

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON ALASKA WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

A proposal to designate approximately 1,040,000 acres within the Kenai National Moose Range on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System will be discussed at public hearings in Anchorage and Kenai in June, the Interior Department announced today.

The 1,730,000-acre range has varied physical and wildlife resources. In addition to the moose that gave it its name, Dall sheep, mountain goats, black bear, brown bear, wolves, and other animals live in the range's mountains, forests, and foothills. Water areas harbor many birds including trumpeter swans and provide spawning habitat for millions of salmon and trout.

Wilderness designation would preserve specialized habitat for wildlife requiring it. Recreation compatible with wilderness status, such as canoeing, hiking, fishing, hunting, and skiing, would be permitted.

A map and other information about the Kenai wilderness proposal is available from the Refuge Manager, Kenai National Moose Range, Box 500, Kenai, Alaska 99611, or the Alaska Area Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, 6917 Seward Highway, Anchorage, Alaska 99502.

Oral or written statements may be submitted at the hearing or written comments can be sent to the Alaska Area Director by July 26, 1971, when the hearing record will be closed.

The Anchorage hearing will be at Sidney Lawrence Auditorium on June 23; the Kenai hearing will be at Central High School Auditorium on June 25. Notice of these hearings was published in the Federal Register on April 22.