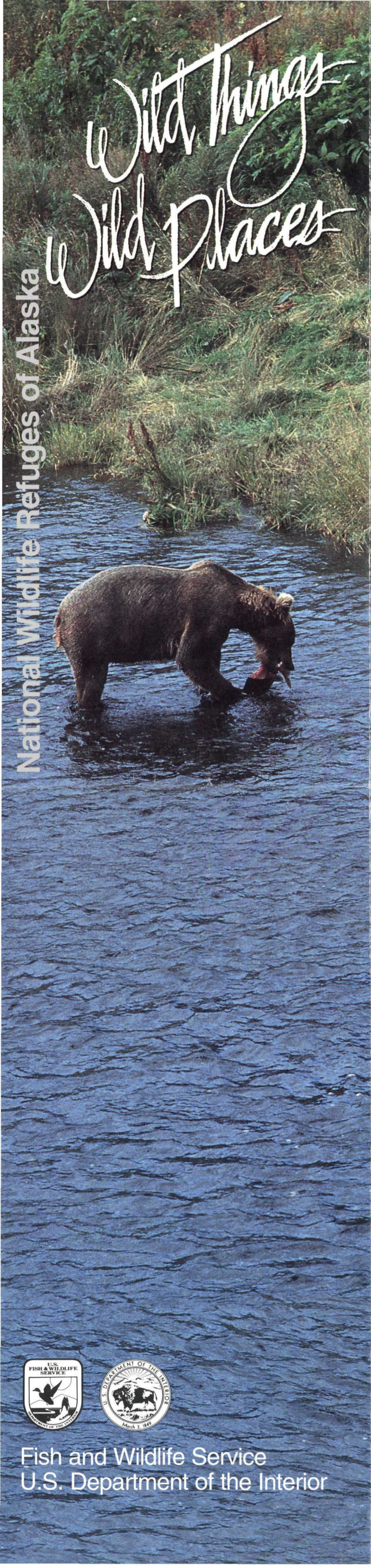


Wild Things Wild Places



Alaska's Wild Places

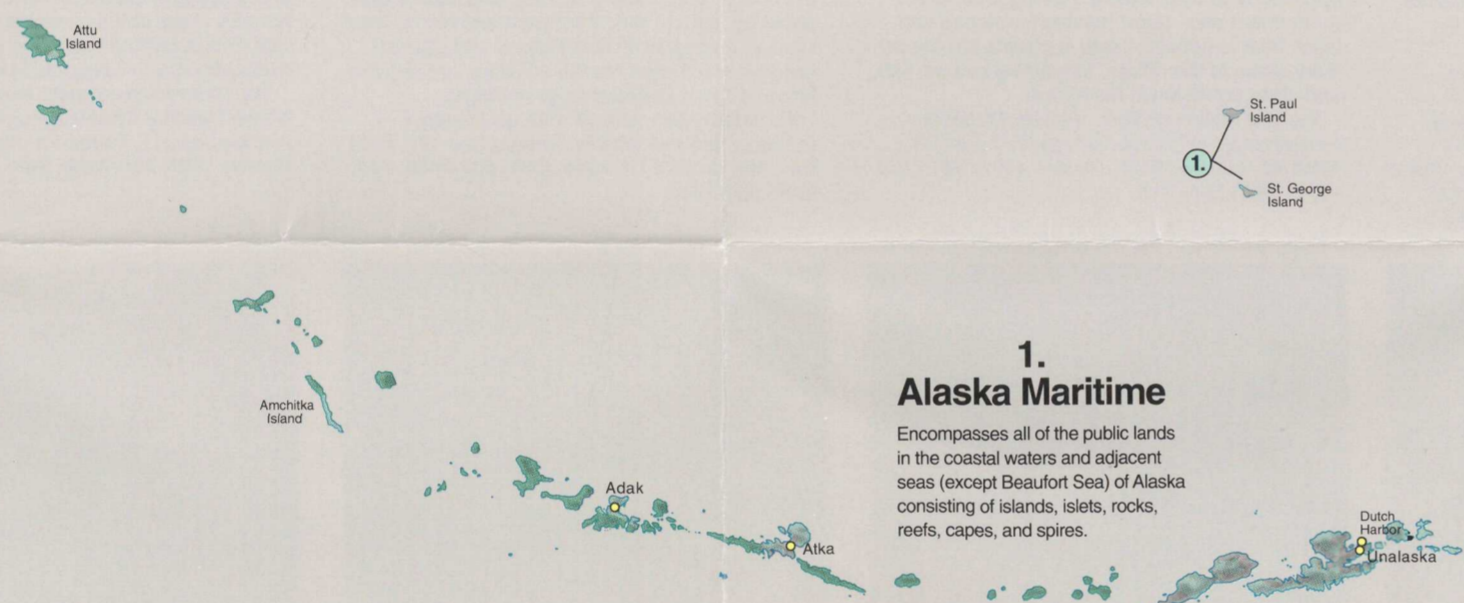
Imagine a land inhabited
—by great herds of caribou
—by muskox and walrus; polar, black, and brown bears
—by Dall sheep, moose, wolves, and wolverines.

Stretch that image to include a host of summering birds and world renowned fisheries resources—and you have Alaska's wildlife heritage.

The landscapes are equally staggering. Amid these vast stretches of towering mountains, rolling tundra, and coastal forests are wild places.

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

Wild places this nation has dedicated as National Wildlife Refuges.



Alaska's Wildlife Heritage

National wildlife 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 refuge 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 new refuges in Alaska. The impact of ANILCA on the National Wildlife Refuge System was staggering. It quadrupled the size of the National Wildlife Refuge System to nearly 90 million acres.

Wilderness and Wild Rivers

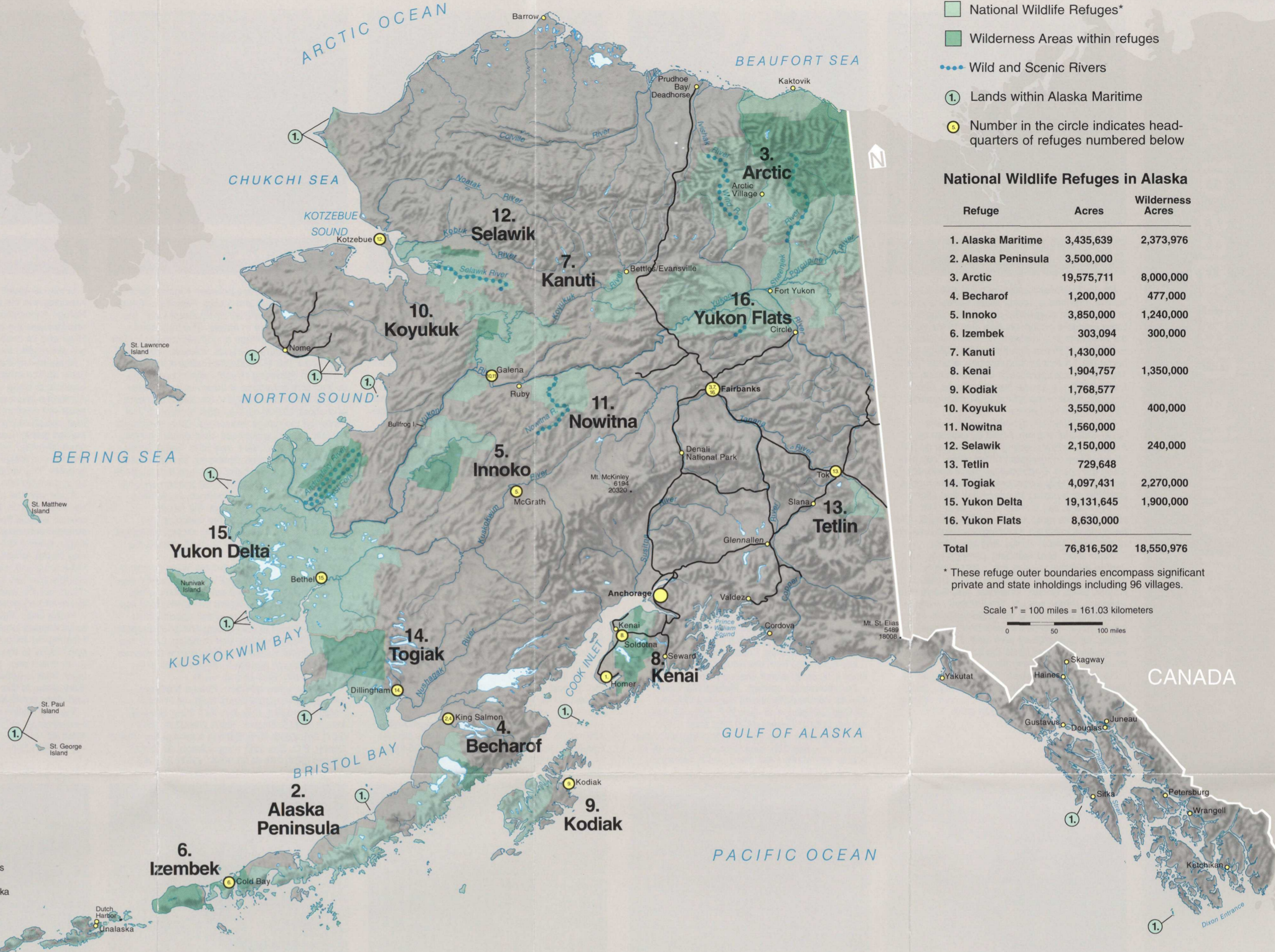
Nearly all refuge lands in Alaska can be described as wilderness. More than 18 million acres of land in Alaska's national wildlife refuges have been designated as Wilderness Areas as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System by Congress, thus preserving their natural conditions.

Several rivers (or river reaches) on refuges in Alaska have been congressionally designated as Wild Rivers, components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. These rivers include the Ivishak, Sheenjek, and Wind Rivers in the Arctic Refuge, the Nowitna River in the Nowitna Refuge, the Selawik River in the Selawik Refuge, both forks of the Andreafsky River in the Yukon Delta Refuge, and Beaver Creek in the Yukon Flats Refuge.

Refuges are Wild Places

National wildlife refuges comprise some of the finest natural resources in public ownership. The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to preserve a national network of lands and waters for the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, and plant resources of the United States for the benefit of present and future generations. Alaska's refuges provide many opportunities for recreational use, including such activities as sightseeing, nature observation, photography,

RUSSIA



- National Wildlife Refuges*
- Wilderness Areas within refuges
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Lands within Alaska Maritime
- Number in the circle indicates headquarters of refuges numbered below

National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska

Refuge	Acres	Wilderness Acres
1. Alaska Maritime	3,435,639	2,373,976
2. Alaska Peninsula	3,500,000	
3. Arctic	19,575,711	8,000,000
4. Becharof	1,200,000	477,000
5. Innoko	3,850,000	1,240,000
6. Izembek	303,094	300,000
7. Kanuti	1,430,000	
8. Kenai	1,904,757	1,350,000
9. Kodiak	1,768,577	
10. Koyukuk	3,550,000	400,000
11. Nowitna	1,560,000	
12. Selawik	2,150,000	240,000
13. Tetlin	729,648	
14. Togiak	4,097,431	2,270,000
15. Yukon Delta	19,131,645	1,900,000
16. Yukon Flats	8,630,000	
Total	76,816,502	18,550,976

* These refuge outer boundaries encompass significant private and state inholdings including 96 villages.

Scale 1" = 100 miles = 161.03 kilometers
0 50 100 miles

CANADA

sport hunting and fishing, boating, camping, and hiking. In addition, residents of rural Alaska who depend upon the subsistence use of the resources may hunt, fish, and harvest other resources from refuge lands.

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, wetlands, lakes, woodlands, and rivers. They comprise nearly 86 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 the 303,094-acre Izembek Refuge to Arctic Refuge at nearly 19.6 million acres. Izembek Refuge is larger than all but six of the national wildlife refuges in the other 49 states. Arctic Refuge 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 500 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. On March 25, 1996, President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order 12996 which provided the following as a commitment to a strong refuge system:

- *Reaffirmed a fish and wildlife conservation mission for the Refuge System,
- *Defined four Guiding Principles for management of refuge lands, of which the conservation of habitat is the most fundamental,

- *Recognized compatible wildlife-dependent recreation as priority uses,
- *Defined the Secretary's stewardship responsibility to ensure the ecological integrity, well-being and future growth of the Refuge System for the benefit of present and future generations, and
- *Called for expanded partnerships, increased public involvement, and expanded opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy the wildlife experience.

Visitor Information

- Most land in Alaska does not teem 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 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 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 usually involves air transport. The cost of goods and services is higher in remote areas. Careful planning, however, can minimize costs.
- Most refuges encompass significant private and state land and private structures. Remember you are a guest—treat rural residents with courtesy and respect. Many rural residents rely on refuge resources as part of their subsistence lifestyle.
- 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 coastal 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 no-see-ums (a small biting insect) are common. Be prepared with repellent, headnets, and a screened tent. 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 and restaurants 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

- Cold water kills! In Alaska, during the summer, a visitor is rarely far from water—often swift, cold water. Wear a personal flotation device and be familiar with your chosen watercraft. Use extreme caution and common sense when operating on Alaska's rivers, lakes, and coastal areas.
- Be familiar with safety procedures and survival equipment. Know where emergency equipment is located on aircraft.
- Leave a travel plan with a friend and notify your friend when you return.
- Boil or filter all water before drinking. 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.
- Search and rescue activities are the responsibility of the Alaska State Troopers. Refuge staff may assist, but there are very few places on Alaskan refuges where emergency care is readily available. The ultimate responsibility for safety and

rescue lies with each refuge visitor. Alaska refuges are extremely remote and visitors are really on their own.

Additional Information

Information on specific refuges is available from the refuge manager. Visitors are encouraged to contact refuge personnel before visiting a refuge. Addresses are listed on the back of this brochure. For more information on the National Wildlife Refuge System in Alaska, or to volunteer your service to refuges, contact: Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Phone: (907) 786-3357. Fax: (907) 786-3635. Additional information is also available on the Region 7 Home Page (Internet address: <http://www.r7.fws.gov>) or on the Fish and Wildlife Service's Washington Office Home Page (Internet address: <http://www.fws.gov>).

For other visitor information, contact:
Alaska Public Lands Information Center, 605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 105, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Phone: (907) 271-2737. FAX: (907) 271-2744.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99518-1599. Wildlife Information Center. Phone: (907) 267-2347.

Alaska Division of Tourism, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, P.O. Box E, Juneau, Alaska 99811. Phone: (907) 465-2010.

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