



Federal Subsistence Board Informational Flyer



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Changes in Federal Moose Hunting Regulations in Unit 25D remainder

Frequently asked questions on closure of federal public lands to moose hunting
by non-federally qualified users

In April 2026, the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) adopted Wildlife Proposal WP26-75 with modification to close Federal public lands along river corridors in Unit 25D remainder to moose hunting by non-federally qualified users from September 10–20. This regulation will be official when the final rule publishes in the Federal Register. This fact sheet addresses common questions and concerns about the closure.

1. When and where is the federal hunting season open for moose in Unit 25D remainder?

The federal moose hunting season is open for federally qualified subsistence users August 25–October 15 and December 1–20 on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managed lands, primarily within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

2. What are the permit and reporting requirements for the federal hunt?

A federal permit for hunting moose in Unit 25D remainder is not required. All hunters are required to obtain a State harvest ticket and then report their harvest on this ticket.

3. Exactly where does the federal closure apply?

The moose hunting closure to non-federally qualified users from September 10–20 applies to federal public lands within a 10-mile corridor (five miles on each side) along the Yukon River and five-mile corridors (2.5 miles on each side) along Birch Creek (including Upper and Lower Mouths), the Sheenjek River to river mile 60, the Porcupine River, Black River, and Chandalar River (**Map 1**).

Collectively, this area is about 1,300 square miles of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managed lands within the Yukon Flats and Arctic National Wildlife Refuges. The closure area includes federal public lands on islands above the ordinary high-water mark (see #8 below), but it does not apply to lands below this mark.

4. Does this closure affect Native Corporation lands or Native allotments?

No. State hunting regulations apply on these lands. Contact the landowner for permission to access Native Corporation, Native allotments, and other private lands.

5. What activities are prohibited within the closure areas?

Non-federally qualified users may not hunt for or harvest moose within the closure area. However, non-federally qualified users hunting under State regulations may still travel through, camp, and hunt/trap for other species on federal public lands within the closure area. The closure area also remains open to all other activities such as hiking, boating, wildlife viewing, etc.

6. Who is eligible to hunt moose on Federal public lands in Unit 25D remainder?

Only federally qualified subsistence users are eligible to hunt moose on federal public lands within the closure area in Unit 25D remainder September 10–20. Federally qualified subsistence users are rural Alaska residents who have been determined by the Federal Subsistence Board to have customary and traditional use of moose in Unit 25D remainder. This includes residents of the “remainder of Unit 25,” which includes the following communities: Central, Circle, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik, Venetie, and Arctic Village (**Map 2**).

7. May a non-federally qualified user take moose on lands along navigable waters below the “ordinary high-water mark” when the adjacent uplands are federal public lands?

Yes. Lands below the ordinary high-water mark of navigable waters, such as gravel bars, are outside of federal jurisdiction (see #8 below).

8. How is “ordinary high-water mark” defined?

The ordinary high-water mark means “that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas” ([33 CFR 328.3](#)).

Please note that this mark is identified visually by hunters and law enforcement. It cannot be mapped.

9. Can a non-federally qualified user help a federally qualified subsistence user hunt moose in the closure area?

If you are not eligible to hunt moose, you can be present but cannot participate in the take or taking of moose on federal public lands in the closure area during the closure time period. Once the take is complete, you may assist the hunter with the cleaning, salvage, or processing of a legally harvested animal. **Take or taking**, as used with respect to fish or wildlife, means to pursue, hunt, shoot, trap, net, capture, collect, kill, harm, or attempt to engage in any such conduct ([43 CFR 51.4](#)).

10. Why did the Board enact this closure?

The Board enacted this closure for the continuation of subsistence uses of moose. Long-standing user conflicts including crowding, displacement, and hunt disruption exist along river corridors in Unit 25D remainder where most subsistence users hunt moose during the fall. This targeted closure provides increased opportunity for federally qualified subsistence users by reducing overlap with non-federally qualified users during the fall hunt in the areas where it is most common. The Board also acknowledged the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council’s support for this targeted closure as well as the impact of the Yukon River salmon crisis, which is increasing subsistence users’ dependence on moose.

