



## United States Department of the Interior

### KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **REFUGE TO CLOSE LOWLANDS TO SNOWMACHINE USE**

With spring conditions rapidly overtaking the Kenai Peninsula, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge will soon close the lowlands to snowmachine use for the season. Refuge Manager Robin West said that the closure will take place at midnight, Sunday March 16.

The delay in closing, West said, is to allow people with planned trips for the coming weekend to travel in a few areas that may retain adequate snow cover. However, he cautioned that most water bodies are currently unsafe and trail conditions are eroding rapidly. Additionally, the Refuge asks snowmachine users to be especially aware of moose and other wildlife that they may encounter so as to minimize disturbance to them after the stressful winter period.

The Caribou Hills portion of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge will remain open for use through March 31 as long as adequate snow conditions exist. The area remaining open through March 31 is **ONLY** for those areas described below. West said, "We are asking everyone to familiarize themselves with the boundaries of the area remaining open, in order to insure protection of wildlife and habitat in the areas not opened to snowmachines."

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The boundaries for the open portion are: THE AREA SOUTH OF CROOKED CREEK, EAST OF THE NORTH-SOUTH REFUGE BOUNDARY NEAR TROPHY LAKE, NORTH OF CARIBOU LAKE AND WEST OF THE FOX RIVER AND ONLY ABOVE TIMBERLINE IN THE CARIBOU HILLS. THIS OPENING ALSO INCLUDES SOME AREAS NOT ENTIRELY ABOVE TIMBERLINE , INCLUDING SECTIONS 25, 29,30, AND 36, Township 1 South, Range 11 West on the KENAI A-3 topographic map, AND SECTIONS 1 AND 12, Township 2 South, Range 11 West on the KENAI A-3, topographic map.

These areas can be also be located on the map “Alaska’s Caribou Hills Snowmobile Trail Map” produced by the Seismic Source, and available at many businesses on the Kenai Peninsula. A map with the open areas marked is available for viewing at Refuge Headquarters.

For more information, contact Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters at (907) 262-7021.

*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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