

Changes to Game Management Unit boundaries is on the board's Statewide Regulations schedule. Because the Call for Proposals for this cycle may not have been clear, the proposal is included in this section of the book for board review. The board could request it be scheduled for consideration at the Southcentral Region meeting when the board meets in November to address agenda change requests. If the board requests it be scheduled, the public will be notified well in advance of the meetings.

PROPOSAL 197

5 AAC 92.450. Description of game management units. .

Divide Unit 15C into two subunits as follows:

Unit 15D consists of that portion of Unit 15 that will include all of 15C south of the Tustumena Glacier, Glacier Creek Tustumena Lake, and the large bend in the Fox River where the river turns south.

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 prescriptions with areas of stark physiographic differences of topography, climate, geology, vegetation, wildlife species, distributions and density.

ADF&G utilizes the USGS Unified Ecoregions of Alaska map to depict Alaska's 32 ecoregions.

ADF&G website defines an ecoregion 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.

Annual snowfall 63 - 100 inches. Precipitation from 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 up to 5000 feet. Maritime climate.

Annual snowfall from 32 - 236 inches. Precipitation from 30 - 160 inches.

The proposed Unit 15D area consists of 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 State Critical Habitat Areas (CHA) for the "perpetuation of fish and wildlife". These CHA overlay Special Purpose Site Park lands and waters located within the proposed Unit 15D.

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