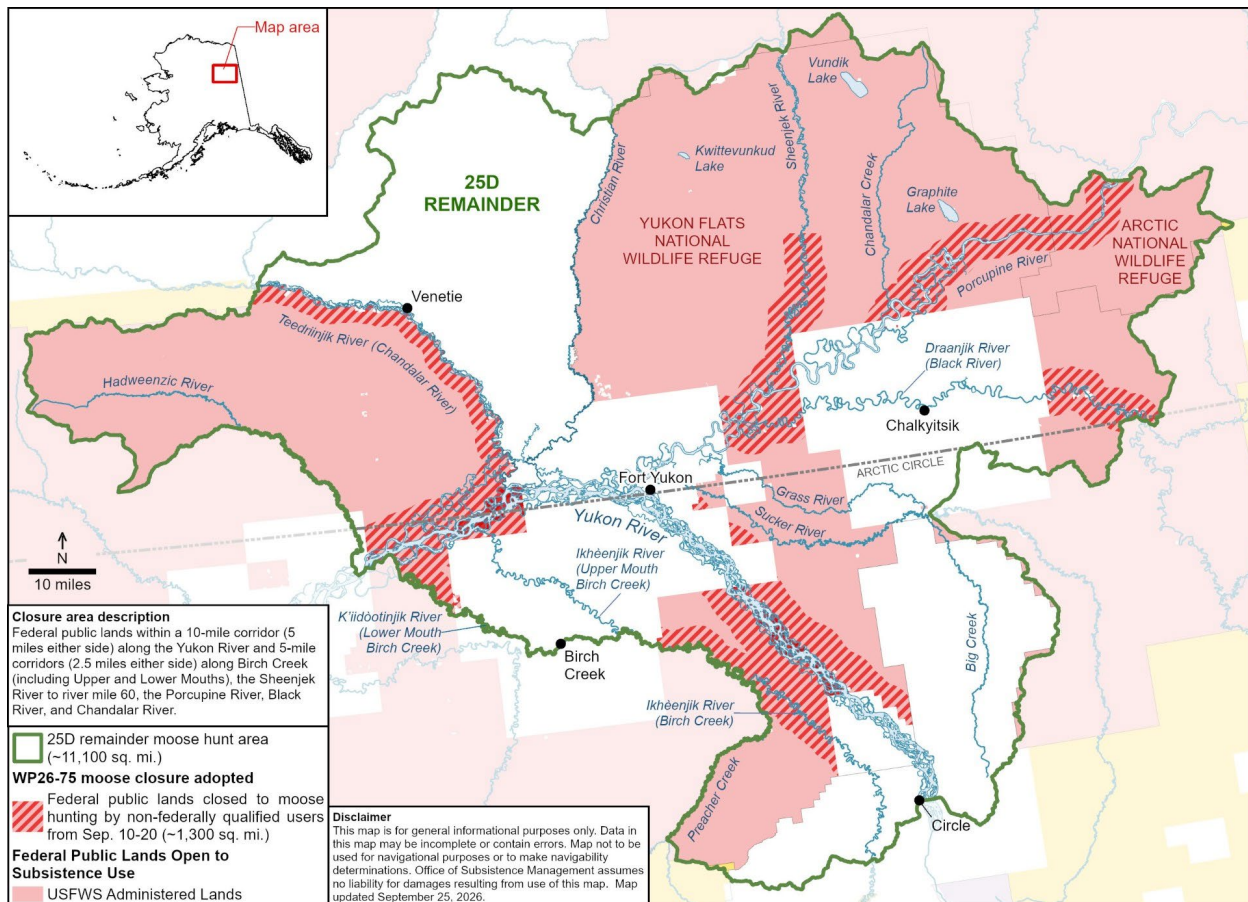
11. How long will this closure be in effect?

