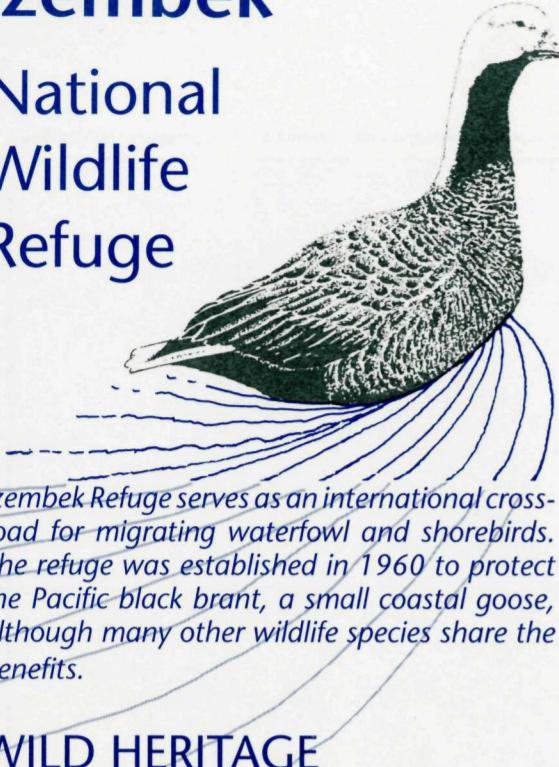


# Izembeek

## National Wildlife Refuge



Izembeek Refuge serves as an international cross-road for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. The refuge was established in 1960 to protect the Pacific black brant, a small coastal goose, although many other wildlife species share the benefits.

### WILD HERITAGE

Fall is spectacular in Izembek with the arrival of a quarter of a million migrating birds. Birds from Asia, the mid-Pacific, and the North American Pacific flyway funnel through Bristol Bay on their way from nesting grounds in the arctic and sub-arctic to southern wintering areas. The entire world's population of black brant along with thousands of Canada and emperor geese and other waterfowl congregate in lagoons, estuaries, and bays. Joining them are thousands of ducks and shorebirds – mallards, Northern pintails, Steller's eiders, harlequin ducks, oldsquaws, semipalmated plowers, western sandpipers, rock sandpipers and dunlins.

The refuge provides habitat for 21 species of land mammals, 9 species of marine mammals, 178 bird species and 9 fish species. Saltwater fish, harbor seals, sea otters, and sea lions are common while walrus occasionally inhabit the nearby marine environment. Thousands of whales (gray, killer, and minke) migrate along the shoreline. The Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd uses the refuge.

The life cycles of hundreds of thousands of four species of salmon (red, silver, pink and chum), and a few king salmon begin and end on this refuge. The ecosystems of the refuge are fueled by substantial runs of these fish that enrich freshwater streams and lakes with nutrients from the ocean. The salmon runs begin in June and continue into October.

### A RICH WILDERNESS

The refuge displays a panorama of beauty – a marvelous array of lakes, meandering rivers, U-shaped valleys, glaciers, snowfields, thermal springs, and smoking volcanoes. The most prominent land forms are Frosty Peak, Mt. Dutton, and the stunning Aghileen Pinnacles. These impressive pinnacles consist of a series of castle-like projections that form part of the boundary between Izembek and the Alaska Peninsula Refuge.

Izembeek Lagoon (5 by 30-mile area) contains one of the largest eelgrass beds in the world. The eelgrass and the lagoon are food and shelter for waterfowl, shorebirds and other birds. The tidelands of the lagoon are state-owned wetland habitat and designated a state game refuge. This lagoon along with the entire refuge is one of our nation's designated wetlands of international importance.

### SPECIAL VALUES

Brown bear – giant symbols of Alaska's wilderness make their summer home along the salmon-rich streams. The refuge is world-renowned for outstanding brown bear habitat. These large mammals fatten on the nutritious salmon in preparation for hibernation.

A population of tundra swans resides here year-round. In the winter they move to the spring-fed waters of Unimak Island where food and water are available even during severe winters. They are the only non-migratory wild population of this species in the world.

The southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd traverses these lands in the fall and winter. If you time your trip carefully you may have an opportunity to see hundreds of caribou in their annual migration.

The size and number of ancient village sites suggest a large population of people once inhabited these lands for thousands of years. More recent historical sites include World War II military installations.

All of the refuge except the land within the central road network and inholdings is designated wilderness.

Wildflowers along with grasses, shrubs, and lichens predominate on the dry tundra. They begin blooming in June continuing through September. Salmon berries, mountain cranberries, strawberries and crowberries are abundant on Izembek. Enjoy!



### FOR YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY

No communities exist on the refuge, but Cold Bay is less than a mile outside the refuge boundary. Scheduled airline flights from Anchorage serve Cold Bay six days a week. Lodging and food are available in Cold Bay.

Although there are no maintained facilities or trails, campers and hikers are welcome.

Hunting and fishing are popular activities on the refuge. Due to remoteness and logistics you may wish to use guiding services available in the Anchorage area.

Private inholdings (several thousand acres) exist within the refuge. If you are uncertain about land status, contact the refuge manager.

Visitors should bring extra food and rain gear should weather close in. The refuge is famous for inclement weather usually in the form of wind, rain, and fog. Fog, drizzle, and overcast skies are often succeeded by violent storms and bitter cold snaps that slow down all activity. It is not unusual for an entire year to go by with only a few days of clear skies.

Practice minimum impact camping techniques. Do not bury garbage or debris. Pack out what you pack in. Standard precautions should be taken to avoid unwanted encounters with bears. Keep a clean campsite and camp away from streams and bear trails. Store food away from your sleeping area. Be especially cautious when encountering sows with cubs.

### VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES

**TUNDRA SWAN (common)**  
Spring, Summer, Fall

**EMPEROR GOOSE (common)**  
Fall, Winter, Spring

**BRANT (abundant)**  
May, September-October

**CANADA GOOSE (abundant)**  
September-October

**NORTHERN PINTAIL, OTHER DABBING DUCKS**  
Fall, Winter, Spring

**STELLER'S EIDER (common)**  
Fall, Winter, Spring

**HARLEQUIN DUCK**  
Year-round

**OLDSQUAW**  
Winter, Spring

**GYRFALCON**  
Year-round

**WILLOW AND ROCK PTARMIGAN**  
Year-round

**ROCK SANDPIPER**  
Year-round

**OTHER SHOREBIRDS**  
Spring-Fall

**ARTIC AND ALEUTIAN TERNS**  
Summer

**SNOW BUNTING**  
Year-round

**McKAY'S BUNTING**  
Winter

**ROSY FINCH**  
Year-round

**GRAY WHALE**  
Nov-Dec, April-May

**RED FOX**  
Year-round

**BROWN BEAR**  
May-November

**SEA OTTER**  
Year-round

**HARBOR SEAL**  
Year-round

**CARIBOU**  
Fall, Winter

**SALMON SPAWNING**  
Summer, Fall



Public lands are your lands!

### TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA



(907) 532-2445

Cold Bay, Alaska 99571

P.O. Box 127

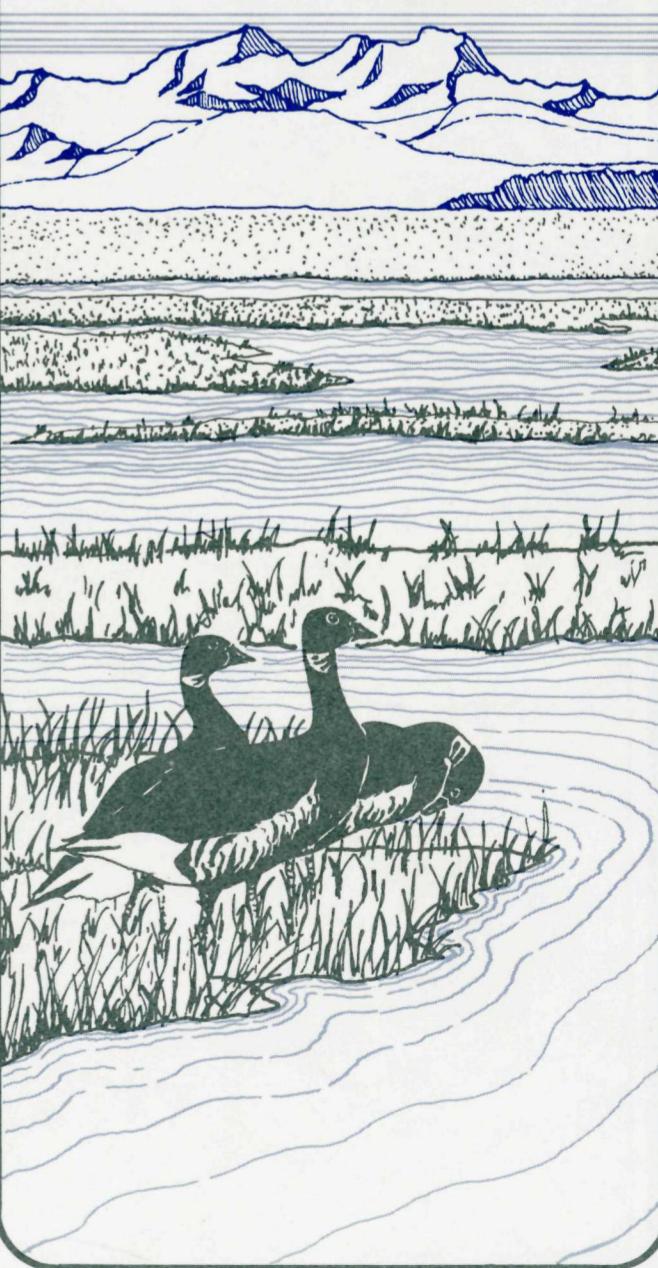
Izembek National Wildlife Refuge

Information on the refuge, regulations, and

licensing is available from:

