

Federal Subsistence Board – Special Action Request Form

Temporary change to Federal Subsistence Hunting or Fishing Regulations

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Organization (if applicable): [Not Applicable]

1. Describe the Special Action you are requesting:

To close Federal public lands in Unit 13C to moose hunting by non-federally qualified users for the 2025–2026 seasons.

2. Describe the unusual or significant change in resource abundance or conditions that could not reasonably have been anticipated:

Moose population growth in Unit 13C has been unusually slow in recent years, with limited recruitment and low calf survival rates contributing to stagnation. This slow recovery has been further strained by an increased presence of non-federally qualified hunters in the area, which has added significant pressure on an already limited resource. Compounding the situation, the region experienced an extremely late fall season, which disrupted the normal moose rutting cycle. As a result, moose have not been congregating or behaving in predictable patterns, making hunting more difficult and less productive for subsistence users. These conditions, which could not have been reasonably anticipated, have created an unsustainable situation where there are not enough resources to support all users of this limited federal subsistence area. It is also important to note that there is an abundance of non-federal land within Unit 13C that remains available for general hunting access, making this closure both reasonable and appropriate.

3. Explain how these changes are having significant adverse effects on subsistence users or on the health of fish/wildlife populations:

The combination of poor moose recruitment, unusual weather patterns, and increased competition from non-federally qualified users is severely limiting the ability of local rural residents to meet their subsistence needs. Households that rely on moose meat for winter food security are reporting fewer harvest opportunities, longer hunting efforts, and reduced success rates. If this pressure continues, the health and viability of the moose population itself may be further jeopardized, threatening both conservation objectives and long-term subsistence opportunity.

4. Clarify the primary purpose of your request (check one or more):

- ☒ To ensure conservation of healthy populations of fish or wildlife
- ☒ To ensure continued viability of a fish or wildlife population
- ☒ To ensure continued subsistence use
- ☐ For public safety reasons

5. Explain why this change is needed before the next regulatory cycle:

Delaying action until the next regulatory cycle risks further depletion of an already vulnerable moose population in Unit 13C. The fall 2025 season will occur before any new regulations from the next cycle could take effect. A timely closure is necessary to protect the population from overharvest and to prioritize continued access for federally qualified subsistence users who rely on this resource for food security and cultural tradition.

Signature: *Michael Rego* Date: 07/29/2025