

General Information

Introduction

You will find important information in this book on seasons, harvest limits, methods, and customary and traditional (C&T) use determinations for the subsistence taking of wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska. These regulations are effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010 and apply only on Federal public lands. The regulations cover managed subsistence hunting and trapping activities of most species of land mammals, grouse, and ptarmigan. Subsistence fishing regulations are published separately.

Read the **Special Provisions** and unit-specific information carefully for the management unit where you wish to take wildlife. Trapping regulations are in a separate section near the back of this book.

On July 1, 1990, the **Federal Subsistence Management Program** began managing wildlife resources on public lands. The *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act* of 1980 (ANILCA) requires that rural residents have a priority over other users to take wildlife for subsistence uses on Federal public lands and waters.

Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, State of Alaska representatives, and the general public play an active role in the regulatory process.

State and Federal Wildlife Regulations

The **State of Alaska** often administers a hunt for the same species in the same area as a Federal subsistence hunt. You may not add the harvest limit from Federal Subsistence and State general hunt regulations together to increase your harvest limit. If you are not a rural resident of Alaska, you may hunt under State of Alaska hunting regulations on most Federal public lands, except National Park Service-managed parks and monuments (see Special Requirements for National Park Service Lands on page 13) or except where hunts are specifically closed by these regulations.

Federal Subsistence Board

The Federal Subsistence Board oversees the Federal Subsistence Management Program. Board members include the Alaska directors of five Federal agencies: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The Board's Chair is a representative of the Secretary of the Interior.

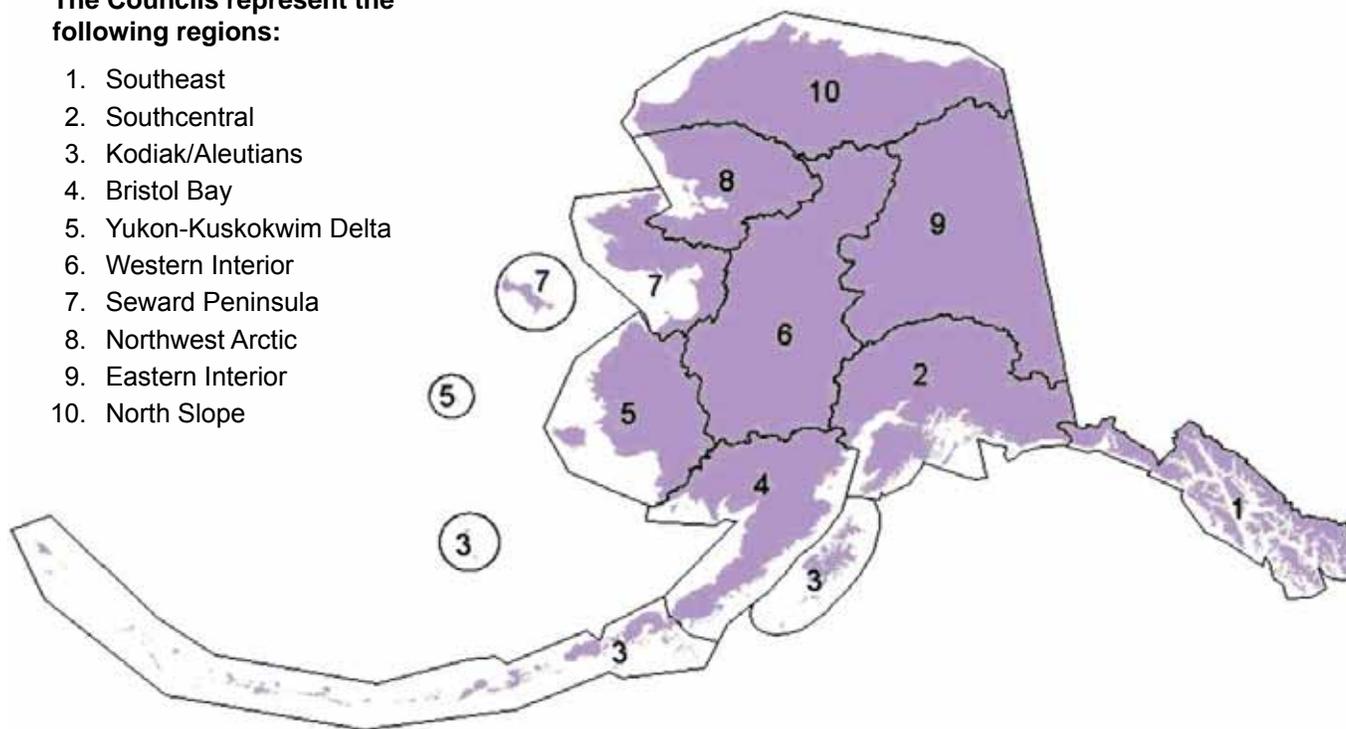


Roz Nelson, age 15, Kotzebue

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The Councils represent the following regions:

1. Southeast
2. Southcentral
3. Kodiak/Aleutians
4. Bristol Bay
5. Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
6. Western Interior
7. Seward Peninsula
8. Northwest Arctic
9. Eastern Interior
10. North Slope



Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils

The Federal Subsistence Management Program divides Alaska into ten subsistence resource regions, each represented by a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. These ten Councils provide an opportunity for rural Alaskans to contribute in a meaningful way to the management of subsistence resources. Resource users have the opportunity to comment and offer input on subsistence issues at Council meetings. Each Council meets at least twice a year. The Councils develop proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations and review proposals submitted by others.

Council Membership

The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture appoint Council members. Members must reside in the area they wish to represent and have knowledge of subsistence uses and needs. Each year the Office of Subsistence Management accepts applications and nominations for membership during October-December. If you are interested in applying for membership, please contact Michelle Chivers or the regional coordinator for your region.

