

PROPOSAL 121

5 AAC 92.450. Description of game management units.

Divide Unit 15C into two subunits as follows:

Unit 15D consists of the current portion of Unit 15C south of Kachemak Bay, Sheep Creek, and the Dinglestadt Glacier.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Divide Unit 15C to create two subunits, 15C and 15D, to align management boundaries with areas of stark physiographic differences of topography, climate, geology, vegetation, and wildlife species distributions and densities.

ADF&G utilizes the USGS Unified Ecoregions of Alaska map to depict Alaska's 32 ecoregions. An ecoregion is defined as "an area of land and water containing vegetation communities that share species and ecological dynamics, environmental conditions, and interactions that are critical for their long-term persistence."

North Unit 15C, overlays the Coast Mountain Boreal; Cook Inlet Basin ecoregion of gently sloping lowlands of lakes, swamps, bogs, and rivers drained from glaciers with an annual snowfall of 63 - 100 inches and total yearly precipitation averaging 15 - 27 inches.

15D (South 15C), would overlay two rugged ecoregions within the distinct Hyper-maritime Forests; the Chugach (Kenai) Mountains Ecoregion, with ice fields, narrow deep gorged valleys; fringed with the Gulf of Alaska Coastal Ecoregion. of deeply carved glacial fjords, archipelagos and short swift streams. Elevations dramatically rise from sea level to over 5,400 feet with a maritime climate. Annual snowfall averages 32 - 236 inches and total precipitation 30 - 160 inches.

Land ownership within the proposed Unit 15D area consists of primarily Kenai National Wildlife Refuge land, Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Park land, and Alaska Native Corporation land.

Kachemak Bay waters and submerged intertidal lands are legislatively designated a State Critical Habitat Area (CHA) for the "perpetuation of fish and wildlife". This CHA overlays Special Purpose Site Park lands and waters located within the proposed Unit 15D.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

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