

# 2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission-Wrangell-St. Elias National Park

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>	<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>
Department of the Interior	2025
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>	<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>
National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission-Wrangell-St. Elias National Park	558

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

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

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

**11. Establishment Authority** Statutory (Congress Created)

<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
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** 2 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 2

## Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
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Seven members of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission attended the meeting. Other participants included 13 members of the park staff, 4 staff from the NPS Alaska Regional Office, 9 members of the public, and 7 representatives of other agencies, tribes, and organizations. The meeting agenda included opportunities to review and comment on federal subsistence fisheries proposals and a Nelchina caribou ANILCA section 804 user prioritization analysis. 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 Ahnna Intertribal Resource Commission and the Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office provided reports on staffing and activities.

10/04/2024 - 10/05/2024

02/25/2025 - 02/26/2025

## Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00

<b>18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18e. Total Costs</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	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?**

Meetings are generally held 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.

**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.

**21. Remarks**

The Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission met once during fiscal year 2024. This meeting was held on March 14 and 15, 2024 in Gakona, Alaska, in person and via teleconference. There was only one meeting held in FY24 due to the Fall meeting being moved to the alternate date in October, thus moving the associated reporting to FY25. The following recommendations and motions were passed during the spring 2024 meeting: o A motion was passed to submit a temporary special action request to the Federal Subsistence Board for a one-year closure to hunting of the Nelchina caribou herd in Unit 11, Unit 12 remainder, and Unit 13 for all users and request an ANILCA Section 804 user prioritization analysis using state and federal harvest data. o A motion was passed to submit a temporary special action request to the Federal Subsistence Board to extend the fall moose season in Unit 12 – that portion within the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and those lands within Wrangell St. Elias Preserve north and east

of Pickerel Lake Winter Trail – to September 30 for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 regulatory years. o A motion was passed to submit a Board of Game proposal to extend the trapping seasons for wolf and coyote in Unit 11 (November 10 to March 31) to match the season lengths in Units 12 and 13 (October 15 to April 30). o Comments were developed through a consensus process regarding a proposed rule to add three public member seats to the Federal Subsistence Board and then ratified with a motion to reference these comments in their letters to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Alaska. o A motion was passed to write a letter to the Secretary of Interior and the Governor of Alaska highlighting actions taken during the meeting, including commenting on the proposed rule to add seats to the Federal Subsistence Board, deferring action on proposed changes to the Superintendent's Compendium regarding resident zone boundaries to the fall meeting, submitting temporary special action requests to the Federal Subsistence Board, and submitting a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game. Additional comments: The commission discussed proposed changes to the Superintendent's Compendium. 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, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, and the Bureau of Land Management-Glennallen Field Office. In addition to the recommendations described above, the commission approved motions to adopt the meeting agenda, to approve the minutes from its September 2023 meeting, and to adjourn the meeting. The commission re-elected SRC Chair

Sue Entsminger and elected SRC Vice-Chair Suzanne McCarthy. The commission deferred action on the proposed Superintendent's Compendium entry on resident zone boundaries to the fall meeting. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 23 and 24, 2024, with October 4 and 5, 2024, as alternate dates. If an in-person meeting can be held, it will be in Copper Center, AK.

### **Designated Federal Officer**

Ben Bobowski Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Brown, Nathan	03/11/2024	03/10/2027	Subsistence user	Representative Member
Entsminger, Susan	11/04/2006	11/04/2024	Subsistence Hunter	Representative Member
Ervin, Bruce	01/17/2024	01/16/2027	Subsistence user	Representative Member
James, Daryl	10/27/2022	10/26/2025	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
McCarthy, Suzanne	11/04/2000	12/01/2024	Community College Employee	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: 9**

### **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**

Not Applicable

**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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Cost Savings Comments**

Not Applicable

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

## **Number of Recommendations Comments**

Historically, only formal hunting recommendations were tracked by this report. Since the Federal Subsistence Board was put into place, the SRC also comments on federal and state wildlife proposals. The following five recommendations and motions were passed during the spring 2024 meeting:

- o A motion was passed to submit a temporary special action request to the Federal Subsistence Board for a one-year closure to hunting of the Nelchina caribou herd in Unit 11, Unit 12 remainder, and Unit 13 for all users and request an ANILCA Section 804 user prioritization analysis using state and federal harvest data.
- o A motion was passed to submit a temporary special action request to the Federal Subsistence Board to extend the fall moose season in Unit 12 – that portion within the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and those lands within Wrangell St. Elias Preserve north and east of Pickerel Lake Winter Trail – to September 30 for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 regulatory years.
- o A motion was passed to submit a Board of Game proposal to extend the trapping seasons for wolf and coyote in Unit 11 (November 10 to March 31) to match the season lengths in Units 12 and 13 (October 15 to April 30).
- o Comments were developed through a consensus process regarding a proposed rule to add three public member seats to the Federal Subsistence Board and then ratified with a motion to reference these comments in their letters to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Alaska.
- o A motion was passed to write a letter to the Secretary of Interior and the Governor of Alaska highlighting actions taken during the meeting, including commenting on the proposed rule to add seats to the Federal Subsistence Board, deferring action on proposed changes to the Superintendent's Compendium regarding resident zone boundaries to the fall meeting, submitting temporary special action requests to the Federal Subsistence Board, and submitting a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game.

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

60%

## **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

SRC hunting program recommendations have addressed the following:- Appoint alternate for each SRC member to ensure quorum. - Define resident zone community boundaries.- Evaluate Cordova for resident zone status.- Evaluate Tolsona for resident zone status.- Conduct subsistence access study.- Conduct analysis of ATV use on Malaspina Forelands.- Establish fall spring and summer subsistence waterfowl season. Allow summer harvest of birds.- Implement Mentasta Caribou Management Plan.- Allow collection of horns and antlers.- Support studies of subsistence fish stocks.- Allow making , selling or trading handicraft items by subsistence users for customary trade.-- Clarify

NPS definition of trap regarding use of firearms.

**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**

SRC Proposed Actions:- Amend charter to allow SRC to report to Superintendent and Federal Subsistence Board.- Appoint alternate for each SRC member to ensure quorum. - Define resident zone community boundaries.- Evaluate Cordova for resident zone status.- Evaluate Tolsona for resident zone status.- Establish minimum residency requirement for resident zones communities.-Conduct subsistence access study.- Conduct analysis of ATV use on Malaspina Forelands.- Establish fall spring and summer subsistence waterfowl season. Allow summer harvest of birds.- Implement Mentasta Caribou Management Plan.- Use predator control on NPS lands.- Allow collection of horns and antlers.- Support studies of subsistence fish stocks.- Allow making , selling or trading handicraft items by subsistence users for customary trade.- Allow aircraft for subsistence access.- Clarify NPS definition of trap regarding use of firearms.

**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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**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>