CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FEDERAL AREAS

Afternoon Session Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2026 | Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting detail	Information
Session	CACFA public meeting, afternoon session
Session start	Approximately 1:30 p.m.
Session end	Approximately 3:24 p.m.; meeting continued to October 10 at 9:00 a.m.
Chair	Charlie Lean
Staff	Kim Griffith, Executive Director

Meeting Reconvened and Attendance

Chair Charlie Lean reconvened the meeting after lunch. He stated that all members were present except Commissioners Allison and Dave. Representative Ashley Carrick participated remotely and introduced herself during commissioner comments.

Highlighted Guest Speakers and Topics

Guest Speaker: Don Striker

Regional Director, National Park Service, Alaska Region

Agency Priorities and Accountability

Don Striker opened by apologizing for prior National Park Service actions affecting Paul Shearer and others. He committed to improving future agency conduct and described the administration's emphasis on making Alaska parks open and accessible, working cooperatively with the State of Alaska, and addressing long-standing access and permitting issues.

Topics Presented

- Implementation of the federal "Unleashing Alaska" executive and secretarial directives.
- Weekly Department of the Interior tracking of rights-of-way and permit processing.
- Reauthorization and implementation work involving the Ambler Road and the Alaska LNG pipeline route through Denali National Park.
- Priority processing of right-of-way certificates of access for inholders.
- Revision of the Alaska wildlife rule to return to the pre-2015 approach without affecting the rural subsistence priority.
- Cooperative work with the State of Alaska on navigability determinations and RS 2477 rights-of-way.
- Expanded access for hunting, fishing, and trapping.
- Regulatory clarification of off-highway vehicle use for subsistence purposes.
- A proposed increase in authorized vehicles on the Denali Park Road, followed by environmental review and adaptive management.
- Review of commercial-use authorizations, permitting, consultation, and environmental-compliance practices.
- Planned review of National Park Service cabin regulations and commercial-service concession scoring criteria.

- Review of park compendia and park-specific regulations to remove unnecessary restrictions.
- Recruitment and selection for superintendent vacancies, with emphasis on Alaska experience.

Commission Discussion

Commissioners thanked Don Striker for his approach and discussed trapping, RS 2477 documentation, navigability, rural subsistence access, prior backcountry-management restrictions, cabin policy, firewood permits, local consultation, and the importance of durable regulatory or policy changes. Charlie Lean offered an Alaska Road Commission report as a historical source for RS 2477 routes. Susan Smith raised concerns regarding prior Wrangell-St. Elias backcountry planning and firewood restrictions. Nate Turner offered the Cabin Committee's assistance with National Park Service cabin-policy work. Will Koehler described the positive effect of recent changes on his family and business in Wrangell-St. Elias.

ANILCA Cabin Provisions Refresher

Tina Cunning introduced a training video featuring Sara Taylor concerning ANILCA provisions for cabins, shelters, temporary facilities, and equipment. The material reviewed Sections 1303, 1315, 1316, and related provisions that protect traditional activities and allow continued use or construction of facilities on federal lands in Alaska.

Key Cabin Topics

- Congress intended cabin and facility provisions to preserve traditional Alaska activities while protecting conservation-unit purposes.
- ANILCA authorizes existing and new cabins or structures in specified circumstances, including where facilities are necessary for subsistence or other allowed activities.
- Section 1316 addresses temporary facilities and equipment related to hunting, fishing, and trapping.
- The statutory word "permitted" may mean "allowed" and does not always require a separate paper permit.
- Agency implementation differs significantly among the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, and Forest Service.
- Cabin applicants may face inconsistent definitions, fees, permit conditions, and interpretations of private recreational use.
- A prior interagency recommendation called for uniform ANILCA-based cabin regulations across the federal land-management agencies.
- Cabin size and conditions should recognize families and traditional family use, not only individual occupants.
- New cabins remain authorized under ANILCA, although agencies have often lacked clear implementation mechanisms.

Tina Cunning stated that CACFA could request renewed interagency rulemaking from the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture or work on a narrower National Park Service regulatory correction with the Alaska regional office. Commissioners discussed the importance of preserving cabins as essential infrastructure for continued use of remote lands.

National Park Service Right-of-Way Regulations

Tina Cunning presented an analysis of the National Park Service's 2024 nationwide right-of-way regulations. She explained that ANILCA Title XI and the Alaska access regulations should govern Alaska-specific transportation, utility, inholding, and traditional-access matters. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations expressly exempt Alaska from the nationwide framework, but the National Park Service rule does not contain the same clear exemption.

