



Federal Subsistence Board

Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 6199



In Reply Refer To
F26022

JUL 15 2026

Robert Wright, Sr., Chair
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 – 6199

Dear Chair Wright:

This letter provides a report on the actions taken by the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) on regulatory proposals as well as select closures identified for review in the proposed rule for this regulatory cycle. The Board met on April 21-24, 2026, to consider wildlife closures and proposed changes to Federal subsistence management regulations for the harvest of wildlife on Federal Public Lands in Alaska.

The Board considered 78 proposals and 17 closures during the 2026-28 wildlife regulatory cycle. The Board adopted 52 of the proposals, deferred five, approved the withdrawal of three (WP26-27 and WP26-41/42), rejected 12, and took no action on 11. The Board reviewed and acted on 17 wildlife closures, voting to retain status quo on 12 of them. The Board adopted deferred fisheries proposal FP25-02 as modified by the Southeast Council and determined the request for reconsideration RFR25-01 of Ketchikan's rural status does not meet the threshold.

Section 805(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provides that the Board will accept the recommendations of a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) regarding take unless, (1) the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, (2) the recommendation violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife management, or (3) adopting the recommendation would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. When a Council's recommendation is not adopted, the Board is required to set forth the factual basis and reasons for the decision.

The Board agreed with all of your Council recommendations except for the deferral of WP26-01, which will be taken up during the 2027 Fisheries regulatory meeting; therefore, no 805(c) report is included. The enclosed table provides a summary of Board actions on proposals and closures affecting your region.

Additional details of the Board's actions and deliberations are contained in the meeting transcripts. Copies of the transcripts may be obtained by calling toll free number 1-800-478-

1456 and are available online at the Federal Subsistence Management Program website, <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/library/transcripts/federal-subsistence-board>.

The Federal Subsistence Board appreciates your Council's active involvement in and diligence with the regulatory process. The ten Regional Advisory Councils continue to be the foundation of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and the stewardship shown by the Regional Advisory Council chairs and their representatives at the Board meeting was noteworthy.

If you have any questions regarding the summary of the Board's actions, please contact Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator, at 907-891-9181 or brooke_mcdavid@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,


Anthony Christianson
Chair

Enclosure: Table of Board's Actions affecting the Eastern Interior Region for the 2026-2028
Wildlife Regulatory Cycle

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council members
Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record

Enclosure 1 – Federal Subsistence Board Action Summary at the April 2026 regulatory meeting

Wildlife Proposals and Closure Reviews Affecting Eastern Interior Region

Region	Proposal/Closure Review	Eastern Interior Council Recommendation	Federal Subsistence Board Action
Eastern Interior	WP26-70 - Units 20E, 25A, and 25B black bear; allow sale of handicrafts using any nonedible part except gallbladder	Support	Adopt
Eastern Interior	WP26-71 - Unit 12 brown bear; increase harvest limit to 2 bears	Support	Adopt
Eastern Interior	WP26-72a - Unit 20E brown bear; recognize customary and traditional use for Unit 20E residents	Support	Adopt
Eastern Interior	WP26-72b - Unit 20E brown bear; increase harvest limit to 2 bears	Support	Adopt
Eastern Interior	WP26-73 - Unit 25B brown bear; increase harvest limit to 2 bears	Oppose	Reject
Eastern Interior	WP26-74 - Unit 12 sheep; modify customary and traditional use determination	Oppose	Reject
Eastern Interior	WP26-75 - Unit 25D moose; close to non-federally qualified users in Unit 25D remainder (east)	Support as modified by OSM	Adopt as modified by OSM (to close moose hunting by non-federally qualified users from Sep. 10-20 within the targeted closure area of Unit 25D remainder, consisting of a 10-mile corridor (5 miles either side) along the Yukon River and 5-mile corridors (2.5 miles either side) along Birch Creek (including Upper and Lower Mouths), the Sheenjek River to river mile 60, the Porcupine River, Black River, and Chandalar River)
Eastern Interior	WP26-76 - Units 20E and 25C sheep; extend closure to all users for two years	Support as modified by OSM with an additional Council modification to remove the sunset clause	Adopt as modified by OSM and the Eastern Interior Council to close all Federal public lands within the Glacier Mountain CUA to sheep hunting by all users and to remove the sunset clause

Enclosure 1 – Federal Subsistence Board Action Summary at the April 2026 regulatory meeting

Region	Proposal/Closure Review	Eastern Interior Council Recommendation	Federal Subsistence Board Action
Eastern Interior	WP26-77 - Units 12, 20, and 25 wood bison; recognize customary and traditional use	Defer	Defer as recommended by the Eastern Interior Council until the February 2027 Fisheries meeting
Eastern Interior	WP26-78 - Units 25C and 25D; modify unit boundaries to align with State	Support	Adopt
Eastern Interior	WCR26-22 - Unit 25D west closed to moose hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users (closure review)	Retain Status Quo	Retain Status Quo
South-central Region	WP26-24 - Unit 11 brown bear; increase harvest limit to 2 bears	Take No Action and defer to the Southcentral Council, and submit a comment to the Board	Adopt
South-central Region	WP26-25/26 - Unit 13 brown bear; increase harvest limit to 2 bears	Take No Action and defer to the Southcentral Council, and submit a comment to the Board	Adopt
South-central Region	WP26-27 - Unit 13 remainder Nelchina caribou; change from 2 bulls to up to 2 caribou	Did not consider	Approved the withdrawal
South-central Region	WP26-28a - Unit 11 moose; extend season to Sep. 30	Did not consider	Adopt WP26-28a with Board modification to establish a may-be-announced moose season in Unit 11 from Sep. 21-30 <u>and</u> to delegate authority to the WRST superintendent to open/close a season between Sep. 21-30 via delegation of authority letter only.
South-central Region	WP26-28b/29/30 - Unit 13 moose; extend or shift season dates	Did not consider	Adopt WP26-28b; Take no action on WP26-29/30.
South-central Region	WP26-31 - Unit 13 moose; close BLM lands to non-federally qualified users	Did not consider	Adopt

Enclosure 1 – Federal Subsistence Board Action Summary at the April 2026 regulatory meeting

Region	Proposal/Closure Review	Eastern Interior Council Recommendation	Federal Subsistence Board Action
Statewide	WP26-01 - Move authority delegated through letters to unit specific regulations	Support as modified by OSM	Defer to 2027 Fisheries Meeting
Statewide	WP26-01i – Eastern Interior Region Delegated Authority	Support with the following Council modifications: a) Modify delegated authority for Fortymile caribou to include 1) the ability to set harvest quotas, 2) the ability to designate harvest areas/zones, 3) require consultations with the Eastern Interior Council members who serve on the Harvest Management Coalition (in addition to the Council Chair), and 4) require consultations with the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Tribal Resource Stewardship Department. b) Modify delegated authority for Chisana caribou to require consultations with the TCC Tribal Resource Stewardship Department and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission (AITRC)	Defer to 2027 Fisheries Meeting