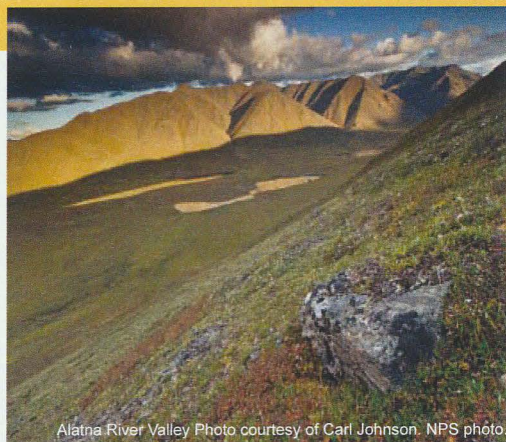


Subsistence User's Guide

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Alutna River Valley Photo courtesy of Carl Johnson. NPS photo.

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

Subsistence in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

The United States Congress established Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve along with other conservation units in Alaska in 1980 when it passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, commonly known as ANILCA. In setting aside approximately 100 million acres of land and resources throughout Alaska for enduring protection, ANILCA recognized the economic and cultural importance of the harvest of fish, wildlife and other wild resources to both Native and non-Native rural residents. Specifically, it provided the opportunity for those engaged in a traditional subsistence way of life on these federal lands to continue to do so. Subsistence harvest of fish and wildlife is allowed on federal public lands and waters in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve by qualified subsistence users subject to federal subsistence management regulations.

This guide has been developed to provide important information about subsistence activities in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. It describes eligibility for hunting, trapping, and fishing; key provisions for hunting, trapping and fishing; regulations about the harvest of firewood, plants and berries; collection of non-edible animal parts and plants for handicrafts; ways to access the park and preserve for subsistence activities; and ways to participate in the regulatory process.

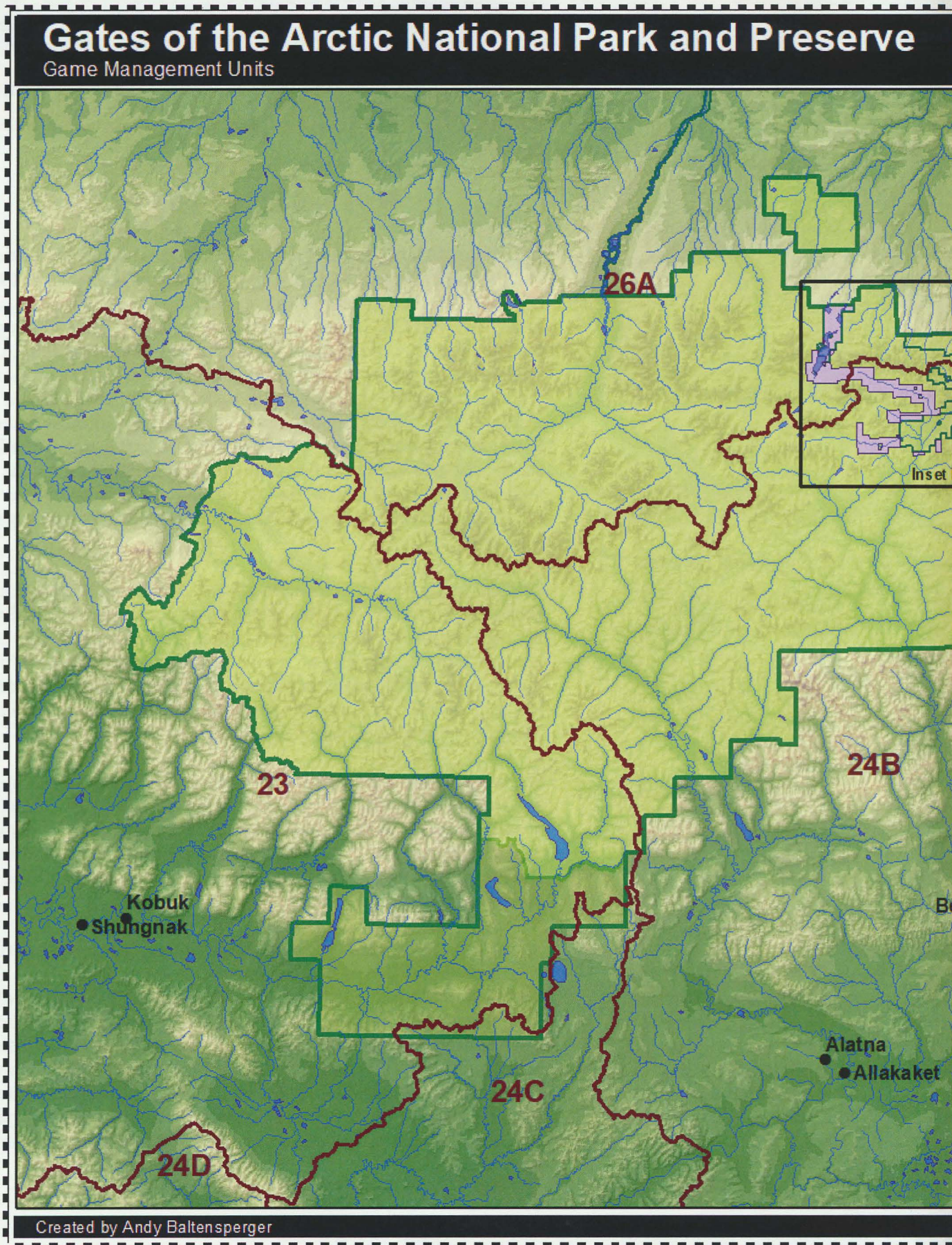
For information about subsistence hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities on other federal public lands and waters in Alaska, you should consult both the federal subsistence management regulations and the agency managing the lands, such as the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, about subsistence on the lands that they manage.

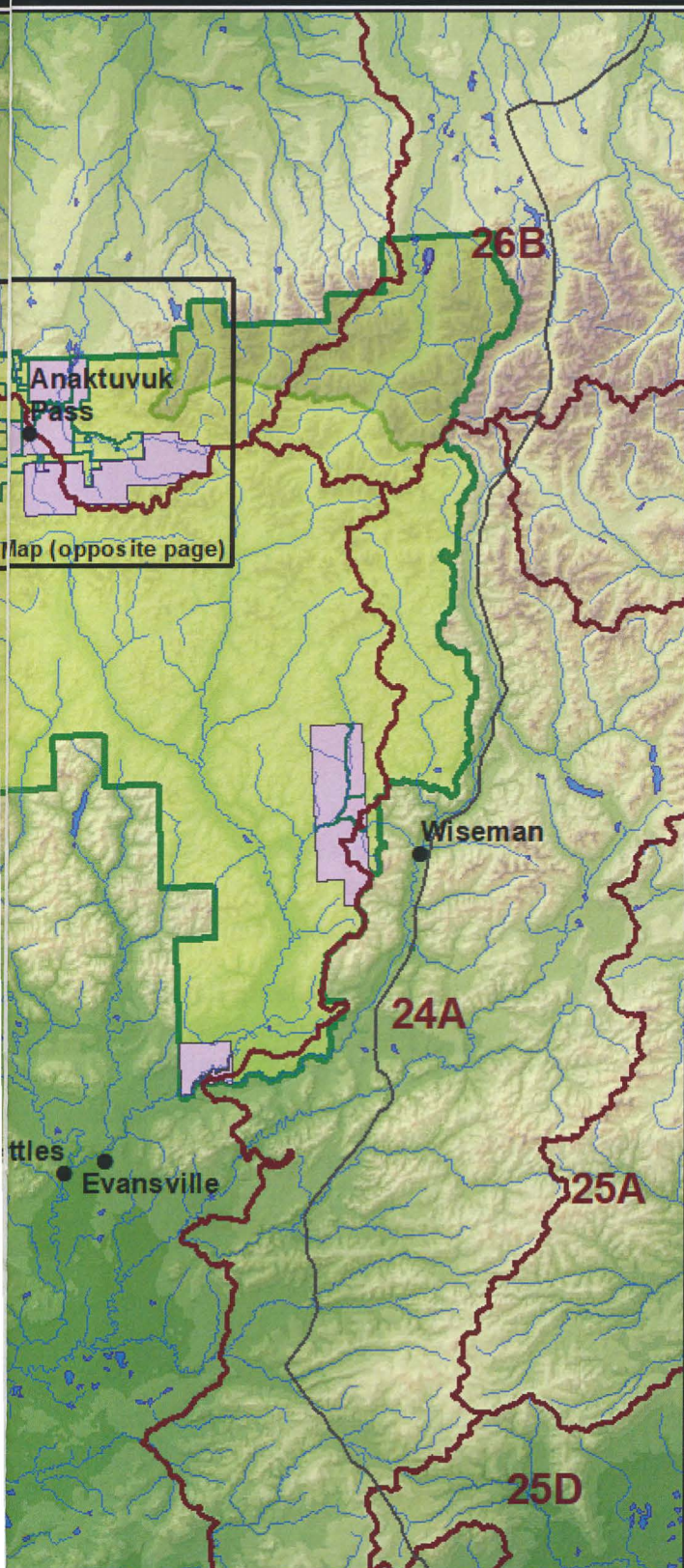
Some lands in Gates of the Arctic are designated as national park, while others are designated as national preserves. The map on page 2 shows the location of park and preserve lands along with the location of non-federal lands within Gates of the Arctic. Both Gates of the Arctic National Park and Gates of the Arctic National Preserve are open to subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping under the Federal Subsistence Management Program regulations administered by the Federal Subsistence Board. The eligibility requirements for hunting and fishing in the national park, as well as allowed means of access, are different from those for the national preserves.

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Map of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve





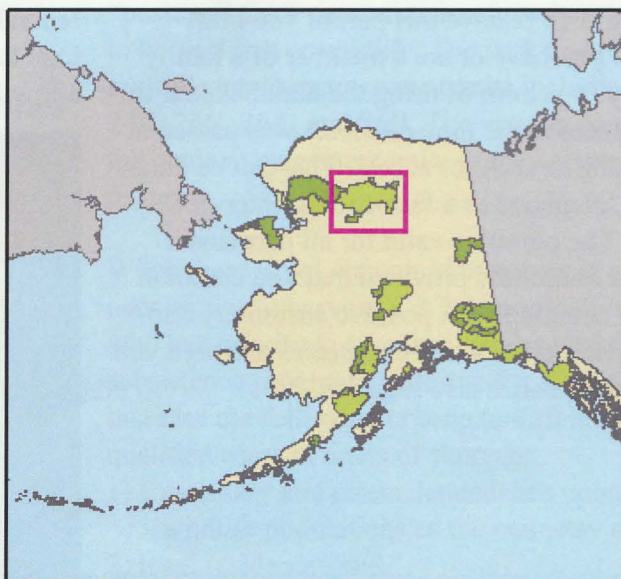
Legend

- Communities
- Rivers
- Dalton Highway
- Game Management Units
- Private ANCSA Native Lands
- Lakes
- Park Boundary
- Preserve Boundary



Alaska Albers Projection on the
North American Datum 1983

0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Miles



January 10, 2018

Subsistence Eligibility in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve

Subsistence opportunities under ANILCA apply to rural Alaska residents. Eligibility is based on the physical location of your primary permanent residence, not on a mailing address, and seasonal residents do not qualify.

Who is Eligible to Hunt, Trap, or Fish in the National Park?

To be eligible to hunt, fish or trap in Gates of the Arctic National Park, you must be a rural Alaska resident with a positive customary and traditional use determination for the species and area you wish to hunt, trap or fish, **and** live either in a resident zone community or inside the park boundary, or have a 13.440 subsistence use permit.

Gates of the Arctic National Park has 11 resident zone communities: Alatna, Allakaket, Ambler, Anaktuvuk Pass, Bettles, Evansville, Hughes, Kobuk, Nuiqsut, Shungnak, and Wiseman. Lands around the community of Anaktuvuk Pass are a mixture of Nunamiut Corporation (village corporation), Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and privately owned lands, mainly Native allotments. The map on page 5 shows both the village corporation and regional corporation lands combined. Maps of the land status boundaries can be found at the National Park Service Ranger Station in Anaktuvuk Pass.

Rural residents who live outside the park or resident zone communities may apply to the superintendent for a subsistence use permit established under 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §13.440, also known as a 13.440 permit. To receive this permit you must demonstrate that you have or are a member of a family that has a history or pattern of using the national park for subsistence purposes at the time ANILCA was passed in 1980 without using aircraft for access. This can be done in writing or by telephone or a face-to-face interview with park staff. The permit is valid for all permanent residents of your household provided that you continue to live in a rural community. A positive customary and traditional use determination for the species and area you wish to hunt, trap or fish is also required.

Who is Eligible to Hunt, Trap, or Fish in the National Preserve?

To be eligible to hunt, trap or fish under federal subsistence regulations in Gates of the Arctic National Preserve, you must be a local rural resident. A local rural resident is any person who maintains their primary permanent home in or near the preserve. People who are eligible to harvest fish or wildlife under federal subsistence regulations in the park are considered local rural residents and are also eligible to subsistence hunt, trap and fish in the preserve. You must also have a positive customary and traditional use determination for the area and species you intend to harvest.

