

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

Create a controlled use area on the Ayakulic River in Unit 8 as follows:

Create a controlled use area in Unit 8 on the Ayakulic River, limit the type of outboard motor used on the river to four-stroke only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Limit the type of outboard motors on the Ayakulik River in Unit 8. Make the Ayakulic River a controlled use area and allow only four-stroke motors.

The Ayakulic River is located on the remote south end of Kodiak Island; the river provides critical habitat to all five species of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout. The steelhead and some salmon species have had recent declines in run strength, causing seasonal closures for both commercial and sport fisheries. The Ayakulic is also pristine wilderness and provides habitat and food for an abundance of wildlife including brown bear, bald eagle, land otter, beaver, ermine, Sitka black-tail deer, reindeer, and waterfowl. In recent years, there has been an increase in residents and nonresidents that access the Ayakulic River for hunting, fishing and sightseeing. Some user groups that access the Ayakulic use two-stroke or belt-driven motors on boats for navigating the river. When this type of motor is used, the noise pollution from these motors spooks all of the wildlife for at least a mile in every direction. It pushes the bears out of the area and away from the salmon; a critical food source. The exhaust pollutes the water. In 2018 we have the technology with four-stroke motors to stop the noise and water pollution. It would benefit every refuge user and all of the local wildlife without limiting access if only four-stroke motors were allowed on the Ayakulic River.

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