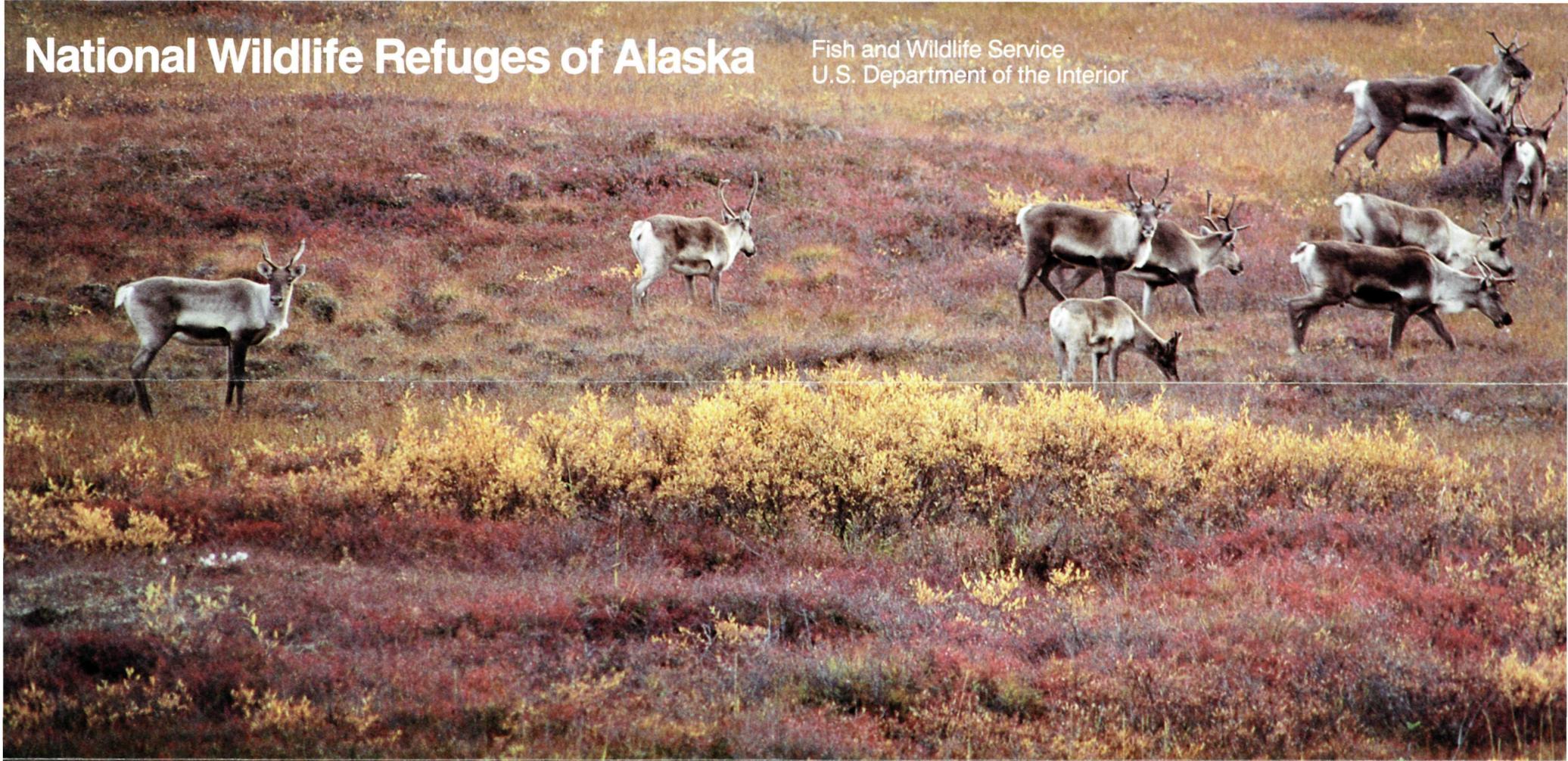


# National Wildlife Refuges of Alaska

Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Refuges in Alaska

Imagine a land inhabited by great herds of caribou

—By muskox and walrus; polar and grizzly bears

—By Dall sheep, moose, wolves, and wolverines

Stretch that image to include a host of summering birds and a world renowned fish resource — and you have America's arctic wildlife heritage.

