



United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
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NEW PROJECT FUNDING TO ADDRESS CRITICAL FOOD SECURITY NEEDS

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The National Park Service Alaska Region has been awarded approximately \$6.2 million of Inflation Reduction Act funding for a project that aims to mitigate environmental uncertainties and critical subsistence food security needs through co-stewardship arrangements with Alaska Native entities and funding agreements with other partners as well as research and monitoring activities focusing on key subsistence species. Approximately \$1.2 million is allocated specifically for use by Wrangell-St. Elias, including \$238,000 for moose and caribou monitoring, \$419,000 for Copper River sockeye salmon research and the development of management applications, and \$524,000 for projects designed to support community food-security resilience.

Examples of partnership activities or projects that may be funded to address food-security needs include (1) subsistence fish and wildlife monitoring projects and/or harvest monitoring and reporting managed locally with local hires; (2) projects that enhance the capacity of rural communities to engage effectively with federal and state regulatory programs and advocate for regulatory changes that ensure stability of access to subsistence foods in the context of changing patterns of fish and wildlife availability; (3) Indigenous knowledge (IK) projects for documenting and incorporating IK in management decision making; (4) subsistence-related Tribal-NPS liaison programs; and (5) youth and elder programs for transmission of knowledge across generations.

Park staff will be doing outreach to Tribal councils and subsistence users about project ideas that support food security resilience in their communities during spring to fall 2024 with most projects starting in 2025.



Fish wheel on Copper River near Copper Center