



United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

P.O. Box 2139

Soldotna, Alaska 99669-2139

(907) 262-7021

IN REPLY REFER TO:

09012csc

February 3, 2009

NEW RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, SOLDOTNA, AK

TELEPHONE: (907) 262-7021, TTY (907) 260-2803 Email: kenai@fws.gov

PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUGHT ON MARATHON ROAD EASEMENT FOR ACCESS TO THE KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for an existing 17(b) easement on a section of the Marathon Road for public access to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. This easement crosses lands owned by the Kenai Native Association near the Beaver Creek Oil and Gas Unit. The purpose of the Draft Plan EA is to describe a range of alternatives for managing the access easement and receive public comments on the alternatives. The draft plan also analyses the impacts of implementing those alternatives.

The public is invited to attend an open house scheduled for February 18, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Cook Inlet Aquacultural Association Building located at 40610 Kalifornsky Beach Road, near the Bridge Access Road, to review and provide comment on the Draft EA. Representatives from the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Kenai Native's Association, and Marathon Oil Company will be there to answer questions about the proposed alternatives. If you are unable to attend the open house, a copy of the Draft EA may be reviewed on line at <http://kenai.fws.gov/current.htm> or picked up at the Refuge Headquarter's office located on Ski Hill Road in Soldotna.

Public comments will be accepted until close of business on March 18, 2009 and can be submitted at the open house, mailed to Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 2139, Soldotna, AK 99669 or emailed to kenai@fws.gov.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov

X X X