



File Code: 2610

Date: October 7, 2026

Tony Christianson, Federal Subsistence Board
Office of Subsistence Management
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Dear Chairman Christianson:

The Federal Subsistence Board adopted wildlife proposal WP26-17 to establish a late fall season for moose in Unit 7 remainder from Oct. 20 – Nov. 10. Due to delays in finalizing and publishing adopted regulation changes from the April 2026 wildlife regulatory meeting, the Chugach National Forest Seward Ranger District respectfully requests that the Board take special action to implement this season.

Moose are the most important and widely used wild land mammal by the rural communities of Unit 7. Moose meat is widely shared among households in these communities by the relatively few households that harvest. Prior to the implementation of regulated seasons Unit 7 communities traditionally hunted moose in late October and early November. Implementation of this late season will allow the rural residents of Unit 7 additional opportunity to provide for their families and communities, and to hunt during their traditional season when conditions are improved and there is no competition from non-federally qualified users.

If this season is not implemented, subsistence users in Unit 7 may be denied the opportunity to harvest meat this fall. The unit 7 caribou herd has declined to very low levels in recent years resulting in harvest restrictions and very low hunter success. Many hunters express reluctance to target caribou while the population is low. Dall sheep and mountain goats are difficult to access. Nationally, beef prices have risen 9.4% this year.

The Unit 7 moose herd is relatively small and by some indications is declining, but we do not expect the late season to result in a conservation concern. Late stage forest growth is thought to be the primary limiting factor for the herd, and car and train strikes are a larger cause of mortality than hunters. The majority of moose harvested in Unit 7 are harvested by non-federally qualified users. Moose also migrate between unit 7 and unit 15 where there is a large and healthy population. The Seward District Ranger has delegated authority to manage the Unit 7 moose hunt and can close the hunt by emergency special action if an unsustainably high level of harvest occurs during the late season.

If approved, this special action will provide opportunity for the rural residents of Unit 7 to continue subsistence uses, transition regulations in a timely manner, and mitigate confusion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

RUTH D
AMICO

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RUTH L. D'AMICO
District Ranger

cc: Lisa Grediagin, lisa_grediagin@ios.doi.gov

