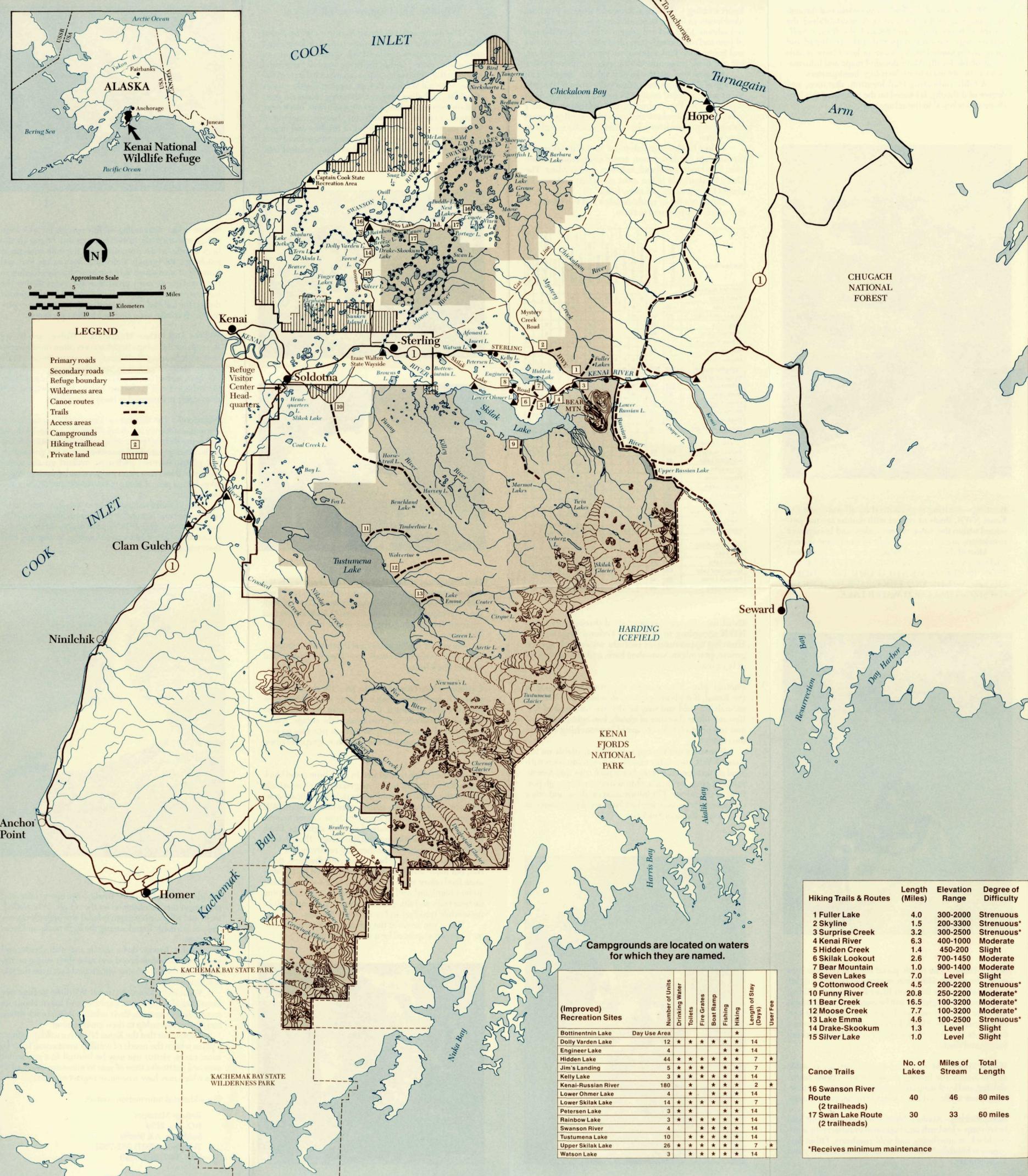


**LEGEND**

- Primary roads ———
- Secondary roads - - - - -
- Refuge boundary ———
- Wilderness area [shaded box]
- Canoe routes - - - - -
- Trails [dashed line]
- Access areas [dotted line]
- Campgrounds [triangle]
- Hiking trailhead [square]
- Private land [hatched box]



Campgrounds are located on waters for which they are named.

