

Proposal 91

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled Use Areas.

Remove the 40 HP restriction in Holitna–Hoholitna Controlled Use Area as follows:

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

Amend 5 AAC 92.540 (Controlled Use Areas) for the Holitna–Hoholitna Controlled Use Area as follows:

In the Holitna–Hoholitna Controlled Use Area, this area is closed to the use of aircraft for the purpose of taking big game, and during August 1 through November 1, a person may not use a motorized boat with an outboard motor greater than ~~40 horsepower~~ to take big game.

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

The current regulation in the Holitna–Hoholitna Controlled Use Area limits outboard motors to 40 horsepower during the fall hunting season. While originally intended to reduce access pressure, this restriction creates practical and safety concerns for those traveling the river system.

The Holitna and Hoholitna rivers can present challenging conditions, including shallow sections, variable channels, and long travel distances. Operating with smaller motors can reduce a hunter's ability to navigate safely, especially when transporting gear or harvested game. This can lead to increased risk and reduced reliability in remote areas.

In addition, modern boat designs and common usage have shifted toward higher horsepower motors, and the current restriction does not reflect how most boats are now configured for safe operation

If the restriction remains in place, hunters will continue to face limitations that may impact safe travel and efficient retrieval of game. As equipment standards continue to evolve, the regulation may become increasingly impractical and misaligned with real-world conditions.

Removing the horsepower restriction would allow individuals to operate equipment that is better suited for current river conditions and modern boat setups. This would improve safety, reliability, and overall efficiency without eliminating other existing controls in the area.

Maintaining the aircraft restriction and other elements of the controlled use area continues to limit certain types of access, while removing the horsepower cap addresses a specific concern that no longer serves its intended purpose.

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

Family

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