

Whereas, AIDEA agreed to form the SAC to consult directly and regularly with the subsistence (also known as customary and traditionally practices) communities, tribal governments, Alaska Native corporations, and Alaska Native non-profits through the SAC to determine measures for reducing impacts of the Ambler Road Project on subsistence uses;

Whereas, these subsistence mitigation measures could include the placement of subsistence user crossing ramps; sharing the results of road use monitoring; taking actions to resolve potential conflicts regarding subsistence uses and road construction and operation including security measures to keep the road private; designating a project liaison dedicated to receiving feedback from subsistence communities; and consulting with communities in the development of monitoring plans for subsistence resources;

Whereas, the SAC was formed in 2020 to formulate policy and conduct regular business with regard to Ambler Road Project to advise and minimize impacts on subsistence resources and activities;

Whereas, the SAC is a non-partisan group which is independent of the Project sponsor, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority and which takes action through its Co-Chairs on behalf of the committee; and

Whereas, the SAC is committed to maintaining subsistence values and culture in order to support all subsistence related activities;

Whereas, the SAC was envisioned to assist with the oversight of the adaptive management plan and also fulfills a commitment in the Joint Record of Decision (JROD);

Whereas, an adaptive management plan is required in the JROD for proper management of the project such as monitoring, maintaining and repairing culverts over the life of the road;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, that the Subsistence Advisory Committee:

1. Urges the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to recognize the SAC as a source of experts related traditional uses of subsistence resources;
2. Encourages the BLM to work with the SAC in the development of mitigation measures related to subsistence that arise out of the construction and operation of the road;
3. Urges the BLM to focus on the BLM's mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations;
4. Urges the BLM to limit the scope of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement analysis to those topics identified in the court-granted remand;
5. Urges the BLM to limit the NEPA analysis to the preferred alternative as contained within the 2020 Final EIS and JROD because it provides access to the Ambler Mining District because it crosses the GAAR as promised in ANILCA; and
6. Supports efficient completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process currently underway by the BLM.

Approved December 6, 2023, Fairbanks, Alaska

Co-Chairs: Larry Westlake Sr.  Fred Bifelt 

Members: Harding Sam, Gordon Bergman, Morgan Johnson, Henry Horner,
Wilbur Howarth, Nellie Griest, Wayne Musser

