

Proposal 105

RC0035

Michael Zweng

I value the process that allows input from all potentially impacted parties regarding adoption of any proposal. There have been a few comments submitted regarding proposal #105 that I have submitted. I would like to address those points in this written format.

Comments to responses From ADF&G, AC's, and the Public

ADF&G -neutral on the proposal:

ADF&G provided a very good synopsis of the proposal. They indicated that making this change would give a single guide exclusive privileges to guide in unit 4. They are correct in stating this since I am the refuge permit holder for this area. It is also true that the majority of the guide use areas on the island have exclusive privileges already since the Refuge guide use areas already line up with the state guide use areas, and bear drawing areas. This proposal would simply make unit 4 similar to the majority of the existing guide use areas, and would in no way be unique. This would also insure that there is guided hunter opportunity, and hopefully harvest, in the refuge area between Old Harbor and Kiliuda Bay in unit 4.

This proposal would in no way contribute to guided hunter congestion in unit 2 or in unit 4. The reason for this is simple, the exact same amount of state land would be available to hunt since the state land portion of unit 4 would now just be a part of unit two. Guides in unit 4 that do not hold a federal refuge permit are already unable to hunt the refuge land that would stay with unit 4, but now it would just be a part of unit 2. I am proposing that a percentage of permits from unit 4 (The number to be determined by ADF&G) would transfer with the land that is moving to unit 2 so that more permits would be available to the new larger unit 2. In fact, this would be an advantage to guides that currently hunt state land because now they would only have to register one area (unit 2) in order to hunt the same land that they previously had to register two areas.

Kodiak AC comments (KAC) and my responses (MZ):

- 1) **KAC-**This discussion will have an unwanted ripple effect by shifting users to other areas because of increased number of guides within an area with decreased access. Could create user conflicts.
MZ- I disagree with this point because the same guides that hunt on the state land portion of unit 4 would still hunt the same state land as before, they would just now be hunting that land under the unit 2 name. Same number of guides, same physical land, just a different guide use area name.
- 2) **KAC-**Will create sole use area for the proposer due to federal land permitting policy
MZ- Agree 100%. This is the same as the majority on the GUA's on Kodiak already. This is a good thing since it will allow regular guided hunter harvest on the refuge land in unit 4. This has proven to be a very successful system and evenly distributes guided hunting across the rest of the Kodiak refuge. In the past there have been multiple seasons where there was no guided hunter usage on the refuge land in unit 4 despite submitting the maximum number of hunters to the drawing that is allowable. In fact, there currently is, and has been, an appetite by many to create a similar system on state land called the State Land Guide Concession program. This end result of this proposal will be similar the concept of the State Land Guide Concession program for unit 4, which is similar to the majority of the existing guide use areas on Kodiak where select guides will be able to operate. Should the State Land Guide Concession program ever be implemented, this proposal will have already had the state land portion consolidated into its own guide use area for easier implementation.
- 3) **KAC-**This proposal would not be warranted if a state land guide concession policy was in place.

MZ-Agree 100%. I support the state guide concession policy in concept. However, I do not believe there will be action on this item in the short term and therefore I have submitted this proposal.

- 4) **KAC-Historical use and harvest data would be compromised within this area.**

MZ- I disagree. All bears shot on Kodiak need to be, and have been sealed after harvest at the Kodiak ADF&G office. They have records showing the specific location where each bear was shot. The documentation would just have to be updated to show the bears harvested on the state land of unit 4 to now be a part of unit 2 numbers.

- 5) **KAC-This is not the only area on Kodiak that has multiple land managers**

MZ- Agree. However the majority of the guide use areas have a single land manager-KNWR, and the system is a very successful model.

- 6) **KAC-Create permit adjustments due to boundary changes**

MZ-Agree. I am for a re allocation of permits because some unit 4 land would now become unit 2 land. Since 1/3 of the land is transferring it seems reasonable that 1/3 of the permits would transfer to unit 2, but ADF&G needs to make that call based on their population numbers.

Matsu Valley AC comments (MVAC) and my response (MZ):

- 1) **MVAC-Neil motions, Hans seconds. Don is opposed.** This proposer is a nonresident guide who wants to align the state and federal land boundaries. A self serving proposal. Dan brings up that guides on Kodiak can only apply one person for each drawing tag. That would make this a smaller area.

