid containers (or sealed boat/airplane compartments) at all times, unless being consumed. **Immediately** place harvested fish in your container. Use bear-resistant containers when leaving your fish, food and garbage unattended. Do not store fish on stringers, in plastic bags, in the bottom of your boat or on the lakeshore. (Ice chests and/or coolers are not considered bear-resistant containers, however they may be used for daily storage.) If you visit Wolverine Creek without a container for your fish, plan to catch-and-release only.

Charter review

Cindi noted that the WCMC charter needs to be reviewed because it is outdated. In addition, the sunset date for the WCMC has passed. She said that if the WCMC decides that it wants to continue, ADF&G will continue to participate, but, after the next meeting, may not be able to offer the level of support it had provided in the past. Cindi suggested that the group elect a chair to help organize meetings.

The group agreed on some wording changes suggested by Cindi, including expanding the geographic scope of the group to include the Big River Lake region.

She asked the group about membership. They agreed to expand the full membership to alternates. Cindi will make the changes agreed to at the meeting and circulate a revised version to the group prior to the next meeting.

Cindi questioned why attendance at the meeting was low. Jeremy stated that everyone is comfortable with what is happening at Wolverine Creek and with the WCMC and that may be why attendance was low. Others in the group agreed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be May 1, 2006.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.