(Improved) Recreation Sites	Number of Units	Drinking Water	Toilets	Fire Grates	Boat Ramp	Fishing	Hiking	Length of Stay (Days)	User Fee
Bottinennin Lake	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	
Dolly Varden Lake	12	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	
Engineer Lake	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	
Hidden Lake	44	*	*	*	*	*	*	7 *	
Jim's Landing	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	7	
Kelly Lake	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	
Kenai-Russian River	180	*	*	*	*	*	*	2 *	
Lower Ohmer Lake	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	
Lower Skilak Lake	14	*	*	*	*	*	*	7	
Petersen Lake	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	
Rainbow Lake	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	
Swanson River	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	
Tustumena Lake	10	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	
Upper Skilak Lake	26	*	*	*	*	*	*	7 *	
Watson Lake	3	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	

Hiking Trails & Routes	Length (Miles)	Elevation Range	Degree of Difficulty
1 Fuller Lake	4.0	300-2000	Strenuous
2 Skyline	1.5	200-3300	Strenuous*
3 Surprise Creek	3.2	300-2500	Strenuous*
4 Kenai River	6.3	400-1000	Moderate
5 Hidden Creek	1.4	450-200	Slight
6 Skilak Lookout	2.6	700-1450	Moderate
7 Bear Mountain	1.0	900-1400	Moderate
8 Seven Lakes	7.0	Level	Slight
9 Cottonwood Creek	4.5	200-2200	Strenuous*
10 Funny River	20.8	250-2200	Moderate*
11 Bear Creek	16.5	100-3200	Moderate*
12 Moose Creek	7.7	100-3200	Moderate*
13 Lake Emma	4.6	100-2500	Strenuous*
14 Drake-Skoookum	1.3	Level	Slight
15 Silver Lake	1.0	Level	Slight

Canoe Trails	No. of Lakes	Miles of Stream	Total Length
16 Swanson River Route (2 trailheads)	40	46	80 miles
17 Swan Lake Route (2 trailheads)	30	33	60 miles

\*Receives minimum maintenance

**What are the rules?**

Regulations are designed to protect the natural, scenic, and wildlife values in the public interest, and to enhance public safety and enjoyment.

A general summary of a portion of the Refuge regulations follows. For additional details contact: Refuge Manager, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 2139, Soldotna, Alaska, 99669-2139.

**Hunting and Fishing**—Permitted in accordance with State and Federal regulations.

**Firearms** may not be discharged within 1/4 mile of campgrounds, trailheads, buildings, or roadways, as well as in the Skilak Wildlife Recreation Area and at the Refuge Visitor Center Complex. The discharge of firearms is permitted only in pursuit of game during respective seasons. Target shooting and fireworks are prohibited.

**Trapping**—Permitted in accordance with State and Federal regulations. A free trapping permit, trapper orientation training, and furbearer harvest report are required by the State.

**Camping**—Camping is permitted in designated campgrounds along the Refuge road system. Camping is restricted to 2 consecutive days at Kenai-Russian River Access Area, 7 consecutive days at the following campgrounds: Hidden Lake, Upper Skilak, Lower Skilak, and Jim's Landing, and 14 consecutive days in other campgrounds. *Camping may not exceed 14 days in a 30-day period.*

**Backcountry Camping**—Backcountry camping is permitted 1/4 mile back from refuge roads and trailheads. Swan Lake and Swanson River Canoe Route users must register at the trailhead and group size is limited to a total of 15 people.

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

**Personal Property**—Unattended personal property must be removed within 72 hours and must have the owner's name and address permanently affixed.

