

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

EXISTS TO:

- CONSERVE WILDLIFE & HABITAT IN A STATE OF NATURAL DIVERSITY
- PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL & RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES
- PROTECT WILDERNESS

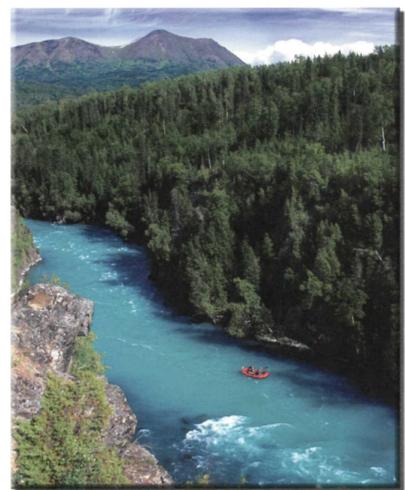
U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



ENJOY KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge often called "Alaska in miniature" is home to a wide variety of wildlife including moose, brown bears, lynx, wolves, eagles, and salmon. The refuge is a popular destination spot accessed by a scenic, 3-hour drive from Anchorage. The refuge acts as "a big backyard" for the Kenai Peninsula communities. Major attractions for all groups include wildlife observation, photography, camping, fishing, hiking, canoeing, rafting, power boating, and hunting. During winter, popular recreation activities include cross country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, ice fishing, and trapping.



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WILDLIFE VIEWING

More than 200 species of wildlife live permanently or seasonally on the refuge. Bird species range from common loons to majestic trumpeter swans. The diversity of mammals varies from small red squirrels to massive moose. Fish include char, trout, and salmon. The sole amphibian is the hardy wood frog. Best wildlife viewing times are sunrise and sunset. Remember to give wildlife their space and watch their body language. Back off to a safe distance. Enjoy watching wildlife with your binoculars to prevent disturbing them.



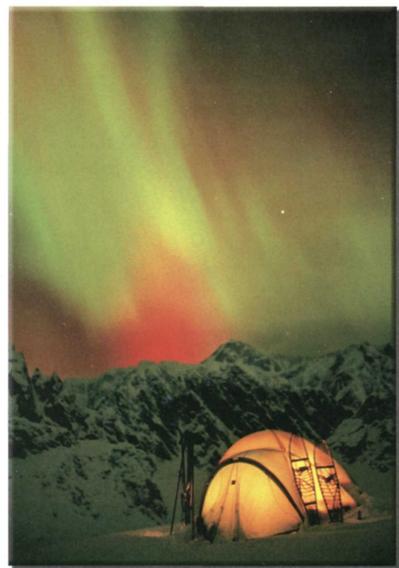
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PROTECT KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The refuge was first established as the Kenai National Moose Range in 1941 to protect moose. In 1980, the Alaska Natural Interest Lands Conservation Act changed the name and the purpose of the refuge. The size of the refuge is 1.92 million acres. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge exists to protect the variety of wildlife on the refuge and habitats they need to survive in a state of natural diversity. Other purposes include protection of water quality and quantity on refuge lands, preservation of 1.35 million acres of wilderness, and protection of threatened wildlife. The refuge also exists to promote scientific research, environmental education, and recreation that is compatible with wildlife conservation purposes.



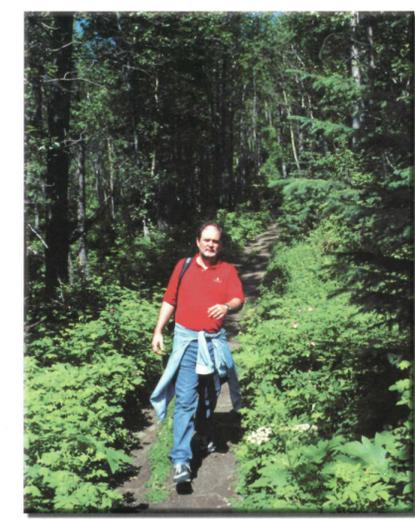
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CAMPING

A variety of camping experiences exist on the refuge from developed roadside campsites to undeveloped back country areas. The refuge does not have a reservation system for camping. Use fees apply to some areas. Stay limits vary from two days at the Russian River Access Area to two weeks in the back country locations. Developed facilities have water hand pumps, outhouses, picnic tables, and fire rings. All campers must avoid attracting bears by keeping clean camps. Pack out trash in sealed bags to bear-proof trash collection facilities to prevent bear problems.

