



U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Volume 1 *Kenai National Wildlife Refuge*





U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission Statement

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.



National Wildlife Refuge Mission Statement

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

—National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

The comprehensive conservation plan details program planning levels that are substantially greater than current budget allocations and, as such, is for strategic planning and program prioritization purposes only. This plan does not constitute a commitment for staffing increases or funding for future refuge-specific land acquisitions, construction projects, or operational and maintenance increases.

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Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Volume 1 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Region 7

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Dear Reader:

This Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (Plan) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge will guide management of the Refuge for the next 15 years. This Plan revises the Refuge's original comprehensive conservation plan completed in 1985. It outlines five management alternatives, including our preferred alternative, addresses management issues raised during public scoping, and presents our evaluation of the impacts associated with implementing each alternative.

This Plan has been published in two volumes. Volume 1 contains the background, issues, and analysis. Volume 2 contains the supporting appendices.

This Plan incorporates changes based on comments received on the Draft Plan. Those comments and our responses are presented in Volume 2, Appendix D. Most comments required only that we clarify or make minor corrections to the text. Others were more involved. For example, Objective 2.9 was re-written to remove the population objectives for Dall sheep and mountain goats in response to concerns expressed by the State of Alaska. Another change was to propose a change in regulations to allow the Refuge Manager to grant special use permits, for airplane access to normally closed lakes, to successful applicants in the State's limited drawing hunt program.

Most people will be unaffected by changes in Refuge management. For example, there will be no changes to how dog mushing activities can be performed on the Refuge.

Public involvement in the planning process is essential for development of an effective plan. While there will be no formal public review of this final Plan and EIS, comments on the plan will be considered until September 28, 2009. Comments should be specific, addressing merits of the alternatives and adequacy of the analysis. We will consider these comments as we prepare the Record of Decision. The Record of Decision will complete the comprehensive conservation planning process for Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

You may view the Plan or a Summary of the Plan online at:

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/planning/plans.htm> or obtain a compact disk with both versions.

Comments and requests for copies of the Plan, the Summary, or a compact disk with both should be directed to:

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*Thank you for participating in our planning process!
Your comments will help us prepare a better plan for the future of Kenai Refuge.*

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