MZ-As with many proposals there is usually a benefit in one way or another for the proposer as well as others, and I claim no exception. I would like to be able to take guided hunters regularly to enjoy hunting this part of the refuge. The refuge also supports utilization of all of their refuge guide areas by guided hunting.

BGCS Statute Sec. 08.54.750 (d) states-"Notwithstanding (b) of this section, a registered guide-outfitter who is register in 3 guide use areas may also register and conduct big game hunting services in a portion of one additional guide use area on federal land adjacent to a guide use area in which the registered guide-outfitter is already registered if the board finds that **the portion of the adjacent guide use area for which the registered guide-outfitter is seeking to be registered would otherwise remain unused by a registered guide-outfitter because the boundaries of guide use areas do not coincide with boundaries of federal big game guide concession or permit areas.**"

In reading this BGCSB statute, it is clear that there is a desire to regularly utilize all huntable land, and it makes a special provision to support the concept. My proposal supports the same principle to allow for regular guided hunter utilization on this federal land.

Part 2 of the MVAC comment states that since Kodiak guides can only apply one person for each drawing tag, this would make it a smaller area.

MZ-My proposal states the need to transfer some of the drawing permits from unit 4 to unit 2. As stated above, the same physical state land will be able to be hunted by the same number of guides creating no additional guided hunter congestion. Unit 2 hunters could now hunt the Ugak bay side of the guide use area as well Kiliuda bay state land, which may actually reduce hunter congestion.

Resident hunter impact

My original thought was that the resident bear drawing allocation would also change with this proposal in order to keep them in synch with the non resident allocation. However, if there is an issue with changing the resident areas in unit 2 and unit 4, one option would be to not change them at all, and only move the

boundary for the non resident guided hunters. This would keep things exactly the same for resident hunters with no impact.

Should there be a reason to change the resident areas as well to match the newly proposed non resident areas, this would allow Kiliuda Bay to have resident area 4 on the south side of the bay and resident area 2 on the north side of the bay. This is also the case in other areas of the island where there are multiple guide use areas in one bay such as Ugak Bay (area 2,3, 28,30), Kizhuyak Bay (area 1, 26, 27), Viekoda Bay (area 25 and 26), Uganik Bay (areas 22, 25), Spiridon Bay (areas 20 and 21), Uyak Bay (area 17 and 18), Olga Bay (area 11 and 12), Sitkalidak Strait (area 4 and 5). Having two areas in the same bay should have no impact on resident hunter congestion since the net number of permits for the bay will stay the same since I am proposing that a percentage of the permits gets moved from area 4 to area 2 based on the land that is moving to area 2 due to the proposed boundary shift. With the new boundary in place, residents will have to choose which area to apply for should they want to hunt the north or south shores of Kiliuda bay.

The following page comes from the Findings of the Alaska Board of Game Nonresident Hunter Allocation Policy 2017-222-BOG. It states:

...It will be the boards policy to address nonresident allocations under state or federal concessions that have overlaying draw requirements in a manner that cooperates with land management efforts and goals, as deemed appropriate by the board.

I have discussed this proposal with the land manager (KNWR) and it is their goal to have guided hunting on this area of the refuge. The existence of the refuge guide use areas is proof of this.

This proposal supports the direction to have regular guided hunting in this refuge guide use area, and with the policy set forth by the board on the following page, I believe should be adopted by the board.

