Emergency Special Action Request WSA26-14 Federal Subsistence Board Vote

Unit 7 Moose

WSA26-14 requested establishment of a late fall moose season in Unit 7 remainder, from Oct.20–Nov. 10, 2026, in alignment with Wildlife Proposal WP26-17 that the Board adopted at the April wildlife regulatory meeting.

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) **supported WSA26-14** to establish the late fall season from Oct. 20–Nov. 10 by a vote of 9 in support and 2 absent by email poll on October 13–15, 2026.

Table 1. Tally of Board votes and justification

FSB Member	Vote	Justification	Vote received via email on
USFWS Regional Director Boario	Support	The USFWS votes to support WSA26-14. The proponent – Chugach National Forest, U.S. Forest Service – notes that, "Moose are the most important and widely used wild land mammal by the rural communities of Unit 7. Moose meat is widely shared among households in these communities by the relatively few households that harvest. Prior to the implementation of regulated seasons Unit 7 communities traditionally hunted moose in late October and early November. Implementation of this late season will allow the rural residents of Unit 7 additional opportunity to provide for their families and communities, and to hunt during their traditional season when conditions are improved and there is no competition from non-federally qualified users." While the disruption to traditional subsistence practices and uses alone is considered an emergency to some, the urgency is underscored by the additional analysis provided to the Board by the ISC which states that, "Federally qualified subsistence users (FQSUs) have not been able to meet their subsistence needs for moose in Southcentral Alaska because of a declining moose population and competition with non-federally qualified users (hunters), who harvest over 80% of the moose taken	10/15, 7:55 AM

FSB Member	Vote	Justification	Vote received via email on
		in this area. Since 2020, FQSUs have harvested between 0 and 7 moose during the regular federal subsistence season, with an average harvest of less than 3 moose annually. In 2025 only 3 moose were harvested by FQSUs. Board members agreed at their April 2026 wildlife regulatory meeting that a late season moose harvest is likely to be small and thus not cause a conservation concern." This is happening at a time when, as the proponent notes, other subsistence resources (e.g. caribou) are declining and more recently, "Nationally, beef prices have risen 9.4% this year." As the Board has observed before, fish and wildlife populations fluctuate and rural Alaskans harvest what is available to them; it is important to consider the entire subsistence harvest and the status of all resources. "The situation in Alaska is unique," Title VIII reads, "in that, in most cases, no practical alternative means are available to replace the food supplies and other items gathered from fish and wildlife which supply rural residents dependent on subsistence uses."	
Public Member Brower	Absent	n/a	Not able to respond
USFS Regional Forester Buchanan	Support	I Support WSA26-14, a request to open a late fall moose season in Unit 7 remainder from Oct 20-November 10 by emergency special action, to continue the subsistence uses of moose.	10/13, 12:40 PM
Chair Christianson	Support	I vote to approve based on ISC recommendation.	10/13, 11:46 AM
BIA Regional Director John	Support	BIA votes to approve WSA26-14. This will enable rural subsistence users to have additional opportunities to harvest moose in Unit 7,	10/14, 7:56 AM

FSB Member	Vote	Justification	Vote received via email on
		and implement WP26-17 as adopted unanimously by the FSB during the April 2026 Wildlife Regulatory meeting.	
Public Member Oney	Absent	n/a	Not able to respond
Public Member Payenna	Support	Public member Payenna votes to approve WSA26-14. This will enable rural subsistence users to have additional opportunities to harvest moose in Unit 7, and implement WP26-17as adopted unanimously by the FSB during the April 2026 wildlife regulatory meeting.	10/14, 2:15 PM
BLM State Director Pendergast	Support	I Support WSA26-14, a request to open a late fall moose season in Unit 7 remainder from Oct 20-November 10 by emergency special action, to continue the subsistence uses of moose. Available data and Council member testimony supports using an emergency special action to open a late fall season hunt for the continued subsistence uses of moose.	10/13, 12:25 PM
Public Member Pitka	Support	I support WSA26-14 to support continuation of subsistence uses.	10/14, 2:55 PM
NPS Regional Director Striker	Support	The National Park Service votes to support Emergency Wildlife Special Action WSA26-14 to open the federal subsistence moose harvest season in Unit 7 remainder from October 20 – November 10. This late season moose hunt was unanimously supported at the Federal Subsistence Board's Wildlife Regulatory meeting on April 24, 2026. As shared by the proponent, moose are the most important and widely used wild land mammal by the rural communities of Unit 7. Other subsistence resources are in decline and less available in recent years. Moose meat is widely shared among households in these communities by the relatively few households that harvest.	10/13, 11:50 AM

FSB Member	Vote	Justification	Vote received via email on
		Implementation of this late season will allow the rural residents of Unit 7 additional opportunity to provide for their families and communities, and to hunt later in the fall when conditions are improved and there is no competition from non-federally qualified users. Federally qualified subsistence users (FQSU's) have not been able to meet their subsistence needs for moose in this area due to declining moose population and competition with non-federally qualified hunters, who harvest the majority of the moose taken in this area. As noted in the ISC comment, FQSUs have harvested between 0 and 7 moose during the regular federal subsistence season, with an average harvest of less than 3 moose annually. In 2025 only 3 moose were harvested by FQSUs. The Federal Subsistence Board agreed at our April 2026 wildlife regulatory meeting that a late season moose harvest will provide meaningful opportunity for the Unit 7 subsistence communities, but harvest is likely to still be small and thus not cause a conservation concern. The inseason manager of the Seward Ranger District can close the season if a conservation concern arises.	
Public Member Woods	Support	Public member Woods votes to approve WSA26-14 based on ISC recommendations to provide subsistence opportunity and harvest and in season management can close if numbers are above allowable harvests if needed.	10/13, 11:55 AM