**Aircraft Use:**

- Landing on designated lakes and rivers is permitted. Landing within the canoe system or campground/roadside lakes and those associated with hiking trails is prohibited.
- Detailed aircraft regulations and maps are available at Refuge Headquarters. See current FAA aeronautical charts.

**Boating**—Permitted on all waters of the Refuge.

- Motorized watercraft are not permitted within the canoe system lakes, or on portions of the Kenai River.
- Many of the Refuge lakes and waterways have "no wake," "float only," and/or horsepower limitations. Detailed boating regulations are available at Refuge Headquarters.

**Motorized Vehicles**—Must be licensed to travel public roads and are prohibited off established, maintained roads. Snowmobiles may be permitted by the Refuge Manager only in designated areas from December through April and provided snow depth is sufficient to protect underlying vegetation.

**Non-Motorized Vehicles**—Use of non-motorized wheeled vehicles (e.g. - bicycles, wheelbarrows, canoe carriers, etc.) is permitted only on refuge roads designated for public vehicular access.

**Firewood**—Cutting of trees for campfires on Refuge lands is restricted to dead and down timber. The cutting of other timber is authorized by permit only by the Refuge Manager.

**Fires**—In campgrounds, open fires are permitted only in Refuge-provided grates or portable, self-contained, metal fire grills. Peat moss beds allow fires to creep underground and are especially hazardous: Build fires in the backcountry on bare mineral soil, make sure every spark of your fire is extinguished, and restore the fire area, so no fire scar or trace remains. Permits are not necessary to build campfires; however, fires must be attended at all times. In times of extreme fire danger, fires will not be permitted. **BE CAREFUL OF FIRE!**

**Garbage**—Must be placed in trash receptacles. If containers are not available, personal garbage must be taken out of the Refuge.

**Wilderness Uses**—Use of motorized equipment including, but not limited to chainsaws, generators, and auxiliary power units, is not permitted within the Kenai Wilderness. Snowmobiles, airplanes, and motorboats are permitted in designated areas only.

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

**Commercial and/or Non-conforming Activities**—Cabin construction, peat removal, grazing, and commercial activities or other similar pursuits without a Special Use Permit are prohibited.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT THE REFUGE MANAGER  
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge  
Box 2139  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669  
Phone (907) 262-7021, FAX (907) 262-3599



The Department works to assure the wisest choice of managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States - now and in the future.

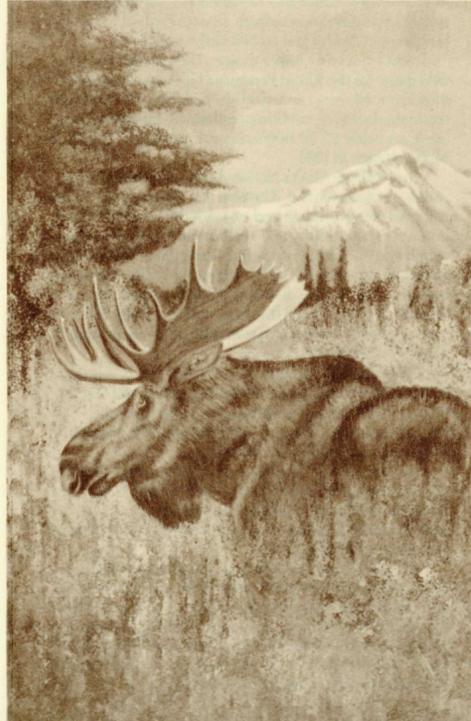
As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's Department of Natural Resources.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

# KENAI

## National Wildlife Refuge





# KENAI National Wildlife Refuge

## The People and The Land

The Kenai Peninsula in southcentral Alaska is an area where visitors, residents, and wildlife have come face-to-face historically and increasingly in recent years. In the past as well as the present, it has been home for both wildlife and man. In the future, both must share a common destiny.

