

Hunting in Alaska National Preserves

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Alaska Region



NATIONAL PRESERVES

in Alaska are managed similarly to national parks, except that hunting for sport and subsistence is allowed as described in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act passed by Congress in 1980.

Alaska national preserves offer an opportunity to hunt in some of the wildest places in our country. These wild lands of over 19 million acres offer

experiences in exceptional, remote places. All harvest activities must be consistent with National Park Service laws and regulations intended to maintain natural ecological processes and naturally functioning ecosystems.

Subsistence harvest opportunities are accorded priority and provided for before sport hunting. Depending on local and regional conditions, seasons may be limited or closed to sport hunting.



Resident and Nonresident Hunters

Different hunting seasons and regulations apply depending on residency status, location, and species hunted, including whether or not you are required to hunt with a licensed guide.

Generally, a resident is someone who has lived in Alaska for the last continuous year. Nonresident hunters may have lived in the state for less than a year, have a non-primary residence in the state, or be visiting from another state or country. Nonresidents who are U.S. citizens hunting brown bear, Dall sheep, or mountain

goat must be accompanied by a guide licensed in Alaska or by a family member (within second degree kindred) over 18 years of age who has an Alaska hunting license.

Foreigners who do not reside in the United States must be accompanied by a guide licensed in Alaska to hunt any big game species.

Be sure to read Alaska Department of Fish and Game hunting regulations and federal regulations carefully to correctly identify your residency status and the regulations that apply to you.

Hunter Responsibilities

Hunters are responsible for knowing and complying with current hunting regulations and must carry licenses, harvest tickets, and tags while hunting.

Become familiar with food storage rules and Leave No Trace practices and follow them while camping in national preserves. Please do your part to minimize human impacts in preserves.

Be aware that there are private land holdings within national preserves. Do not enter private land without the landowner's permission. Know the land status of where you are at all times, and be sure you are hunting legally. Federal and state law prohibits interfering with another hunter's pursuit of game.

Alaska State Hunting Regulations
www.adfg.alaska.gov/

Federal Hunting Regulations
www.nps.gov/akso/management/regulations.cfm
www.nps.gov/akso/management/compendiums.cfm
home.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/wildlife/index.cfm

Leave No Trace
Int.org/learn/7-principles



Contact for More Information

Alagnak Wild River

907-246-4250

www.nps.gov/alag/planyourvisit/hunting.htm

Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve

907-246-3305

www.nps.gov/ania/planyourvisit/hunting.htm

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

907-443-2522

www.nps.gov/bela/planyourvisit/hunting.htm

Denali National Park and Preserve

907-683-9532

www.nps.gov/dena/learn/management/hunting-information.htm

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

907-457-5752

www.nps.gov/gaar/planyourvisit/hunting.htm

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

907-967-2230

www.nps.gov/glba/planyourvisit/hunting.htm

Katmai National Park and Preserve

907-246-3305

www.nps.gov/katm/planyourvisit/hunting.htm

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

907-781-2218

www.nps.gov/lacl/planyourvisit/hunting.htm

Noatak National Preserve

907-442-3890

www.nps.gov/noat/planyourvisit/hunting.htm

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

907-822-7250

www.nps.gov/wrst/planyourvisit/hunting.htm

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

907-547-2233

www.nps.gov/yuch/planyourvisit/hunting.htm

Planning Your Trip

Remote-hunting logistics can be complex. Obtain the most recent State of Alaska Hunting Regulations and learn the regulations that apply to your location, target species, and residency status. Check with the preserve in which you will hunt for additional information on seasons, species open to hunting, land status, access, and available guides.

Adequate planning is essential for safe hunting in Alaska. We strongly recommend sharing a hunt plan with relatives and the preserve office; it could save your life.

Depending on citizenship, state of residence, and species hunted, you may be required to hunt with a state-licensed guide who has an NPS permit. Travel may involve air taxi services through neighboring villages. We strongly recommend contacting permitted commercial operators who provide transportation services throughout the local area. Check preserve websites for these operators. Contact national preserve staff to learn more about having a safe and legal hunt.



Photo courtesy of Lora May

Hunting in Alaska National Preserves

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Alaska Region



Bison and Muskox

Muskox and bison are well adapted to cold climates. Both wood bison and plains bison are found in Alaska. Wood bison were extirpated in the 1900s and recently reintroduced. Plains bison are found in Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve, and muskox are found in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.



