



## United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **LILY LAKE PRESCRIBED FIRE PROJECT BEGINS JUNE 16, 2009**

If favorable weather and fuel conditions persist, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is planning to continue implementation of the Lily Lake prescribed fire project on Tuesday (06/16/09) as a wet summer, prevented progress on the project last year. This project, which was initiated in 2003, is designed to reduce wildland fire-hazard fuels (black spruce) and improve moose habitat by encouraging hardwood regeneration. This prescribed fire project will continue intermittently throughout the summer as long as conditions are favorable.

Lily Lake is a large prescribed burn, consisting of 184 acres of hydro-axed black spruce, aspen, and birch, surrounding 247 acres of standing black spruce forest. The unit is located north of the Sterling Highway and the Enstar natural gas pipeline, and adjacent to the East Fork of the Moose River.

The Lily Lake Prescribed Fire Project is one small part of a larger interagency effort to address the issues of public safety and wildland fire mitigation on the Kenai Peninsula. It is consistent with the National Fire Plan, with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service fire management policy, and with the findings and recommendations of the Kenai Peninsula Spruce Bark Beetle Task Force. All planned activities for this project are covered in an approved prescribed fire plan, which has been reviewed by the appropriate U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service line officers and other agency fire management officials. The Burn Boss and line officers in the prescribed fire organization will comply with all elements of the prescribed fire plan - before, during and after the ignition of any unit. Prescriptive parameters such as wind speed, wind direction, smoke dispersion and fire behavior will be constantly monitored during firing operations. Any safety, smoke, weather or fire behavior condition that exceeds approved parameters or agency policy will result in a cessation of firing operations.

For more information about the Lily Lake project, contact the Refuge Manager, Robin West, or Fire Management Officer, Doug Newbould, at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge: (907) 260-5994 or 262-7021.

*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](http://www.fws.gov).*

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