

Emergency Special Action Request WSA26-13 Federal Subsistence Board Vote

Unit 12 Moose

WSA26-12 requested a 10-day extension of the moose season in Unit 12, within the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and the Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve north and east of a line formed by the Pickerel Lake Winter Trail from the Canadian border to Pickerel Lake (FM1203 hunt area) from Sept. 21 – 30, 2026.

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) **supported WSA26-13 as modified by OSM** to extend the season by 10 days following the date of Board approval of this request (Sept. 25-Oct. 4, 2026) by a vote of 10 in support as modified by OSM and 1 in support by email poll on September 23-24, 2026.

Table 1. Tally of Board votes and justification

FSB Member	Vote	Justification	Vote received via email on
USFWS Regional Director Boario	Support as modified by OSM	“U.S. Fish and Wildlife supports Emergency Wildlife Special Action Request WSA26-13 as submitted by the Northway Village Council and as modified by OSM for an additional 10 days following the Board’s vote. As described in the special action request, local hunters report that few moose have been seen or harvested during the current season. Warmer fall conditions and the later arrival of the rut have delayed bull movement into areas accessible to Northway hunters. Without an extension, many families may be unable to meet their subsistence needs. No conservation concerns currently exist, and adding additional days to this hunt is not expected to increase overall harvest.”	09/24, 11:00 AM
Public Member Brower	Support as modified by OSM	“I support WSA26-13, as recommended by ISC, with modification.”	09/24, 10:52 AM

FSB Member	Vote	Justification	Vote received via email on
USFS Regional Forester Buchanan	Support	"The USFS supports the proposal as described."	09/24, 10:38 AM
Chair Christianson	Support as modified by OSM	"I support as modified by OSM and justified in the ISC recommendation."	09/24, 5:42 AM
BIA Regional Director John	Support as modified by OSM	"BIA votes to adopt WSA26-13 as modified by OSM. The 10-day extension will assist rural users with meeting their moose subsistence needs, as they have experienced harvesting difficulties because of warming conditions and delayed arrival of the rut. No conservation concerns for moose currently exist in Unit 12, and this action is similar to previous ones taken in 2022, 2024, and 2025."	09/24, 6:53 AM
Public Member Oney	Support as modified by OSM	"Public Member Ray Oney supports WSA26-13, with modifications to extend the moose season by 10 days, as supported by OSM. Northway Council seeks a 10-day fall season extension due to delayed rut."	09/24, 8:06 AM
Public Member Payenna	Support as modified by OSM	"Public Member Payenna supports WSA26-13 as justified in the ISC recommendation."	09/24, 8:49 AM
BLM State Director Pendergast	Support as modified by OSM	"BLM supports Emergency Special Action WSA26-13, with OSM modification, to extend the Unit 12 moose season by 10 days following the date of Board approval of this request. The Northway Village Council suggests that subsistence users have again had difficulty harvesting moose and meeting their subsistence needs this fall. Subsistence users	09/24, 8:37 AM

FSB Member	Vote	Justification	Vote received via email on
		<p>have observed that warmer fall temperatures have been associated with delayed rut, and therefore it has been more difficult to find and harvest bull moose in the first weeks of September. Data demonstrates that both sport and subsistence harvest levels in Unit 12 have been lower over the last five years than in previous years. Only three moose have been harvested on the Federal permit since 2021, whereas thirteen moose were harvested from 2017–2021. The number of subsistence-issued permits and subsistence hunters has also declined. If the season is extended, additional harvest is expected to be minimal and not cause conservation concerns. An emergency special action is therefore warranted to continue the subsistence uses of moose. It is important to note, however, that the Unit 12 moose season was extended for the same reasons twice in the past four years: first by emergency special action for the 2022 season and then by temporary special action for the 2024 and 2025 seasons. Special actions should be used to address “time-sensitive circumstances” that arise between regulatory cycles. It is therefore recommended that the proponent submit a regulatory proposal this coming spring for the next wildlife regulatory cycle.”</p>	
Public Member Pitka	Support as modified by OSM	“I vote in support of the proposal as justified by the BIA.”	09/24, 8:15 AM
NPS Acting Deputy Regional Director Bella on behalf of Regional	Support as modified by OSM	<p>“NPS votes to adopt WSA26-13 with the OSM modification to extend the season by 10 days following the date of Board approval of this request. The proponent reports that subsistence users have experienced difficulty harvesting moose this fall, creating significant concerns regarding residents’ food security for this winter. Moose are one of the most significant resources harvested by the community; however, harvest levels</p>	09/24, 11:50 AM

FSB Member	Vote	Justification	Vote received via email on
Director Striker		<p>have remained low in recent years. Only three moose have been reported harvested under Federal Permit 1203 during the past five years. Additionally, the continued closure of the Nelchina Caribou Herd contributes to the dire situation for the communities' food security. Although the moose population is low, a harvestable surplus of bulls remains. For these reasons, NPS supports a 10-day hunt extension this fall. This extension will provide additional opportunity for the continuation of subsistence uses and reduce the food security concern for residents in Northway and Tok. I encourage the proponent to submit a regulatory proposal to extend the fall moose season in regulation, as this has been a recurring issue."</p>	
Public Member Woods	Support as modified by OSM	<p>"Public Member Woods supports WSA26-13 because a harvestable surplus of bulls remains and there are no identified conservation concerns. For these reasons, it is important to support a 10-day extension this fall for the continued subsistence uses of moose by residents in Northway and Tok. Public Member Woods votes to support WSA26-13."</p>	09/23, 3:45 PM