

BEST CHOICE FOR GMU 18, 19 & 21 BOUNDARIES

Starting from the down river boundary of *Paimiut* on the north bank of the *Yukon River* go across to the south bank of the river 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***, follow its north bank downstream to the down river boundary of ***Sam Savage's fish camp*** and terminating on the south bank of the river at the down river boundary of ***Dick Nash's fish camp***.

The area draining into the Yukon River ***downstream*** from Paimiut and the area draining into the Kuskokwim River ***downstream*** from Sam Savage and Dick Nash's fish camps would be ***Game Management Unit 18***.

The area draining into the Kuskokwim River ***upstream*** from Dick Nash and Sam Savage's fish camps would be ***Game Management Unit 19***.

The area draining into the Yukon River ***upstream*** from the down river boundary of Paimiut and the northern terminus of the Paimiut Portage would be ***Game Management Unit 21***.

The area west of the boundary would all be ***GMU 18***.

The area east of the boundary and south of the High Portage Ridge would be part of ***GMU 19***, since this area drains into the Kuskokwim River.

The area east of the boundary and north of the High Portage Ridge would be part of ***GMU 21***, since this area drains into the Yukon River.

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 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.

Many residents of Lower Kalskag and Kalskag were involved in the modification of Proposal 205. They endorse and support this proposal and ask the Board of Game to pass it as the Best Choice for redefining the presently unclear and confusing boundaries of GMUs 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 NOT HAVE customary and traditional use of this land and its resources.

All the residents of Lower Kalskag and Kalskag ask of the Board of Game is to honor their request to modify the boundaries, move the Kuskokwim terminal out of their village 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 parts of GMUs 18 and 21, which are really in GMU 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 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 connect us to our Creator. It is part of us, because we live on it."