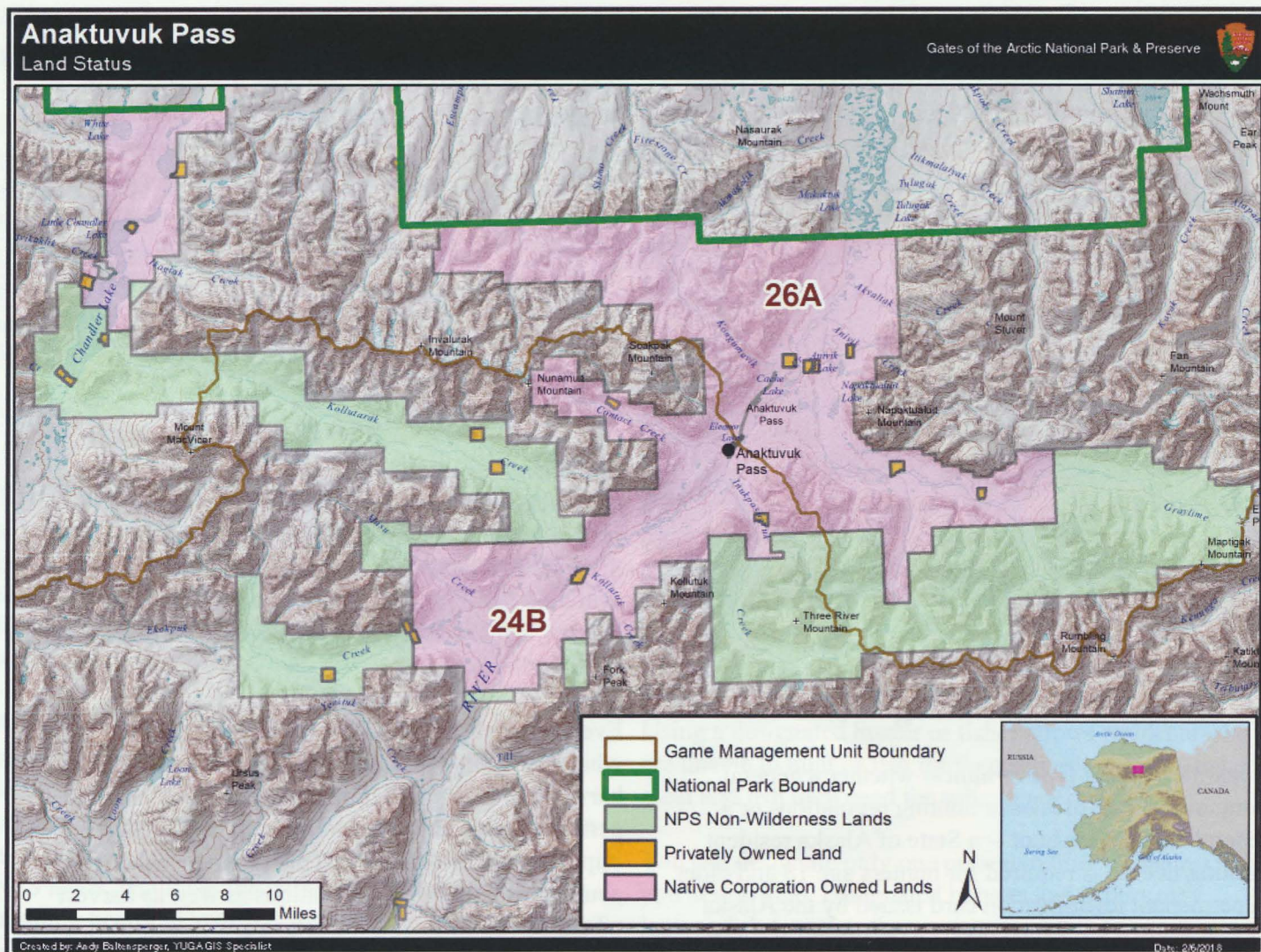
ANILCA specifies that preserves are to be managed in the same way as parks and monuments with the exception that sport hunting is allowed in preserve areas. As a result, guided and unguided sport hunting under non-conflicting State of Alaska regulations is permitted in Gates of the Arctic National Preserve. Additionally, fishing under State of Alaska regulations is allowed in both the park and the national preserve. This presents subsistence users with a choice in the preserve; they can hunt, trap or fish under federal subsistence regulations or under state regulations. The primary difference being that federal regulations often have longer seasons and larger harvest limits than state regulations to provide a greater subsistence opportunity.

Note that you may not add harvest limits from state and federal harvests or from different areas to increase your total harvest limit unless the regulations specifically allow for this.



