

2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission-Wrangell-St. Elias National Park

Report Run Date: 04/24/2026 11:21:43 PM

1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of the Interior	2026
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission-Wrangell-St. Elias National Park	558

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	09/25/2023	09/25/2025	

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No	P.L. 96-487	

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
P.L. 96-487	12/02/1980	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 1 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
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Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence
 Resource Commission meeting to comment
 on the Secretarial Programmatic Review of 02/03/2026 - 02/03/2026
 the Federal Subsistence Management
 Program

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current	Next
	FY	FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

Federal law and regulation provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses, including hunting, within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. The

Subsistence Resource Commission for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park is a forum that promotes effective communication and mutual understanding of subsistence uses and related cultural resources. The Commission consults with every appropriate local advisory committee and regional council for comment and input on draft hunting plan recommendations. In addition to the advisory committee and regional council consultation process directed by P.L. 96-487 (the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act), the Commission is required to hold public meetings in all areas affected by the subsistence hunting program.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Membership, as prescribed by the Commission's enabling legislation, consists of nine members as follows: (a) three members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior; (b) three members appointed by the Governor of Alaska; and (c) three members appointed by the regional council, as established by the Secretary or the Governor pursuant to section 805 of P.L. 96-487. The members include a range of individuals having personal knowledge of the region's subsistence conditions, and having an interest in Federal subsistence management.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Commission generally meets twice a year, or as often as circumstances require. Commission recommendations are vitally important on matters relating to the taking of wildlife within the park and are the foundation for the development and review of the subsistence hunting program. Commission meetings provided an opportunity for Commission

members, National Park Service staff, other agency staff, and the public to share information on subsistence issues.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Commission's recommendations help the NPS to ensure the continuation of the opportunity for local rural residents to engage in the subsistence use of resources in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The NPS has adopted the following mission statement to guide its activities. Subsistence will be managed as a legislated use consistent with the provisions of ANILCA, the Organic Act of 1916, and park's enabling legislation to:

- protect the opportunity for qualified local rural residents to continue traditional subsistence activities;
- recognize that subsistence ways of life differ from region to region and are continuing to evolve, and where appropriate, park management practices may reflect regional diversity and evolution;
- promote local involvement and participation in processes associated with subsistence management;
- ensure that management practices involving the utilization of public lands adequately consider the potential for restriction of subsistence uses and impacts upon subsistence resources;
- ensure that management of park resources is consistent with the conservation of unimpaired ecosystems and natural and healthy populations of fish and wildlife, incorporating scientific data and principles with traditional knowledge and cultural values;
- and
- promote effective communication and mutual understanding of subsistence uses and related cultural and social values, and park purposes and protection, between the NPS, subsistence users, the State of Alaska and the public.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public. During each meeting time is allocated for public testimony. The public is welcome to present written or oral comments to the Commission.

21. Remarks

The Wrangell-Saint Elias Subsistence Resource Commission met three times during fiscal year 2025. The meetings were held on Oct 4-5, 2024, in Copper Center, Alaska and via teleconference, and on February 25-26, 2025, in Copper Center, Alaska and via teleconference and September 25-26, 2025, in Tok, Alaska. Quorum was met during all three meetings.

Designated Federal Officer

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

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Brown, Nathan	03/11/2024	03/10/2027	Subsistence user	Representative Member
Ervin, Bruce	01/17/2024	01/16/2027	Subsistence user	Representative Member
Knighten, Starr	11/04/2023	11/03/2026	Subsistence user	Representative Member
Marshall, Clint	06/28/2023	06/28/2026	Pilot	Representative Member
Rowland, Kaleb	12/18/2017	12/01/2026	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Stevens, Daniel	03/28/2023	03/27/2026	Subsistence user	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 6

Narrative Description

The Subsistence Resource Commission for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park has been established by the Congress to devise and recommend to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Alaska a program for subsistence hunting within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. The Commission's unique insight on local customary

and traditional patterns of subsistence use within the park has been important in developing workable subsistence hunting plan recommendations.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Commission and National Park Service are working together to address concerns for management of wildlife populations within the national park and preserve. During FY 2025, the Commission made recommendations regarding updates for the Superintendent’s Compendium as well as proposals to the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game. It also heard reports from the Superintendent, the Division of Interpretation and Education, the Research Stewardship and Science Team, and the NPS Alaska Region Subsistence Program. Staff from the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission and the Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office provided reports on staffing and activities.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000