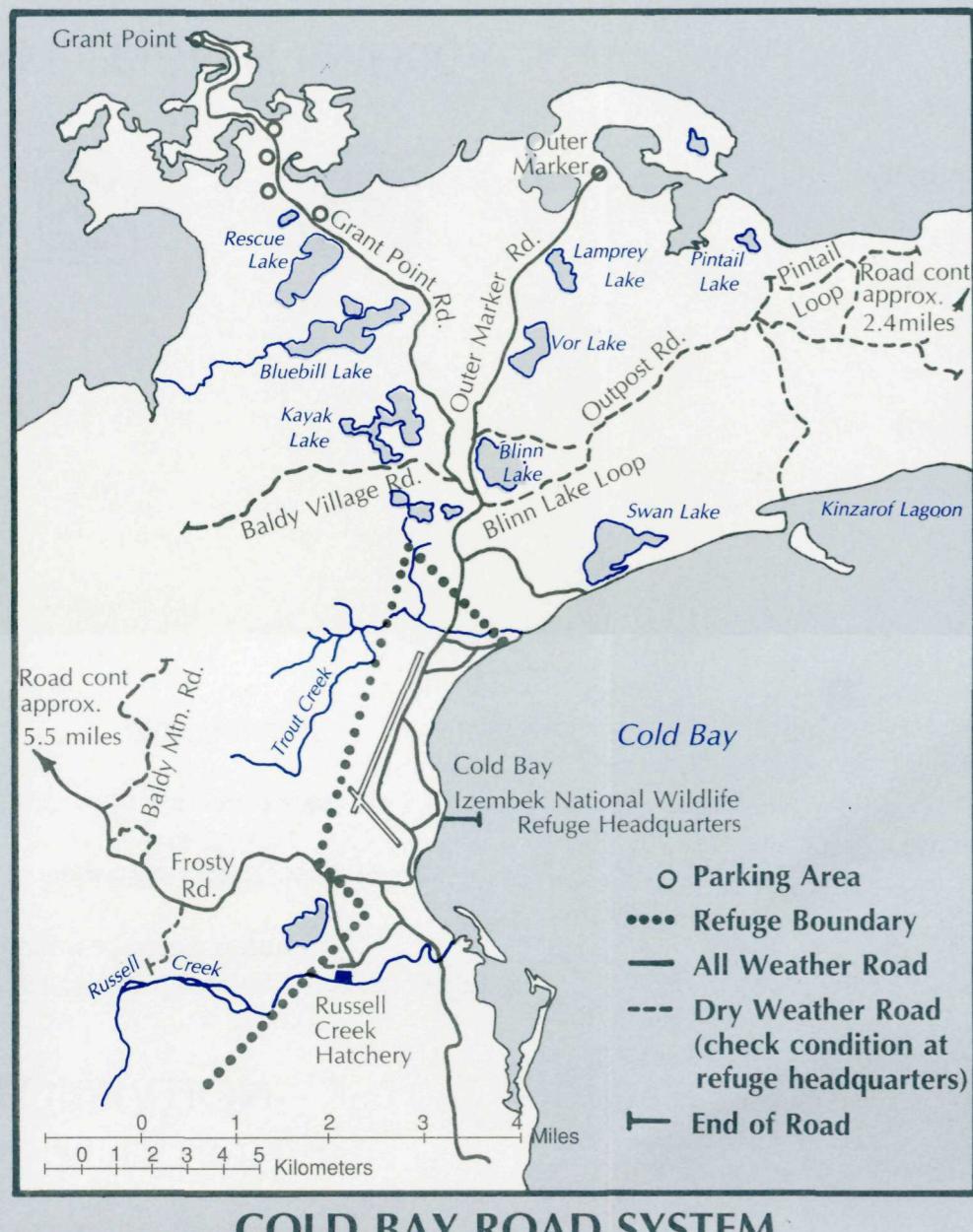
### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Izembeek National Wildlife Refuge



# IZEMBEK

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COLD BAY ROAD SYSTEM

