

Proposal 207

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled Use Areas.

The Lake Minchumina area of GMU 20C shall have hunting access limited to surface use watercraft transport as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

The Lake Minchumina area of GMU 20C, as defined by all Lake Minchumina watersheds draining into the Muddy River and Birch Creek as far as the Kantishna, shall have hunting access limited to surface use watercraft transport. Float plane access is limited during the moose hunting season to and from only Lake Minchumina and Wien Lake. All other lakes of the Lake Minchumina/Muddy River/Birch Creek watershed shall be limited to surface access means during the scheduled moose season in GMU 20C.

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

Increased hunting pressure in the Lake Minchumina Area of GMU 20C has led to a lack of sufficient moose numbers harvestable by local community residents, a trend increasing with a recent development.

Lake Minchumina is easily accessed by Wright Air Service with two to three times per week mail, passenger and freight service. Although GMU 20C is a vast area of the Alaskan Interior, Lake Minchumina lies on the western rim of GMU20C. We have a limited watershed area upon which to hunt. Of 13 moose harvested locally last fall only three remained for community use.

Alaska Mental Health Trust's (AMHT) award of a multi-year permit for Willow Air Guide & Transporter exclusive access and use of AMHT's lands on the surrounding area of Lake Minchumina is impactful. Willow Air's reputation is a "high volume" hunter transporter guide and warrants concern of commercial moose hunting pressure in the Lake Minchumina area. We have seen increased float plane camps on lakes in the Minchumina area.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

The Lake Minchumina Fish and Game Advisory Committee, on the recent meeting of April 25, 2026 was not able to discuss and debate the merits of this proposal. Nonetheless, some Minchumina Community members thought it did merit consideration by the Alaska Board of Game and as such is now submitted to the Board of Game by the May 1, 2026 deadline.

PROPOSED BY: Walter Maakestad

(OI-F26-078)
