



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

36 CFR Part 13

[Docket No. NPS-2026-0034; NPS-AKRO-NPS0042589; PPAKAKROD0, PPMPSPD1Y.YM00000]

RIN 1024-AE96

Alaska; Hunting and Trapping in National Preserves; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service is extending the public comment period on our recently published proposed rule to improve guidance for unit managers and the public and to restore opportunities for protected activities by returning to the Alaska-specific regulations that were in effect for over three decades, prior to a series of amendments starting in 2015 that will be rescinded under the proposal. This action will provide interested parties additional time and opportunity to comment on the proposed restoration of the pre-2015 regulations and other modifications. Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted and will be fully considered in preparation of the final rule.

DATES: The comment period on the proposed rule that published March 10, 2026 (91 FR 11483) is being extended by 15 days. We will accept comments received or postmarked on or before Friday, April 24, 2026. Please note that comments submitted electronically using the Federal eRulemaking Portal (see **ADDRESSES**, below) must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (7:59 p.m. Alaska Time) on the closing date, and comments submitted by U.S. mail must be postmarked by that date to ensure timely consideration.

ADDRESSES: You can obtain copies of the March 10, 2026, proposed rule and associated documents at <http://www.regulations.gov> by entering “NPS-2026-0034” in the search box, selecting the “Dockets” tab, and clicking on the title of the rule. You can submit written comments by one of the following methods:

(1) *Electronically:*

- Go to the *Federal Register* website: <https://www.federalregister.gov>. In the search box, enter “1024-AE96”, the regulation identifier number (RIN) for this rulemaking. Click on the “Submit a Public Comment” button at the top of the page and follow the instructions, or
- Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the search box, enter “NPS-2026-0034”, the docket number for the proposed rule. Click on the “Comment” button at the top of the page and follow the instructions.

Please ensure you have found the correct document before submitting your comments electronically.

(2) *By hard copy:* Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: National Park Service, Regional Director, Alaska Regional Office, 240 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501. Comments delivered on external storage devices (e.g., flash drives, compact discs) will not be accepted.

We request that comments be submitted only by the methods described above; comments are not accepted via fax or email. Please ensure the words “National Park Service” or “NPS” and the docket number (“NPS-2026-0034”) or RIN (“1024-AE96”) are included in the submission. Comments received may be posted without change on <https://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means we will post any personal information you provide us (see **Public Comments**, below, for more information).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Don Striker, Regional Director (Acting), Alaska Regional Office, 240 West 5th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501; phone (907) 227-6163; email: *AKR_Regulations@nps.gov*. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services; individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The management of National Park System units in Alaska is governed by federal laws such as the 1916 Organic Act (System-wide) and the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Alaska-specific); by regulations implementing these laws; by treaties; by Service policy; and by principles of sound resource management that may lead to standards or limits to the range of potential activities that may be allowed.

On March 10, 2026, we published a proposed rule to revise the Alaska-specific regulations at 36 CFR part 13 to restore both the procedures used to restrict public uses and opportunities to engage in those uses in Alaska park areas. These changes restore Service interpretations of law, policies, and regulations adopted to implement statutory provisions for these areas. This proposed rule addresses interests and input from the State of Alaska, Alaska Congressional Delegation, Alaska Federation of Natives, and others during previous rulemaking efforts. The purpose of the proposed rule is to realign state and federal regulations, restore the robust public engagement process Alaskans relied on to stay involved and informed on park management actions, enhance regulatory consistency across all lands and waters, and increase access to federal public lands in furtherance of Executive and Secretarial orders. The proposed rule would have no effect

on the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations governing subsistence harvest of fish and wildlife resources in Alaska park areas.

The March 10, 2026, proposed rule had a 30-day public comment period, ending April 9, 2026. During the comment period for the proposed rule, we received multiple requests for additional time to submit comments. We are extending the comment period by 15 days, to end April 24, 2026 (see **DATES**), to accommodate requests for additional time to review and provide comments on our proposal.

Public Comments

We will accept comments and information during this extended comment period on our March 10, 2026, proposed rule to revise the public use regulations for Alaska park areas. It is the policy of the Department of the Interior, whenever practicable, to afford the public an opportunity to participate in the rulemaking process. Accordingly, we will accept written comments and information from all interested parties during the extended comment period (see **DATES**) on the proposed rule. We are also soliciting public input and supporting data to gain additional information for the draft environmental assessment and the Service's regulatory impacts analysis, such as costs and benefits and trade-offs associated with the proposed rescission and restoration. As a specific example, we are soliciting information or data that would help the Service quantify the effects of restoring available harvest opportunities, including any economic impacts which might result.

Please see **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** in this document for information on providing comments and materials by one of the listed methods. We will consider information and recommendations received during the original and extended comment periods in our final determination on the March 10, 2026, proposed rule. If you already submitted comments or information on the proposed rule, please do not resubmit them. Any such comments are incorporated as part of the public record for the rulemaking and we will fully consider them in the preparation of our final determination.

If you submit information via <http://www.regulations.gov>, your entire submission—including your personal identifying information—may be posted on the website. If your submission is made via a hardcopy that includes personal identifying information, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will post all hardcopy submissions on <http://www.regulations.gov> where they will be available for public inspection.

Our final determination concerning the March 10, 2026, proposed action will take into consideration all comments and materials received during the open comment period. Submissions will be included in the public record for this rulemaking and we will fully consider them in the preparation of a final determination.

Authors

The primary authors of this document are Department of the Interior and National Park System staff of the Alaska regional offices.

Kevin Lilly

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Exercising the Delegated Authority of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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