Criteria for Council Membership

Applicants and nominees must be residents of the region they wish to represent and have:

- Knowledge of fish and wildlife resources in the region;
- Knowledge of subsistence uses, customs, and traditions in the region;
- Knowledge of commercial, recreational, and other uses in the region;
- Leadership skills and experience with local and/or regional organizations;
- Ability to communicate effectively;
- Willingness to travel to and attend Council meetings at least two times each year, usually in October and February. Although Council members are volunteers, members' official travel expenses for meetings are paid through the Office of Subsistence Management.
- Willingness to occasionally attend Federal Subsistence Board meetings.

For more information on Council membership, contact

Michelle Chivers

(800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3877 Fax: (907) 786-3898

E-mail: michelle_chivers@fws.gov

<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>

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Council Member Responsibilities

- Review and make recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board on proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other subsistence-related issues on Federal public lands within the region;
- Develop proposals pertaining to the subsistence harvest of fish and wildlife, and review proposals submitted by others;
- Encourage and promote local participation in the decision-making process affecting subsistence harvests on Federal public lands;
- Make recommendations on customary and traditional use determinations of subsistence resources;
- Appoint members to National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commissions.



Summer Jones, age 15, Kotzebue

Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Coordinators

Council coordinators facilitate communication between the Councils and the Federal Subsistence Board. Each coordinator is responsible for one or more regions and serves as a contact for the Councils, Federal agency staff, and the public. Contact a coordinator for information about the activities of each Council.

Southeast Region

Robert Larson
PETERSBURG
(907) 772-5930
Fax: (907) 772-5995
E-mail: robertlarson@fs.fed.us

Southcentral and Bristol Bay Regions

Donald Mike
ANCHORAGE
(800) 478-1456
or (907) 786-3629
Fax: (907) 786-3898
E-mail: donald_mike@fws.gov

Kodiak/Aleutians Region

Michelle Chivers
ANCHORAGE
(800) 478-1456
or (907) 786-3877
Fax: (907) 786-3898
E-mail: michelle_chivers@fws.gov

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region

Alex Nick
BETHEL
(800) 621-5804
or (907) 543-1037
Fax: (907) 543-4413
E-mail: alex_nick@fws.gov

Western Interior and Eastern Interior Regions

Vince Mathews
FAIRBANKS
(800) 267-3997
or (907) 456-0277
Fax: (907) 456-0208
E-mail: vince_mathews@fws.gov

Seward Peninsula, Northwest Arctic, and North Slope Regions

Barbara Armstrong
ANCHORAGE
(800) 478-1456
or (907) 786-3885
Fax: (907) 786-3898
E-mail: barbara_armstrong@fws.gov

Federal Subsistence Regulations Apply Only to Rural Alaska Residents

Are You a Rural Alaska Resident?

All communities and areas of Alaska are considered rural, except the areas shown on the following maps as nonrural areas. You must have your primary, permanent place of residence in a rural area to qualify to hunt, trap or fish under Federal subsistence regulations. A seasonal residence does not qualify you as a rural resident. See the definition of resident in the definitions section of this book.

Nonrural Communities

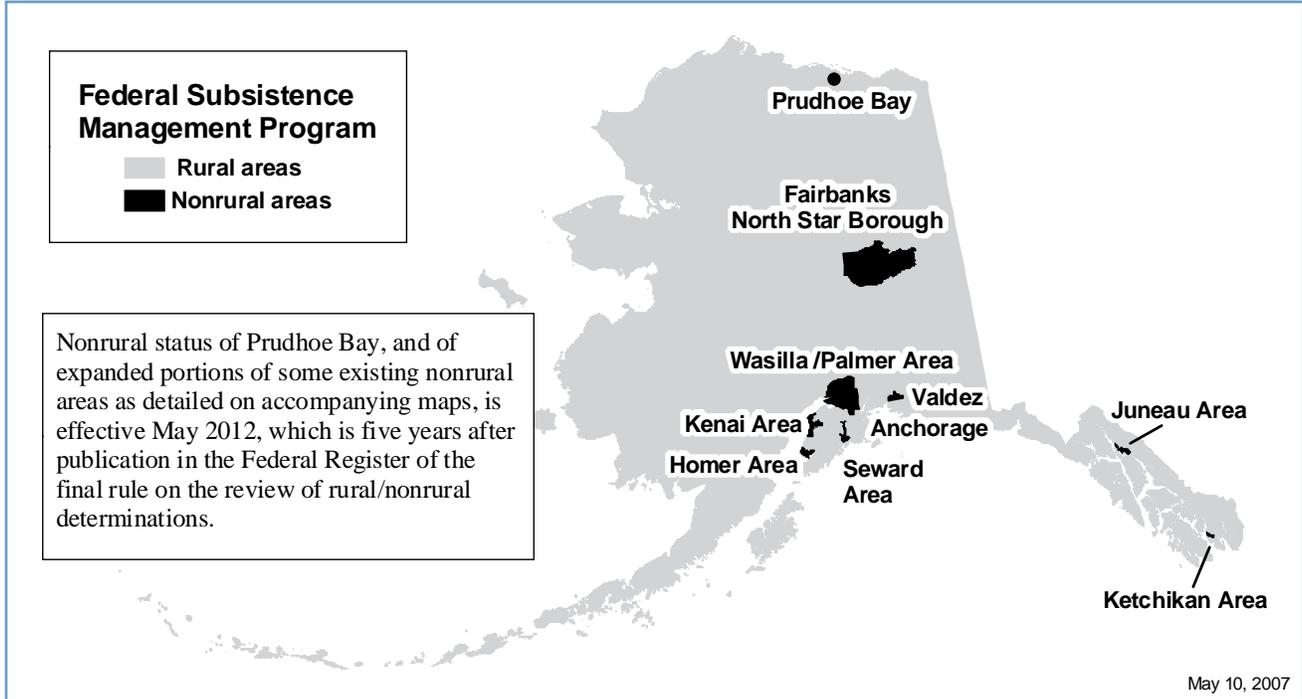
The Federal Subsistence Board recently adopted a final rule on changes to the rural or nonrural status of several Alaska communities and areas after conducting its 10-year status review required by Federal Subsistence Management Regulations. The rule was published in the *Federal Register* in May 2007.