This diverse area is made up of lowland spruce/birch forests mirrored in hundreds of lakes. The Kenai Mountains with their ancient glaciers rise to 6,612 feet and present an imposing barrier along the southeastern boundary of the refuge. The refuge is drained by nine river systems, several of which begin at glaciers originating from the Harding Ice Field.

The Kenaitze Indians were the first people to inhabit the scenic lake area of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. They depended upon fish and wild game for food, shelter, and clothing.

Russian fur trappers established the first settlements on the Kenai Peninsula: St. George in 1786 and St. Nicholas (now Kenai) in 1791. By the mid-nineteenth century demands for pelts of sea otter and other fur-bearing animals had seriously depleted these animal populations.

The purchase of Alaska by the United States in 1867 gave rise to the salmon fishing industry. American fishermen and their canneries replaced the fur trapper, but Russian traditions and culture are still evident in the old buildings, customs, and names in the area.

Since the early 1900's moose, Dall sheep, and other wild game on the Kenai Peninsula have attracted sportsmen from all over the world. In order to preserve and maintain declining wildlife populations, President Roosevelt set aside 1,730,000 acres for the Kenai National Moose Range in 1941.

In 1980 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act was enacted. The new Act renamed the Kenai National Moose Range and expanded it to nearly 2 million acres, including 1.35 million acres of the refuge which was further protected as designated Wilderness. Congress directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve the Kenai's fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity, and to manage the area for its wildlife, wilderness, scientific, high water quality, and recreational values.

The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is administered by the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service and is one of a system of several hundred wildlife refuges in the United States devoted to managing and protecting wildlife and habitat.

Because of its location near Anchorage, and its incomparable scenic beauty, the Kenai NWR has become a popular outdoor recreation area. Visitors come to enjoy hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, camping, and wildlife observation.

In addition to the vital undisturbed spawning areas that support approximately 40% of the Cook Inlet commercial fishing industry, the refuge also is underlain by important oil and gas resources. To insure the wilderness and wildlife resources of Kenai NWR are undisturbed and protected, several research and management programs are utilized.

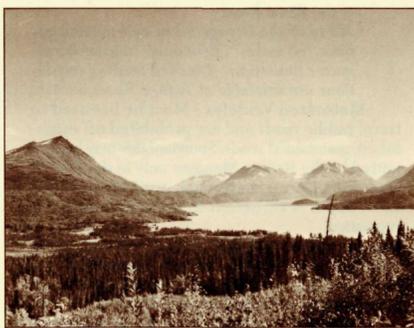
## How Do I Get There?

Travelers to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge are treated to a panoramic drive of 110 miles from Anchorage to the refuge, passing through rugged narrow valleys and along turquoise-colored lakes and rivers. The northern refuge boundary is 20 air miles from Anchorage. Airports are located at Kenai, Soldotna, and Homer.

Travelers wishing to visit the Refuge Headquarters and Visitor Center should proceed south through Soldotna and turn left after crossing the Kenai River Bridge. Immediately after turning left follow the signs to the Headquarters.

## What Should I Wear?

Summer high temperatures range from the 60's to the 70's and during the winter the low temperature is about 30° below zero. The first snow falls in October and by November the ground is usually snow-covered. Late summer and fall weather is wet, and rain gear is always recommended for hiking and hunting. Spring breakup of ice on low lakes occurs in May and on high lakes in July. Be prepared for insects. Bring headnets and repellent.



## What Is There To Do?

**Camping** – The refuge has many backcountry and established recreation sites. Established sites vary from small, rustic overnight access camps to larger individual unit campgrounds with tables, fireplaces, parking spurs, boat ramp, water, and sanitary facilities. Several developed areas require visitors to pack home their own trash.

Improved recreation sites are listed on the reverse side of this leaflet and coded to the refuge map.

Rental equipment, outfitters, hotel accommodations, restaurants, gas, and grocery supplies are available at Kenai, Soldotna, Cooper Landing, and Kasilof.

