



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Headquarters

1255 West 8th Street
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
Main: 907.465.4190
Fax: 907.465.6142

November 9, 2023

An Agenda Change Request (ACR 7) has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 92.450. Description of game management units. The department submitted the ACR and is asking the board to modify the boundary between subunits 20A and 20C because the water no longer flows through what the maps show as the Nenana River.

With respect to the board's Agenda Change Request (ACR) acceptance criteria (5 AAC 92.005):

- A. The department is unaware of any error in regulation.
- B. When the existing regulation was adopted the main channel of the river flowed through what is labeled as the Nenana River. Since then, the river has changed course and now only flows through two named sloughs which results in an indiscernible boundary between subunits.
- C. The department is unaware of any biological concerns.
- D. The department is unaware of any unforeseen or unexpected events that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses as defined in AS 16.05.258(f).
- E. The hunting regulations for moose and brown bears differ between the two subunits. Moving the boundary east will allow additional moose and brown bear hunting opportunities west of the Nenana River.

The main channel of the Nenana River has moved in a way that affects the border of Units 20A and 20C. This ACR clarifies that Seventeen Mile Slough and Lost Slough are channels of the Nenana River and therefore define the western boundary of 20A and the eastern boundary of 20C. Almost all the water flowing downstream in the Nenana River enters Seventeen Mile and Lost Sloughs to their confluences with the Tanana River. This has created confusion among hunters interpreting the boundary in regulation because the main channel of the Nenana River has changed from what is shown on the map provided in the Alaska Hunting Regulations as well as USGS topographical maps; it is also challenging for enforcement. This regulatory clarification will allow hunters to easily determine the subunit boundaries as the main channel of the Nenana River will match what is printed in the Alaska Hunting Regulations as well as label names on USGS maps.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting for Statewide regulations is in winter/spring of 2024/2025. If the board accepts this ACR, the department recommends the proposal come before the board at its March 2024 meeting in Fairbanks because the meeting is in Unit 20.

Sincerely,

Ryan Scott

Ryan Scott
Acting Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation