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WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

SUBSISTENCE AND ANTHROPOLOGY REPORT

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Federal subsistence harvest reports for Wrangell-St. Elias in 2025

In 2025, Wrangell-St. Elias and Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge staff issued a total of 221 federal subsistence hunting permits for moose, goat, and sheep for Wrangell St. Elias lands in Units 11 and 12. The most frequently issued permit was for the fall moose hunt in Unit 11 Remainder (FM1106). A total of 147 permits were issued for this hunt in 2025, 48 people hunted, and 4 moose were harvested. (See Table 1 for additional details).

Wrangell St. Elias and the Alaska Department for Fish and Game both issue a joint state/federal permit (RM291) for the moose hunt for portions of Unit 11 and 12 in the northern part of the park. For the 2025 season, a total of 327 permits were issued, 175 people hunted (95 federally qualified subsistence users), and 13 moose were harvested—a majority by federally qualified subsistence users.

Alternative Harvest Monitoring Methodology Project Looking for Participants!

This project aims to develop a new methodology to fill in the gaps between comprehensive community harvest assessments by documenting a series of exploratory subsistence life histories to understand how harvesting and sharing of subsistence resources changes over a lifetime. The ethnographic data on sharing among local, rural people will inform the development of a network analysis methodology. In addition to interviews, a literature review will be compiled of existing social network analysis work in Alaska. The analysis of the interviews, the literature review, and the creation of a methodology framework will be presented in a summary report. This project is in cooperation with AITRC and is looking for participants for interviews.

Table 1. Federal Subsistence Registration Permits in Wrangell-St. Elias NPP, 2015-2025

Unit 11 Goat (FG1101)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	29	22	26	30	27	27	20	8	6	23	18
Individuals Hunting	6	4	3	8	8	4	2	1	2	1	
Animals Harvested	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Success Rate (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Unit 11 Remainder Moose -- Fall Hunt in part of unit outside of the RM291 hunt area (FM1106)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	128	138	132	144	107	156	140	139	140	144	147
Individuals Hunting	70	75	72	85	45	68	71	66	59	56	
Animals Harvested	13	16	13	12	10	15	11	15	10	13	
Success Rate (%)	18.6	21.3	18.1	14.1	22.2	22.1	15.5	22.7	16.9	23.2	

Unit 11 Moose -- Winter Hunt in southern part of unit (FM1107)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	17	20	14	11	8	8	7	10	21	13	16
Individuals Hunting	3	4	4	2	2	1	2	4	4	1	
Animals Harvested	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	
Success Rate (%)	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	100.0	

Unit 11 Elder Sheep (FS1104)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	25	32	34	38	34	38	26	25	22	30	23
Individuals Hunting	8	12	13	18	14	12	12	10	11	10	
Animals Harvested	3	3	4	1	1	1	3	2	3	4	
Success Rate (%)	37.5	25.0	30.8	5.6	7.1	8.3	25.0	20.0	27.3	40.0	

Unit 11 Elder/Junior Sheep (FS1103)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	0
Individuals Hunting	-	1	2	0	-	0	0	0	0	2	-
Animals Harvested	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
Success Rate (%)	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-

Unit 12 Caribou -- Chisana (FC1205)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022**	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	11	8	8	6	4	7	5	n/a	6	8	7
Individuals Hunting	7	8	3	3	3	4	1	n/a	5	4	
Animals Harvested	0	1	0	2	1	3	0	n/a	2	2	
Success Rate (%)	0.0	12.5	0.0	66.7	33.3	75.0	0.0	n/a	40.0	50.0	

** Closed in 2022 due to conservation concerns.

Table 1. Federal Subsistence Registration Permits in Wrangell-St. Elias NPP, 2014-2024 (cont.)

Unit 12 Elder Sheep (FS1201)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	7	11	12	14	14	12	13	8	11	9	10
Individuals Hunting	3	6	4	8	6	4	6	4	5	1	
Animals Harvested	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Success Rate (%)	0.0	16.7	25.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Unit 12 Elder/Junior Sheep (FS1204)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Individuals Hunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-
Animals Harvested	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Success Rate (%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Federal Subsistence Permit Database.