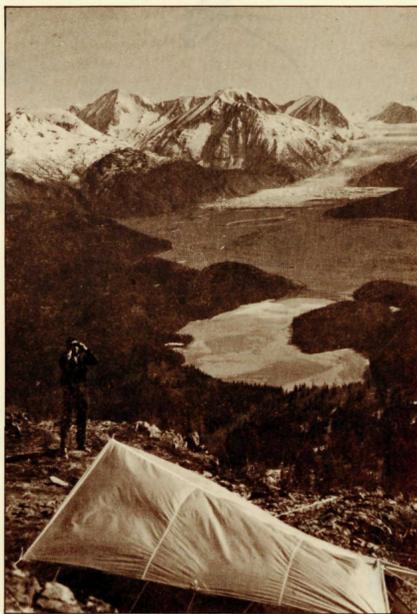
Backcountry camping opportunities vary from fly-in and boat-in lake locations to locations accessible only by trail.

Backcountry campers are asked to use no-trace camping techniques in all areas. Campers should build fires if possible in established fire rings or use campstoves where firewood is in short supply. **PACK OUT ALL TRASH.**

**Trails** – There are over 200 miles of established trails and routes. They vary from level to steep and strenuous. Much of the lowland area is wet and swampy and requires *waterproof footwear* to insure a comfortable hike.

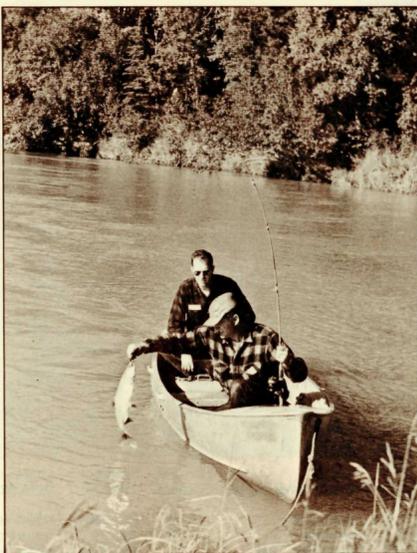
Many beautiful small lakes can be reached through our canoe system. Two routes have been established: the Swanson River Route and Swan Lake Route. Self-service registration is required at the trailhead and group size is limited to 15 persons or less. Canoe rentals are available locally. More detailed maps and information can be obtained from the refuge headquarters.

A table indicating trail location, distance, and degree of difficulty, is located on the reverse of this brochure and is keyed to the refuge map.



**Boating** – Boating is permitted on all waters of the Kenai NWR. Boats or canoes with motors are not permitted within the canoe system's lakes, and horsepower restrictions are in effect for most of the refuge waters.

Most of the improved facilities have boat access and parking areas for cars and trailers. **EXTREME CAUTION IS RECOMMENDED DUE TO SUDDEN SEVERE WINDS AND THE GRAVE DANGER OF CAPSIZING IN A COLD-WATER LAKE.**



**Scenic Drive** – The scenic paved Sterling Highway traverses the refuge. Other interesting and beautiful sights can be seen on the Swanson River Road and the Skilak Loop Road. The sightseer will be awed by the mountaintop view of deep valleys, lakes, and rivers that can be seen along the Skilak Loop Road. Chances to see moose, birds, and other wildlife are enhanced along lesser-used roads.

**Winter Sports** – Many varied winter sports are possible on the Kenai. Ice fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and ice skating are some favorite pastimes. Snowmobile use is allowed but restricted to designated areas.

**Berry Picking** – Alaska is blessed with an abundant wild berry crop – lowbush and highbush cranberry, blueberry, black or crowberry, and wild raspberry. Other less common but delectable berries are the salmonberry and nagoon berry.

**Sport Fishing** – The Kenai River and Russian River are ideal locations for the fisherman to try for silver, king, or red salmon. King and red salmon runs begin at the end of June and run through July; silver runs occur in August and September. Pink salmon run every year in August, but are more numerous during even-numbered years.