HIKING

Most refuge trails are short day hikes, but for experienced hikers there are numerous wilderness routes to explore. Refuge trails and routes cover over 50 miles. The Alaskan environment requires careful preparation even for a day hike. Layered clothing, rain gear, water, compass, map, first aid kit, survival gear, and food should always be included in your pack. Hikers often find Alaskan trails require a special mental preparation due to potential hazards such as hypothermia, bear encounters, cold water crossings, and insects. The rewards are beautiful scenery, wildlife viewing, and during the summer long daylight hours.



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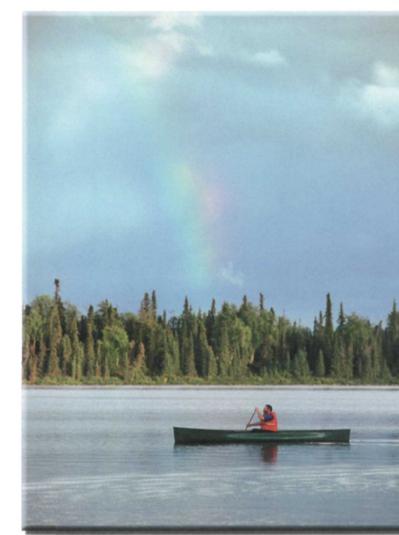
FISHING

Fishing is a complex pursuit on the refuge. Every water body has its own unique fish story. Popular sport fish species on the refuge include rainbow trout, Dolly Varden/arctic char, and four species of salmon: king, red, pink, and silver. Plan on spending time to research what you truly want to experience fishing. Is landing a king salmon your dream? Or would you rather canoe to a remote refuge lake to fly fish for rainbow trout? There are numerous tackle shops to get the latest "scoop" and many legally permitted guides that can take you on that ultimate trip. Once you arrive on the Kenai Peninsula, pick up a copy of Cook Inlet Sport Fishing Regulations. Learn the Kenai Peninsula's geography, so you fish legally.



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Fishing tip:
Fishing on the refuge is more successfully accessed by boat not by bank. Hiring a legally permitted guide or using a canoe or a small inflatable boat will increase your fishing opportunities.



CANOEOING

The Dave Spencer Wilderness Unit includes the nationally recognized Swan Lake and Swanson River Canoe Trail Systems. Both canoe trail systems cover over 100 miles. Weekend to week long trips through these routes are often the best way to see wildlife on the refuge. Group size is restricted to 15 people. Intermediate canoe abilities and good stamina for portaging trails between lakes are important skills for successful trips. Good "leave no trace" outdoor ethics are a must for these adventures. Use already existing camp sites rather than creating new ones to reduce impact. A refuge canoe brochure and a canoe rental listing are available upon request.



HUNTING

Hunting occurs year round for some animals. Hunting seasons for large animals - moose, Dall sheep, and caribou begin in August or September. Most hunting seasons close by late fall or early winter. Once you arrive on the Kenai Peninsula, pick up a copy of Alaska Hunting Regulations to plan your trip. Be aware that some areas of the refuge are closed to hunting or have special restrictions such as in the Skilak Wildlife Recreation Area. Check with refuge staff for help in planning your hunting trip. Refuge visitors may carry firearms for bear protection in any part of the refuge. Firearms may only be discharged in pursuit of legal hunting.

FIREARMS MAY NOT BE DISCHARGED FOR TARGET PRACTICE.

BOATING

A variety of boating experiences beckon visitors to the refuge. They include power boating on Skilak and Tustumena Lakes, rafting and drift boating on the Kenai River, and canoeing in the Dave Spencer Wilderness Unit. Boaters need to be proficient in their skills, wear appropriate clothing, and carry survival gear even on day outings. Water temperatures in summer are quite cold (as low as 40-50 degrees F.) especially on large lakes and rivers. Boat motor restrictions apply to many refuge waters. Check with the refuge to plan a legal, safe trip.

JET SKIING AND WATER SKIING ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE REFUGE.



