



United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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NEW RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Skilak River Fire

On September 22, 2009 the Skilak River Fire was reported to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Due to the remote location of the fire, Fire Management was not able to fly the fire until the following day. When the fire was flown, it was approximately 2 acres in size, burning in down beetle killed spruce slash with a mixed hardwood spruce canopy on an isolated hill in the Skilak River floodplain at the east end of Skilak Lake.

Due to the unique occurrence of this fire so late in the season, fire personnel hiked into the fire on September 24, 2009 to place fire effects plots and monitor the fire behavior. Upon their arrival, the fire had grown to 17 acres and an investigation determined the probable cause of the fire to be a hunter's campfire. The fire is not expected to burn off the hillside or threaten any structures due to the water flow that occurs around the area.

The fire is visible from the Skilak Loop Road overlooks and trails. Smoke will be seen in the area until natural weather conditions put the fire out. Refuge personnel will continue to monitor the fire from aircraft and may return to the fire on foot to do more onsite data gathering.

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

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