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Federal Subsistence Board News Release



Forest Service

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Contact:
Deborah Coble
(907) 786-3880 or (800) 478-1456
deborah_coble@fws.gov

Federal Subsistence Board Adopts Section 804 Determination along the Kuskokwim River *In-Season Manager to Make Final Decision*

During its work session held on Thursday, April 16, 2015, the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) deferred action on special action requests for the Kuskokwim River. The Board had previously delegated authority to the Federal in-season manager to take several of the actions being requested if necessary. However, the Board also indicated that it would reconvene at a later time if Chair Tim Towarak were to conclude that circumstances warranted further Board action.

Based on discussions with the Federal in-season manager, the Chair subsequently decided to seek further Board action to provide an additional management tool to the in-season manager. The Board was polled and adopted an Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Section 804 determination, which identifies 32 communities along the Kuskokwim River that will be permitted to take part in a limited subsistence harvest. These communities have previously been identified through public processes in 2014 and again in 2015. Although the Board approved the Section 804 determinations, the final decision concerning whether or not to restrict harvest to just residents of those 32 communities will be left to the Federal in-season manager.

A Section 804 analysis is initiated whenever it is necessary to restrict the taking of fish or wildlife on public lands for subsistence uses in order to protect the continued viability of such populations, or to continue subsistence uses. Priority is implemented through appropriate limitations based on the application of the following criteria: (1) customary and direct dependence upon the populations as the mainstay of livelihood; (2) local residency; and (3) the availability of alternative resources. Any follow-up actions, if necessary, will be announced by the Federal in-season manager for the Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge manager.

Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found at <http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/index.cfm>

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