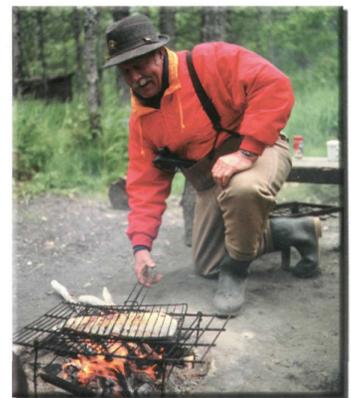
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TRIP PLANNING

Climate - Summer temperatures range between 40 - 65 degrees F. Late August and September have the most rain. Winter temperatures vary between -20 to 40 degrees F.
Clothing - Be prepared for hypothermia weather conditions and dress in layered clothing that keeps you warm in dry, windy conditions. Insect head nets are often needed for back country trips.
Bear Safety - Seeing bears is a very special experience. Most bears on the refuge are shy of people and go out of their way to avoid them. When hiking, make noise in brushy areas so you don't startle a bear. Hiking in groups of 4 or more people is best. If you surprise a bear, never run. Watch for bear sign - claw marks in trees, fur, prints, scat, and buried animal carcasses. If you note recent presence of a bear, the safest strategy is to leave the area. It is critical to avoid creating problem bears that associate people with food. Clean camping practices are essential to avoiding bear problems. Bears that get food from human sources become problem bears and often are destroyed. By being "bear aware" you can help protect bears.



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REGULATION HIGHLIGHTS

REGULATIONS ARE DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE NATURAL, SCENIC, AND WILDLIFE VALUES OF THE REFUGE AND TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT.

Back Country Camping - Permitted 1/4 mile away from refuge roads and trail heads. On wilderness canoe trails, back country party size is limited to 15 people and trail head registration is required.

Camping - Camping along the road system must be in established campgrounds. Camping limits are 2 days at Russian River Access Area, 7 days at Hidden Lake, and 14 days in other campgrounds. Camping stays may not exceed 14 days in a 30-day period.

Fishing, Hunting & Trapping - Consult State of Alaska fishing, hunting, and trapping regulations and refuge staff for closed areas and other restrictions. Trappers must obtain permits and attend training before trapping on the refuge.

Firearms - Firearms may be carried throughout the refuge for bear safety. Target practice is prohibited.

Firewood - Only cutting of dead and down firewood is permitted for use when camping on the refuge. Collection of firewood for use off refuge requires a permit and is allowed only in designated areas.

Fires - Must be attended at all times and completely cold and out after use. In developed campgrounds, fires are restricted to refuge provided grates or portable, self-contained fire equipment such as barbecues. In back country areas portable gas stoves are encouraged.

Motorized Access - All-terrain vehicles (ATV) are prohibited on the refuge. Snowmobiles, aircraft, and motorized boats are permitted only in specific areas. Check with the refuge for detailed motorized access regulations. Water skiing and jet skis are prohibited.

Non-motorized Access - Use of bicycles, wheeled canoe carriers, wheelbarrows, and other non-motorized wheeled equipment is prohibited on trails and on roads closed to motorized vehicular access (i.e. - gated roads & oil field roads).

Pets - Must be under the direct control of their owners. Pets in campgrounds must be on a leash no longer than 9 feet.

Personal Property - Unattended personal property must be removed after 72 hours.

