

PROPOSAL 75

5 AAC 92.5 AAC 92.075. Lawful methods of taking game.

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

Close the Tokositna State Recreation Area in Units 13E and 16A to the use of airboats for hunting as follows:

The Tokositna State Recreation Area, except the Tokositna River, is closed to the use of airboats for hunting, between April 20 through September 30, annually.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? According to 11 AAC 20.985, the Tokositna State Recreation Area, except the Tokositna River, is closed to the use of airboats between April 20 and July 10 annually. The rationale for this regulation is to protect the habitat of trumpeter swans. I propose that the language in this regulation is revised and adopted into ADF&G regulations within 5 AAC 92.075 so that the Tokositna State Recreation Area, except the Tokositna River, be closed to the use of airboats from April 20 through September 30 annually. This change is to not only protect the bird habitat but also to prevent unfair chase of moose during hunting season. Airboats draw so little water that they have the ability to jump riverbanks and leave navigable waterways to access miles of interconnected swamps where birds are nesting and moose are subsisting. This not only endangers the nesting habitat of migratory birds, it also constitutes unfair chase of moose during hunting season.

I am an Alaska resident since 1980, a recreationist and riverboater in the Tokositna Recreation Area, and a property owner on Bunco Lake near the Tokositna River. I have been hunting moose in this area for over 35 years. I have personally witnessed numerous infractions by airboat owners who disregard the laws and regulations, endanger the environment, destroy sensitive habitat, and thumb their noses to the ethics of fair chase. They jump the banks, use beaver dams as ramps, and destroy fragile vegetation as they pursue a moose using a motorized boat away from the navigable waterway.

PROPOSED BY: Vincent Pokryfki

(EG-F20-015)
