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

WOLF HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASONS IN UNIT 2 CLOSE DECEMBER 15

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

Temporary Special Action No: WSA 02-WO-01-26 Issued at: Craig, Alaska, November 17, 2026

Effective Date: 11:59 pm Tuesday, December 15, 2026
Expiration Date: 11:59 pm Wednesday, March 31, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent special action.

EXPLANATION: This Temporary Special Action sets the 2026-2027 Federal wolf trapping season in Unit 2 from November 15, 2026, through 11:59 pm December 15, 2026, and closes the Federal wolf hunting season in Unit 2 at 11:59 pm on December 15, 2026.

REGULATION: 36 CFR §242.26(n)(2) and 43 CFR §51.26(n)(2) are amended to read:

Unit 2 –Wolf Hunting

No limit.	*Sep. 1-~~Mar. 31~~**Dec. 15.***

All wolves taken will be sequentially numbered, marked with the date and location recorded by the hunter for each wolf, and all hides must be sealed within 15 days of take.

Unit 2 –Wolf Trapping

No limit.	*Nov. 15-~~Mar. 31~~**Dec. 15.***

All wolves taken will be sequentially numbered, marked with the date and location recorded by the trapper for each wolf, and all hides must be sealed within 15 days of take.

JUSTIFICATION:

Estimating the Unit 2 wolf population takes roughly 10 months, so each year's population estimate is used to inform harvest management in the following year. The fall 2025 preharvest Unit 2 wolf population estimate is 187 wolves with high confidence the true population size was within the range of 125 to 279 wolves (95% confidence interval). This estimate is slightly lower than those from 2021 to 2024, possibly due to less trapper participation during the season and

poor weather conditions during the last two weeks of the season which impacts the collection and quality of genetic samples from hair boards. The overall trend of 2021 to 2024 indicates a steady trend in abundance estimates and that a 31-day trapping season is sustainable. In Unit 2, most wolves are harvested by trapping, so State and Federal managers regulate harvest by adjusting season. Since the implementation of this management strategy in 2019, harvest averaged 30% of the annually estimated population. Scientific literature suggests this harvest rate is sustainable, and the management history also suggests this harvest rate is currently sustainable.

A public hearing was held on Monday, November 2, 2026, in Klawock, Alaska. ADF&G and USFS were present to announce the proposed Unit 2 wolf hunting and trapping season length and field questions and concerns from the public. Since the public meeting, ADF&G and USFS biologists and leadership have again reviewed population and harvest data related to Unit 2 wolves, local information about wolf recruitment and likely current wolf abundance, probable wolf trapper interest and effort; and determined that a 31-day season will ensure sustainability of the population. Wolf trappers operating under State or Federal subsistence regulations will have 31 days of trapping opportunity throughout Unit 2. All State and Federal wolf harvest seasons in Unit 2 will close on December 15, 2026.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

/s/ Christopher Dowling
Christopher Dowling
District Ranger
Prince of Wales Ranger District
November 16, 2026

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