Inholders

Some past, current and future inholders may pose possible contamination threats to the refuge. Inholders are entities who privately own land within the boundaries of a federal preserve, such as a National Wildlife Refuge. This section will examine possible contamination issues posed by inholders.

Some of the items found at the Caribou Island inholding included a 500-pound transformer, improperly stored drums of unknown substances and an extensive uncovered trough containing petroleum products.

Caribou Island Inholding

One inholding of particular concern was the Caribou Island inholding. Some of the items found at this inholding included a 500-pound transformer, improperly stored drums of unknown substances and an extensive uncovered trough containing petroleum products. According to the ADEC, the transformer was not a PCB-containing transformer, and therefore PCBs were never sampled for on the property. In 1991 this site was added to the ADEC contaminated sites database (ADEC spill number 1991230117202), and the ADEC utilized emergency funds for contaminant removal and cleanup to prevent chemicals from entering Skilak Lake.

Native Corporation Inholdings and Other Inholdings

With the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971 and ANILCA in 1980, Native Corporations acquired thousands of acres of refuge land, including subsurface mineral rights (Figure 12). These lands currently remain within the refuge boundaries. Additionally, some of these native conveyed lands border refuge lands designated as Wilderness.

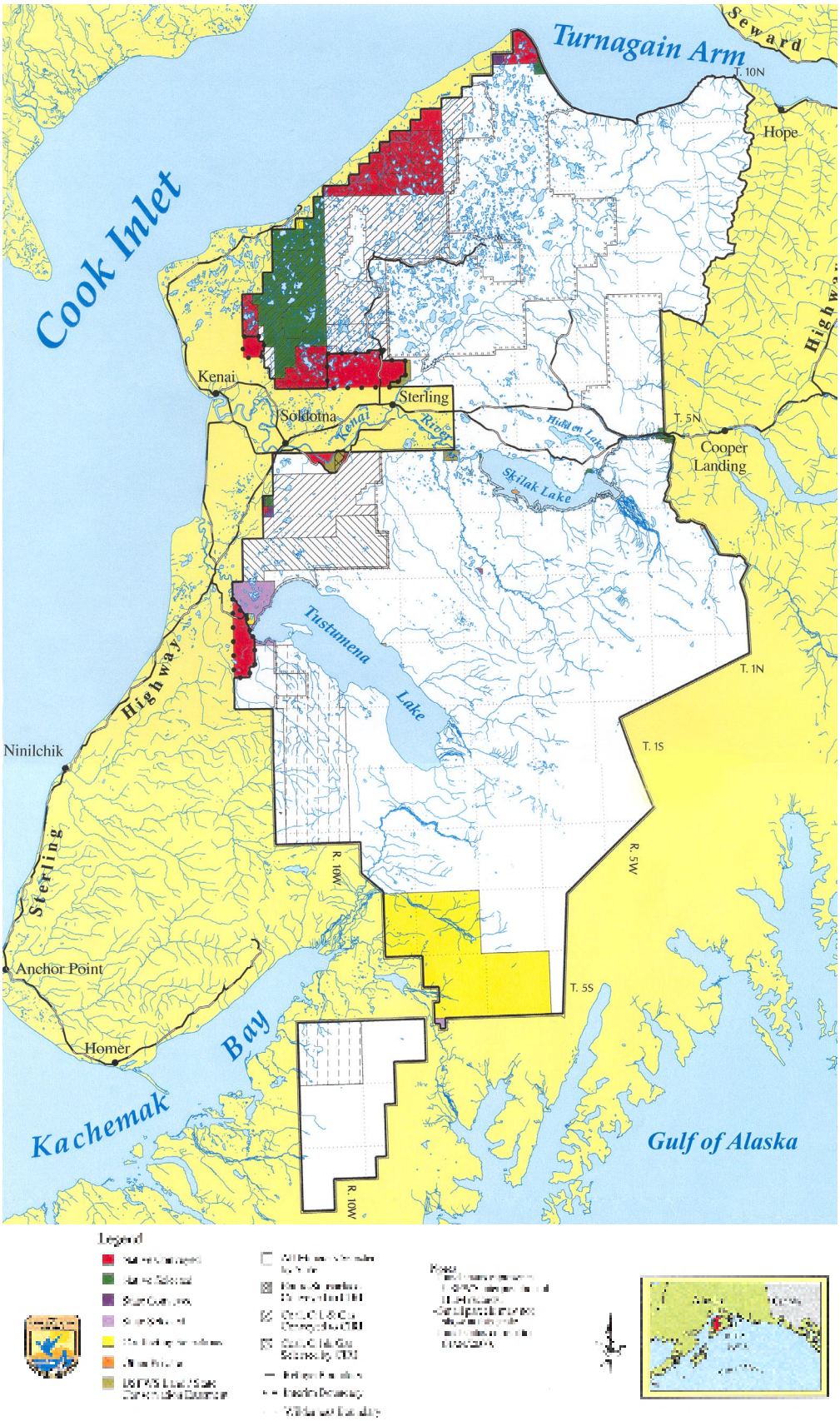
The State of Alaska also has inholdings on the refuge that include subsurface mineral rights. Additionally, there are some other private inholders within the refuge.

Please note that refuge land status has changed several times and likely will continue to change in the future. For the most recent land status, please contact the USFWS Division of Reality in Anchorage, Alaska at (907) 786-3490.

Summary: Inholders

Inholder activities will continue within the refuge boundaries, and it is plausible that contamination events from inholder activities may threaten refuge lands. Development at inholdings likely will impact the refuge, especially if natural resource extraction occurs.

Figure 12. Generalized Land Status of Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.



USFWS, Region 7 Division of Realty.