The status of most Alaska communities remains unchanged after the review. Adak's status changed to rural. Prudhoe Bay was reclassified to nonrural. Several communities or areas will change to nonrural status due to being included in existing nonrural groupings. The nonrural status of Prudhoe Bay and of the places added to nonrural groupings will be effective in May 2012, after a five-year waiting period. The listing below identifies nonrural communities and areas, some of which will be effective in May 2012, as shown on the maps:

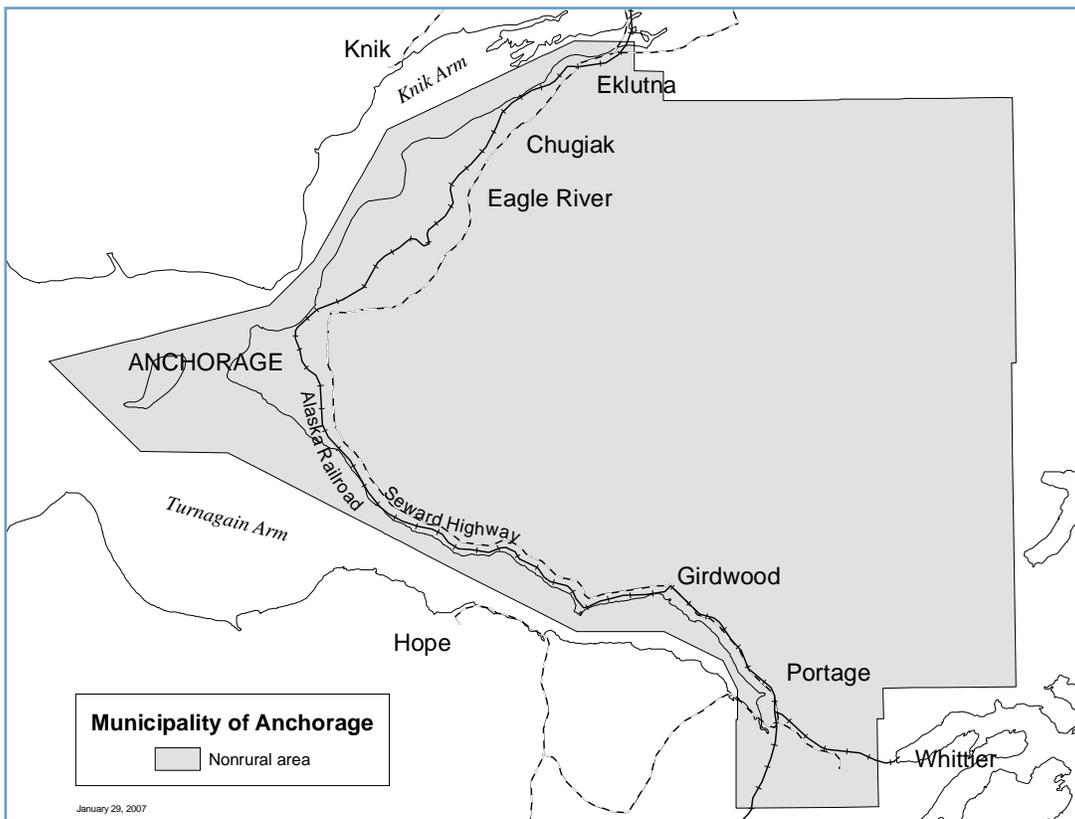
- **Anchorage**, *Municipality of*
- **Fairbanks North Star Borough**
- **Homer area** *including Homer, Anchor Point, North Fork Road area, Kachemak City, and Fritz Creek (not including Voznesenka)*
- **Juneau area** *including Juneau, West Juneau, and Douglas*
- **Kenai area** *including Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Nikiski, Salamatof, Kalifornsky, Kasilof, and Clam Gulch*
- **Ketchikan area** *including all parts of the road system connected to the City of Ketchikan (including Saxman), Pennock Island, and parts of Gravina Island*
- **Prudhoe Bay**
- **Seward area** *including Seward and Moose Pass*
- **Valdez**
- **Wasilla/Palmer area** *including Wasilla, Palmer, Sutton, Big Lake, Houston, Point MacKenzie, and Bodenburg Butte*