The land is equally staggering. If you explored a thousand acres a day it would take over a thousand years to see it all. Amid these vast stretches of towering mountains, rolling tundra, and coastal forests are special places.

—Special places where combinations of geography, climate, water supplies, and plant communities create habitats supporting Alaska's great wildlife nurseries.

—Special places this nation has dedicated as National Wildlife Refuges.

## Alaska Maritime

Consists of all the public lands in the coastal waters and adjacent seas of Alaska consisting of islands, islets, rocks, reef, capes and spires.

See inset at right for continuation of Aleutian Islands.

## America's Wildlife Heritage

Refuges were first established in Alaska in the early 1900's to protect seabird nesting islands. In the ensuing years additional lands were added to existing refuges and new refuges were created. The expansion of lands culminated with enactment of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). This landmark legislation was signed into law on December 2, 1980. It added lands to seven refuges and created nine refuges in Alaska. The impact of ANILCA on the National Wildlife Refuge System was staggering because it doubled the size of the National Wildlife Refuge System to more than 87 million acres.

## Wilderness

Nearly all refuge lands in Alaska can be described as wilderness — land untouched or unaltered by mankind, where man is a visitor. This wilderness character is important in securing the future of Alaska's refuges. The landscape of an arctic environment often takes years to recover. Any change in the landscape will almost certainly have an adverse effect on wilderness value when altered.

## Refuges are Special Places

The purpose of a refuge is to protect habitat and wildlife. The use and enjoyment of refuge land by people must be compatible with wildlife. For recreation and as an adventuring ground for present and future generations the refuges comprise some of the finest natural resources in public ownership. Recreational use of Alaskan refuge lands includes sightseeing, nature observation, photography, sport hunting and fishing, boating, camping, and hiking.

Alaska's wildlife resources are unmatched. The national system of refuges is designed to protect this legacy. The 16 refuges in Alaska include a wide range of habitats with varied terrain — mountains, glaciers, tundra, grasslands, lakes, woodlands, wild and scenic rivers. The refuges in Alaska comprise 88 percent of all lands in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

## Size

It is difficult to imagine the size of Alaska's refuges. They range in size from Izembek Refuge (320,893 acres) to Yukon Delta (19.6 million acres). The largest refuge (Yukon Delta) is larger than the states of Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, New Jersey, and Massachusetts combined.

## The National Wildlife Refuge System

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is caretaker of over 400 National Wildlife Refuges across the country. These refuges provide aquatic, coastal, woodland, desert, and mountain habitat for the nation's wildlife. The agency maintains a balanced wildlife management program for migratory birds, endangered species, and other wildlife of national significance.

## Visitor Information

- Most land in Alaska does not team with wildlife in the usual sense. The climate, short growing season, and general ecological conditions are too harsh. The concentrations of fish, birds, and mammals that visitors often read about are seasonal phenomena often taking place only during migration, breeding, or spawning.

- Most refuges in Alaska are difficult to reach. Kenai and Tetlin refuges are the only refuges in Alaska with road access; travel to the interior of even these refuges generally requires a boat or plane.

- It is expensive to travel to refuges in Alaska because travel to interior Alaska usually involves air transport. The cost of goods and services is higher in rural areas. Careful planning, however, can minimize costs.

- Most refuge lands encompass private land and cabins. Remember you are a guest — treat rural residents with courtesy and respect.

- Be prepared for inclement weather and cool temperatures in the summer. During the long daylight hours of summer the temperature of interior Alaska is generally warm (50-90°F). In northern Alaska the temperature is cooler (30-60°F) with occasional readings below freezing.

- Mosquitoes are most abundant after snow and ice ponds melt; they decrease in numbers when mid-summer and fall approach. After mosquitoes decline gnats and noseems (a small biting insect) are common. Be prepared with repellent, headnets and a screened tent. Allergy medication should be carried by anyone with a tendency to have reactions to bug bites.

- Take adequate supplies and be prepared for a wilderness experience. It may be necessary to wait out weather when depending on bush planes. Visitors expecting the same accommodations as in the lower-48 are surprised at the lack of lodging in rural areas.

- Activities vary with each refuge and may depend on the season of the year. It is advisable to check with refuge personnel prior to a visit to determine which activities are allowed and what regulations apply.

## Safety

- Be familiar with safety procedures and survival equipment. Know where emergency equipment is located on aircraft.

- Leave a travel plan describing your trip with a friend — notify them when you return.

- Boil all water before drinking and other uses. Giardiasis, a water-borne disease, is common in Alaska.

- Maintain a safe distance from bear and moose particularly when they have offspring. Avoid using well-worn bear trails. Talk loudly or use noisemakers when hiking. Do not store food near your sleeping site. Avoid camping near a food source such as a salmon stream or a berry patch.

Additional information on safety is available from the Safety Officer, Regional Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor, Anchorage, AK, 99503 (Telephone: 786-3551).

## Additional Information

Additional information on specific refuges is available from the refuge manager. Visitors are encouraged to contact refuge personnel before visiting a refuge. The addresses are listed on the back of this brochure. For more information on the National Wildlife Refuge System, or to volunteer your service to refuges contact: Regional Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor, Anchorage, AK 99503 (Telephone: 907-786-3487).

Tourist information: Alaska Division of Tourism, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Pouch E, Juneau, AK 99811. Alaska Marine Highway System, Pouch R, Juneau, AK 99811. Alaska Railroad, Pouch 7-2111, Anchorage, AK 99510.



Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Buy Duck Stamps  
Save Wetlands For Wildlife!



- Wildlife Refuges
- Wilderness areas within refuges

## National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska

| Refuge           | Acres             | Wilderness Acres  |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Alaska Maritime  | 3,557,030         | 2,576,302         |
| Alaska Peninsula | 3,500,000         |                   |
| Arctic           | 19,049,236        | 8,000,000         |
| Becharof         | 1,200,000         | 400,000           |
| Innoko           | 3,850,000         | 1,240,000         |
| Izembek          | 320,893           | 300,000           |
| Kanuti           | 1,430,000         |                   |
| Kenai            | 1,970,000         | 1,350,000         |
| Kodiak           | 1,865,000         |                   |
| Koyukuk          | 3,550,000         | 400,000           |
| Nowitna          | 1,560,000         |                   |
| Selawik          | 2,150,000         | 240,000           |
| Tetlin           | 700,000           |                   |
| Togiak           | 4,105,000         | 2,270,000         |
| Yukon Delta      | 19,624,458        | 1,900,000         |
| Yukon Flats      | 8,630,000         |                   |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>77,061,617</b> | <b>18,676,302</b> |

# National Wildlife Refuges of Alaska



## 1. Alaska Maritime

Alaska Maritime consists of more than 2,400 islands, headlands, rocks, islets, spires and reefs of the Alaskan coast. The refuge stretches from Cape Lisburne on the Chukchi Sea to the tip of the Aleutians and eastward to Forrester Island on the border of British Columbia. The 4.5 million acre refuge is a spectacular blend of tundra, rain forest, cliffs, volcanoes, beaches, lakes, and streams. Most of the refuge (2.64 million acres) is wilderness.

Alaska Maritime is synonymous with sea birds — millions of them. About 75 percent of Alaska's marine birds (15 to 30 million birds among 55 species) use the refuge. They congregate in "bird cities" or colonies along the coast. Each species has a specialized nesting site (rook ledge, crevice, boulder rubble, pinnacle, or burrow) — an adaptation that allows many birds to use a small area of land. The refuge has the most diverse wildlife species of all the refuges in Alaska including thousands of sea lions, seals, walrus and sea otters.

**VISITOR USE:** Visitor activities include wildlife observation (sea birds and marine mammals), backpacking and photography. Bird watching is popular on Attu Island (Aleutians) where Asian birds stop on their migration. Some islands have restricted access in order to protect wildlife. *Military clearance is required to visit Adak, Shemya, Amchitka and Attu Islands of the Aleutian Chain.* For information contact: Refuge Manager, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, 202 Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603. Phone: (907) 235-6546. Aleutian Islands contact: Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Aleutian Islands Unit, Box 5251, FPO Seattle, Washington 98791. Phone: (907) 592-2406.



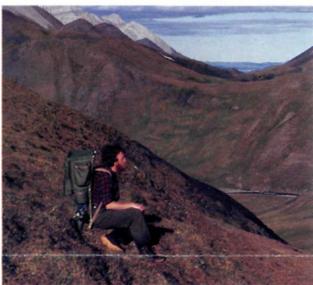
## 2. Alaska Peninsula

The Alaska Peninsula Refuge lies on the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula. The refuge's landscape is varied including active volcanoes, lakes, rivers, tundra and rugged coastline. The Alaska Peninsula is dominated by the rugged Aleutian Range, part of a chain of volcanoes known as the "ring of fire" that encircles the Pacific Ocean.

The plants composing the expanses of tundra are slow-growing and small. The tundra together with the influence of volcanoes and arctic seas provide a showcase of how plant and animal adapt to an arctic maritime environment.

Large mammals found on the refuge include moose, caribou, wolves, brown bears, and wolverines. The brown bears are especially attracted to the productive salmon streams. Large populations of sea lions, seals, sea otters, and migratory whales inhabit the shores and offshore waters. The population of sea otters on the Pacific side of the peninsula numbers at least 30,000 — in contrast to the 1880's when they were nearly extinct. The entire refuge provides habitat for migratory birds — ducks, geese, and shorebirds.

**VISITOR USE:** The Alaska Peninsula Refuge is renowned for big game hunting, especially for caribou and brown bear. Fishing is outstanding for king and silver salmon, arctic char, lake trout, northern pike and grayling. In 1981, the world's record grayling was caught on the refuge. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 277, King Salmon, Alaska 99613. Phone: (907) 246-3339.



## 3. Arctic

Arctic is the most northern of all of the wildlife refuges. The refuge encompasses one of the most spectacular assemblages of arctic plants, wildlife and land forms in the world. Designed to embrace the range of the great Porcupine caribou herd, the Arctic is home to free-roaming herds of muskox, Dall sheep, packs of wolves and such solitary species as wolverines, polar and grizzly bears.

Winter on the refuge is long and severe; summer is brief and intense. Snow usually covers the ground at least nine months of the year. Arctic adapted plants survive even though permafrost is within 1.5 feet of the surface. The annual growth of trees and shrubs is slight. It may take 300 years for a white spruce at tree-line to reach a diameter of five inches; small willow shrubs may be 50-100 years old.

The Arctic offers a rich pageant of wildlife including 140 bird species. It protects a large portion of the migration routes of the Porcupine caribou herd (180,000 animals) — one of the two largest herds in Alaska. The caribou migrate from wintering grounds south of the Brooks Range to calving grounds on the northern coastal plain of the refuge and the Yukon Territory. The migration covers more than a thousand miles.

**VISITOR USE:** Arctic's use is increasing. Activities include: float trips, hiking, backpacking, hunting, fishing and wildlife observation. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Federal Building and Courthouse, Box 20, 101-12th Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Phone: (907) 456-0250.



## 4. Becharof

Becharof lies between Katmai National Park and Preserve and Alaska Peninsula Refuge. The refuge is dominated by Becharof Lake, the second largest lake in Alaska. The lake covers one-fourth of the refuge and is surrounded by low rolling hills, tundra wetlands, and volcanic peaks.

The salmon spawning streams attract one of the largest concentrations of brown bear in Alaska. Some brown bear of Becharof exhibit a unique habit of making dens on the islands of Becharof Lake. Moose inhabit the refuge in moderate numbers and about 15,000 caribou migrate through and winter on the refuge seasonally. Other mammals include wolves, wolverines, river otters, red fox and beaver. In addition, thousands of sea mammals such as sea otters, sea lions, harbor seals and migratory whales inhabit the shoreline.

Becharof Lake and its tributaries contribute over four million salmon annually to the Bristol Bay fishery. Salmon, arctic char, and grayling flourish on the refuge. Waterfowl are common in the wetlands and coastal estuaries while nesting eagles, peregrine falcons, and thousands of sea birds inhabit the sea cliffs and islands.

**VISITOR USE:** Becharof offers outstanding bear and caribou hunting. The refuge receives moderate sport fishing pressure for trophy-size arctic char, grayling and salmon. Commercial guide services are available for hunting and fishing. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 277, King Salmon, Alaska 99613. Phone: (907) 246-3339.



## 5. Innoko

Innoko is about 300 miles northwest of Anchorage in the central Yukon River Valley. The refuge comprises most of the Innoko River basin and is composed of two separate sections that total 4.25 million acres. It was established to protect nesting and breeding habitat of waterfowl. About 80 percent of the refuge is wetlands that provide nesting habitat for at least 250,000 waterfowl.

Innoko provides habitat for wolf, black bear, grizzly bear, caribou (in the winter), and furbearers. It is renowned for its beaver population. In some years 40 percent of all beaver trapped in Alaska originate on the refuge. The annual beaver harvest is about 20,000 pelts. Other furbearers include muskrat, weasel, wolverine, lynx, marten, and red fox.

The abundant moose on Innoko have meant a food supply for early residents, explorers, trappers, gold-seekers, and river boat crews as well as today's residents. The success of the moose population is attributed to the flooding along the streams that enhances the growth of willows — the major winter food of moose.

**VISITOR USE:** A float trip on the Innoko River provides an excellent opportunity to view wildlife. Fishing is excellent for northern pike. Sport hunting for moose and black bear is popular. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 69, McGrath, Alaska 99627. Phone: (907) 524-3251.



## 6. Izembek

Izembek faces the Bering Sea on the tip of the Alaska Peninsula. The landscape includes volcanoes with glacier caps, valleys, and tundra uplands that slope into lagoons adjoining the Bering Sea.

Izembek Lagoon contains a valuable eelgrass bed (one of the largest in the world). The beds are part of a large estuary that provides a haven for migratory birds. The world's population of black brant (a small coastal goose), thousands of Canada and emperor geese, and other waterfowl congregate on the lagoon. They feed on eelgrass before flying south.

Most waterfowl arrive on the refuge in late August or early September. By early November a second wave of northern waterfowl (primarily sea ducks) arrive to winter on Izembek. The colorful Steller's eider (that nests on the arctic coast of Alaska and Siberia) is the most common wintering duck in the lagoon. In addition, thousands of shorebirds feed on invertebrates of the bay at low tide. At high tide they gather in such large flocks that in flight they appear as smoke clouds. Other wildlife includes brown bear, caribou, ptarmigan and furbearers.

**VISITOR USE:** Izembek has outstanding waterfowl hunting. Ptarmigan are often hunted in conjunction with waterfowl. Caribou hunting is good. There are some roads (trails) to the refuge from Cold Bay but most of the refuge is accessible only by boat or foot. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, Box 127, Cold Bay, Alaska 99571. Phone: (907) 532-2445.



## 7. Kanuti

Kanuti straddles the Arctic Circle approximately 150 miles northwest of Fairbanks. It is composed of the Kanuti Flats, an interior basin characterized by the rolling plains of the Kanuti and Koyukuk rivers. The basin is interspersed with lakes, ponds, and marshes. The refuge provides nesting habitat for waterfowl primarily Canada and white-fronted geese and ducks.

Kanuti's contribution to waterfowl increases when the prairies of south-central Canada and the northern mid-western United States lie baked and dry. In times of drought, birds displaced from traditional breeding areas fly northward to stable waters. Additional loss of prairie wetlands from draining and filling will further increase the importance of northern wetlands such as Kanuti.

The refuge supports 16 species of fish including whitefish, northern pike, grayling and salmon. Other wildlife includes moose, black bear, grizzly bear, wolf, and wolverine.

**VISITOR USE:** Few people visit Kanuti and those that do primarily hunt, fish, and view wildlife. Fishing for northern pike and grayling is excellent. Because it is remote, the adventurous will find Kanuti Refuge a true wilderness experience. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, Federal Building and Courthouse, Box 20, 101-12th Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Phone: (907) 456-0329.



## 8. Kenai

The Kenai Refuge consists of the western slopes of the Kenai Mountains and forested lowlands bordering Cook Inlet. The lowlands are composed of spruce and birch forests intermingled with hundreds of lakes. The Kenai Mountains with their glaciers rise to more than 6,000 feet presenting a barrier on the southeastern boundary of the refuge. The refuge is a miniature Alaska with some of all habitat types of Alaska — tundra, mountains, wetlands and forests.

Kenai Refuge was established by President Roosevelt to preserve and maintain the large population of moose on the Kenai Peninsula. In addition, the refuge is host to Dall sheep, mountain goat, caribou, coyote, wolf, grizzly bear, black bear, lynx, wolverine, beaver, small mammals and birds. Kenai Refuge provides undisturbed spawning for many Cook Inlet salmon.

**VISITOR USE:** The refuge is accessible from the Sterling Highway. Travelers are treated to a panoramic view along the 110-mile drive from Anchorage to Kenai's mid-eastern boundary. Fishing is excellent. There are over 200 miles of established trails and routes including the Swanson River Canoe Trail. Visitors can fly to remote lakes, take horse pack trips into roadless areas, or float a whitewater river. Developed facilities are available year-round for day and overnight camping. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 2139, Soldotna, Alaska 99669. Phone: (907) 262-7021.



## 9. Kodiak

Kodiak is composed of mountains, forests, bays, inlets and wetlands. The refuge comprises about two-thirds of Kodiak Island. In addition, the refuge encompasses a portion of Afognak Island (50,000 acres) north of Kodiak Island. Kodiak Island has an irregular coastline of bays, inlets, and rugged mountains covered with alpine vegetation.

Spruce forests dominate the northern part of Kodiak Island and all of the Afognak Island portion of the refuge. The interior of the refuge is covered with lush, dense vegetation. Southwestern Kodiak is covered with hummocks (knolls) of grass. No place on the 100 X 40 mile island is more than 15 miles from the sea.

Kodiak was established in 1941 to protect the habitat of the brown bear. Besides the brown bear there are only five other native land mammals on Kodiak: red fox, river otter, short-tailed weasel, little brown bat, and tundra vole. Black-tailed deer, beaver and several other species of mammals have been successfully introduced to the island. Bald eagles reside year-round on the refuge in such numbers they are in view continuously. An estimated two million seabirds inhabit the bays, inlets, and shores.

**VISITOR USE:** Kodiak is known worldwide for brown bear hunting. Fishing is excellent for all five species of Pacific Salmon. Wildlife observation, photography, rafting, and camping are popular activities. The island is served by commercial flights and the Alaska State Ferry system. A limited number of cabins are available. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, 1390 Buskin River Road, Kodiak, Alaska 99615. Phone: (907) 487-2600.



## 10. Koyukuk

Rivers are the heart of the Koyukuk country — its living pulse and historic past. Fourteen rivers and hundreds of creeks meander throughout the refuge providing habitat for salmon, beaver and waterfowl. There are also over 15,000 lakes. The topography is relatively gentle featuring an extensive floodplain surrounded by hills with a boreal forest. The landscape includes the Nogahabara Dunes — a 10,000 acre active dune field. The field was formed from wind-blown deposits about 10,000 years ago. It is one of two active dune fields in Alaska.

Spring flood waters of the Koyukuk River carry away signs of the past season and recharge the lowlands. The floodplain provides ideal nesting habitat for ducks, geese, and other water-adapted birds. By September more than 400,000 ducks and geese migrate from the refuge to southern wintering grounds.

Black bear are abundant in forests and grizzly bear inhabit the open tundra. Furbearers on Koyukuk include otter, lynx, beaver, marten, muskrat, and mink. Wolves and moose are common. Other large mammals on the refuge include caribou from the western arctic herd that often winter on portions of the refuge.

**VISITOR USE:** Koyukuk has excellent moose hunting and fishing (northern pike and grayling). For information contact: Refuge Manager, Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 287, Galena, Alaska 99741. Phone: (907) 656-1231.



## 11. Nowitna

Nowitna is approximately 200 miles west of Fairbanks in the central Yukon River Valley. The refuge encompasses forested lowlands, hills, lakes, marshes, ponds, and streams. The dominant feature on Nowitna is the Nowitna River — a nationally designated wild river. This magnificent river provides spawning grounds for northern pike and sheepshead. However, the primary reason the refuge was established was to protect waterfowl and their habitat.

Nowitna is one of four refuges (Nowitna, Innoko, Kanuti, and Koyukuk refuges) encompassed by a solar basin. A solar basin is characterized by encircling hills, light winds, low rainfall, severe winters and short warm summers. The summer sun encircles these refuges without setting.

The refuge's mix of habitats supports varied wildlife. Black bear and moose are common throughout Nowitna. Marten, mink, wolverine, beaver, and muskrat are important furbearers that provide income (furs), food, and recreation for local residents.

**VISITOR USE:** The Nowitna River is an outstanding river for floating. Moose and bear hunting are a major activity. Fishing for northern pike and sheepshead is excellent. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 287, Galena, Alaska 99741. Phone: (907) 656-1231.



## 12. Selawik

Selawik straddles the Arctic Circle in northwestern Alaska about 360 miles northwest of Fairbanks. The refuge is composed of estuaries, lakes, river deltas, and tundra slopes. The most prominent feature is the extensive system of tundra wetlands that are nestled between the Waring Mountains and Selawik Hills.

Selawik is located where the Bering Land Bridge once existed. Plants, animals, and humans migrated freely across this land mass connecting Asia and North America many years ago. The refuge retains evidence of these ancient migrations.

Selawik is a breeding and resting area for a multitude of migratory waterbirds returning from North and South America, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Nesting ducks number in the hundreds of thousands. Thousands of caribou winter on the refuge as they feed on the lichen-covered foothills. Other common mammals include moose, grizzly bear, and furbearers: Sheepshead, whitefish, grayling, and northern pike inhabit lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers. Sheepshead weighing 40 to 50 pounds are not uncommon.

**VISITOR USE:** Portions of the Selawik River are nationally designated as a wild river. The river provides good river rafting and sportfishing. A limited commercial guide service is available. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 270, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752. Phone: (907) 442-3799.



## 13. Tetlin

Tetlin is a showcase of geologic and ecological features found throughout Interior Alaska. Here in a broad valley the Chisana and Nabesna rivers join near the center of the refuge to form the Tanana. Nearly everywhere the work of wildfires, permafrost, and fluctuating river channels have created a diversity of habitats. For example, the extensive stands of birch, aspen, and willow are testimony to the positive effects of wildfire. In these woodlands, moose, black bear, grizzly bear, ptarmigan, grouse, wolf, coyote, and red fox find food and shelter. Thousands of refuge lakes and ponds are interspersed with rolling hills, boreal forests, and snowcapped mountains.

The Tetlin Refuge supports a high density of nesting waterfowl on its extensive wetlands. The shallow marshes of the refuge thaw early, providing a needed rest stop for birds migrating to their nesting grounds throughout the state. The refuge provides habitat for 143 nesting species of birds and seven migrant species. Sandhill cranes move through the refuge each fall and spring in a spectacular event. Other notable birds include arctic and common loon, osprey, bald eagle, trumpeter swan, and three species of ptarmigan.

**VISITOR USE:** Hunting, trapping, fishing, and photography are common activities. Moose and waterfowl hunting are especially popular. Common fish species include: northern pike, grayling, and burbot (fresh water ling-cod). Tetlin is one of two road-accessible refuges in Alaska. The Alaska Highway borders the refuge for nearly 70 miles. Interpretive information is available along the Alaska Highway and at the Interagency Visitor Center in Tok. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 155, Tok, Alaska 99780. Phone: (907) 883-5312.



## 14. Togiak

Togiak is between Kuskokwim and Bristol bays in southwestern Alaska. The topography includes mountain crags, fast-flowing rivers, deep lakes, marshy lowlands, ponds, estuaries, coastal lagoons, and sea cliffs. The broad glacial valleys of the Ahklun Mountain range cut the tundra uplands and opens onto a coastal plain. The Ahklun Mountains encompass 80 percent of the refuge.

Togiak is a breeding and resting area for waterfowl and shorebirds returning from wintering areas in Russia, Japan, Mexico, South America, New Zealand, and the South Pacific. Numerous seabirds inhabit the off-shore waters and cliffs near Capes Newenham and Peirce during the summer. Spotted seals, walrus and seven species of whales use the off-shore waters. The refuge provides more than 1,500 miles of streams and rivers of spawning habitat for salmon.

**VISITOR USE:** Some of the finest salmon and trout sport fishing waters in Alaska are on Togiak. The coastal portion of the refuge provides excellent opportunity for photography and wildlife observation. River rafting is popular on several refuge rivers. Commercial guides are available for sport fishing, brown bear hunting, and river rafting. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 10201, Dillingham, Alaska 99576. Phone: (907) 842-1063.



## 15. Yukon Delta

The Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers dominate the landscape of Yukon Delta. The rivers form a treeless, wetland plain noted for wildlife variety and abundance. An intricate maze of lakes, ponds, and meandering streams provide nesting and feeding habitat for over 750,000 swans and geese, 2 million ducks, and 100 million shore and water birds. Moose, caribou, grizzly bear, black bear, and wolves inhabit the northern hills and eastern mountains.

The 1.1 million acre Nunivak Island portion of the refuge supports an introduced herd of muskox and reindeer. Muskox vanished from Alaska in 1865 because of over-harvesting. The introduced herd of muskox on Nunivak Island has been prolific. The herd is used as a breeding stock to establish herds elsewhere in Alaska and the Soviet Union. The reindeer herd is a major source of food and income for island residents.

Over the centuries the abundance of wildlife has made the Yukon Delta the heart of Yupik Eskimo culture in Alaska. The refuge encompasses 42 Eskimo villages whose residents depend on the wildlife resources. The legislation that established Yukon Delta enables rural residents to continue a life style that allows them to live off the land.

**VISITOR USE:** Fishing, hunting, and backcountry recreation may be excellent, although aircraft transportation is needed. The Andreasky is a nationally designated wild river. Visitors may view exhibits and obtain complete information at refuge headquarters visitor center. Address: P.O. Box 346, Bethel, Alaska 99559-0346. Phone: (907) 543-3151.



## 16. Yukon Flats

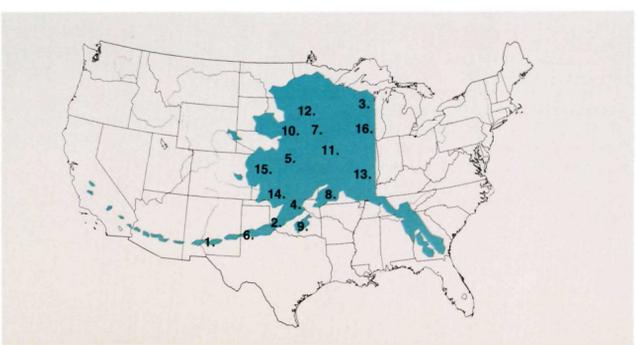
Yukon Flats is about 100 miles north of Fairbanks — the most northerly point reached by the Yukon River. Here the river breaks free from canyon walls spreading unconfined for 200 miles through a vast flood plain. In the spring millions of migrating birds converge on the flats before ice moves from the river. The migrating birds come from four continents to raise their young.

The refuge has one of the highest nesting densities of waterfowl in North America. By August the surfaces of over 40,000 lakes and ponds ripple with scurrying ducklings and molting adults. Yukon Flats contributes more than two million ducks and geese to the migration routes (flyways) of North America.

Birds are not the only migratory wildlife dependent on wetlands of the flats. Salmon from the Bering Sea ascend the Yukon River to spawn in the freshwater streams of their birth (some salmon travel nearly 2,000 miles into Canada). Runs of king, coho, and chum salmon pass through and spawn in the flats each summer — the longest salmon run in the U.S. Mammals on the refuge include moose, caribou, wolves, black and grizzly bears.

**VISITOR USE:** Most summer use of Yukon Flats is confined to the major waterways. Several rivers are floated by canoe, kayak, and rafts. Fishing for northern pike can be excellent. For information contact: Refuge Manager, Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, Federal Building and Courthouse, Box 20, 101-12th Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Phone: (907) 456-0440.

Superimposing Alaska on the Lower 48 states emphasizes its vastness. Choosing where you want to go in Alaska is, perhaps, the most important part of planning your trip.



Alaska is where space and time, imagination and reality all come together. Sun reflects off Last Lake and the hills bordering the Sheenjek River Valley in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Sheenjek River is a nationally designated wild river.