

# 2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission-Kobuk Valley National Park

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>	<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>
Department of the Interior	2026
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>	<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>
National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission-Kobuk Valley National Park	556

<b>4. Is this New During 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** 1 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 1

**Meetings and Dates**

Purpose	Start	End
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Members listened to Kara Moriarty's presentation on the scoping process from the SOI office. SRC will provide a comment at their March 12-13, 2026 meeting. 01/29/2026 - 01/29/2026

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1**

	<b>Current FY</b>	<b>Next FY</b>
<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?**

The Subsistence Resource Commission for Kobuk Valley 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 of the State 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 Subsistence Resource Commission for Kobuk Valley 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 Kobuk Valley 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. The Commission's recommendations will help the NPS to ensure the continuation of the opportunity for local rural residents to engage in the subsistence use of resources in Kobuk Valley National Park. 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 NPS policy 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 Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource Commission met twice during fiscal year 2025. The meetings were held on Oct 9-10, 2024, in Kotzebue, Alaska and via teleconference, and on February 26, 2025, in Kotzebue, Alaska and via teleconference. Quorum was met for both meetings.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Emily Creek Superintendent, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Shared Beringian Heritage Program & Acting-Superintendent Western Arctic National Parklands

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Custer, Merle	10/29/2019	11/04/2025	Subsistence Hunter	Representative Member
Griest, Nellie	02/24/2015	12/14/2025	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Horner, Rosa	11/04/2016	11/04/2025	Subsistence Hunter	Representative Member
Mitchell, Enoch	11/04/2000	12/15/2025	Subsistence Hunter	Representative Member
Moto, Kevin	11/04/2024	11/04/2027	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Newlin, Gordon	02/24/2015	11/04/2027	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Pattee, Tristen	03/08/2023	03/08/2026	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Westlake, Benny	11/15/2018	12/01/2027	Subsistence Hunter	Representative Member

## **Number of Committee Members Listed: 8**

### **Narrative Description**

The Subsistence Resource Commission for Kobuk Valley National Park was established by Congress to devise and recommend to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Alaska a program for subsistence hunting within Kobuk Valley 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. 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 Kobuk Valley National Park. 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 NPS policy to:

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- 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.

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

Checked if  
Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

**Outcome Comments**

The Commission and National Park Service are working together to address concerns for management of wildlife populations within the national park. During FY 2025, the Commission members gave reports from their local areas at each meeting, approved meeting minutes, discussed and provided recommendations to various projects, agencies provided updates, and the Commission discussed appointments and the need to fill SRC seats: Enoch Mitchell had stepped down leaving 2 vacant seats one SOI seat which is in the process of being filled. A new member is being expected to be on-boarded in spring. Previous chair, Shield Downey Jr. who passed away in March was awarded the Eileen Devinney Award.

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$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?**

30

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

The Commission made 8 recommendations in FY25: • Contact Henry Horner to join SRC. • Incorporate traditional knowledge into bear survey. • Keep doing wolf research. It is highly important, and people want to participate. • Reach out to Aqqaluk trust about Maniilaq culture camp cooperative agreement funds available for fuel, they support a lot of the Kobuk River camps. • Improve communication on caribou regulations to all communities. Use larger maps for wildlife survey discussions. • Voted to amend the federal ptarmigan season to align with the state season: from Aug 10-April 30 to Aug 10-June 15. • Adopted on a draft proposal written but not voted on by CAKR SRC. Asked SRC Coordinator to submit the proposal and bring it to NWARAC. • SRC recommends for leniency on regulations as people hunt for their food. Food security is a big concern. Lack of food at village stores and difficulty with SNAPs benefits. Additionally, the SRC has concern over cow harvest. It is difficult to balance the need for food with conservation in these times.

**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**

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?**

40%

### **% 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**

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

**Access Comments**

Not Applicable