

KODIAK

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

LAND PROTECTION PLAN

Options for the protection
of fish & wildlife habitats



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U.S. Department of the Interior
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DRAFT

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A. Land Status

1. Land status of Kodiak Refuge as of January 1992.
2. Map - Small conveyed parcels.
3. Map - Native corporation lands.

B. Wildlife Resources

1. Sitka black-tailed deer population densities and Native corporation lands.
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3. Coho salmon spawning distribution and Native corporation lands.
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LAND PROTECTION PLAN

KODIAK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

INTRODUCTION

This land protection plan (LPP) was developed to identify minimum levels of protection necessary to preserve the high quality wildlife habitat found on, and in the vicinity of, private lands within the boundaries of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. The guiding principle of the LPP is to protect the resource integrity of the Kodiak Refuge area and to ensure the refuge remains consistent with the stated purposes for which it was created. This plan presents a combination of alternative actions to protect wildlife resources and other natural values on and around these private lands, or inholdings, within the refuge.

► Kodiak Refuge covers two-thirds of Kodiak Island ◀

Kodiak Refuge encompasses about two-thirds of Kodiak Island, all of Uganik and Ban Islands, and part of Afognak Island in southwestern Alaska (Figure 1). The islands, part of the Kodiak Archipelago, lie at the western border of the Gulf of Alaska in the Pacific Ocean. The approximately 30-mile wide Shelikof Strait separates Kodiak Island from the base of the Alaska Peninsula. The city of Kodiak is about 250 air miles from Anchorage and about 21 miles northeast of the refuge boundary.

I. PURPOSE

► Interspersed federal-private land ownership complicates refuge management ◀

Private landowners have title or active claims to nearly 470,000 acres, or nearly 30 percent, of the land within the Kodiak Refuge. This land is interspersed among refuge lands creating a mixed pattern of ownership. These mixed-ownership areas have been difficult to manage and limit the effectiveness of certain refuge objectives, e.g., preserving natural integrity. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to work with private landowners to preserve wildlife resources and ease management difficulties. The Service will only pursue working with landowners who are willing cooperators. Protection options include the following: cooperative agreement, lease, conservation easement, donation, exchange, or acquisition by purchase.

► Objectives of the LPP ◀

The primary goal of this LPP is to inform private landowners what land within refuge boundaries the Service would like to see protected for wildlife. To meet this goal the