
[EXTERNAL] Federal moose season extensions for Units 11,12,13

From Sen. Mike Cronk <Sen.Mike.Cronk@akleg.gov>

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To Subsistence, OS <subsistence@ios.doi.gov>

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September 2, 2026

To whom it concerns,

On behalf of the many residents of Game Management Units (GMUs) 11, 12, and 13 whom I know, and the many others whom I do not, all of whom traditionally rely upon the subsistence harvest of moose, I respectfully request emergency extensions of the subsistence moose seasons.

In response to the likely delay in ratification of proposals approved by the Federal Subsistence Board in April of this year, I am requesting that the subsistence moose seasons in GMUs 11 and 13 be extended through September 30, 2026, consistent with Proposals WPA 26-28a and WPA 26-28b, as proposed and approved by the Federal Subsistence Board. I also support the soon-to-be-submitted proposal from the Northway Village Council to extend the GMU 12 fall subsistence moose season through September 30.

If these extensions are not approved before the current September 20 closing date, residents may be denied the opportunity to harvest sufficient meat for their families this year. This

situation has been exacerbated by the Nelchina caribou closures, which are expected to affect subsistence opportunities for several years; substantially reduced moose populations on the Tetlin Refuge over the past four years; and the recent closure of two road-accessible caribou hunting zones in GMU 20.

Furthermore, based on the observations of many local hunters over the past five to ten years, the timing of the moose rut appears to have become increasingly delayed. While this is anecdotal, many believe the change may be related to seasonal temperature changes or, potentially, to the ever-increasing number of non-local hunters who concentrate in the area during the State season. GMU 20 is, to my knowledge, the only road-accessible management unit open to “any bull,” making it particularly attractive to hunters from across the state and increasing hunting pressure in the region.

An extension through September 30 would provide Upper Tanana residents with additional opportunity to continue their traditional subsistence uses and secure an adequate supply of meat for their families. At a time when food security is declining and the cost of food continues to increase, maintaining meaningful access to subsistence resources is critically important.

I respectfully request that emergency action be taken to extend the subsistence moose seasons in GMUs 11 and 13 through September 30, 2026, and that prompt consideration be given to the forthcoming proposal from the Northway Village Council regarding GMU 12.

If approved, this request will help ensure the continued subsistence uses of wildlife by Upper Tanana residents who are facing increasing challenges to food security and affordability.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike Cronk