Over \$10,000,000



Cost Savings Other



Cost Savings Comments

Not Applicable

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

104

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Commission made 34 recommendations in FY25: Recommendations were made to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Superintendent regarding possible changes to the Superintendent's Compendium: • To unanimously support the recommendations of the working group on proposed updates to subsistence log harvest policy. • To unanimously support the recommendations of the working group on provisions related to the use of small bridges to support subsistence access. • To support the recommendations of the working group on proposed external boundaries of the resident zone with five in support and two in opposition. The following recommendations were made to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding: • FP25-03a: Tolsona C&T for salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict: Support. • WP25-01: Nelchina caribou seasons, hunt management, and 804 analysis: Support OSM modification. The following recommendations were made to the Alaska Board of Fisheries regarding proposals for the 2024 Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Finfish and Shellfish Meeting: • Proposal 48: Repeal the prohibition of subsistence guide services in the Glennallen Subdistrict: Oppose. • Proposal 50: Prohibit the use of chart-plotters or fish finders in the Chitina and Glennallen Subdistricts: Support. • Proposals 51, 52, 53: Reduce commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Copper River District: Support. • Proposal 54: Restrict use of Copper River District inside closure area during statistical weeks 20 and 21: Oppose. • Proposal 70: Extend the lower boundary of the Chitina Subdistrict: Oppose. • Proposal 89: Increase the bag and possession limit for burbot in Lake Louise: Support. • Proposal 90: Modify bag and possession limits of burbot in Crosswind Lake: Support. The following recommendations were made to the Alaska Board of Game regarding proposals for 2025 Central and Southwest Region Meeting: • Proposal 49: Eliminate the harvest of Nelchina caribou: Support. • Proposal 59: Lengthen the wolf trapping season in Unit 11: Support. • Proposal 60: Lengthen the coyote trapping season in Unit 11: Support. • Proposals 4, 45, and 56: Establish archery-only hunts for sheep, moose, and goat in specified units including Units 11 and 13: Oppose. Other: •

The commission supported the Priority Information Needs for the Southcentral and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Councils and suggested adding an additional one to study the effects of predation as salmon move upriver. • The commission created a working group to review the communities identified in the Nelchina caribou ANILCA Section 804 user prioritization analysis. Working group members are Bruce Ervin, Dan Stevens, Mercedes Knighten, and Nathan Brown. • The commission voted to write letters to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Alaska reporting on the highlights of this meeting. • A motion was passed to write a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, introducing the commission, reporting on recent accomplishments, and sharing concerns about key subsistence resources. The Governor of Alaska will be copied on the letter. • The commission voted to write letters to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Alaska regarding concerns about Copper River Chinook salmon. • WP24-01: Statewide sale of brown bear hides: To unanimously support the revised OSM conclusion in addendum. • Tolsona Resident Zone Request: To not support the request to add Tolsona to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park resident zone. The commission made 11 formal recommendations during the September 2025 as follows: • WP26-01: Move delegated authorities into unit specific regulations, including region specific addendums WP26-01b (Southcentral) and WP26-01i (Eastern Interior): Support with modification to add the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission as a consulting body for Unit 11 moose and Unit 12 caribou. • WP26-24/25/26/71: Increase the harvest limit of brown bears in Units 11, 12, and 13: Support with modification requesting continued monitoring of brown bear populations. • WP26-27: Modify the harvest limit for caribou in Unit 13C-E: Support with the OSM modification except for Unit 13C, which should have a harvest limit of “up to 2 bulls.” A hunt should not be opened until the herd has sufficiently recovered. • WP26-28a: Modify the moose season in Unit 11: Support with modification to keep the season one-month long with shifted dates, September 1st to September 30th. • WP26-28b/29/30: Modify the moose season in Unit 13: Support WP26-29 and take no action on WP26-28b and WP26-30. • WP26-31: Close specific Federal lands (BLM) to non-federally qualified users for moose in Unit 13: Oppose (motion to support failed with a tie vote).

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

80%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The park is working to implement recommendations and comments made to regulatory proposals were forwarded to the relevant Board.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or

will be Partially implemented by the agency?

20%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The park continues to work on implementing recommendations.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

Public meetings and response letters to the Commission. NPS officials will provide oral or written briefings or status reports during meetings of the Commission.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

Action Comments

Not Applicable

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

Not Applicable

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site

Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



Access Comments

For information on Wrangell-St. Elias National Park SRC go online to:

<https://www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/management/subsistence-resource-commission.htm>