

Proposal 95

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled Use Areas.

Amend the 40 HP restriction in Holitna–Hoholitna Controlled Use Area to 115 HP 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 115 horsepower to take big game.

If the current restriction remains in place, users will continue to operate with limited effective power when using jet units, which are common in this type of river system. This may result in continued challenges related to safe navigation, load carrying, and travel efficiency.

Increasing the limit to **115 horsepower** accounts for the reduction in usable power when motors are equipped with jet units. This provides a more practical level of performance while still maintaining a defined upper limit on motor size.

This change would improve the ability of users to safely and effectively travel in the area without removing all restrictions on motorized access. It reflects current equipment standards and typical use patterns while maintaining a controlled approach to managing access.

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

The current 40 horsepower restriction in the Holitna–Hoholitna Controlled Use Area does not reflect how boats are commonly used on these rivers today, particularly with the widespread use of jet outboards.

Jet units significantly reduce the effective horsepower delivered to the water compared to prop-driven motors. As a result, a motor rated at 40 horsepower provides substantially less usable power when configured as a jet, which can limit maneuverability and performance in shallow, braided, and fast-moving river conditions.

Travel in the Holitna and Hoholitna systems often involves long distances, variable water levels, and heavy loads. Underpowered boats can struggle in these conditions, especially when transporting gear or harvested game. The current limit can therefore create operational challenges and reduce the margin of safety for users.

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

No

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