

Game Management Unit Boundary Changes

PROPOSAL 119

5 AAC 92.450. Description of game management units.

Change the boundary between Game Management Subunits 21E and 21D as follows:

5 AAC 92.450

...

(E) Unit 21(E) consists of that portion of Unit 21 in the Yukon River and Arhymot Lake drainages upstream from a line starting at the downriver boundary of Paimiut on the north bank of the Yukon River, then south across the Yukon River to the northern terminus of the Paimiut Portage, then south along the Portage to its intersection with Arhymot Lake, then along the northern and western bank of Arhymot Lake to the outlet at Crooked Creek (locally known as Johnson River) drainage, then to **and including all waters flowing into Honey Moon Slough, and to** but not including, the **Eagle Creek** drainage [BLACKBURN CREEK DRAINAGE], and the Innoko River drainage downstream from the Iditarod River drainage;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Boundary change for Units 21E and 21D. Unit 21D has antler destruction, Unit 21E does not and does not want this restriction on Unit 21E. No other solutions discussed or wanted.

Residents in Grayling are having to travel 120 miles by boat to hunt in their old grounds, the Innoko River near the old Holikachuck Village. Grayling hunters now have to travel 120 miles by boat, if the Yukon, Shageluk Slough does not have enough water for travel, causing hunting issues on Anvik and Holy Cross corporation lands on the Yukon and Lower Innoko Rivers.

Residents of Grayling will be able to hunt the area now in Unit 21D under the permit RM836 if the boundaries are extended.

The GASH AC will have some say in the management of this area in question – trend counts, predator numbers and measures to help control bear and wolf populations.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? Yes. Discussion by the committee was on two occasions, voted yes by all present. The chair was directed to proceed with proposal and have further talks with the area biologist.

Note: The advisory committee submitted maps with this proposal, which are available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook.

PROPOSED BY: Grayling/Anvik/Shageluk/Holy Cross (GASH) Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-039)

PROPOSAL 120

5 AAC 92.450. Description of game management units.

Adjust the boundary between Unit 25C and D as follows:

Unit 25C: The drainages into the south bank of the Yukon River upstream from Circle to the Unit 20E boundary, the Birch Creek drainage upstream from the Steese Highway bridge (MP 147) and then following the Steese Highway to the northeast staying on the north side of the road from the Steese Bridge at MP 147 to Circle; the Preacher Creek drainage upstream from and including the Rock Creek drainage, and the Beaver Creek drainage upstream from and including the Moose Creek drainage.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This realignment of the 25C/D boundary would reduce confusion on where the boundary is located as you drive between Central and Circle. The suggested fix would move the boundary to the road between Birch Creek and Circle, which would help to know exactly where the game Units start and end.

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

PROPOSED BY: Amanda Pope

(HQ-F24-011)

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?

PROPOSED BY: N.J. Hillstrand (HQ-F24-006)

Note: Proposal 191 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for March 2025.

PROPOSAL 191

5 AAC: 92.540(3)(I)(ii). Controlled Use Areas: The Ladue River Controlled Use Area

Define the beginning and terminus of the Nine Mile trail in the Ladue River Controlled Use Area.

5AAC 92.540(3)(I)(iii). The Nine Mile Trail as referenced in this regulation refers to the single primary ATV trail beginning along the Taylor Highway at coordinates (1) N63 24.233 x W142 28.422, entering the western portion of the defined controlled use area at coordinates (2) N62 23.879 x W142 9.073, and terminating at coordinates (3) N62 32.420 x W141 27.995. Only the single primary trail including connected bypasses no more than 20 feet.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This controlled use area allows exceptions for use of motorized vehicles on the Nine Mile and Liberty Creek trails. Neither of these trails are defined in regulation as to their official start, terminus, or scope.

Recent development of a large mine in the area of the Nine Mile trail has caused a dramatic increase in vehicle traffic and new branches of trails have begun to appear making it impossible to know which trail(s) are the original Nine Mile trail and which are continuations or offshoots.

AWT has received numerous complaints annually about moose hunters straying beyond the original Nine Mile trail however enforcement has proved challenging without a clear delineation and definition of where the trail exists and/or ends.

This change will better define the beginning and terminus of the Nine Mile trail and uses the same GPS coordinates where Tok ADF&G has established markers designating the beginning and terminus of the trail. It additionally spells out that side trails and extensions are not considered part of the trail and thus motorized vehicles are not allowed in those areas.

When the exclusion for the Nine Mile trail was put in there was little ATV traffic on this trail and due to the remoteness of the area, there was little traffic to keep the trail established against overgrowth. The re-establishment of a large gold mining operation near the terminus of the Nine Mile trail has introduced additional traffic that has caused the trails system to be expanded well beyond the original trail. A defined beginning and end to the excluded trail within the CUA is needed for enforcement to be able to properly charge violations by users taking motorized vehicles deeper into the CUA beyond the original established trail.

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers are the primary enforcement agency for Alaska's Fish and Wildlife laws and regulations. AWT occasionally faces situations where the intent of the board or wildlife managers cannot be enforced due to incorrect, confusing or missing definitions that are required for a successful legal action against a violator. AWT has had concerns with this particular situation within the Ladue CUA for more than a decade however until recently, very few people accessed the area via motorized vehicles and the trail system therefore was shrinking by overgrowth, not growing in size and scope.

There will continue to be more motorized vehicle impact within the Ladue Controlled Use Area branching further and further off of the original established Nine Mile Trail. AWT will be unable to enforce many of these violations without a clearly defined beginning and end of this trail

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PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

(HQ-F24-ACR6)