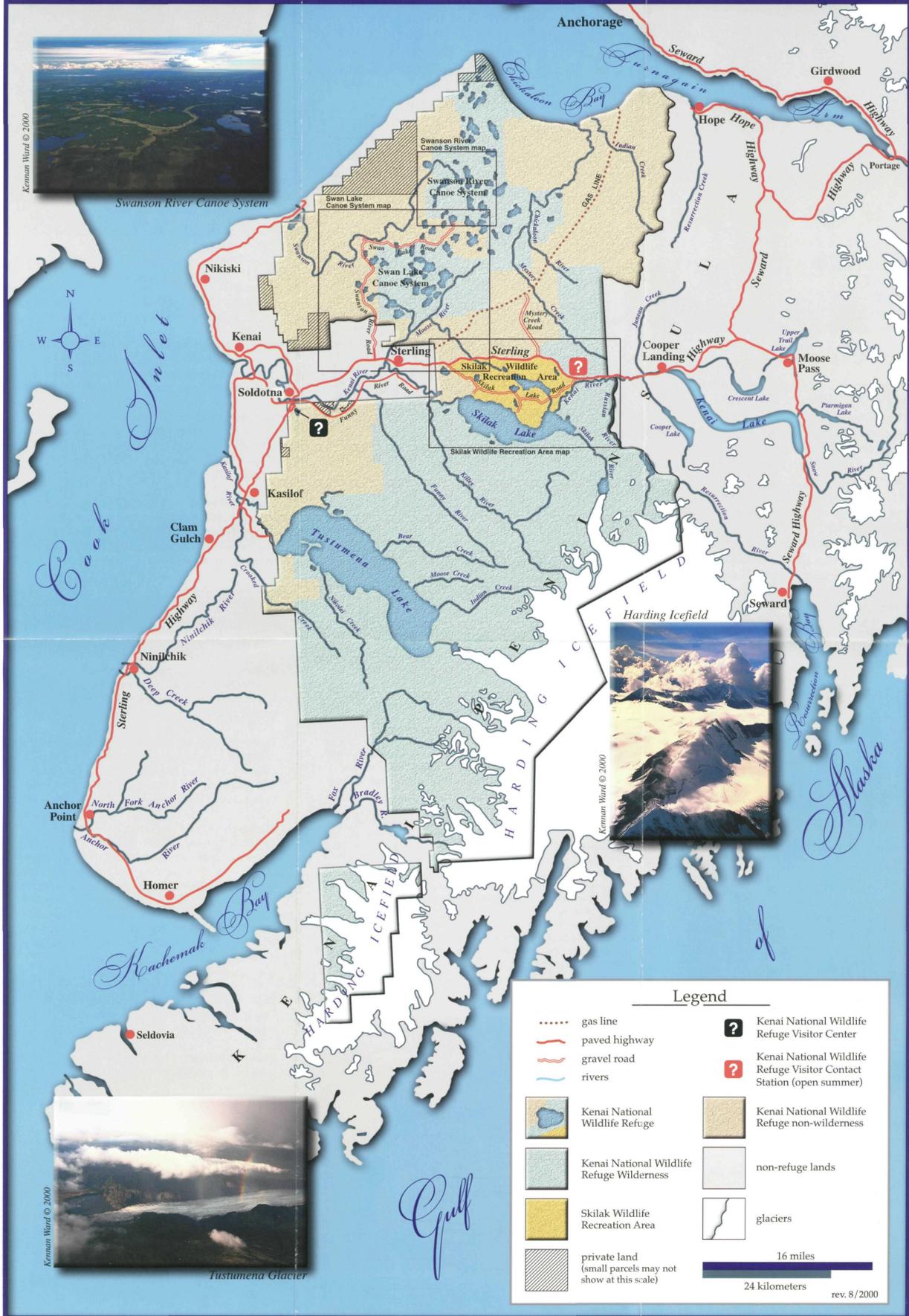
Plant Use - Refuge plants are protected. Harvest of wild berries and mushrooms is permitted for personal use.

Special Uses & Commercial Operations - Contact refuge headquarters for permit requirements.

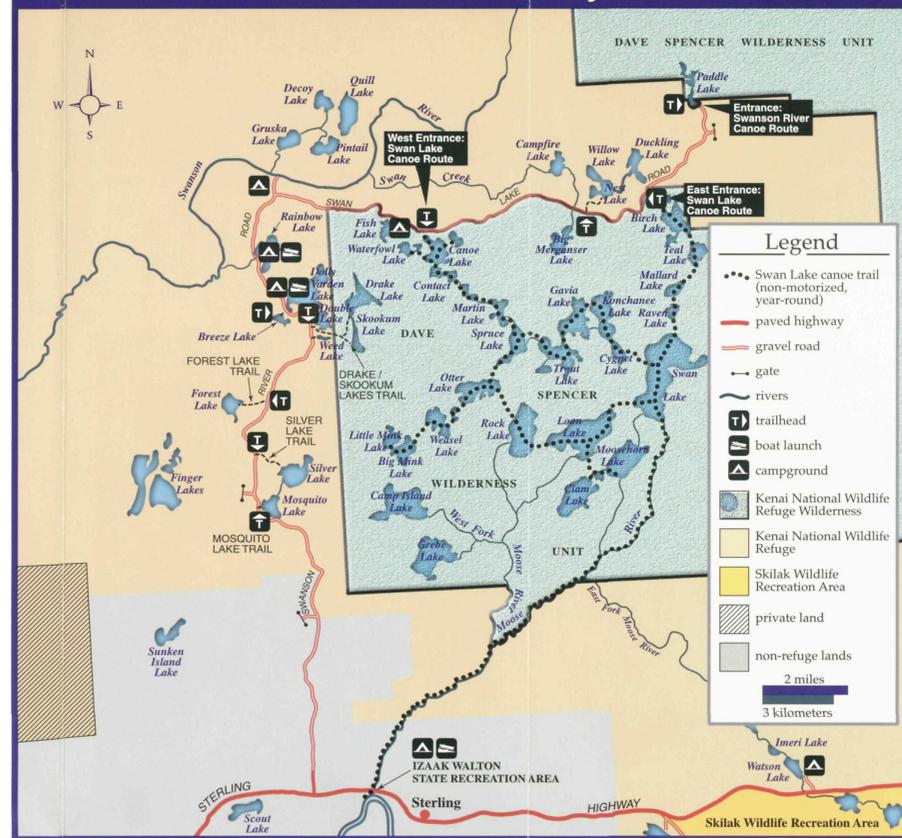
Wilderness Areas - Use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws, generators, and auxiliary power units is not permitted within refuge wilderness units. Aircraft, motorboat, and snowmobile access is permitted in specifically designated wilderness areas only.

