

June 25, 2025

To the Federal Subsistence Board:

My name is James Nelson, and I am a Tribal Member of the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe and a federally qualified subsistence user. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Wildlife Special Action Request WCR26-02, which would eliminate the federal subsistence priority for the Yakutat moose hunt. This change would open the hunt to all users and take away an essential protection for local families like mine who rely on this harvest to feed our households.

Living in Yakutat means we face high food prices, limited store supplies, and very few job opportunities. A gallon of milk here can cost more than \$16, and many of us can't afford to fly out to shop for food or to hunt in other areas¹. The moose hunt in Yakutat is not just a tradition—it's how we survive. It provides critical meat for our freezers and allows us to care for our elders and children.

The moose population in our area is already limited. On average, fewer than 20 moose are harvested each year under the federal hunt in Unit 5A, and some years we don't even reach the quota². More than 80% of those moose are harvested by Yakutat residents³, showing just how important this hunt is to our local families. If more people from outside are allowed to hunt here, it could easily overwhelm our limited supply and leave our families with nothing.

There are already places nearby where non-local hunters can go, such as east of the Dangerous River and other parts of Unit 5A across the bay⁴. We're not asking to close hunting to others—we're just asking to keep this one small opportunity reserved for those who truly need it.

I respectfully ask the Federal Subsistence Board to reject WCR26-02. This proposal would make it harder for our families to provide for ourselves and would go against the purpose of the federal subsistence program, which is supposed to protect rural and Indigenous communities. Please stand with the people of Yakutat and keep our federal subsistence hunt intact.

I truly appreciate you taking the time to hear from everyday Tribal Members like me.

Gunalchéesh,



James Nelson

Yakutat Tlingit Tribal Member

Yakutat, Alaska

Federally Qualified Subsistence User

Footnotes

1. Alaska Department of Labor. "Cost of Living in Alaska." *Alaska Economic Trends*, January 2021. [!\[\]\(467d80e979964f7f8c752fb22248b5b7_img.jpg\)](#)
2. Federal Subsistence Board, *Office of Subsistence Management Harvest Reports*, Unit 5A Moose Data, 2018–2022. [!\[\]\(b71552d33dbf62adf5e5199a70ee02bf_img.jpg\)](#)
3. Federal Subsistence Management Program. *2020 Annual Harvest Summary Report*, Unit 5A. [!\[\]\(03134b765d1473836ff001925b1b0550_img.jpg\)](#)
4. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. *Hunting Regulations for Game Management Unit 5*, 2023–2024 edition. [!\[\]\(aed6947356668967079310026052edc0_img.jpg\)](#)