

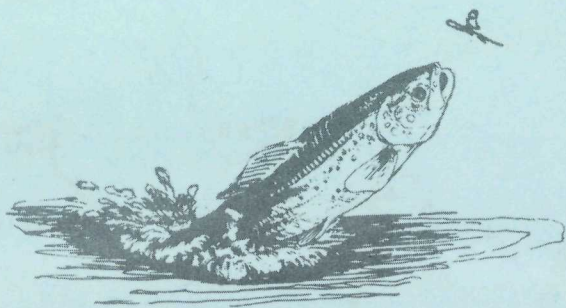
# Swan Lake Route

This canoe route connects 30 lakes with forks of the Moose River. The entire canoe route (60 miles in length) can be traveled in less than one week; however, leisurely travel will provide many additional days of excellent fishing and camping. Nearly one day's canoeing is required to reach Gavia Lake from either the East or West entrances.

A list of alternate routes and the approximate time it takes to travel them:

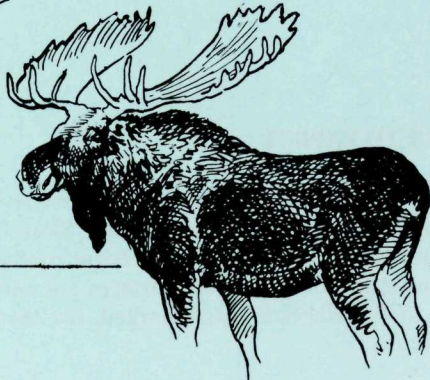
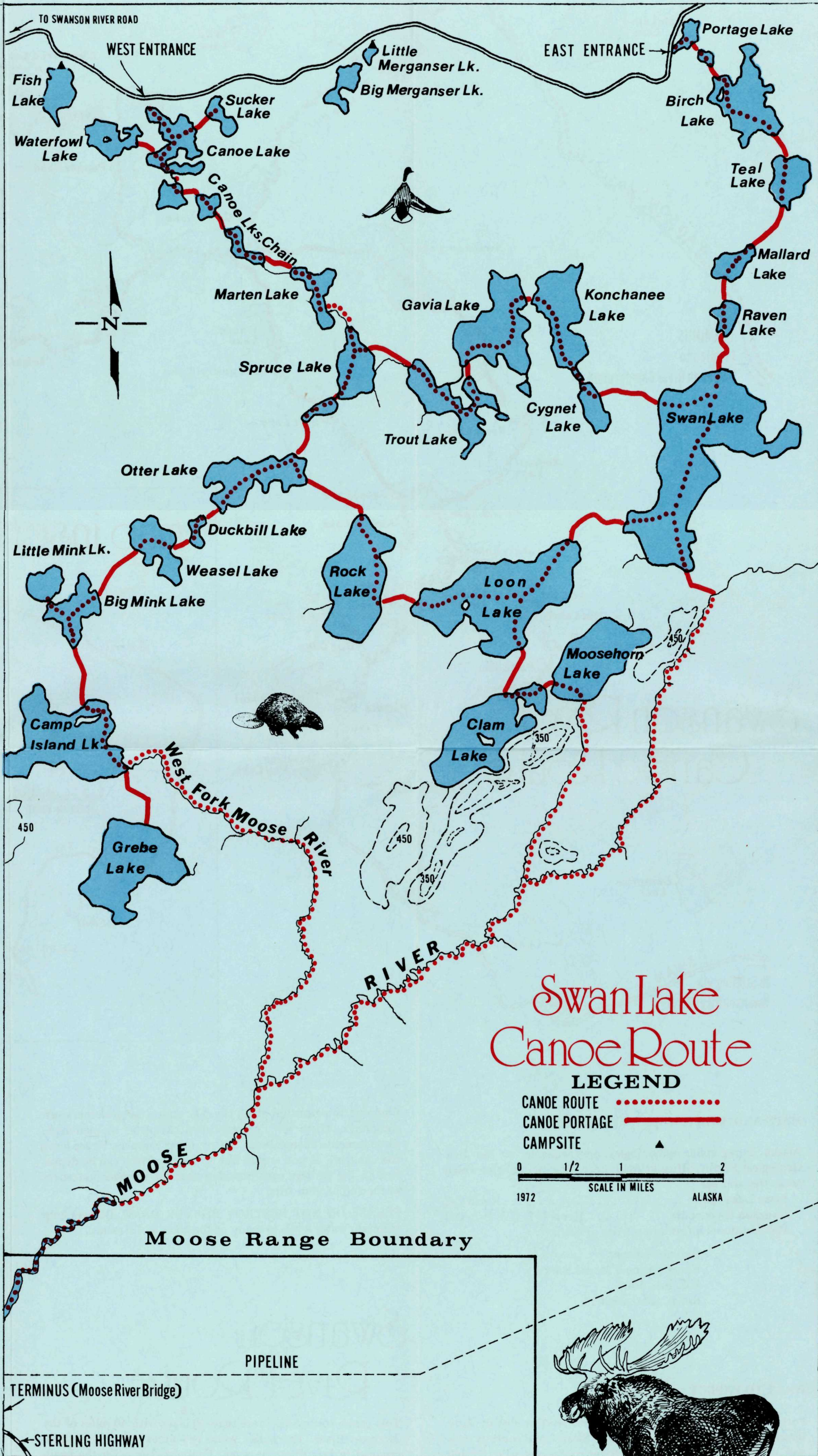
- North Passage — Canoe Lake via Gavia Lake to Portage Lake ..... 2-3 days
- Central Passage — Canoe Lake via Loon Lake to Portage Lake ..... 2-3 days
- West Passage — Canoe Lake to Camp Island Lake to Moose River Bridge ..... 3-4 days
- East Passage — Portage Lake to Swan Lake to Moose River Bridge ..... 3-4 days

Rainbow, Dolly Varden trout and silver salmon are found in most of the lakes of this canoe route, with the exception of Birch, Teal, Mallard, Raven, Otter and Big Mink Lakes.



# Regulations on the Moose Range

- HUNTING AND FISHING is permitted in accordance with State and Federal regulations.
- CAMPING is permitted throughout the Range.
- AIRCRAFT may not land on any lakes within recreational developments such as campgrounds and the canoe system.
- MOTORIZED BOATS, canoes, other motorized watercraft are not permitted on the canoe system lakes.
- MOTORIZED VEHICLES, (including totogoats, marsh buggies, motorcycles and other off-road vehicles), are permitted only on established, maintained roads.
- DO NOT CUT ANY GREEN TREES. Wood for cooking fires may be gathered from the abundant supply of dead and down timber.
- DO NOT BURY ANY TRASH or garbage. Burn it or carry it out with you.
- BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE. Peat and moss beds which allow fire to creep underground are especially hazardous. Build fires only on bare rock or soil, and make them no larger than necessary. BEFORE LEAVING MAKE SURE EVERY SPARK OF YOUR FIRE IS EXTINGUISHED. Don't build fires on the portage trails.



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES



# CANOEING on the KENAI NATIONAL MOOSE RANGE



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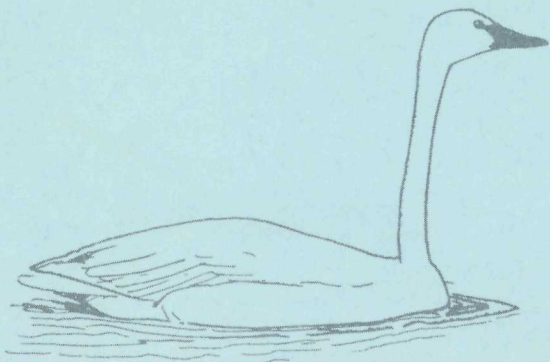


# Wildlife on the Moose Range

The Swan Lake and Swanson River canoe routes are located in the northern lowlands of the Kenai National Moose Range. The Range is a part of the national refuge system and was originally set aside to preserve habitat for the giant Kenai moose. In addition to protection of moose habitat, refuge personnel also manage a great variety of wildlife living on the Moose Range. Some of the inhabitants include: trumpeter swan, Dall sheep, mountain goat, black and grizzly bear, wolves, ptarmigan, grouse, beaver, mink and numerous species of waterfowl.

A definite advantage of taking a canoe trip through the northern lakes is the opportunity to see many kinds of wildlife in their natural habitat. In spring, cow moose visit this choice calving area to give birth to one or two calves in late May. Thousands of song birds, shore birds, and waterfowl nest along the lake shores, in marshlands and surrounding forests. It is not uncommon to see loons with young nearby. Beaver inhabit many lakes and streams, industriously constructing dams and repairing lodges during the season.

Please treat all wildlife you see with respect and keep your distance. Cow moose and other animals are very protective of their young and it is dangerous to approach them, especially during the spring and summer.



### CANOEING HINTS

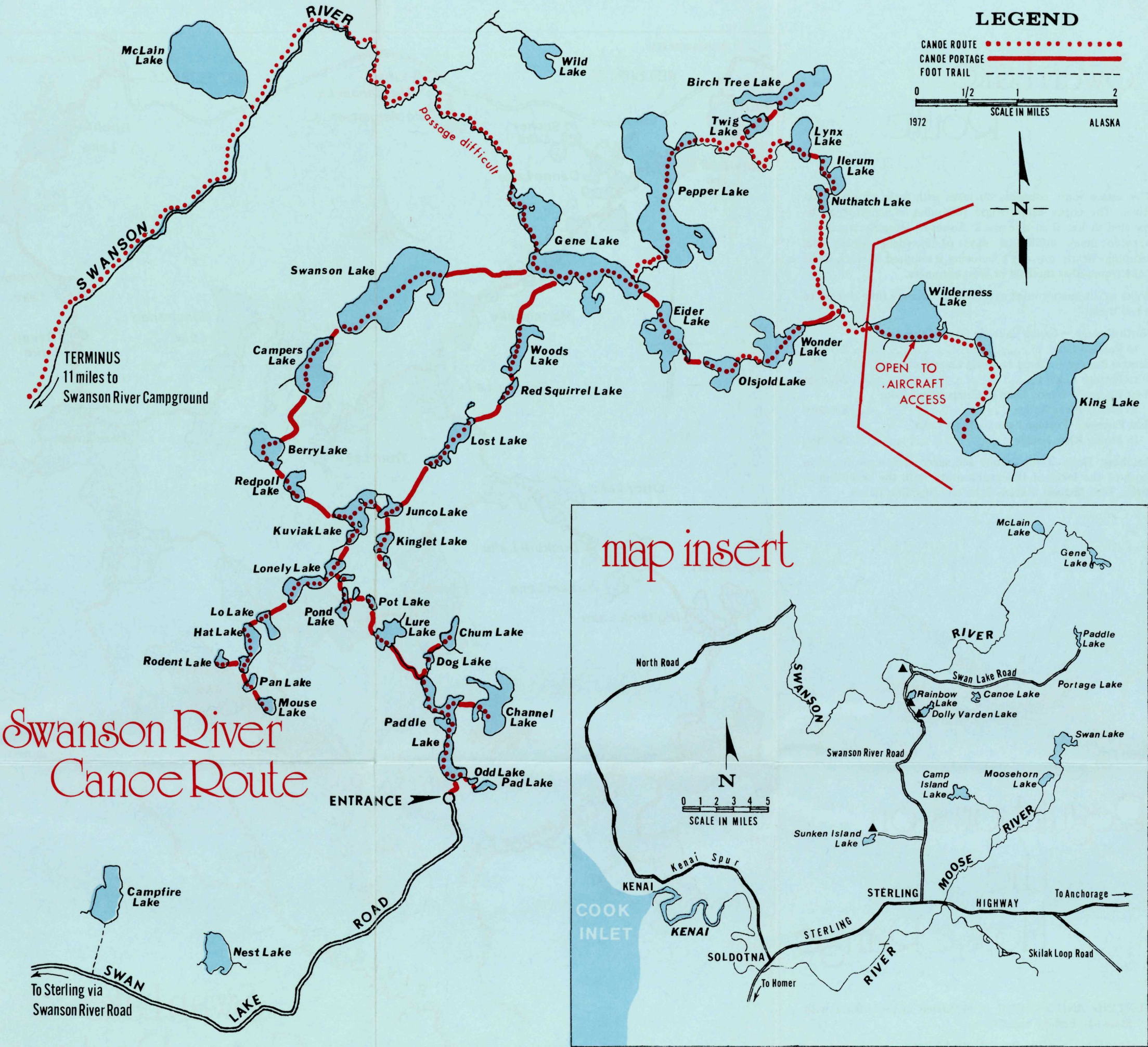
1. Go light. Use dried, lightweight foods. Freeze-dried and other lightweight foods are available now at most local food stores. Canned goods and bottles are heavy and all trash must be packed out. Eat light. Take snack foods and plan only 2 cooked meals per day. A single change of clothing, particularly extra socks, is more than enough.
2. Wear sturdy, waterproof footgear. Lake shores and some portages are often wet and swampy.
3. Overloaded canoes are dangerous.
4. Pack rain gear and a lightweight tent or plastic tarp.
5. Refuge regulations require all occupants of canoes to have life preservers.
6. Carry an extra paddle.
7. Tie your gear to the canoe securely.
8. If your canoe tips over stay with it and work toward shore; it will float.
9. Leave word where you are going and when you plan to be back. Be sure to register in the registration booklet at the entrance.
10. Be safety conscious. Help may be far away in time of need.

### FIGURING TRAVEL TIME ON WATER

Type of Water	Time
Clear water rivers	3-4 miles/hour
Glacial rivers	5-7 miles/hour
Lakes	2 miles/hour

### CLIMATE

Weather conditions in the Moose Range are unpredictable. On the whole, the months of July, August and September often are rainy and cool. Temperatures seldom rise above 80° and sometimes fall to the 30's in early morning. In late September temperatures drop and bring on the brilliant colors of fall in willow, birch, and aspen. In late October the lakes freeze and remain so until April or May.



## Swanson River Canoe Route

### MAPS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alaska topographic quadrangles are available at the U.S. Geological Survey office in Anchorage. The quadrangles which cover this area are:  
Swan Lake route ..... Kenai C-2  
Swanson River route ..... Kenai C-2, C-3, D-2, D-3  
For additional information write or contact:

Refuge Manager  
Kenai National Moose Range  
P.O. Box 500  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

### WHAT TO EXPECT

Portages are generally short and traverse level or slightly hilly terrain. The longest portage on the Swan Lake route is one-half mile, and on the Swanson River route, one mile. During wet weather some lowland portages are muddy and soft. The trails and portages are well marked. Use the map in this leaflet as a guide.

Camping is permitted along the lake shores in wilderness surroundings. There are no established campsites or man-made developments except those left by other campers. Please leave the campsite as you would like to find it. Trash can be deposited in the garbage cans provided near the roadside entrances at the end of your trip.

PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY BEAVER DAMS. Beavers help maintain water levels in many of the lakes and streams.

## Swanson River Route

This canoe route links more than 40 lakes with 46 miles of the Swanson River. The entire route (80 miles in length) can be traveled in less than one week. Canoeists can enter the headwaters of the Swanson River (via Gene Lake outlet) and float down to the Swanson River Campground, a distance of 19 miles, or continue to its terminus at the North Kenai Road bridge, 24 miles downstream from the campground.

From the entrance at Paddle Lake, one day's canoeing is required to reach Gene Lake by either the east or west route. There are numerous shallow areas and two short portages along the Gene Lake outlet to Swanson River.

Waterways east of Pepper Lake and Eider Lake, as well as the upper Swanson River to Wild Lake, are narrow and generously vegetated, providing difficult passage. The current in upper Swanson River is very slow and during late summer, if the river is low, the first two miles may require additional effort to push through lily pads.

Campsites on Swanson River are difficult to find. The land adjacent to the river is low and marshy along most of the river route. The best sites are found on nearby hills or rises.

Alternate routes and the approximate time it takes to travel them:

- Paddle Lake to Gene Lake ..... 1-2 days
- Gene Lake to Swanson River Campground ..... 9-11 hours
- Swanson River Campground to Cook Inlet ..... 11-13 hours
- Paddle Lake via Eider Lake to King Lake ..... 2-3 days
- Paddle Lake via Lynx Lake to King Lake ..... 2-3 days

Rainbow and Dolly Varden trout and some red and silver salmon are present in most of the lakes with the exception of Berry, Redpoll, Twig, Eider, Birchtree and Olsjold.