



United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

11941jps

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NEW RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Forested Area Near Russian River Ferry Closed; Fishing, Camping, and Ferry Operations at the Russian-Kenai River Confluence Remain Open and Are Not Changed by the Closure

Deputy Refuge Manager, Stephen Miller, of Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) announced today that a temporary closure of all public entry is in effect in the forested area on the north side of Kenai River near the Kenai-Russian River Ferry. Access to fishing and fishing along the banks of the Kenai River remain open. The closure has been enacted due to heightened bear activity in the immediate area.

The closed area encompasses approximately 29 acres near the Russian River Ferry. Specifically, the closure is in effect for:

All areas beginning at the Russian River Ferry entrance road and parking lot, downstream along the Kenai River to Lover's Rock adjacent to the Sterling Highway, then east on the Sterling Highway to the point of beginning. The closure includes all lands in the described area greater than 25 feet from the Kenai River.

The confluence of the Russian and Kenai Rivers is one of the most popular sport fisheries in Alaska. The goals of this closure are to reduce human/bear conflict and minimize the risk of harm to people and bears. Sows with cubs have been observed using the wooded area. Persons who enter the closed area are subject to apprehension and citations by Refuge Officers or other law enforcement personnel in the area.

The closure will remain in effect until July 21, 2011, unless rescinded earlier or extended for cause.

Anglers are reminded to please take fish out whole, or “STOP, CHOP, and THROW”. This simple action of breaking or chopping and tossing fish waste into deep, fast flowing waters will reduce fish waste that wash up on the riverbanks and attract bears.

For more information, contact Janet Schmidt, Supervisory Park Ranger, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, 907-398-9616; or visit <http://kenai.fws.gov/current.htm>.

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. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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