* 2025 data are from 2/11/2026; hunting and harvest data reported verbally.

Note: Success rate is calculated based on the number of individuals hunting, not total permits issued.

Table 2. Joint State-Federal Permits for the Fall Moose Hunt in Portions of Units 11 and 12 (RM291), 2015-2025

All Hunters

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	250	277	244	250	277	314	282	340	297	274	327
Individuals Hunting	142	179	145	155	158	187	162	197	153	162	175
Animals Harvested	20	23	19	23	21	27	24	16	10	14	13
Unit 11 Harvest	9	17	15	17	14	12	16	12	5	10	10
Unit 12 Harvest	11	6	4	6	7	15	8	4	5	4	3
Success Rate (%)	14.1	12.8	13.1	14.8	13.3	14.4	14.8	8.1	6.5	8.6	7.4

Federally Qualified Subsistence Users

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	168	176	155	171	173	173	167	175	169	154	153
Individuals Hunting	89	106	88	108	102	107	93	88	72	90	95
Animals Harvested	14	18	15	19	21	14	16	10	10	10	8
Success Rate (%)	15.7	17.0	17.0	17.6	20.6	13.1	17.2	11.4	13.9	11.1	8.4

Source: Email from ADF&G Tok on 1/21/2026

* 2025 data are from 2/11/2026.

Note: Success rate is calculated based on the number of individuals hunting, not total permits issued. Data for Federally Qualified Subsistence Users excludes records with ambiguous residency (e.g., urban mailing address and rural resident community or local mailing address and non-local resident community).

Traditional Knowledge, Ethnographic, and Subsistence Projects:

Work is underway on several traditional knowledge, ethnographic and subsistence projects, with most of the work being carried out by project partners through cooperative agreements.

Upper Copper River communities surveyed about subsistence harvests: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (AITRC), and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve staff completed comprehensive harvest assessments in Mentasta, Chistochina, Slana, and along the Nabesna Road in 2023-2024. Community data review meetings were held in Mentasta in 2023 and in Chistochina and Slana in 2024. Staff are currently reviewing the technical paper which will be published in the spring of 2026. AITRC and park staff will return to Mentasta, Chistochina, and Slana for follow-up meetings following publication.

Dall Sheep Local Knowledge Interviews: Anthropology and wildlife staff at Wrangell-St. Elias conducted a series of local knowledge interviews about Dall sheep with eight long-time hunters and others with a long history of observing sheep in Wrangell-St. Elias. A first draft of the summary report has been written and is undergoing revisions. Funding for this work comes from the NPS Alaska Subsistence Advisory Council and Alaska Geographic.

Outer Coast Ethnographic Landscape Study: Throughout 2025, park staff have been meeting with staff from the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) and Native Village of Eyak (NVE) to plan a project that will gather information to complete an Ethnographic Landscape Study. This baseline document will help park management assess coastal resources at risk of being lost due to glacial melt. Park staff have been working with YTT and NVE staff as well as Portland State University professor Doug Deur on coordinating discussion workshops focused on landscape change. This will take place on March 6-9 in Yakutat. We will also work with Thomas Thornton, University of Alaska Southeast, for additional assistance in the preparation for an Ethnographic Landscape Study.

Copper River Salmon In-Season Teleconferences: During summer 2025, weekly teleconferences hosted by the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (AITRC) with funding from Wrangell-St. Elias provided a venue for Copper River subsistence fishers to share firsthand knowledge about Copper River salmon harvests and returns along with river conditions and other factors that may affect harvests and returns with one another as well as agency staff. Biologists and fisheries managers also shared information on run timing and strength, management strategies, and various Copper River fisheries research and monitoring projects. This multi-year project will continue in summer 2026, and people fishing on the Copper River are encouraged to participate. Information about how to participate along with summaries from the previous calls can be found at the project website: <https://www.ahtnatribal.org/teleconferences>.