King salmon are the largest salmon, weighing an average of 23 pounds and occasionally attain 80 pounds. Silver salmon (coho) average 24 inches and weigh about 9 pounds. Sockeye salmon (red), weighing about 7 pounds, are abundant and provide excellent sport fishing opportunities where they can be caught in clear water.

Other freshwater fish to be found in lakes and streams are rainbow trout, arctic char, Dolly Varden char, lake trout, steelhead, kokanee, and grayling. The Dolly Varden char is the most abundant and may be caught in most rivers and many lakes.

Below is a list of roadside lakes and the species of fish which may be found in them.

Name of Lake	Surface Acres	Depth	King Salmon	Silver Salmon	Red Salmon	Pink Salmon	Chum Salmon	Steelhead	Rainbow Trout	Lake Trout	Dolly Varden	Arctic Char	Grayling	Longnose Sucker	Kokanee	Sik. Silver Salmon
Sterling Highway																
Kenai River			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*					
Jean Lake	140	75	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*					
Upper Jean Lake	50	50	*											*	*	
Kelly Lake	70	45							*					*		
Petersen Lake	95	50							*					*		
E. Fork Moose R.									*	*	*	*				
Watson Lake	75	16							*	*	*	*		*		
Moose River			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		
Tustumena Lake	72M	900	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		
Skilak Loop Road																
Hidden Lake	1920	145	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		
Rock Lake	20	17	*													
Lower Otmer Lake	150	94							*							
Skilak Lake	24M	7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		
Engineer Lake	240	19							*	*	*	*		*		
Bottinennin Lake	280	9							*	*	*	*		*		
Swanson River Rd.																
Sunken Is. Lake	140	55														*
Mosquito Lake	64	43	*							*						
Silver Lake	153	40	*						*	*	*					
Finger Lakes	550	100								*	*					
Forest Lakes	141	7							*							
Weed Lake	6	36							*							
Breeze Lake	23	30							*							
Dolly Varden Lake	255	100							*	*	*	*				
Rainbow Lake	165	25							*	*	*	*				
Swanson River			*	*					*	*	*	*				
Swan Lake Road																
Fish Lake	75	50								*	*	*				
Canoe Lake	131	30	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		
Merganser Lake	53	55							*	*	*	*		*		
Portage Lakes	29	43							*	*	*	*		*		
Paddle Lake	105	40							*	*	*	*		*		

**Hunting** – Hunting is permitted throughout Kenai NWR according to State and Federal Regulations. Hunting opportunities include waterfowl, spruce grouse, ptarmigan, snowshoe hare, and several species of big game.

**Photography** – Photographic opportunities are good in the Kenai, but photographers should realize that the animals are wild and may be shy. We recommend fast film and filters (because of cloudy, low-light conditions) and telephoto lenses (to avoid approaching wildlife too closely).

Rounding out the opportunities available on the Kenai NWR, the visitor may fly in to remote lakes with local air taxi operators, take horse pack trips into remote roadless areas, or float a whitewater river through portions of the refuge. For information on these and other commercial trips, contact the Chamber of Commerce in Anchorage, Kenai or Soldotna.



## Wildlife: The Promise of Wilderness

The living and non-living resources of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge combine to form a diverse and complex ecosystem. Each wildlife species occupies an important "niche" within the living system. From tidal marsh to the alpine ridge, various natural habitats of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge support a wide variety of wildlife including moose, Dall sheep, mountain goat, caribou, coyotes, wolves, brown/grizzly bear, black bear, trumpeter swans, lynx, wolverine, beaver, many other small mammals, and 146 species of resident and migratory birds. In addition, it is vital spawning ground for 4 species of Pacific salmon as well as many resident fish.



