



United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Refuge Announces Full Opening to Snowmachine Use

Refuge Manager Andy Loranger today announced the opening of all areas of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge traditionally open to snow machining, effective immediately. "We've received some additional snowfall on the eastern portion of the Refuge north of the Kenai River, allowing us to open this area," said Loranger.

Areas always closed to snowmachine use include the Headquarters tract on Ski Hill Road, Skilak Loop Special Management Area, Swanson River and Swan Lake Canoe Systems, Wolf Lake pipeline corridor, and all areas above timberline except in the Caribou Hills. The attached map indicates open and closed areas, but users are encouraged to contact the Refuge Headquarters if unsure of boundaries.

The Refuge is asking all snowmachine users to be respectful of their surroundings and avoid the few areas that still have insufficient snow accumulation. Users should also try to avoid moose and other wildlife whenever possible.

The Refuge advises that snowmachine users exercise caution, especially on lakes, rivers and streams which may not yet be sufficiently frozen. In addition, rocks and tree stumps can be hazardous in areas of less snow accumulation. For more information, please contact Refuge Headquarters at (907) 262-7021, online at <http://kenai.fws.gov> or visit the Refuge Headquarters on Ski Hill Road in Soldotna.

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