



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

P.O. Box 2139
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-2139
(907) 262-7021



09071ds

July 7, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, SOLDOTNA, ALASKA

TELEPHONE: (907) 262-7021

Email: kenai@fws.gov

SUBJECT: Shantatalik Creek Fire

A wildland fire is burning near Shantatalik Creek on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge north of Tustumena Lake. The fire was ignited by lightning on June 29th and is approximately 1,600 acres in size and is burning in White and Black spruce and mixed hardwood forest. The fire is burning in a “limited” fire suppression area, and is being managed by the Refuge to reduce hazardous accumulations of beetle-killed and other forest debris in the area leading up to the Tustumena Bench. From an original starting point northeast of Fox Lake, the fire has moved slowly east, and may reach the benchlands within the next few days, if westerly winds persist. This area has not had a fire in approximately 100 years.

The fire is progressing well and should continue to burn to the east as long as current weather patterns persist. We are continually monitoring this fire. The Kenai Refuge is engaged with the Division of Forestry and other cooperators in developing contingency plans to prevent the fire from leaving the Refuge and the limited suppression area.

A fire information board in the Refuge Visitor Center contains the latest maps of the fire.

Questions should be referred to: Doug Staller, Kenai Refuge Deputy Refuge Manager:
(907) 260-2805.

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