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Nonrural Areas—Statewide

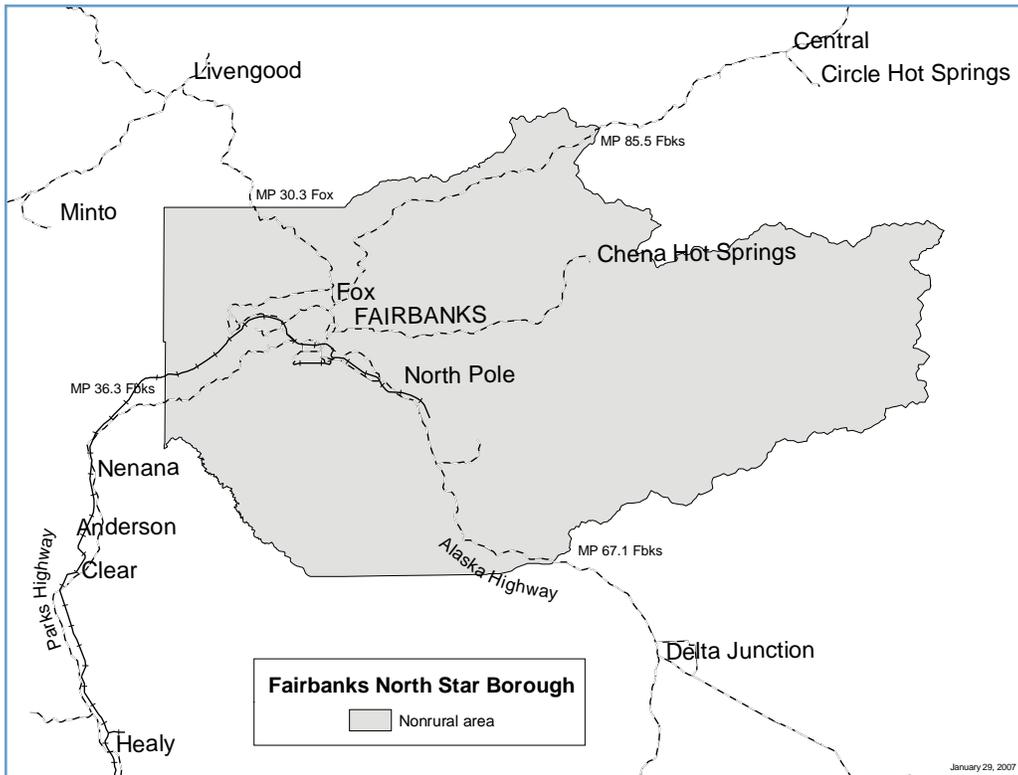


Nonrural Area—Anchorage

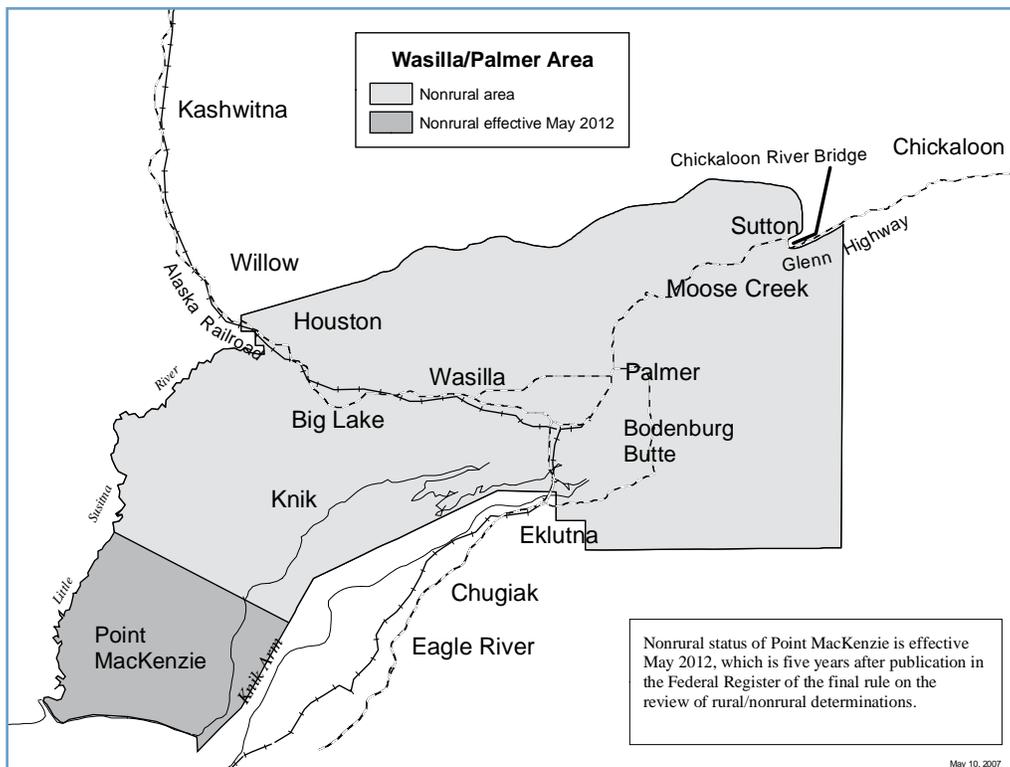


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Nonrural Area—Fairbanks

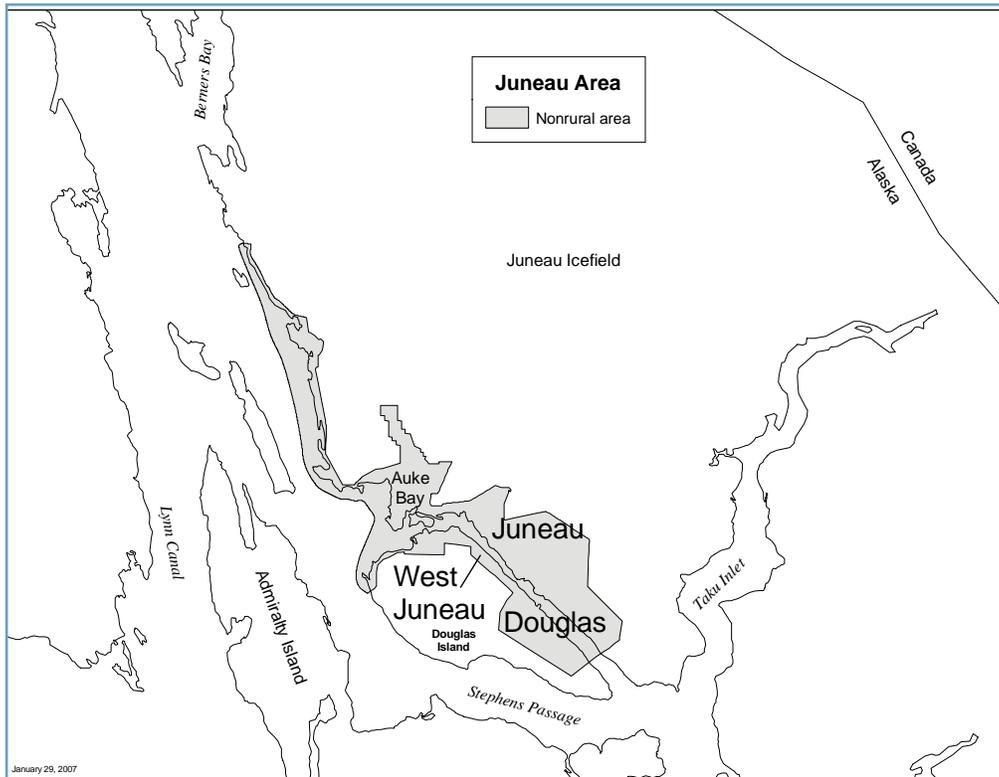


Nonrural Area—Wasilla/Palmer

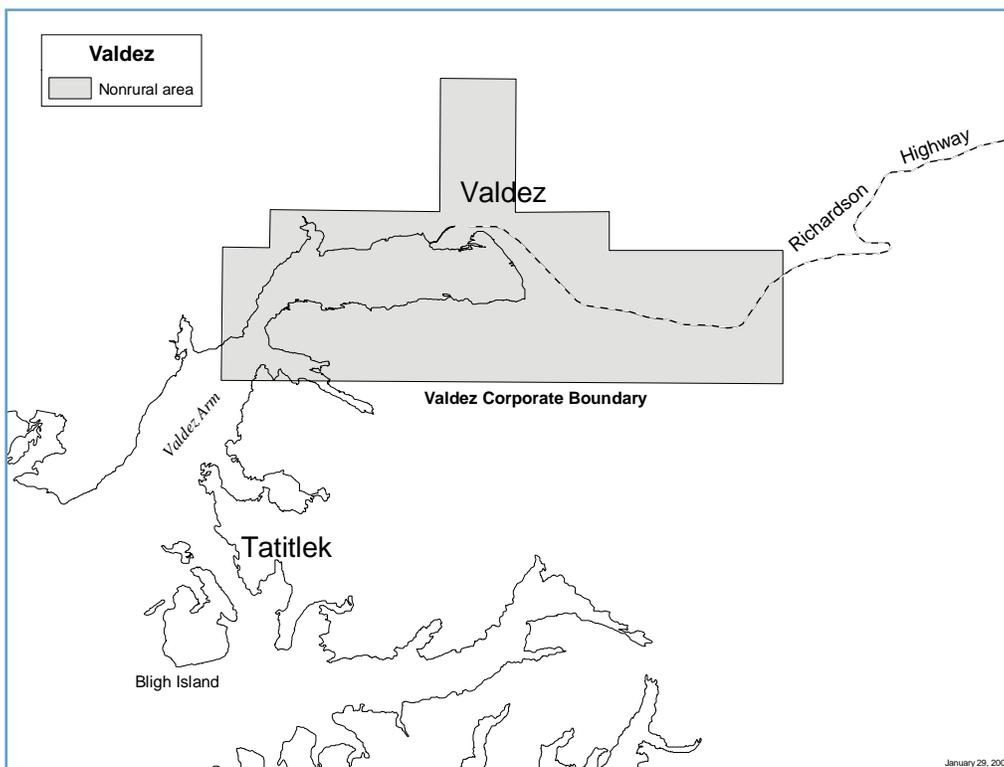


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Nonrural Area—Juneau

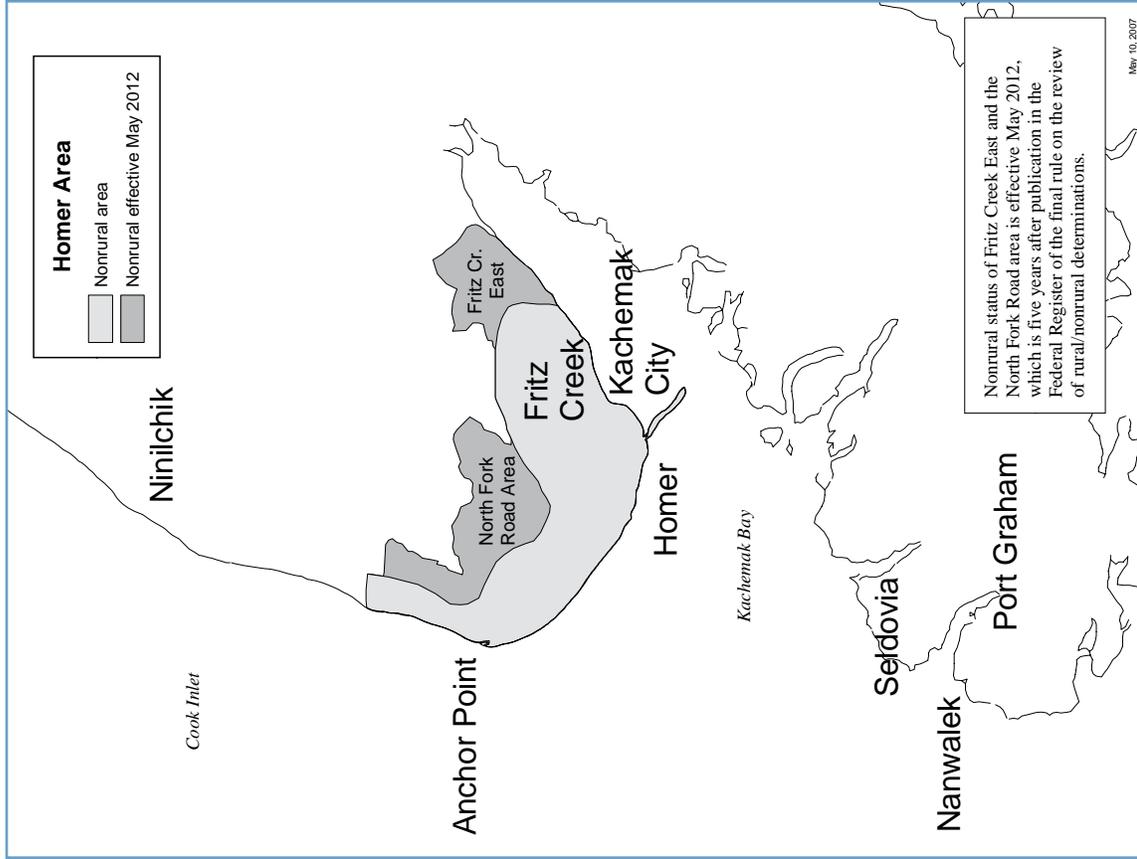


Nonrural Area—Valdez

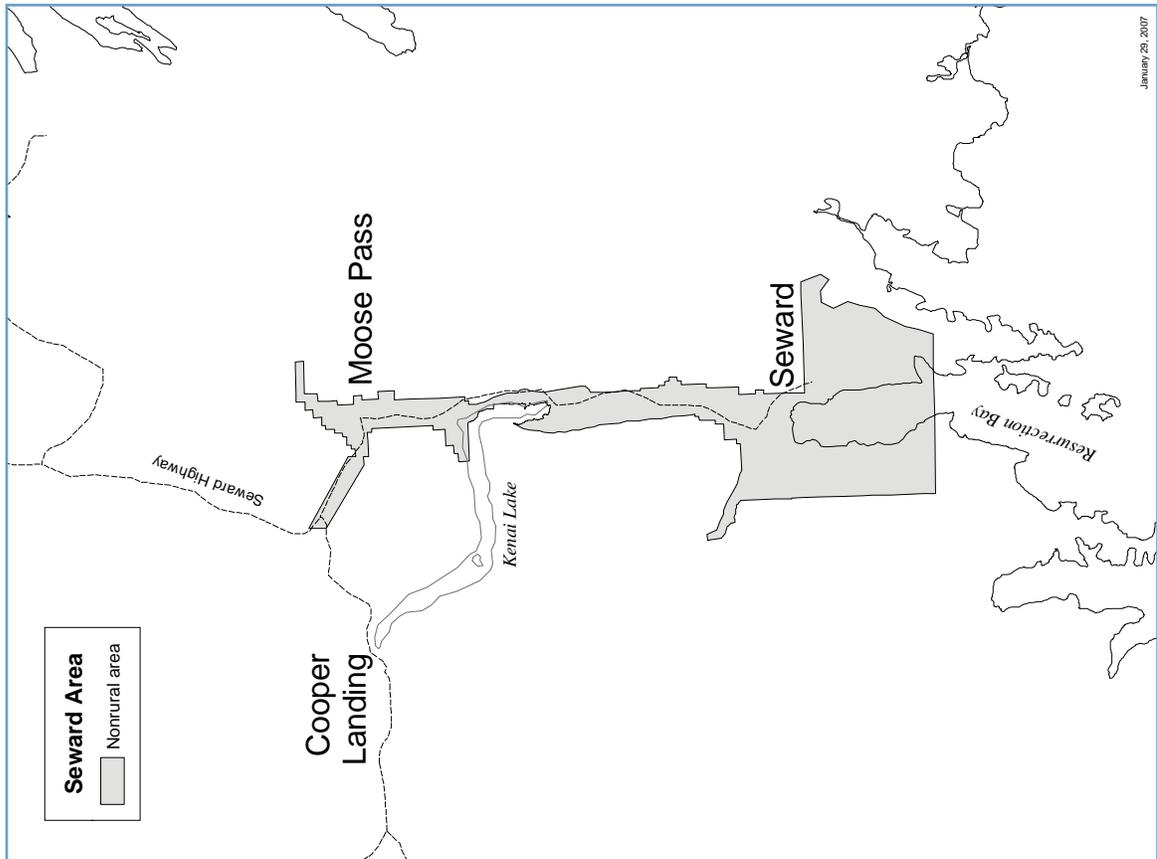


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Nonrural Area—Homer

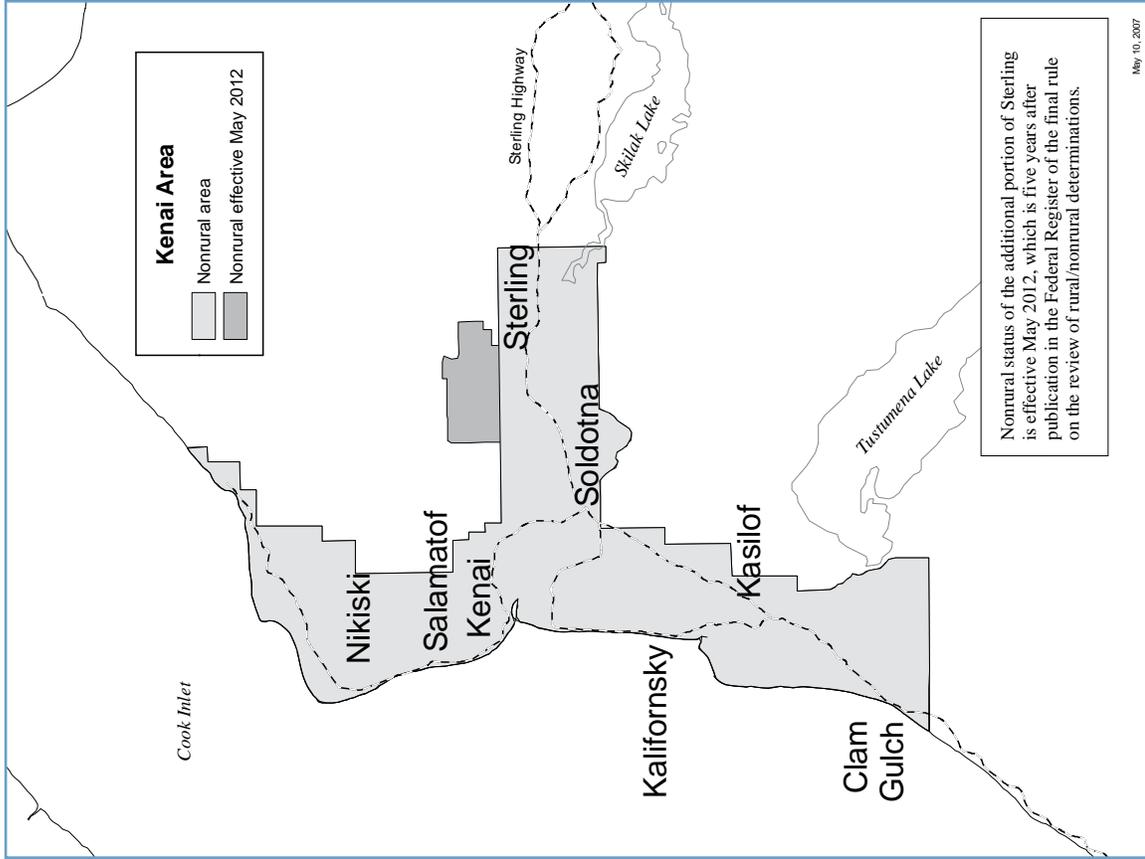


Nonrural Area—Seward

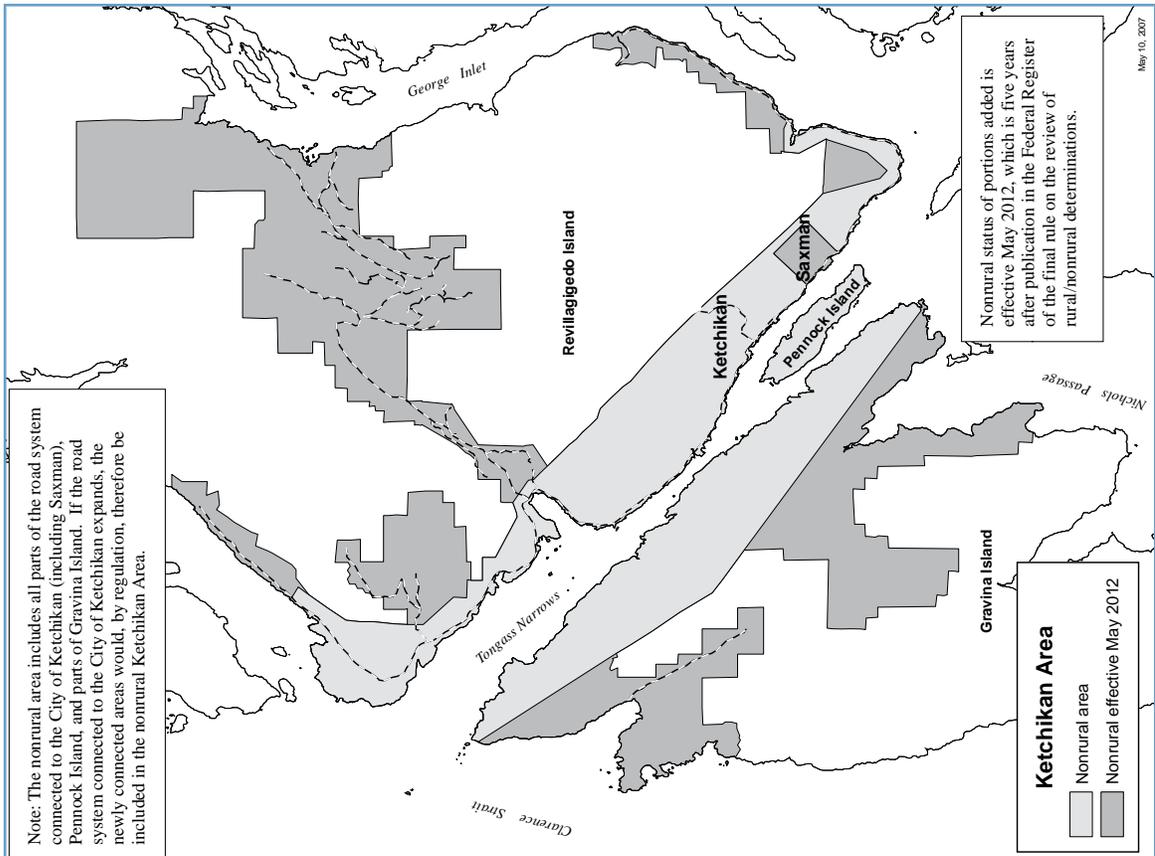


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Nonrural Area—Kenai



Nonrural Area—Ketchikan



Note: The nonrural area includes all parts of the road system connected to the City of Ketchikan (including Saxman), Pennock Island, and parts of Gravina Island. If the road system connected to the City of Ketchikan expands, the newly connected areas would, by regulation, therefore be included in the nonrural Ketchikan Area.