Black Bear

Black bears are widely distributed in Alaska and can be found in most national preserves, including: Alagnak Wild River, Denali, Gates of the Arctic, Glacier Bay, Katmai, Lake Clark, Noatak, Wrangell-St. Elias, and the Yukon-Charley Rivers. Black bears often avoid areas with high concentrations of brown bears.



Brown or Grizzly Bear

Brown and grizzly bears are the same species. Brown bears are associated with the coast and grizzly bears with the interior. The size of brown and grizzly bears varies widely, generally based on the quantity and quality of their diet. Brown and grizzly bears are widespread in Alaska and can be found in all national preserves in Alaska.



Caribou

There are over 30 caribou herds in Alaska. Caribou can be found in nearly every national preserve (they are not found in Glacier Bay National Preserve). Both male and female caribou grow antlers, unique among deer. Semi-domesticated caribou (also called reindeer) are found in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and are illegal to hunt.



Dall Sheep

Both rams and ewes have horns, with ram horns growing thicker and more curled. Dall sheep are sensitive to harsh winters and other stresses, and hunting seasons may close if the local populations are too small or vulnerable. Generally, they can be found in Denali, Gates of the Arctic, Noatak, Lake Clark, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Yukon-Charley Rivers national preserves.



Moose

Moose are the largest deer species and Alaska-Yukon moose are the largest race of moose. Their palmate antlers can grow one pound and one inch per day to a maximum size of 80 pounds. Moose are found throughout Alaska and in all national preserves.



Mountain Goat

Mountain goat populations vary from year to year because they are sensitive to harsh winters and hunting pressure. They are found in small, isolated groups in southern Alaska, primarily in Wrangell-St. Elias and Glacier Bay national preserves.



Wolf

Wolves are widely found in Alaska and in all the national preserves. Their pack sizes vary from small to large, based on food availability and social factors. Their coats vary from nearly white to black and every shade in between, and are shed every year.

Preserves where species are found

Bison	Wrangell-St. Elias
Black Bear	All national preserves, except Aniakchak or Bering Land Bridge
Brown or Grizzly Bear	All national preserves
Caribou	All national preserves, except Glacier Bay
Dall Sheep	Denali, Gates of the Arctic, Noatak, Lake Clark, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Yukon-Charley Rivers national preserves
Furbearers	All national preserves
Moose	All national preserves
Mountain Goat	Wrangell-St. Elias, Glacier Bay
Muskox	Bering Land Bridge
Wolf	All national preserves

Seasons may vary by year depending on local conditions and species populations. Please consult current regulations for actual hunting opportunities.



Subsistence Hunting

For more than 10,000 years, Native people have lived on and interacted with the landscapes of Alaska. Subsistence activities are integrally linked to culture. Fish, wildlife, and plants are harvested not only for sustenance, but also for shelter, ceremonies, and art. In 1980, Congress substantially expanded national parklands in Alaska with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Congress specifically protected subsistence traditions of local, rural residents and

their ability to hunt on public lands, including preserves. In national preserves, subsistence is accorded priority and sport hunting is allowed when local wildlife populations can support it. The opportunity to hunt Alaska's amazing national preserves is balanced by the responsibility to respect these special places. We ask visiting hunters to respect local communities and be sensitive to local cultural practices and customs.



Trapping

River otter, marten, mink, weasel, muskrat, and marmot can be harvested with a trapping license. Beaver, wolf, coyote, Arctic fox, red fox, lynx, wolverine, and squirrel are furbearers and can be harvested with a trapping or hunting license. Review all regulations related to furbearers for seasons, limits, and methods.



Photo courtesy of James Lawler

Small Game

Grouse, ptarmigan, and hare are small game species that can be hunted in national preserves with a hunting license; no additional permits are necessary. Waterfowl hunting is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska.

Support Local Villages

It is unlawful in Alaska to waste meat, in addition to being a poor hunting practice. For tips to care for meat in the field, see: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=hunting.meatcare.

It is also an Alaskan tradition to share your harvest, if at all possible. Local residents and subsistence users may be interested in parts of the animal you don't use. You may donate fresh and well-maintained meat, internal organs, bones, and other materials to people in local villages in accordance with state rules and regulations. The Food Bank of Alaska has a wild game salvage program; for more information, see: www.foodbankofalaska.org/viewPage.php?ID=44.

