



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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KOBUK VALLEY SUBSISTENCE RESOURCE COMMISSION

The Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) provides local subsistence users an opportunity to inform the management of subsistence resources in Kobuk Valley and the surrounding area (Unit 23). Since the establishment of the Federal Subsistence Program in 1990, the nine-member commission has made recommendations on fish and wildlife proposals directly to Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal Subsistence Board.

The Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (RAC) appoints three members to the SRC. These members provide an important link between the SRC and the Federal Subsistence Management Program. In addition to the RAC appointments, three members of the SRC are appointed by the Governor of Alaska and three members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

At its October meeting, the RAC has the opportunity to take action on its appointments to the SRC. One current RAC member, Elmer Armstrong, is seeking appointment to the Kobuk Valley SRC to take the place of an expired seat. I am here to ask if the RAC is interested in appointing Elmer Armstrong to the SRC. According to ANILCA Section 808(a), members of the RAC or local Advisory Councils (AC), such as the Upper Kobuk AC, who also engage in subsistence in the monument, are eligible for this appointment. To be eligible to engage in subsistence within the monument, rural residents must make their primary permanent home in one of the monument's resident zone communities, live within the monument, or hold a subsistence permit issued pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 13.440.

Subsistence users who have questions about or are interested in applying for a seat on the SRC should contact Emily Creek at emily_creek@nps.gov or Eva Patton at eva_patton@nps.gov or 907-764-5377.

Kobuk Valley SRC Roster October 2024

| Name | Community | Appointing Source | Expires* |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Merle Custer | Shungnak | NWA RAC | 11/4/2027 |
| Tristen Pattee | Ambler | NWA RAC | 3/08/2026 |
| Expired seat | Kobuk | NWA RAC | 11/4/2023 |
| VACANT | - | Governor of Alaska | |
| Enoch Mitchell | Noatak | Governor of Alaska | 12/1/2023 |
| Benny Westlake | Kiana | Governor of Alaska | 12/1/2024 |
| Nellie Griest | Shungnak | Secretary of the Interior | 1/15/2024 |
| Gordon Newlin | Noorvik | Secretary of the Interior | 1/15/2024 |
| Vacant (appointment in process) | | Secretary of the Interior | 1/15/2024 |

* All members serve three-year terms. According to 54 U.S. Code § 100906(c), members continue to serve until re-appointed or replaced. However, RAC appointees must be current members of a RAC or AC for their appointments to be valid.