A shed caribou antler casts a shadow on lichen.
Photo courtesy of Carl Johnson. NPS photo

Land Status Map Customary & Traditional Use



What are Customary and Traditional Use Determinations?

Customary and traditional use determinations (C&T) are made by the Federal Subsistence Board and are based on the community or area in which you live. They identify wildlife populations and fish stocks taken customarily and traditionally for subsistence purposes. A positive customary and traditional use determination means only residents from certain regions, communities, fishery management areas or wildlife management units may harvest a species in a particular area.

Customary and traditional use determinations are listed in the Federal Subsistence Management Program regulation books for the harvest of wildlife and the harvest of fish and shellfish. Before going out to hunt, trap or fish for subsistence in the park or preserve, check

to see if the community or area where you live has a “positive” C&T determination for where you intended to harvest fish or wildlife. The park and preserve overlap multiple game management units including 23, 24A, 24B, 24C, 26A, and 26B. The map on pages 2-3 shows the game management units as they relate to the park and preserve.

When there is not enough of a species in an area for all user groups to harvest, C&T determinations identify who has priority to take that species under the federal subsistence program. Additionally, ANILCA §804 includes the following criteria to differentiate among qualified users in times of shortage:

- 1) Customary and direct dependence upon the fish or wildlife populations as the mainstay of livelihood;
- 2) local residency; and
- 3) availability of alternative resources.

Fishing Hunting

Customary and Traditional Use Fishing

You may take fish for subsistence uses at any time by any method, unless restricted by subsistence fishing regulations. You may not intentionally waste or destroy any subsistence-caught fish or shellfish. No licenses are required to take fish for subsistence uses.

The primary fish species harvested by subsistence users in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are salmon, burbot, lake trout, whitefish, arctic grayling and dolly varden. Harvest methods may include fish wheels, dipnets, other types of nets, spears, and rod and reel. See the federal subsistence management regulations booklet for information to the specific area you intend to fish. Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve lies within two fishery management areas: the Kotzebue area and the Yukon-Northern area.

Hunting

Regardless of the type of hunt -- whether a general hunt under State of Alaska hunting regulations or a federal subsistence hunt -- a State of Alaska resident hunting license is required for hunters age 18 and older. A permanent identification card issued by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to residents age 60 and older also satisfies the requirement for a state license.

In addition, some hunts require a federal or state registration permit or a state harvest ticket. Consult the federal subsistence regulation booklet to determine

whether a federal registration permit is required for a particular area and animal. When a federal registration permit is required for a given area, subsistence users are not required to have state permits or harvest tickets. For residents in Wiseman, Bettles, and Evansville, a federal registration permit is needed for sheep hunting in Units 24A and 24B. Federal registration permits can be obtained by calling (907) 457-5752. Hunters 18 years of age or older should bring their hunting license or permanent ID card (for those 60 years of age or older) along with photo ID such as a drivers license and proof of local physical address when applying for federal subsistence permits.

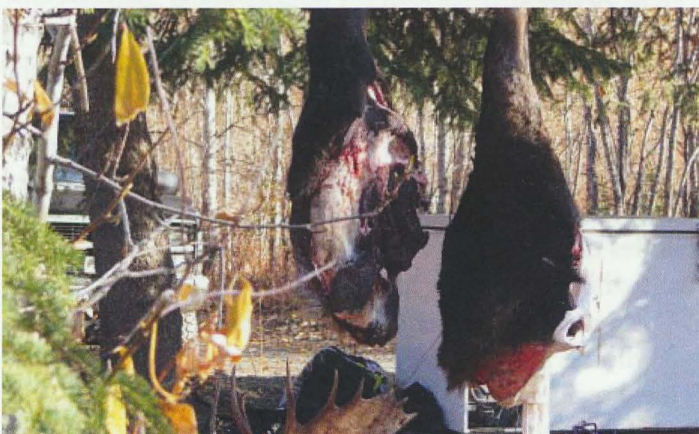
If a federal registration permit is not required, subsistence hunters must possess and comply with the provisions of any required state permit or harvest ticket. State harvest tickets and some registration permits are available through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) website. They may also be obtained from ADFG offices.

Everyone issued a registration permit, including those who did not hunt or were unsuccessful, must turn in a harvest report within the time period specified on the permit. Harvest reports provide resource managers important information about the relative health and abundance of wildlife populations as well as harvest effort.

If you have both a state harvest ticket or permit and a federal registration permit when hunting in the preserve and you harvest an animal, submit only one successful harvest report for a given hunt area in accordance with the appropriate state or federal season and harvest limit. **Please do not double report a successful harvest!** Your other permit or ticket would report that you did not hunt.

