

(The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2014 Arctic/Western Region meeting to the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for March 14-18, 2014. Maps showing the boundary changes are available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo .

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 92.450. Description of game management units. Modify the boundaries for Units 18, 19, and 21 as follows:

Create new boundary language for Unit 18 to read:

The area draining into the Yukon River downstream from a line starting at the down river boundary of Paimiut on the north bank of the Yukon River then across the river to the south bank to the northern terminus of the Paimiut Portage, proceed south through the Portage to the mouth of Hooking Creek on the northeast corner of Arhymot Lake, follow the northern and western bank of the lake to the head of Crooked Creek, follow the north bank of the creek downstream to the northern terminus of the Crooked Creek to Mud Creek Tramway, follow the tramway south to Mud Creek, follow its west bank downstream to First Slough, follow the west bank of the slough downstream to its confluence to the Kuskokwim River,

Create new language for Unit 19 to read:

The area draining into the Kuskokwim River upstream from the confluence of the First Slough and the Kuskokwim River; and the area draining into Crook Creek's south bank upstream from the northern terminus of the Mud Creek to Crook Creek Portage Tramway. (All are clearly visible land marks.)

Create new language for Unit 21 to read:

The area draining into the Yukon River upstream from the down river boundary of Paimiut on the north shore of the Yukon River and, directly across the river, the northern terminus of the Paimiut Portage on the south shore of the Yukon River. (Both clearly visible land marks.)

The area **east** of the boundary and **south** of the **High Portage Ridge** would be part of **Unit 19**, since this area drains into the Kuskokwim River. (Clear visible land marks.)

The area **east** of the boundary and **north** of the **High Portage Ridge** would be part of **Unit 21**, since this area drains into the Yukon River. (Clear visible land marks.)

ISSUE: The confusing and unclear boundary dividing Units 18, 19, and 21.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many hunters and enforcement personnel would still not know where the real boundaries are. There is no definite language explaining where the “straight line” begins or ends. Does the line start at the “downriver”, “center” or “upriver” boundary of Paimiut or Lower Kalskag?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The boundaries would be clear, definite and visible. There would be no more confusion as to where the boundaries begin and end.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters and enforcement personnel would know exactly what unit they are in. All hunters traveling up river on the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers to Units 19 and 21.

All hunters from Lower Kalskag and Kalskag would benefit most by regaining their customary and traditional hunting lands in Units 18 and 21. These lands are presently included in Unit 18 and 21. This would also clarify the issue of “no man’s land” east of the boundary line and north of Kalskag and Lower Kalskag and south of High Portage Ridge. High Portage Ridge geographically separates the Yukon River and Kuskokwim River drainages. All drainages north of the ridge flowing into the Yukon would be in Unit 21 and all drainages south of the ridge flowing into the Kuskokwim would be in Unit 19.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one would suffer if this proposal is adopted. The Paimiut Portage is a well-established historical trail that connects the central Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers. It is repaired, remarked and maintained annually, after freeze up, by hunters and fishers from Kalskag and Lower Kalskag. The Paimiut Portage is used daily during the fall, winter and spring seasons by all hunters, fishers, trappers and visitors from the lower and central Kuskokwim River and from the central Yukon River villages.

The Mud Creek to Crooked Creek Tramway is a part of a historical personal/commercial route connecting travelers to/from the Kuskokwim River villages and the Yukon River villages.

Residents of Lower Kalskag and Kalskag were involved in the modification of this proposal. They endorse and support this proposal and urge the Board of Game to pass it as the best choice for redefining the presently unclear and confusing boundaries of Units 18, 19 and 21.

The residents of Lower Kalskag and Kalskag live, hunt, fish, trap and gather in this land, as have their ancestors. They do so with honor and respect to the land and its first inhabitants-the water, plants, berries, trees, fish and game. They do so following what the land and seasons offer of their renewable food resources. They have always had customary and traditional seasonal use of this land and its resources.

Contrary to what you may hear from some residents of the lower Kuskokwim River area, they do have year-round customary and traditional use of this land and its resources, for this reason residents of Lower Kalskag and Kalskag urge the Board of Game to honor this proposal to modify the boundaries, move the Kuskokwim terminal out of Lower Kalskag downstream to a known visible location, and return their customary and traditional hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering lands. They ask this especially for the benefit of our youth and young adults, who would be made criminals if this change is not adopted and passed, because they will continue to hunt in lands now classified as part of Units 18 and 21, which are really in Unit 19.

We know this land and its resources. We know how, where and when to travel on this land, to hunt, fish, trap and gather. We do not hunt, fish, trap, gather and travel by paper. We hunt, fish, trap and gather using our natural land marks-rivers, sloughs, streams, lakes, hills and trails as guides and boundaries. We use what we can see, feel, hear and taste as our guides. We are part of the land and its resources-it feeds us, clothes us, shelters us, comforts us and connects us to our Creator. It is part of us, as we are part of it, because we live on it. We are one with the land.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee EG050613951