She recommended either an agency-initiated regulatory correction or a CACFA petition for rulemaking, and suggested pursuing both approaches. The proposed correction would direct Alaska right-of-way matters to the applicable ANILCA regulations and Alaska-specific agency rules.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Presentation Rescheduled

Kara Moriarty reported that Regional Director Sarah Boario had a calendar conflict and apologized for missing the afternoon session. The Chair agreed to make time for her presentation during the October 10 session, subject to coordination with Kim Griffith.

Commissioner Comments

Representative Ashley Carrick

Representative Ashley Carrick introduced herself as a fourth-generation Alaskan and a new legislative member of the Commission. She described her interest in trails and public lands, her intent to learn from different communities, and her expectation of attending the proposed Juneau meeting in person.

Angela Ludwick

Angela Ludwick introduced herself as the Alaska Native Corporation representative. She described her background in Circle, Alaska, rural village outreach work, and priorities involving subsistence, Yukon River fisheries, the Ambler Road, Native allotments, land access, and meaningful rural and tribal participation. She shared an ANILCA assessment and a CACFA issue-review form designed to help organize issues and potential actions.

Other Commissioner Comments

Cathy Giessel praised the issue-review form and emphasized tracking actionable items, including the mining-patent moratorium and right-of-way regulations. Teresa Hanson expressed support for moving the identified work forward. Nate Turner thanked members of the public for presenting complex mining matters and reported that the National Park Service regional director selects park superintendents. Susan Smith thanked Tina Cunning, Sara Taylor, and Kim Griffith, and expressed optimism about potential progress on RS 2477 routes, Denali access, navigability, cabins, and regulatory restrictions. Charlie Lean welcomed the new commissioners and identified the mining and cabin issues as major topics for the next day's business session.

Motions

No.	Motion wording	Moved by	Seconded by	Vote / result
1	No formal motions were made during the afternoon session.	—	—	No vote taken.

Action Items

No.	Action item	Responsible party	Timing / status
1	Provide Don Striker's presentation slides to commissioners.	Don Striker and Kim Griffith	Don Striker offered to send the file; Kim Griffith would distribute it.
2	Share the Alaska Road Commission historical report as a potential RS 2477 reference.	Charlie Lean	Offered during discussion with the National Park Service.
3	Review the prior Wrangell-St. Elias backcountry management plan and determine whether corrective changes are needed.	Don Striker / National Park Service	Added to the list of potential fixes.
4	Add firewood-permit and standing-dead-wood concerns to the National Park Service review list.	Don Striker / National Park Service	Raised by Susan Smith.
5	Coordinate CACFA Cabin Committee participation in National Park Service cabin-regulation work.	Nate Turner, Randy Zarnke, Cabin Committee, and National Park Service	Committee assistance offered to Don Striker.

No.	Action item	Responsible party	Timing / status
6	Consider requesting renewed interagency development of uniform ANILCA-based cabin regulations from the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture.	CACFA and Cabin Committee	Identified as a potential future action.
7	Consider a narrower National Park Service cabin-rule correction with the Alaska regional office.	CACFA, Tina Cunning, and National Park Service	Identified as a potentially achievable near-term action.
8	Prepare for possible action requesting National Park Service right-of-way rulemaking or a regulatory correction that expressly recognizes the Alaska ANILCA framework.	CACFA, Tina Cunning, and Kim Griffith	Suggested for the October 10 business meeting.
9	Coordinate Sarah Boario's rescheduled U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presentation.	Kara Moriarty and Kim Griffith	To be added to the October 10 agenda.
10	Use the CACFA issue-review form to track major issues, requested outcomes, and follow-up actions.	Angela Ludwick, Kim Griffith, Chair, and commissioners	Suggested as an organizational tool.
11	Carry the mining-patent, mining-moratorium, trapping-cabin, and right-of-way matters forward for deliberation.	Chair and Commission	Identified as priority business for October 10.

Continuation to October 10

Kim Griffith advised attendees that the October 10 meeting would be held upstairs on the second floor. Because the building and elevator would be locked on Saturday, she would meet attendees at the entrance and post access instructions and a telephone number. Chair Charlie Lean continued the meeting until 9:00 a.m. on October 10, 2026. No formal adjournment motion was made.