

ATTACHMENT #5

Agenda  
Juneau Airport Wildlife Hazards Working Group  
January 2, 2008

**The basis for the formation of the Wildlife Hazards Working Group (WHWG)**

- The establishment of a WHWG was suggested during scoping in 2001 and was proposed in the 2005 EIS.
- Establishment of the WHWG was supported by the Airport Board in its comments concerning the EIS (Comment 216 on the EIS).
- The justification for the establishment of the WHWG was retained in the FEIS and ROD (FEIS pages 2-223 and 2-224).

**Actions taken by the Airport Board to establish the WHWG**

**JNU Board Retreat (10/25/07)** After a discussion of the concept, the Board unanimously indicated its support for creating the WHWG and tasked itself to form the group.

**November Board Meeting (11/15/2007).** By a unanimous vote the board agreed to establish the WHWG and discussed function, membership and responsibilities.

**December Board Meeting (12/12/07).** The Board Chair appointed the WHWG members.

**WHWG Goal, Function and responsibilities**

The Airport Board suggested that group's primary goal should be to promote airport safety by minimizing chances for interactions between wildlife and aircraft at JNU.

The function of the WHWG should be to act as a technical advisory group to the Airport Board and Airport Manager.

**Responsibilities (proposed)**

- The WHWG should have an advisory and planning role. It acts as an advisor to the board, manager and wildlife control officer.
- The FEIS states that the WHWG could make recommendations concerning changes in wildlife control activities to adapt to different conditions, seasons and wildlife hazards as well as proposed land use changes.
- The WHWG should be involved in reviewing the annual updating of the Wildlife Hazards Management Plan.
- The WHWG should help facilitate the communication, cooperation and coordination of the airport with tenants and the community at large.

**Questions, Discussion, Conclusions**

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Juneau Airport Wildlife Hazards Working Group  
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**The basis for the formation of the Wildlife Hazards Working Group (WHWG)**

--The establishment of a WHWG was suggested during scoping in 2001 and was proposed in the 2005 EIS

The 2005 EIS stated: "Actions undertaken by the Airport in recent years to mitigate wildlife hazards by habitat modification (either as a primary purpose or as a perceived benefit while addressing a different airport need) have generated substantial discussion and comment from members of the Juneau community and resources agencies. Many of the concerns are reflected in comments submitted during scoping of this EIS. The establishment of a Wildlife Hazards Working Group (WHWG) would help to facilitate the communication, cooperation and coordination of the Airport with tenants and the community at large. The FAA recognizes that community outreach of this nature is valuable for an effective WHMP (Wildlife Habitat Management Plan) at any Airport, particularly for a situation such as that round at and near JNU—habitat in close proximity to the Airport offering such important function to wildlife, wetlands, and even recreation."

--Establishment of the WHWG was supported by the Airport Board in its comments concerning the EIS (Comment 216 on the EIS):

"The Airport Board will consider the creation of a Wildlife Hazard Advisory Group (WHAG) to bring to the Board appropriate measures for reducing wildlife hazards at JNU. The WHAG would be chaired by a member of the Board and include local wildlife experts, airport staff, and interested members of the public. The purpose of the WHAG would be to bring to the public process advice on the best methodology for reducing wildlife hazards at JNU, including habitat modifications described in Alternative WH-1 in the DEIS, hunting, and the effectiveness of hazing."

--The justification for the establishment of the WHWG was retained in the FEIS and ROD (FEIS pages 2-223 and 2-224)

**Actions taken by the Airport Board to establish the WHWG**

**JNU Board Retreat (10/25/07)** After a discussion of the concept, the Board unanimously indicated its support for creating the WHWG and tasked itself to form the group. It was agreed that the WHWG should be a small group with an odd number of voting members. Since the WHWG would be advisory to staff it was agreed that JNU staff members would not be on the WHWG

**November Board Meeting (11/15/2007).** By a unanimous vote the board agreed to establish a WHWG whose members that would be composed of the following:

An airport board member who will chair the board but will not vote on issues.

Five voting members will include the following:

- A representative from the Mendenhall Citizen's Advisory Board
- A pilot or tenant
- Three people with Juneau-based experience in such areas as wetland ecology, fisheries biology, waterfowl research and management, eagle studies or similar skills.

Appointments to the WHWG will be made by the Chair of the Juneau Airport Board.

Interested citizens, tenants, and Airport staff should be encouraged to attend meetings.

**December Board Meeting (12/12/07).** The Board Chair appointed the WHWG members including:

- SZ as the non-voting chair
- Laurie Craig (nominated by the chair of the MCAG--John Cooper)
- Eric Eriksen (Tenant)
- Bob Armstrong (Fisheries Biology and bird distribution)
- Jack Hodges (waterfowl research + management + plane behavior)
- Richard Carstensen (wetland ecology and bird distribution)

### **WHWG Goal, Function and responsibilities**

The Airport Board suggested that the WHWG group's primary **goal** should be to promote airport safety by minimizing chances for interactions between wildlife and aircraft at JNU.

The **function** of the WHWG should be to act as a technical advisory group to the Airport Board and Airport Manager. Day to day wildlife management responsibilities will continue to be overseen by the Airport Manager under terms of the existing Wildlife Hazard Management Plan (WHMP).

### **Responsibilities**

--The WHMG should have an advisory and planning role. It acts as an advisor to the board, manager and wildlife control officer. It could be consulted on specific issues like

habitat modifications resulting from the proposed RSA and other permitting and construction activities (from the JNU Board retreat).

--The FEIS states that the WHWG could make recommendations concerning changes in wildlife control activities to adapt to different conditions, seasons and wildlife hazards as well as proposed land use changes. In order to do this the FEIS suggests that periodic wildlife monitoring reports and summaries of hazing activities would be provided to the WHWG. [In this regard I would hope that the WHWG could establish a positive and professional relationship with existing staff from JNU and Wildlife Services. It would be good for WHWG members to accompany wildlife staff during airfield sweeps, and it would be good for us to see the annual report of wildlife control efforts so that we can become familiar with how wildlife management is done at JNU.]

--The WHMG should be involved in reviewing the annual updating of the Wildlife Hazards Management Plan. (WHAG will be removed from the Management Plan).

The establishment of a WHWG should help facilitate the communication, cooperation, and coordination of the airport with tenants and the community necessary at large. (From the FEIS and page C-16 in Appendix C)

#### **Questions, Discussion, Conclusions.**

Note: it is not likely that this group will meet again until the spring unless issues arise between then and now.