

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission-Wrangell-St. Elias National Park

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of the Interior	2024
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.

National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission-Wrangell-St. Elias National Park	558
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4. Is this New 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 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next 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. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$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?

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 twice during fiscal year 2023. These meetings were held on October 3 and 4, 2023, in person and via teleconference and February 2023, in person and via teleconference. The following recommendations and motions were passed during the fall 2023 meeting: The commission made four formal recommendations

as follows:

- The following recommendations were made to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding proposals to change federal subsistence regulations:
 - o FP23-14: Revise customary and traditional use determination for Chitina subdistrict salmon. Support.
 - o FP23-15/16: Revise customary and traditional use determination for Chitina subdistrict salmon. Support.
 - o FP23-19: Rescind Lower Copper River Area salmon fishery. Tie, opposed.
- A motion was approved to write letters to the Governor of Alaska and the Secretary of the Interior supporting the wood bison reintroduction project in the Upper Tanana area and encouraging the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to continue to move forward and discuss it with all parties including the Upper Tanana people.
- A motion was approved to establish a working group to review the draft Subsistence Log Harvest Policy along with the use of small bridges for subsistence access.
- A motion was approved to establish a working group to review and develop draft recommendations on proposed regulations regarding the harvest of wildlife for sport purposes in national preserves and to hold a special SRC meeting by teleconference to comment on the proposed regulations. Due to uncertainty about the comment period, November 30 was tentatively identified as the meeting date with December 7, January 4, and February 1 as alternative dates.
- In addition to the recommendations described above, the commission approved motions to adopt the meeting agenda, to approve the minutes from its February 2022 meeting, and to adjourn the meeting. The SRC identified the following as topics of concern to share at the December 2022 SRC Chairs Workshop:
 - o A desire for the wildlife management in Alaskan national parks to not be “one-size-fits-all.”
 - o A concern about the back-and-forth of the 2015 wildlife rule.
 - o A

concern about the dissemination of information about access within the park, and how these misunderstandings affect park users and guests. o The changing environment and how to adapt subsistence use of these resources. o A potential statewide SRC meeting to learn from each other and about each other's parks, their resources and issues as well as provide trainings to SRC members. • The next regular SRC meeting was tentatively scheduled for February 23-24, 2023, with March 7-8 as the alternate date. If an in-person meeting can be held, it will be in Copper Center, Alaska. The following recommendations and motions were passed during the winter/spring 2023 meeting: Two recommendations were made to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding wildlife closure reviews: o WCR24-35: Review closure to caribou hunting in southeastern portion of Unit 12 where federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users: Support status quo. o WCR24-42: Review closure to caribou hunting by all users in the southwestern portion of Unit 12. Support status quo. • A motion was passed to submit comments regarding the proposed NPS regulation for the harvest of wildlife in national preserves for sport purposes, based in part on the recommendations of the SRC working group on the proposed rule. In addition to the recommendations described above, the commission approved motions to adopt the meeting agenda, to approve the minutes from its October 2022 meeting, and to adjourn the meeting. • Sue Entsminger was elected chair of the SRC, and Gloria Stickwan was elected vice-chair. • A motion was passed to identify an SRC representative and alternate to the May 2023 Arctic Ungulate Conference based on first-come, first-served self-identification. • A motion was

passed to write a letter to the Governor of Alaska and the Secretary of the Interior transmitting the SRC comments on the proposed NPS wildlife rule.

- The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 27-28, 2023, with October 11-12, 2023, as alternate dates. If an in-person meeting can be held, it will be in Copper Center, Alaska.

Designated Federal Officer

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

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Cronk, Michael	01/14/2021	12/14/2024	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Entsminger, Susan	11/04/2006	11/04/2024	Subsistence Hunter	Representative Member
Horrell, Donald	11/04/2000	12/01/2024	Store Owner/Subsistence Hunter	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	12/14/2024	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Stickwan, Gloria	11/04/2005	12/14/2024	Subsistence hunter	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

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?

76

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 5 recommendations were made to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding proposals to change federal subsistence regulations: o FP23-14: Revise customary and traditional use determination for Chitina subdistrict salmon. Support. o FP23-15/16: Revise customary and traditional use determination for Chitina subdistrict salmon. Support. o FP23-19: Rescind Lower Copper River Area salmon fishery. Tie, opposed. o WCR24-35: Review closure to caribou hunting in southeastern portion of Unit 12 where federal public lands are closed to caribou hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users: Support status quo. o WCR24-42: Review closure to caribou hunting by all users in the southwestern portion of Unit 12. Support status quo. The following recommendation was made to the Alaska Board of Game regarding proposals to change State of Alaska wildlife proposals: • A motion was approved to write letters to the Governor of Alaska and the Secretary of the Interior supporting the wood bison reintroduction project in the Upper Tanana area and encouraging the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to continue to move forward and discuss it with all parties including the Upper Tanana people.

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 committee.

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

☐

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>