Sealing of Hides or Skulls

If you harvest a bear, beaver, lynx, marten, otter, sheep, wolf, or wolverine you may need to have it sealed. Sealing means having an authorized representative of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game place a seal on an animal hide, skull, or both. These requirements apply to animals harvested under both hunting and trapping regulations. Sealing requirements vary by species and area, so check the information relative to your particular harvest to see if there are sealing requirements.



Hanging moose meat. Photo courtesy of Heidi Schoppenhorst. NPS photo

Trapping Designated Hunters/Fishers

NPS Regulations on the Use of Bait to Harvest Bears

Federally qualified subsistence users may bait for bears in the park and preserve only under federal subsistence regulations, provided that the bait used is either parts of legally taken native fish or wildlife that are not required to be salvaged or the remains of native fish or wildlife that died of natural causes. NPS regulations **prohibit** the use of bait to harvest bears in the national preserve under State of Alaska regulations.

Trapping

To trap wildlife in the park or preserve under federal subsistence regulations, you must have a state trapping license and comply with federal subsistence trapping regulations, which can be found in the back of the federal subsistence regulations booklet for the harvest of wildlife.

Additionally, NPS regulations define a trap as “a snare, trap, mesh, wire or other implement, object or mechanical device designed to entrap or kill animals other than fish.” For this reason, free-ranging furbearers may not be taken with a firearm or bow and arrow on NPS lands, including the park and preserve, under a trapping license. However, free-ranging furbearers may be taken with a firearm under a hunting license consistent with seasons and harvest limits in the federal subsistence hunting regulations. A firearm may also be used to dispatch a furbearer that is caught in a trap.

Established trails in the park may be used by others. Please trap in ways to minimize conflicts between trapping and other users. At the end of the season, please remove all litter from the trapline.

Engaging in trapping activities as the employee of another person is prohibited.

Designating Another to Hunt or Fish for You

If you are a federally qualified subsistence user, you may designate another federally qualified subsistence user to hunt moose or caribou or take fish on your behalf. Use



Tanned furs for sale in local shop. NPS photo

of a designated hunter to harvest sheep is not allowed. Using a designated hunter or fisher allows residents who are unable to hunt or fish for themselves to acquire the meat and fish they need for subsistence.

You can designate only one person to hunt or fish for you at one time. Designated hunters and fishers may hunt or fish for more than one recipient, but cannot have more than two harvest limits in their possession at any one time unless otherwise specified in the regulations. All designated hunters and fishers must get a designated harvest permit and return a completed harvest report.

Wildlife and fish taken by designated hunters and fishers count toward the person's harvest limit for whom the wildlife or fish is taken. Any species of fish allowed for subsistence uses in an area may be taken under a designated harvest permit.

Any person designated to harvest moose, caribou, goat (Unit 5 only) or fish for another federally qualified resident must deliver the meat or fish promptly to the recipient. In addition, they cannot charge for their services or claim any part of the wildlife or fish for themselves.

Harvest of Timber, Plants & Berries Handicrafts

Harvest of Timber, Plants and Berries

Local rural residents may gather dead or downed timber for firewood without a permit. Non-commercial cutting of standing timber greater than three inches in diameter at ground height is allowed for appropriate subsistence uses such as house logs, when certain criteria are met. A permit is required and can be applied for through park headquarters in Fairbanks. No commercial use of house logs or firewood harvested or collected in the park and preserve is allowed. Standing timber less than three inches in diameter may be harvested by NPS-qualified subsistence users without a permit.

No permit is required for the non-commercial gathering of berries, mushrooms, and other plant materials by NPS-qualified subsistence users.



Hand-woven birch bark basket. NPS photo

Handicrafts

Under regulations finalized in 2017, NPS-qualified subsistence users may collect and use nonedible fish and wildlife parts, such as horns and antlers, and plant materials from park and preserve lands to make handicrafts for personal use or to exchange through customary trade or barter. ("Customary trade" means the exchange of handicrafts or furs for cash to support personal or family needs; and does not include trade which constitutes a significant commercial enterprise.) Eligibility to collect plants or nonedible animal parts follows the same criteria for other subsistence uses in



Freshly picked berries. NPS photo

national parks, monuments and preserves. Collection of nonedible wildlife parts is limited to NPS-qualified subsistence users who are residents of communities or areas with a federally recognized customary and traditional use determination for each species in the game management unit where the collection occurs. In other words, if an NPS-qualified subsistence user can lawfully harvest the wildlife species in a particular area for subsistence uses, then they are allowed to collect nonliving, nonedible parts of that same species they encounter in the area.

