



United States Department of the Interior
KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLACK BEAR BAITING PERMITS AVAILABLE

Permits for black bear baiting on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge will be available beginning Monday, April 21, 2008. Permits are free and can be obtained at the Refuge Headquarters on Ski Hill Road in Soldotna weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All black bear hunters hunting over bait on the Refuge must obtain a permit.

Permits are issued for exclusive one-square mile areas within that portion of the Refuge open to black bear baiting. Allocation of these areas is on a first come-first serve basis. The black bear baiting season on the Refuge extends from May 1 to June 15. All bait stations, whether on or off the Refuge, must also be registered with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Archers wishing to take a black bear over bait on the Refuge must have completed an approved bow hunting course. Additionally, all hunters **must** have a valid Alaska hunting license **and** proof of completion of a bear hunter clinic in order to get a Refuge bear baiting permit. For more information, contact the Refuge Headquarters at 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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