This closure will remain in effect unless:

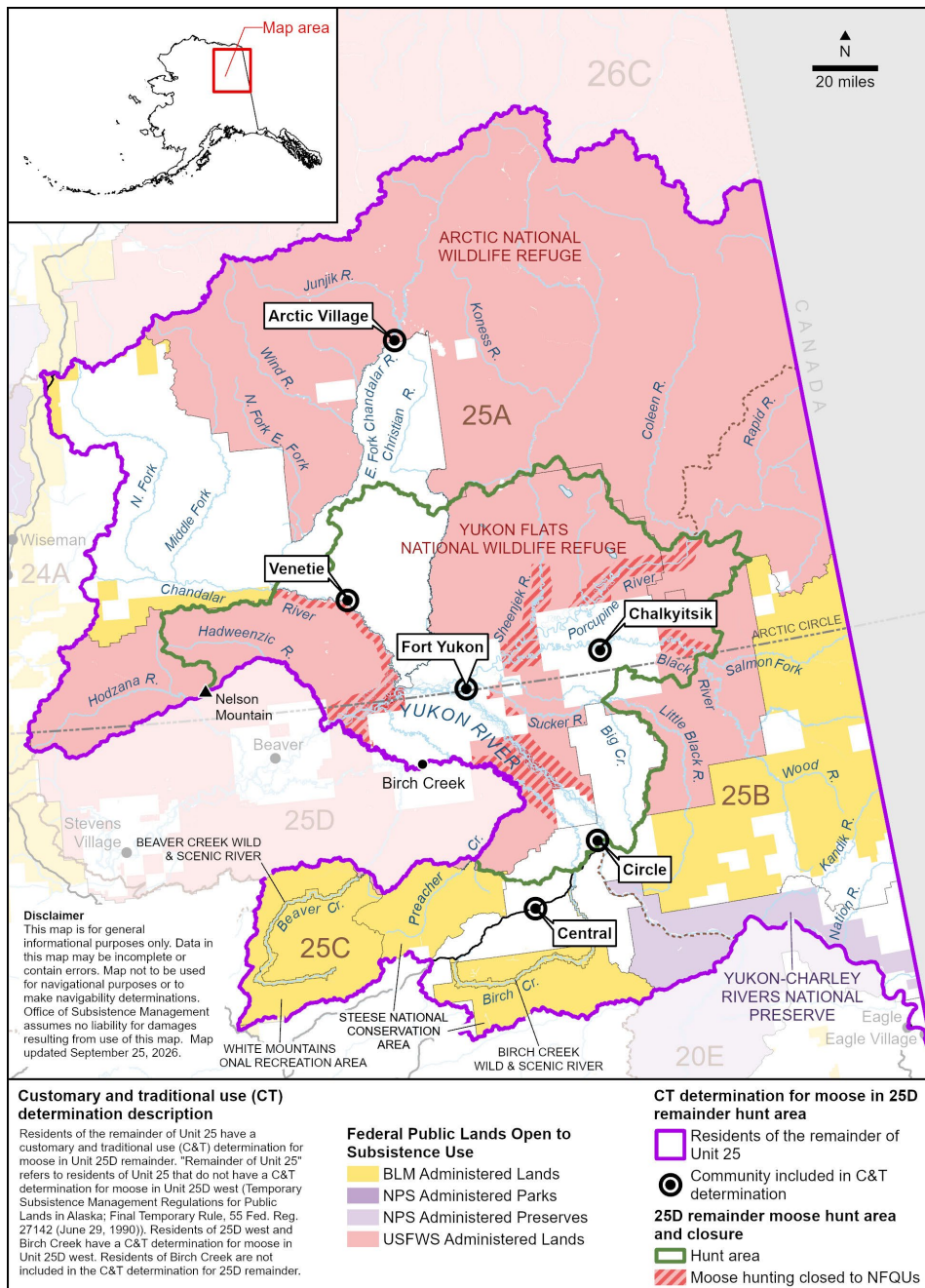
- A proposal to rescind the closure is submitted during a wildlife regulatory cycle and adopted by the Board.
- The closure is rescinded or modified during a routine review conducted every four years, according to the Board's policy.
- The Board reverses its decision in response to a [request for reconsideration](https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/faqs) (see <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/faqs> for more information).

12. Who should I contact if I have further questions about this closure?

Please contact the Office of Subsistence Management at (907) 786-3888, (800) 478-1456 or subsistence@ios.doi.gov.



Map 1. Federal public lands closed to moose hunting by non-federally qualified users in Unit 25D remainder from September 10–20.



Map 2. Customary and Traditional use determination for moose in Unit 25D remainder. These are the federally qualified subsistence users eligible to hunt moose on Federal lands within the closure area and time period.

Information about the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

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