The superintendent has authorized in writing the collection of nonedible animal parts throughout Gates of the Arctic. The sale of raw, unworked plant materials or animal parts collected from park and preserve lands is prohibited, as is the use of paid employees to collect animal parts. The regulations also allows NPS-qualified subsistence users to collect nonedible animal parts and plants on behalf of another NPS-qualified subsistence user or for cultural or educational programs that are qualified under federal subsistence program regulations at 50 CFR 100.25(g). Designated collectors must obtain a permit from the superintendent.

Private Property Methods of Access

Please Be Aware of and Respect Private Property

Approximately 242,234 of the 8,202,517 acres of land within the boundaries of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are non-federal lands belonging to Alaska Native Corporations and other private owners. Significant amounts of these non-federal lands are located around Anaktuvuk Pass and in the south eastern portion of the park (see maps pages 2 & 3). Federal subsistence harvest regulations do not apply to corporation lands and Native allotments, which fall under the jurisdiction of state regulations.

Subsistence users are responsible for being aware of and respecting the ownership status of lands where they are engaged in subsistence activities. Crossing private lands, other than legally reserved public access easements, without the permission of the landowner, as well as camping or hunting on such lands without permission is trespassing. Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(b) easements cross lands belonging to Alaska Native Corporations in order to provide access to public lands and waters. Other uses within the 17(b) easements, including hunting, trapping, fishing and camping require permission and possibly a permit from the landowner. And in some cases these activities are prohibited.

Contact the park or the landowner for further information about land status within the park and preserve boundaries. For information about Native Corporation lands, contact the Lands Department at Doyon Ltd. at (907) 459-2030 and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation at (907) 339-6017.

Airplanes

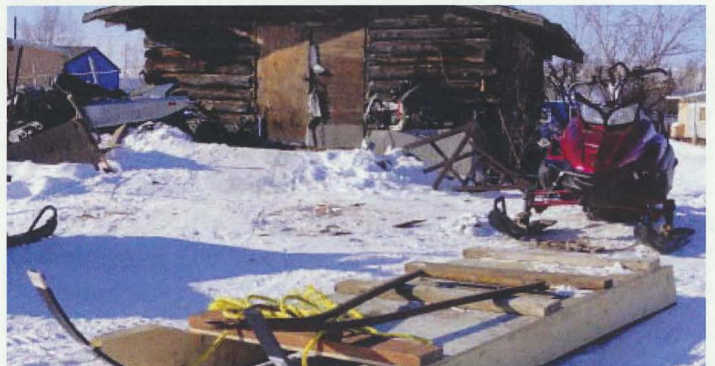
Fixed wing airplanes may be used to access Gates of the Arctic National Preserve for the taking of fish or wildlife under federal subsistence regulations. However, taking ungulates, bear, wolves, wolverine, or other furbearers with a firearm or other weapon before 3 AM following the day in which airborne travel occurred is prohibited, except for flights in regularly scheduled commercial aircraft between regularly maintained public airports. Airplanes may also be used to access the preserve to harvest fish and wildlife under state regulations.

Airplanes may not be used to access the national park to take fish or wildlife for subsistence uses, although accessing the national park to sport fish under state regulations is allowed. Subsistence users may not land outside the park, in the preserve, or on private lands such as inholdings or Native allotments and walk into the national park to take fish and wildlife for subsistence purposes. Residents of Anaktuvuk Pass may request a permit to use aircraft for subsistence purposes. Contact the Anaktuvuk Pass Ranger Station or park headquarters for permit information.

Snowmachines, Motorboats and Nonmotorized Means of Surface Transportation

Motorboats and nonmotorized means of surface transportation, such as dog teams, may be used to access both the park and the preserve for any purpose, including subsistence. Snowmachines may be used for traditional activities, including subsistence, and for travel to and from villages and homesites when there is adequate snow cover (at least 6 to 12 inches of snow).

The use or possession of domestic goats or sheep, including as pack animals, is prohibited. Use or possession of llamas, alpacas, or any other domestic animal of the Camelidae or Bovidae family within NPS administered areas as pack animals is allowed in accordance with written authorization from the superintendent. Authorized pack or saddle animals may graze in NPS areas without a permit for less than 14 days per calendar year provided that the grazing is in conjunction with their use as a pack or saddle animal and any feed brought into the park conforms to the Alaska Weed Free Forage Certification.



Snowmachines may be used for traditional activities, including subsistence, and for travel to and from villages and homesites when there is adequate snow cover.

