



PRESS RELEASE

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Ambler Access Project Announces Subsistence Advisory Committee Working Group

(Anchorage) – The subsistence way of life is a time-honored tradition that connects Alaska Native families and communities with the land, fish, and wildlife. To better understand subsistence priorities and needs along the proposed Ambler Access Project (AAP) corridor, the AAP is proud to announce the formation of the Subsistence Advisory Committee (SAC) Working Group.

The seven-member SAC Working Group is comprised of five Alaska Native Elders and two representatives from the two Alaska Native landowner regions along the approved route – NANA, Regional Corporation, Inc. (NANA) and Doyon, Limited (Doyon).

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| • Fred Bifelt | <i>Co-Chair, Huslia</i> | • Henry Horner | <i>Kobuk</i> |
| • Larry Westlake, Sr. | <i>Co-Chair, Kiana</i> | • Liz Cravalho | <i>NANA</i> |
| • Wilmer Beetus | <i>Hughes</i> | • Jamie Marunde | <i>Doyon, Limited</i> |
| • Nellie Greist | <i>Shungnak</i> | | |

“The Working Group will establish the policies for the Subsistence Advisory Committee, which will be responsible for providing guidance to minimize impacts to the subsistence way of life,” said **Co-Chair Larry Westlake, Sr.**

“Subsistence is a vital aspect of our lives and we value it with paramount importance,” added **Co-Chair Fred Bifelt**. “We look forward to working with our Indigenous people on the Kobuk and Koyukuk Rivers, along with also promoting economic development in our regions for future generations. We believe it is time, and we look forward to the challenge of this endeavor and the recommendations from the committee to project leaders.”

The 211-mile route to the Ambler Mining District approved in the 2020 Joint Record of Decision (JROD) is the first east-west corridor in Alaska crossing state, federal, borough and ANCSA Native corporation lands. “Active and continuous collaboration with Alaska Native landowners, tribal leaders, and Elders through this working group and the SAC will ensure that the Ambler Access Project responsibly co-exists with the subsistence requirements of families and communities in the region,” said **Alan Weitzner, Executive Director for the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA)**.

The members and policies of the AAP Subsistence Advisory Committee will be announced at the 2021 Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Annual Convention. “The announcement of a Subsistence Advisory Committee is a success of collaboration between Alaska Native Elders, landowners, tribal leaders, private sectors and AIDEA,” said **Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy**. “Our state’s success on responsible resource development, as evidenced by the Red Dog Mine project in the Northwest

Arctic, depends on Alaskans pulling in the same direction. This important step in working to build prosperity and opportunity for Alaskans is welcomed.”

The Working Group is currently accepting applications to participate in the Subsistence Advisory Committee. To be considered, submit the completed Announcement for Committee Nominations Form (attached) to info@ambleraccess.org. The application period closes November 12, 2021. For additional information about the formation of the Subsistence Advisory Committee, please [contact us](#).

The AAP is a proposed controlled industrial access road that would provide access to the Ambler Mining District in northwest Alaska. The Ambler Mining District is a large prospective copper-zinc mineral belt with extensive deposits of critical minerals and other elements making it a secure, reliable U.S. supply chain resource essential for our nation’s tech-focused economy and military effectiveness. Developing the mines within the district is expected to provide opportunities for more than 3,000 total jobs during construction and an estimated 1,800 total jobs supporting Alaska families during operation of the road and associated mines.

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