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 2139
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(907) 262-7021
kenai.fws.gov

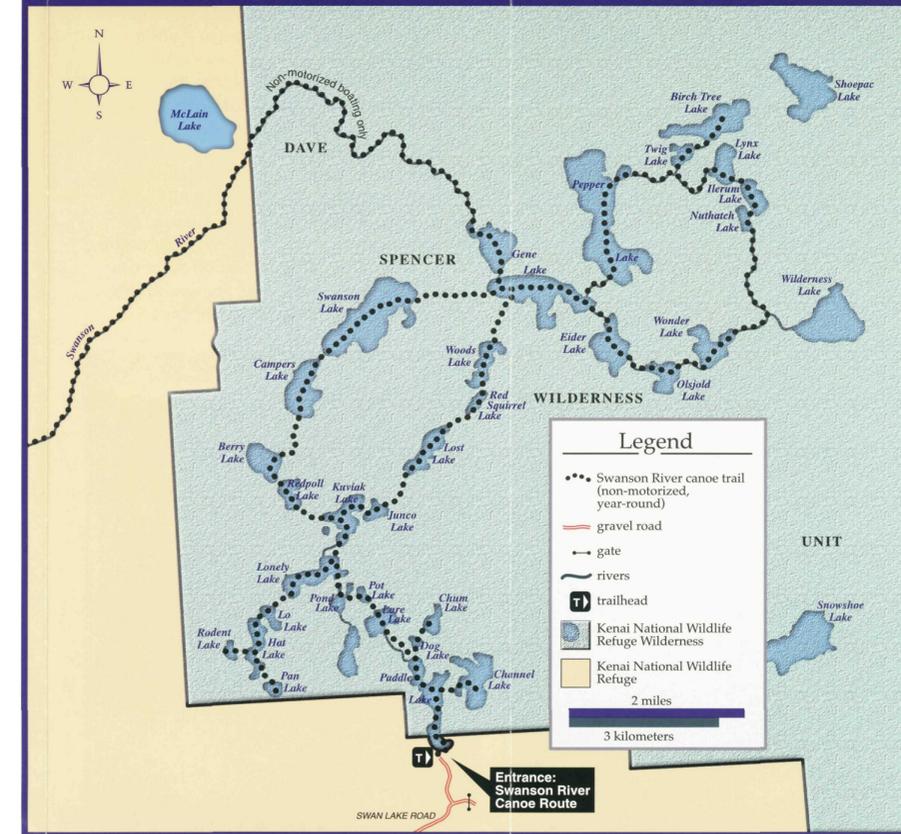
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge



Swan Lake Canoe System



Swanson River Canoe System



Mission of the National Wildlife Refuges

The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is part of a nationwide system of wildlife refuges which is a part of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to conserve a national network of lands and waters for fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats for the benefit of present and future generations.



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Refuge information:
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
 P.O. Box 2139
 Soldotna, Alaska 99669
 Tel. (907) 262-7021
kenai.fws.gov

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 Washington, DC 20240

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