



Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199



FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE MOOSE HUNT OPENED FOR TWO ADDITIONAL DAYS IN FM1106 HUNT AREA

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
43 CFR 51.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 11-MO-01-26 Issued at: Copper Center, Alaska, 9/14/2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, September 21, 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, September 22, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent special action.

EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action opens the Unit 11 fall moose season for two additional days in the Unit 11 remainder and the portion of Unit 11, south and east of a line running along the north bank of the Chitina River, the north & west banks of the Nizina River, & the west bank of the West Fork of the Nizina River, continuing along the western edge of West Fork Glacier to the summit of Regal Mountain (federal registration permit FM1106). This Emergency Special Action **does not** extend the moose season in the portion of Unit 11 draining into the east bank of the Copper River upstream from and including the Slana River drainage (the Unit 11 portion of RM291).

REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.26(n)(11) and 43 CFR 51.26(n)(11) are amended to read:

Unit 11 – Moose

Unit 11, that portion draining into the east bank of the Copper River upstream from and including the Slana River drainage—1 antlered bull by joint Federal/State registration permit

Aug. 20 – Sep. 20

Unit 11, that portion south and east of a line running along the north bank of the Chitina River, the north and west banks of the Nazina River, and the west bank of West Fork of the Nazina River, continuing along the western edge of the West Fork Glacier to the summit of Regal Mountain—1 antlered bull by Federal registration permit only

Aug. 20 – Sep. 22

~~*May be announced
between Sep 21-Sep. 31.*~~

Unit 11, remainder—1 antlered bull by Federal registration permit only.

Aug. 20 – Sep. 22

~~*May be announced
between Sep 21-Sep. 31.*~~

JUSTIFICATION: The season will be opened two additional days to provide for additional subsistence opportunities for subsistence users of moose in Unit 11. Harvest success tends to increase each additional day in September. Although the may-be-announced season could be opened for up to ten additional days, the park weighed several pieces of evidence to open the season for two additional days. The most recent survey, in 2023, estimated a ratio of 44 bulls to 100 cows. However, it also indicated the population was in decline. This population has endured heavy snow in two of the last three winters, and a current estimate of the population is unavailable. In addition, harvest success generally increases the later hunting occurs in September, making the expected harvest difficult to estimate. Overharvesting the population could lead to less subsistence opportunity for years to come. The National Park Service is attempting to balance the need for additional subsistence opportunity with the uncertainty surrounding a declining moose population in Unit 11 and the potential for overharvest if too many moose are taken. Given this uncertainty, the available data, and a need for additional subsistence opportunity a limited open season of two additional days will occur in the FM1106 portion of Unit 11.

However, the moose season will not be opened for any additional days in the portion of Unit 11 draining into the east bank of the Copper River upstream from and including the Slana River drainage (RM291) due to much steeper declines in that subset of the moose population. The bull-to-cow ratio in that area in 2023 was 30 bulls to 100 cows, equal to the minimum management objective, and any additional harvest could endanger the population.

The Federal Subsistence Board delegated the authority to the park superintendent to open a moose hunt between September 21 to September 30. A limited hunt of two additional days allows for additional subsistence opportunity in Unit 11 while protecting the viability of the population for future harvest.

JOSHUA SCOTT Digitally signed by JOSHUA SCOTT
Date: 2026.09.13 13:42:15 -08'00'

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to: _____

Joshua Scott
Acting Superintendent
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

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