**Dall Sheep and Mountain Goat** – Dall sheep live in the rugged, steep terrain of the Kenai Mountains and their diet consists of low-growing alpine plants. Look for Dall sheep on mountainsides in the Cooper Landing Area and adjacent the Sterling Highway at the eastern refuge boundary.

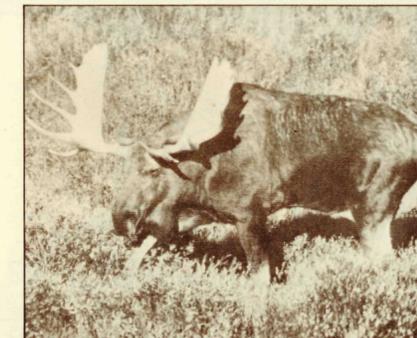
An animal similar in size and habits is the mountain goat. Both male and female have long white hair and slender black horns.

**Caribou** – Once common in the area, the caribou disappeared from over-hunting and large man-caused fires that altered their habitat. Caribou were reintroduced in 1965-66 and now occupy two areas of the refuge. A lowland herd of approximately 80 caribou provides an outstanding opportunity to see and photograph caribou near a road.

**Bears** – The refuge is inhabited by both brown and black bears. Kenai brown bears, or grizzlies, are relatively scarce, though in summer many individual bears concentrate around remote salmon spawning streams. Wilderness travelers visiting alpine areas or salmon spawning streams should be aware of possible sightings. Black bears are common throughout the refuge, though incidental opportunities to see them are relatively low.

If you encounter a bear, keep your distance; don't run, but move slowly away. Campers should try to minimize food odors, store food out of a bear's reach (at least 10 feet high) and well away from tents. Avoid camping on bear trails and along salmon spawning streams. Make noise while traveling and avoid dense thickets.

When you arrive at the refuge, check with the Visitor Center for updated bear safety information.



**Moose** – The outstanding wildlife species for which the refuge was originally named is the moose. Moose are the largest antlered deer on earth with the bulls sometimes reaching 1,400 pounds. Calves are born in late May and June and it is common to see cows with calves feeding in the woods or swampy areas near the roads during the summer months. The bull moose can be dangerous during the fall and a cow moose with young is very protective. It is wise to be cautious in their presence.

**Wolves and Other Mammals** – Wolves are found throughout the refuge but observers often must be content with hearing their howls or seeing their telltale tracks. Mink, otter, beaver, snowshoe hare, weasel, coyote, lynx, wolverine, muskrat, and squirrel also inhabit the refuge. Look for beaver lodges and their tree cuttings along streams and in backcountry lakes.

**Waterfowl** – The Chickaloon Flats on Turnagain Arm is a popular stopover for many different species of ducks and geese during their spring and fall migration. Some of the nesting waterfowl commonly seen are green-wing teal, pintail, Barrow's golden-eye mallard, greater scaup, harlequin duck, American widgeon and shovellers. Many lakes have a pair of loons in residence during the summer months.

The graceful trumpeter swan was once considered near extinction, but under protection, has increased in numbers throughout the United States. Many pair of swans use isolated lakes on the refuge to nest and rear their young cygnets.



**Resident and Migratory Birds** – Spruce grouse and ptarmigan may be observed on the refuge. Whittailed, rock, and willow ptarmigan inhabit the high elevations and are normally found among the high peaks and treeless areas.

Eagles, hawks, owls, marsh and waterbirds, and numerous songbirds breed and raise their young on the refuge. Bird watchers may obtain bird lists from the refuge headquarters.

Visitors to Kenai National Wildlife Refuge are encouraged to observe, explore, and learn about its many wildlife species, their relationship to each other, and their relationship to their environment.

Remember that the Kenai NWR is a *wildlife refuge*; a place where the needs of wildlife must come first. In some cases, visitor use may be limited to a particular area or a particular time of year to minimize those activities which may have a negative impact on wildlife.

For additional information contact:

Refuge Manager  
P.O. Box 2139  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
Telephone (907) 262-7021  
FAX (907) 262-3599