



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

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Federal subsistence harvest reports for Wrangell-St. Elias in 2024

In 2024, Wrangell-St. Elias and Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge staff issued a total of 230 federal subsistence hunting permits for moose, goat, and sheep for Wrangell St. Elias lands in Units 11 and 12. The most frequently issued permit was for the fall moose hunt in Unit 11 Remainder (FM1106). A total of 144 permits were issued for this hunt in 2024, 56 people hunted, and 13 moose were harvested. (See Table 1 for additional details).

Wrangell St. Elias and the Alaska Department for Fish and Game both issue a joint state/federal permit (RM291) for the moose hunt for portions of Unit 11 and 12 in the northern part of the park. For the 2024 season, a total of 274 permits were issued, 162 people hunted (90 federally qualified subsistence users), and 14 moose were harvested—a majority by federally qualified subsistence users.

Ahtna and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve: An Ethnographic Overview and Assessment now available

This overview of Alaska Native history and culture in the Ahtna Region of eastern interior Alaska focuses on the Ahtna communities associated with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. It is based existing ethnographic and historical sources along with information from the authors' own fieldwork and describes Ahtna culture as it existed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It also examines the longstanding relationships of Ahtna to lands in and near the park, primarily in the northern part of the Copper River Basin.

Ahtna and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve was written by William E. Simeone and Odin T.W. Miller and is the result of collaboration between Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. This project was completed in November 2024, and the report is available for download 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.](#)"

Table 1. Federal Subsistence Registration Permits in Wrangell-St. Elias NPP, 2014-2024

Unit 11 Goat (FG1101)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Permits Issued	31	29	22	26	30	27	27	20	8	6	23
Individuals Hunting	10	6	4	3	8	8	4	2	1	2	1
Animals Harvested	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Success Rate (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	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)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Permits Issued	123	128	138	132	144	107	156	140	139	140	144
Individuals Hunting	70	70	75	72	85	45	68	71	66	59	56
Animals Harvested	10	13	16	13	12	10	15	11	15	10	13
Success Rate (%)	14.3	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)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Permits Issued	32	17	20	14	11	8	8	7	10	21	13
Individuals Hunting	3	3	4	4	2	2	1	2	4	4	1
Animals Harvested	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Success Rate (%)	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	100.0

Unit 11 Elder Sheep (FS1104)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Permits Issued	25	25	32	34	38	34	38	26	25	22	30
Individuals Hunting	10	8	12	13	18	14	12	12	10	11	10
Animals Harvested	1	3	3	4	1	1	1	3	2	3	4
Success Rate (%)	10.0	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)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Permits Issued	0	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)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022**	2023	2024*
Permits Issued	11	11	8	8	6	4	7	5	n/a	6	8
Individuals Hunting	8	7	8	3	3	3	4	1	n/a	5	4
Animals Harvested	2	0	1	0	2	1	3	0	n/a	2	2
Success Rate (%)	25.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	66.7	33.3	75.0	0.0	n/a	40.0	50.0

** Closed in 2022 due to conservation concerns.

Table 1. Federal Subsistence Registration Permits in Wrangell-St. Elias NPP, 2014-2024 (cont.)

Unit 12 Elder Sheep (FS1201)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Permits Issued	9	7	11	12	14	14	12	13	8	11	9
Individuals Hunting	5	3	6	4	8	6	4	6	4	5	1
Animals Harvested	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Success Rate (%)	20.0	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)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Permits Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Individuals Hunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
Animals Harvested	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Success Rate (%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Federal Subsistence Permit Database.

* 2024 data are as of 1/13/2025.

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

Table 2. Joint State-Federal Permits for the Fall Moose Hunt in Portions of Units 11 and 12 (RM291), 2014-2024

All Hunters

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Permits Issued	246	250	277	244	250	277	314	282	340	297	274
Individuals Hunting	191	142	179	145	155	158	187	162	197	153	162
Animals Harvested	20	20	23	19	23	21	27	24	16	10	14
Unit 11 Harvest	11	9	17	15	17	14	12	16	12	5	10
Unit 12 Harvest	9	11	6	4	6	7	15	8	4	5	4
Success Rate (%)	10.5	14.1	12.8	13.1	14.8	13.3	14.4	14.8	8.1	6.5	8.6

Federally Qualified Subsistence Users

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Permits Issued	154	168	176	155	171	173	173	167	175	169	154
Individuals Hunting	92	89	106	88	108	102	107	93	88	72	90
Animals Harvested	15	14	18	15	19	21	14	16	10	10	10
Success Rate (%)	16.3	15.7	17.0	17.0	17.6	20.6	13.1	17.2	11.4	13.9	11.1

Source: Email from ADF&G Tok on 1/09/2025

* 2024 data are as of 1/09/2025.

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

Data for Federally Qualified Subsistence Users excludes records with ambiguous residency (e.g., urban mailing address and rural resident community or local mailing address and non-local resident community).

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, 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 have been working on a technical paper, which is scheduled for completion in fall 2025.

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. The data are currently being reviewed, and a summary report will be written. Funding for this work comes from the NPS Alaska Subsistence Advisory Council and Alaska Geographic.

Outer Coast Ethnographic Landscape Study: Beginning in 2025, a team of cultural anthropologists plus an archeologist will work closely with Eyak and Tlingit knowledge holders to gather information to complete an Ethnographic Landscape Study focusing on lands along the park's coastline to be used as baseline documentation for park management for coastal resources at risk of being lost due to climate warming and glacial melt. In addition to NPS staff and tribal partners, we anticipate working with Doug Deur, Portland State University, and possibly Thomas Thornton, University of Alaska Southeast and National Academy of Sciences.

Copper River Salmon In-Season Teleconferences: During summer 2024, weekly teleconferences hosted by the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (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 2025, 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 the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission and is currently in the planning stages.