



Federal Subsistence Board

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



Federal Subsistence Moose Season and Quota Established in Unit 26B Remainder and Unit 26C

TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19

Temporary Special Action No: 2026-ARC-01

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska, 20 October 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M., Saturday, 31 October 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M., Monday, 28 December 2026 unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Manager (Refuge Manager), under authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board), is authorizing a Federal registration permit harvest quota of three (3) bull moose within Unit 26B Remainder and Unit 26C, with the season of 31 October 2026 to 28 December 2026. Under Federal subsistence regulations, only residents of Kaktovik are eligible to participate in this hunt.

REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.26(n)(26) is amended to read:

Unit 26 – Moose

Units 26B, remainder and 26C – 3 bull moose by Federal registration permit by residents of Kaktovik only. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by Kaktovik residents holding a Federal registration permit and hunting under these regulations.

*Oct. 31, 2026 –
Dec. 28, 2026*

JUSTIFICATION:

Surveys were conducted within North Slope river drainages of Unit 26C in April 2026. River corridors were flown to cover all available moose habitat. Rivers included in the surveys were the Sadlerochit, Hulahula, Okpilak, Okpirourak, Jago, Aichilik, Egaksrak, Ekaluakat, and lower Kongakut.

103 moose were observed on the survey during 2026, which was the largest number observed in all previous surveys other than in 2019 (155 moose observed in 2019). Most moose (92) were observed in the Kongakut drainage. The 2026 count included 89 adults and 16 calves.

Since 2022 we have been tracking a number of GPS collared cows to estimate calving rates, survival, and cow:calf ratios. The data presented below align with moose in Yukon Charley and Black River populations and provide additional contextual support for the health of this population.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Calving Rate	78%	75%	85%
Twinning	33%	36%	43%
Calf survival 1st yr	36%	20%	50%
Adult survival	87%	100%	80%
Fall calf: 100 cows	45		50
Spring calf: 100 cows	33	30	63

Background and recent permit history:

Because of low moose numbers during 2012-2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service submitted a Special Action Request to the Board to close moose hunting in Unit 26C for the 2015/2016 regulatory year. In April 2017, in response to the recently documented modest increase in moose abundance, the Refuge Manager authorized two permits for subsistence harvest of bull moose in the Kongakut River drainage. Permits were issued to residents of Kaktovik only, with one bull moose being harvested. Two moose permits were issued in 2018, but no moose were harvested. For the 2019 (February-April) hunt, three permits were issued but no moose were harvested. Similar results were reported in 2021 and 2022 with 10 permits being distributed by the community of Kaktovik, but no harvest occurring. With the continued stable to slightly increasing moose population in Unit 26C and the Canning River drainage, we recommend continued subsistence opportunity for the harvest of three bull moose.

Residents of the Native Village of Kaktovik requested a longer harvest season and removal of the requirement to limit the hunt within the Kongakut River drainage only. Residents requested these more liberal hunting regulations to better meet the community's subsistence needs. A public hearing was held in Kaktovik on October 2, 2019 to request input from residents. The feedback was overwhelmingly in support of these proposed changes and the Refuge agreed to the proposal to lengthen the season, issue 10 total permits with a harvest quota of 3 bull moose annually. Authority has been delegated by the Board to the Refuge Manager to set or adjust annual harvest quotas, determine the number of Federal registration permits to be issued, and season opening and closing dates for moose on Federal public lands in Units 26B remainder and 26C.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

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Date: 2026.10.16 16:09:42 -08'00'

Merben R. Cebrian
Refuge Manager
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge



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