

*Note: Proposal 266 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for March 2022.*

**PROPOSAL 266**

**5 AAC 92.450 (21)(C) and (21)(D). Description of game management units.**

Change the boundary for Game Management Units 21C and 21D to match the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge designated guide use areas as follows:

The Koyukuk National Refuge is requesting to make a boundary change to the current Unit 21C/D boundary that lies within the southeastern corner of the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge. We would like this boundary to be shifted to the east to directly match our refuge boundary. (Maps are attached with the current boundaries and proposed changes).

By making this change, we feel this will aid in simplifying things for guides. We have talked with the local area biologist for ADF&G and he noted that he has no biological concerns or regulatory concerns. If this Unit boundary change is approved, we would work with the Alaska Commercial Services Board to make changes to the Guide Use Areas (GUAs). This would be in conjunction with the Refuge making specific changes to the Refuge Designated Guide Use Area (RDGUA) boundaries. The overall goal is to make it so there is a single game management unit (GMU) and GUA in each RDGUA.

*Note: The maps submitted with the proposals are available online at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=03-04-2022&meeting=fairbanks](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=03-04-2022&meeting=fairbanks).*

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** On the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, we offer guiding in six Refuge Designated Guide Use Areas (RDGUA's). For these RDGUA's, we have a competitive process where every 10 years applicants apply for these RDGUA's and the Refuge Manager selects one registered guide for each RDGUA. This process helps eliminate crowding, while allowing visitors to experience remote areas of the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge and providing commercial opportunities for registered guides. Currently on the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, there are issues with registered guides not applying for certain RDGUA's. We have not had any applications for some of the RDGUA's in over 10 years. We feel this is due to the differing boundaries of the Game Management Units (GMU's), Guide Use Areas (GUA's), and the RDGUA's. By having multiple GMU's in the RDGUA's, guides are required to take additional tests to certify in new GMU's. This is a burden on the registered guides, and it would benefit all users by having these boundaries align.

The Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge will be finalizing our selection for a guide in the affected RDGUA's for the 2023 hunting season in the Spring of 2023. If this issue is not addressed before the next regularly scheduled cycle, we will continue to have no applications for the RDGUA's and certain RDGUA's will remain vacant.

**PROPOSED BY:** Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge (HQ-F21-ACR3)

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