NPS photo

The Role of SRCs

Changes to Federal Subsistence Regulations

What is the Role of the Subsistence Resource Commission?

The Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) provides a venue for local subsistence users to have input into the management of subsistence resources in Gates of the Arctic National Park. The purpose of the Commission is to recommend to the Governor of Alaska and the Secretary of the Interior a program for subsistence hunting within Gates of the Arctic National Park. Since the establishment of the Federal Subsistence Management Program in 1990, the SRC has also been making recommendations on proposals for hunting, trapping and fishing regulations (e.g., harvest limits, seasons, and customary and traditional use determinations) affecting the park directly to the federal subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) and the Federal Subsistence Board.

The commission is comprised of nine local rural residents representing geographic, cultural, and user diversity from within the region. SRC members are appointed by the Governor (3 members), the Secretary of the Interior (3 members), and the federal subsistence RACs (one each from the Western Interior, Northwest Arctic and Northslope RACs). The SRC generally meets twice a year in November and April/May. Meetings are open to the public, and public comments are welcome. For a list of the current members or information about how to apply for a seat on the SRC, contact the Fairbanks Administrative Center or see the park's web site at www.nps.gov/gaar/.

How Changes are Made to Federal Subsistence Regulations

The Federal Subsistence Board determines which subsistence wildlife and fish species are open to harvest, which communities and areas are eligible to harvest, the harvest limits and seasons, the methods by which an animal or fish may be taken, and other management measures. The Board consists of officials from the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Forest Service, along with two public members who possess personal knowledge of and direct experience with subsistence uses in rural Alaska. A

representative appointed by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture serves as the chair.

The Federal Subsistence Board relies heavily on the input from local subsistence users when considering regulatory changes. Subsistence users can participate in the development and review of regulations by submitting proposals to change regulations, commenting on proposals submitted by others, and testifying at public meetings. Regulations are subject to change every two years.

Opportunities to participate in the development of federal subsistence regulations occur throughout the year. The regulatory cycle starts with a call for proposals in January. The call for proposals to change hunting and trapping regulations is issued in odd numbered years, and for fishing regulations the call is issued in even numbered years. Anyone can submit a proposal. Once a proposal book is released, comments may be submitted directly to the Federal Subsistence Board; as public testimony at meetings of the Regional Advisory Councils and SRCs, typically in the fall; and as testimony at the Federal Subsistence Board regulatory meeting that occurs in January (for fisheries proposals) or April (for wildlife proposals) of the following year. To find out the specific date when proposals must be submitted, meeting dates, deadlines for comments, or for more information consult the Federal Subsistence Management regulations booklet, the program website at <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence>, or call the Federal Subsistence Management Program staff at 1-800-478-1456 or (907) 786-3888.

NPS regulations may supersede all federal and state subsistence hunting, trapping and fishing regulations.



Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission members.
NPS photo

Contacts & Further Information



National Park Service, Fairbanks, Alaska employees. NPS photo

For More Information

More information, including federal subsistence hunting and fishing permits, can be obtained from Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve offices:

Fairbanks Administrative Center

4175 Geist Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Phone: (907) 457-5752
Fax: (907) 455-0601

Bettles Visitor Center

P.O. Box 30
Bettles, AK 99726
Phone: (907) 629-2014

Coldfoot Interagency Visitor Center

P.O. Box 9079
Coldfoot, AK 99709
Phone: (907) 678-2014
Fax: (907) 678-2005

Anaktuvuk Pass Ranger Station

P.O. Box 21102
Anaktuvuk Pass, AK 99721
Phone: (907) 661-3520

Other Useful Information that May Be Obtained at Park Offices

Federal Subsistence Management Regulation

Booklets: These booklets list the seasons, harvest limits, and customary and traditional use determinations for each game management unit and fishery management area in the state. Permit and other requirements are listed in the booklets as well as any special restrictions or information relating to specific harvests. These booklets are updated every two years in coordination with the regulatory cycle. They are available at the Visitor Centers in Bettles, Coldfoot, Anaktuvuk Pass, and on the web at <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence>.

National Park Service Regulations: The National Park Service regulations that apply to Alaska parks are contained in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 13. These regulations were first established in 1981 and change infrequently.

Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Plan: The plan describes subsistence issues in the park that the NPS and Subsistence Resource Commission are addressing. The plan may be viewed at park headquarters in Fairbanks.

Subsistence User's Guide



Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
4175 Geist Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Phone: 907-457-5752

Fax: 907-455-0601

Web: www.nps.gov/gaar

Arrigetch Peaks within Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Photo courtesy of Carl Johnson. NPS photo.



Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve