



**United States Department of the Interior  
KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Refuge Areas Open to Snowmachine Use**

Refuge Manager Robin West announced that the remaining portions of Kenai National Wildlife Refuge that are traditionally opened to snowmachine use are open effective immediately. The Caribou Hills area was open to snowmachine use this past Monday. With the additional snowfall, there is now adequate snow depth for all traditional areas of the Refuge to be opened. Areas closed to snowmachine use include the Refuge Headquarters Area on Ski Hill Road, Skilak Loop Special Management Area, the Swanson River and Swan Lake Canoe Systems, the Wolf Lake Pipeline corridor, and areas above timberline, except Caribou Hills. Snowmachine users who are not familiar with these areas should contact the Refuge for a map and regulations before they go afield.

West advises that much of the areas to be opened have adequate snow cover for safe snowmachine travel; however some areas still have less than 12 inches of snow which makes rocks and stumps potentially dangerous. West also cautioned some Refuge water bodies may not be safe to cross with snowmachines.

For more information please contact the Refuge at 262-7021, online at <http://kenai.fws.gov>, or visit the office on Ski Hill Road in Soldotna.

*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 548 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.*

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