

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2017 Interior/Northeast Arctic Region Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 93.

PROPOSAL 70 – 5 AAC 92.530(7)(C)(i)(2). Management Areas. Remove the Bettles Winter Trail travel exception for public use within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area as follows:

The following management areas are subject to special restrictions:

(7) the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area:

(C) no motorized vehicle may be used to transport hunters, hunting gear, or parts of game, within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area, except that

(i) licensed highway vehicles may be used on the following designated roads:

(1) Dalton Highway,

[(2) BETTLES WINTER TRAIL DURING PERIODS WHEN THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE CITY OF BETTLES ANNOUNCE THAT THE TRAIL IS OPEN FOR WINTER TRAVEL,]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Department of Fish and Game is submitting this proposal as a placeholder to provide the Board of Game with an opportunity to make changes to the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA) regulation that may become necessary based on possible actions taken by land managers in the affected area. This proposal would remove the Bettles Winter Trail as a motorized travel exception from the DHCMA regulation. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently conducting an environmental analysis of permitted use of the Bettles Winter Trail. The decision may be forthcoming by June 2016, which is after the deadline for proposals for this Board of Game meeting. BLM is also currently assessing the Bettles Winter Trail in their Central Yukon Management Plan. At this time, it appears that if the Bettles Winter Trail permit is approved by BLM in its current form, vehicle access will be restricted to commercial fuel trucks only with no public use allowed. Therefore, the existing regulation which designates the Bettles Winter Trail as a legal motorized travel exception within the DHCMA would mislead hunters and possibly subject them to citations if the road is closed to public use.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F16-139)