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Customary and Traditional Use

The Federal Subsistence Board decides which communities or areas have customarily and traditionally used a species. Each Unit lists these customary and traditional use determinations along with seasons and harvest limits and any special provisions. When there is a positive determination for specific communities or areas, only residents of those communities and areas have a Federal subsistence priority for that species in that Unit and are eligible to hunt or trap under these regulations. If the Board has not made a customary and traditional use determination for a species, then all rural residents of Alaska may use that species in that Unit. Refer to the summary tables at the beginning of each Unit to identify existing customary and traditional use findings.

No Federal subsistence priority means that the Federal Subsistence Board decided there is no authorized use of that wildlife population on Federal regulations. Hunting may be allowed under State of Alaska regulations.

Federal Subsistence Regulations Apply Only to Federal Public Lands

Federal public lands include lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service. The regulations do not apply to State or private lands. There are no Federal open seasons in units that have no Federal public lands.

Check the unit maps carefully where you wish to harvest wildlife to check the land status. If you have questions, contact any of the Federal offices listed in the directory at the back of this book.

Land and Water Access

Federal Subsistence Management harvest regulations apply to Federal public lands and waters, but do not provide for access across private lands. It is your responsibility to identify ownership of lands you will access and to make sure you have permission from the land owner(s) of private land. These regulations do not apply to private lands. Some Native village and regional corporation lands require a land use permit and/or fee. Some of these lands are closed to use by non-shareholders.

The use of private lands without the landowner's permission, other than those legally-reserved public access easements, is trespass.

You may purchase detailed topographic maps from:
U.S. Geological Survey, 4320 University Drive, Alaska Pacific University, Room 101, Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 786-7011 or (800) USA-MAPS

Licenses, Permits, Harvest Tickets, and Tags

Rural residents age 16 and older must possess a State of Alaska-issued resident hunting or trapping license to hunt or trap under these regulations. Residents age 60 or older may get a free permanent identification card issued by ADF&G. You must carry your license or permanent ID card with you while taking wildlife for subsistence uses. You can purchase licenses at many stores and other outlets in Alaska or on the web: <http://www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license>.