5 min

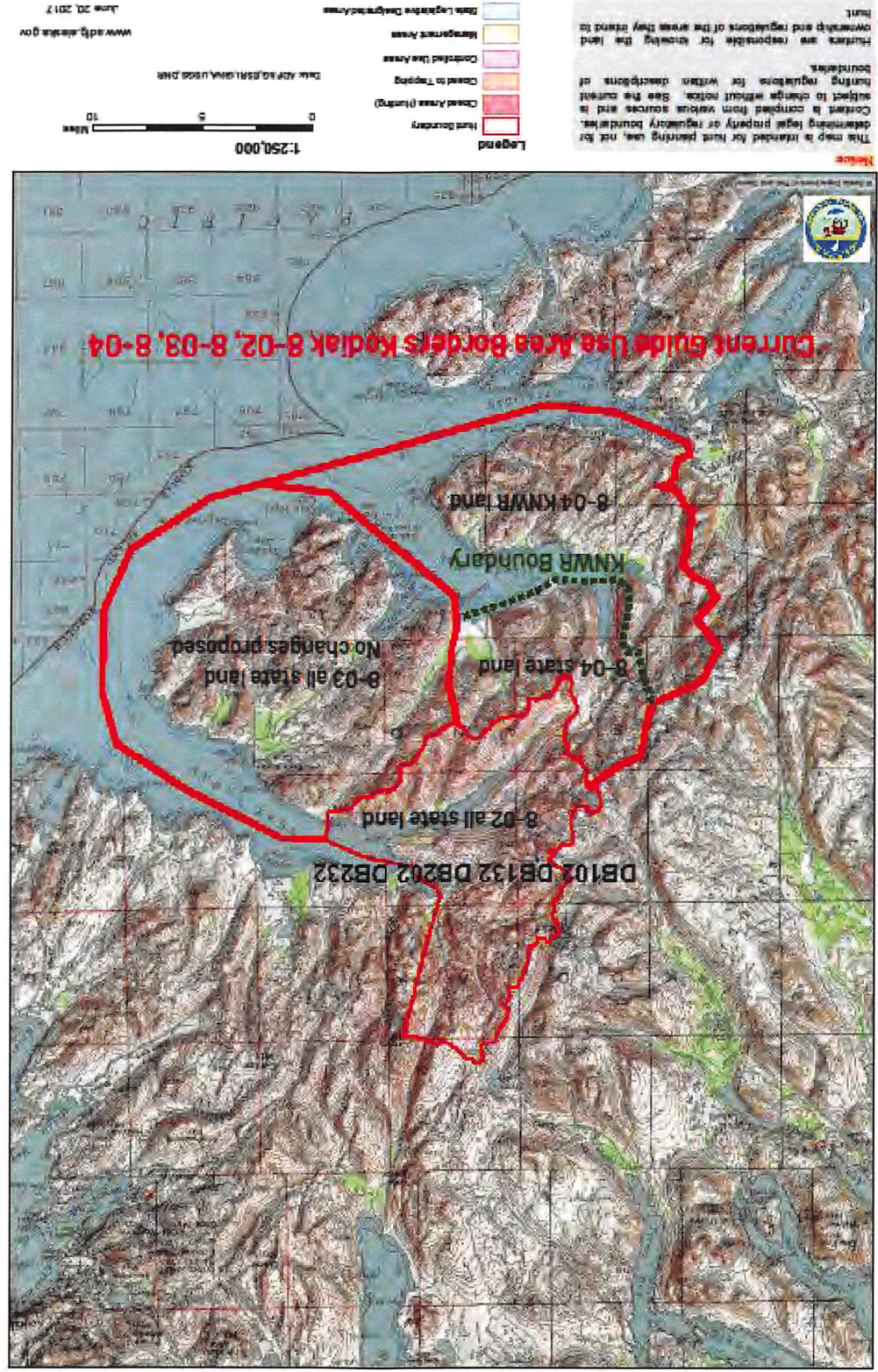
- 7) The board has supported the reestablishment of state-managed guide concessions to address user conflicts and hunt quality issues for more than a decade. The board continues to support this avenue to address known conflict areas. It will be the board's policy to address nonresident allocations under state or federal concessions that have overlaying draw requirements in a manner that cooperates with land management efforts and goals, as deemed appropriate by the board.

Vote: 5-1-1
Adopted: November 17, 2017
Anchorage, Alaska

TED N. Spraker
Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Proposed border change for Kodiak bear hunt areas -2 and -4.

Current bear hunt area borders in red (-2, -3, and -4). Northern border of -4 does not match the KNWR refuge border. -2 and -3 are currently state land. -4 is partly state land but mostly Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge land.



Proposal-Adjust the northern border of brown bear drawing area -4 (southern border of -2) to match the KNWR boundary and KNWR guide use area Kod-18



Proposed Adjustment of GUA Borders 8-02, 8-04



Notice
 This map is intended for hunt planning use, not for determining legal property or regulatory boundaries. Content is compiled from various sources and is subject to change without notice. See the current hunting regulations for written descriptions of boundaries.
 Hunters are responsible for knowing the land ownership and regulations of the areas they intend to hunt.

- Legend**
- Hunt Boundary
 - Closed Area (Hunting)
 - Closed to Tapping
 - Controlled Use Area
 - Management Area
 - State Legislative Designated Area



Data: ADF&G, ESRI, GNA, USGS, DNR

New proposed brown bear hunt area borders - 2 and -3 will be all state land. -4 will be all KNWR land. A second change by the BCCSB will be required to update the state guide use areas to match the proposed bear hunt area borders indicated here.

