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WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE SUBSISTENCE AND ANTHROPOLOGY REPORT FALL 2025

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Federal subsistence hunting permits issued for Wrangell-St. Elias in 2025

Table 1 lists the numbers of caribou, goat, moose, and sheep permits issued by park and Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge staff for federal subsistence hunts on Wrangell-St. Elias lands in Units 11 and 12. Preliminary 2025 numbers will be provided as part of the oral report.

What is next? Updated permit numbers and harvest information will be provided in the Spring 2026 report. Please remember to return your harvest reports, even if you did not hunt!

Dall Sheep Local Knowledge Interviews

Anthropology and wildlife staff at Wrangell-St. Elias conducted a series of local knowledge interviews about Dall sheep with eight long-time hunters and others with a long history of observing sheep in Wrangell-St. Elias. A first draft of the summary report has been written and is undergoing revisions. Funding for this work comes from the NPS Alaska Subsistence Advisory Council and Alaska Geographic.

Outer Coast Ethnographic Landscape Study

Throughout 2025, park staff have been meeting with staff from the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) and Native Village of Eyak (NVE) to plan a project that will gather information to complete an Ethnographic Landscape Study. This baseline document will help park management assess coastal resources at risk of being lost due to glacial melt. Starting in 2026, park staff will work with YTT and NVE staff as well as Portland State University professor Doug Deur on coordinating talking circles focused on landscape change. We also anticipate working with Thomas Thornton, University of Alaska Southeast, for additional assistance in the preparation for an Ethnographic Landscape Study.

Table 1. Federal Subsistence Registration Permits in Wrangell-St. Elias NPP, 2015-2025

Unit 11 Goat (FG1101)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	29	22	26	30	27	27	20	8	6	23	
Individuals Hunting	6	4	3	8	8	4	2	1	2	1	
Animals Harvested	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Success Rate (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	

Unit 11 Remainder Moose -- Fall Hunt in part of unit outside of the RM291 hunt area (FM1106)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	128	138	132	144	107	156	140	139	140	144	
Individuals Hunting	70	75	72	85	45	68	71	66	59	56	
Animals Harvested	13	16	13	12	10	15	11	15	10	13	
Success Rate (%)	18.6	21.3	18.1	14.1	22.2	22.1	15.5	22.7	16.9	23.2	

Unit 11 Moose -- Winter Hunt in southern part of unit (FM1107)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	17	20	14	11	8	8	7	10	21	13	
Individuals Hunting	3	4	4	2	2	1	2	4	1	8	
Animals Harvested	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	
Success Rate (%)	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0	25.0	100.0	25.0	

Unit 11 Elder Sheep (FS1104)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
20Permits Issued	25	32	34	38	34	38	26	25	22	30	
Individuals Hunting	8	12	13	18	14	12	12	10	11	10	
Animals Harvested	3	3	4	1	1	1	3	2	3	4	
Success Rate (%)	37.5	25.0	30.8	5.6	7.1	8.3	25.0	20.0	27.3	40.0	

Unit 11 Elder/Junior Sheep (FS1103)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	
Individuals Hunting	-	1	2	0	-	0	0	0	0	2	
Animals Harvested	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	
Success Rate (%)	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	

Unit 12 Caribou -- Chisana (FC1205) -- Closed in 2022 due to conservation concerns

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	11	8	8	6	4	7	5	n/a	6	8	
Individuals Hunting	7	8	3	3	3	4	1	n/a	5	4	
Animals Harvested	0	1	0	2	1	3	0	n/a	2	2	
Success Rate (%)	0.0	12.5	0.0	66.7	33.3	75.0	0.0	n/a	40.0	50.0	

Table 1. Federal Subsistence Registration Permits in Wrangell-St. Elias NPP, 2015-2025 (cont.)

Unit 12 Elder Sheep (FS1201)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	7	11	12	14	14	12	13	8	11	9	
Individuals Hunting	3	6	4	8	6	4	6	4	5	1	
Animals Harvested	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Success Rate (%)	0.0	16.7	25.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Unit 12 Elder/Junior Sheep (FS1204)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Permits Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
Individuals Hunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	
Animals Harvested	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Success Rate (%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Source: Federal Subsistence Permit Database.

* 2025 data given as part of the oral report.

Note: Success rate is calculated based on the number of individuals hunting, not total permits issued.

Traditional Knowledge, Ethnographic, and Subsistence Projects:

Work is underway on several traditional knowledge, ethnographic and subsistence projects, with most of the work being carried out by project partners through cooperative agreements.

Upper Copper River communities surveyed about subsistence harvests: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (AITRC), and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve staff completed comprehensive harvest assessments in Mentasta, Chistochina, Slana, and along the Nabesna Road in 2023-2024. Community data review meetings were held in Mentasta in 2023 and in Chistochina and Slana in 2024. Staff are currently reviewing the technical paper which will be published in December 2025. AITRC and park staff will return to Mentasta, Chistochina, and Slana for follow-up meetings following publication.

Ahtna Ethnographic Overview and Assessment (EOA): This baseline cultural anthropology study includes an annotated inventory of ethnographic and related materials relevant to the Ahtna Athabascans; a narrative synopsis of our current understanding of these materials, with a focus on connections to Wrangell-St. Elias; and a discussion of data gaps and additional research needs. This project was completed through a cooperative agreement with the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. An electronic copy of the report can be downloaded from the park's website (www.nps.gov/WRST) under the tab "Learn About the Park"/ "History and Culture"/ "People"/ "[Ahtna and Wrangell-St. Elias: An Ethnographic Overview and Assessment](#)." Printed copies are available by emailing WRST_subsistence@nps.gov with a request for a copy and your mailing address.

Copper River Salmon In-Season Teleconferences: During summer 2025, weekly teleconferences hosted by AITRC with funding from Wrangell-St. Elias provided a venue for Copper River subsistence fishers to share firsthand knowledge about Copper River salmon harvests and returns along with river conditions and other factors that may affect harvests and returns with one another as well as agency staff. Biologists and fisheries managers also shared information on run timing and strength, management strategies, and various Copper River fisheries research and monitoring projects. This multi-year project will continue in summer 2026, and people fishing on the Copper River are encouraged to participate. Information about how to participate along with summaries from the previous calls can be found at the project website: <https://www.ahtnatribal.org/teleconferences>.

Alternative Harvest Monitoring Methodology: This project aims to develop a new methodology to fill in the gaps between comprehensive community harvest assessments by documenting a series of exploratory subsistence life histories to understand how harvesting and sharing of subsistence resources changes over a lifetime. The ethnographic data on sharing among local, rural people will inform the development of a network analysis methodology. In addition to interviews, a literature review will be compiled of existing social network analysis work in Alaska. The analysis of the interviews, the literature review, and the creation of a methodology framework will be presented in a summary report. This project is in cooperation with AITRC and is looking for participants for interviews.