When these regulations require a Federal registration permit, subsistence users are not required to possess State permits or harvest tickets. However, Federally qualified subsistence hunters must possess a State tag for brown bear, unless specifically exempt in State or Federal Unit-specific special provisions. You must show licenses, permits, harvest tickets, tags or other documents to State and Federal law enforcement agents when requested. These permits, harvest tickets, and tags are important tools wildlife managers use to monitor and protect wildlife populations. Subsistence users must follow harvest reporting rules. All subsistence users, including designated hunters, must possess and comply with any permits, harvest tickets, or tags required by State or Federal regulations.

Federal designated hunters and Federal registration permits are available from local Federal offices. See directory at the back of this book.

Permitting Systems—Community harvest and designated hunter permitting and reporting systems are in place in some communities. These systems are based on customary and traditional practices, including those associated with cultural and religious beliefs. The Federal Subsistence Board continues to work to establish alternative community harvest and reporting systems where appropriate.

Cultural and Educational Permits

Your organization may apply to the Federal Subsistence Board for a cultural or education permit to harvest wildlife for a qualifying cultural or educational program. A qualifying program must have instructors, enrolled

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students, minimum attendance requirements, and standards for successful completion of the program.

Organizations must submit applications for an initial permit to the Office of Subsistence Management at least 30 days before the earliest desired date of harvest. A cultural/education permit is for no more than one large mammal per culture/education camp. Each permit is limited to the harvest of one deer, moose, caribou, black bear, or mountain goat. Animals harvested will count against any established Federal harvest quota for the area where it's harvested.

Special Requirements for National Park Service Lands

Subsistence use of resources in areas managed by the National Park Service are subject to additional rules and is restricted to local residents in national monuments and parks open to subsistence. National Park Service regulations govern which communities or individual residents qualify as local rural residents for specific National Park Service areas. Glacier Bay National Park, Katmai National Park, Kenai Fjords National Park, Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, "old" McKinley National Park, and Sitka National Historical Park are closed to subsistence hunting and trapping. Users of National Park Service areas are responsible for complying with these regulations (36 CFR Part 13, Subparts A, B, and C).

For more information about National Park Service regulations that affect subsistence, contact: National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office, 240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. (907) 644-3509 / Fax: (907) 644-3816

Other Important Information

Several other sections of this book contain important information. Read the **Unit Hunting Regulations** and note any **Special Provisions** for the Unit where you wish to take wildlife. This section lists unit-specific information, including areas where regulations restrict subsistence take or describe special opportunities.

For regulations relating to fisheries, see the *Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Fish and Shellfish on Federal Public Lands and Waters in Alaska* (published separately every two years).

Subsistence Taking of Marine Mammals and Migratory Birds

These regulations do not apply to the subsistence taking of marine mammals or migratory birds. These species are regulated under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*.

For information about the subsistence harvest of...

Sea otters, polar bears and walruses: Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Mammal Management Office at (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3800 or by E-mail, ak_fisheries@fws.gov. Information is also available on the Web at <http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/mmm/index.htm>

Seals, sea lions and whales: Contact the Protected Resources Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service at (907) 586-7221. Information is also available on the web at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/default.htm>

Migratory birds: Contact the office of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council at (877) 229-2344 or (907) 786-3499 or by E-mail, ambcc@fws.gov. Information is also available on the Web at <http://alaska.fws.gov/ambcc/Index.htm>

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How to Change Federal Subsistence Regulations

Alaska residents and subsistence users are an integral part of the Federal regulatory process. Any person or group can submit proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations, comment on proposals, or testify at meetings. The 10 Regional Advisory Councils meet at least twice a year. By becoming involved in the process, subsistence users help to more effectively manage subsistence activities and ensure consideration of traditional and local knowledge in subsistence management decisions. Subsistence users also provide valuable wildlife harvest information. Through cooperative agreements, the U.S. Government and several Native organizations are working to more effectively manage subsistence activities. These organizations work in an advisory capacity and provide both technical information and biological data to help address subsistence issues.

How to Submit a Proposal

Please refer to the form on the next page. This form contains information required to request changes to Federal subsistence wildlife regulations. Although you do not need to use this form to submit your proposal, you do need to include information requested on the form.

Submit a separate proposal (or form) for each proposed change. Proposals submitted by fax (907) 786-3898 or by e-mail (subsistence@fws.gov) will be considered originals. To cite which regulation(s) you want to change, you can use this book or the proposed regulations published in the Federal Register: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

For additional information or for proposal forms, contact the Office of Subsistence Management at (800) 478-1456/(907) 786-3888 or go to <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>.

Wildlife Regulatory Timeline

January 2009	Wildlife proposal period opens. Proposals to change Federal subsistence wildlife seasons, harvest limits, methods, and means; and customary and traditional use determinations may be submitted.
February–March 2009	Regional Advisory Council fall meetings. The Regional Advisory Councils meet to develop wildlife proposals.
April 2009	Wildlife proposal period closes.
May–June 2009	Public comment period. Wildlife proposals are available for public review and comment.
September–October 2009	Regional Advisory Council winter meetings. The Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils meet to review regional proposals and analyses, hear public comments on proposals, and make recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board.
January 2010	Federal Subsistence Board meets to consider proposals. The Board hears Regional Council recommendations and public and staff comments on proposals before adopting the final regulations for the regulatory year.
July 2010	New regulations go into effect.

You may propose changes to...

- ! Federal subsistence season dates
- ! Harvest limits
- ! Methods and means of harvest
- ! Customary and traditional use determinations
- ! For national parks and national monuments—individuals who live in a resident zone community of a National Park Service-managed park or national monument (see 36 CFR 13.43), and those who already hold a Section 13.44 subsistence use permit issued by the Superintendent (see 36 CFR 13.44), may apply for an individual customary and traditional use determination.