



United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Refuge Announces Opening to Snowmachine Use

Refuge Manager Andy Loranger today announced the opening of all areas of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge traditionally open to snow machining. “Areas throughout the Kenai Peninsula received significant snowfall on Christmas Day, allowing us to open the entire refuge effective immediately”, said Loranger.

Areas always closed to snowmachine use include the Headquarters tract on Ski Hill Road, Skilak Loop Special Management Area, Swanson River and Swan Lake Canoe Systems, Wolf Lake pipeline corridor, and all areas above timberline except in the Caribou Hills. The attached map indicates open and closed areas, but users are encouraged to contact the Refuge Headquarters if unsure of boundaries.

The Refuge asks all snowmachine users to be respectful of their surroundings and avoid any windblown areas that have insufficient snow accumulation. Users should also try to avoid moose and other wildlife whenever possible.

The Refuge also advises that snowmachine users exercise caution on lakes, rivers and streams which may not yet be sufficiently frozen or have substantial overflow. For more information, please contact Refuge Headquarters at (907) 262-7021, online at <http://kenai.fws.gov> or visit the Refuge Headquarters on Ski Hill Road in Soldotna.

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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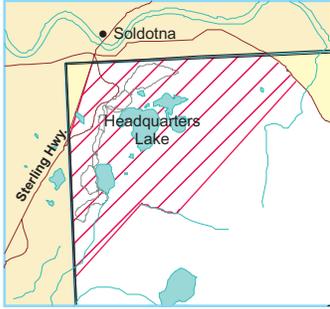


Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Snowmobile Map

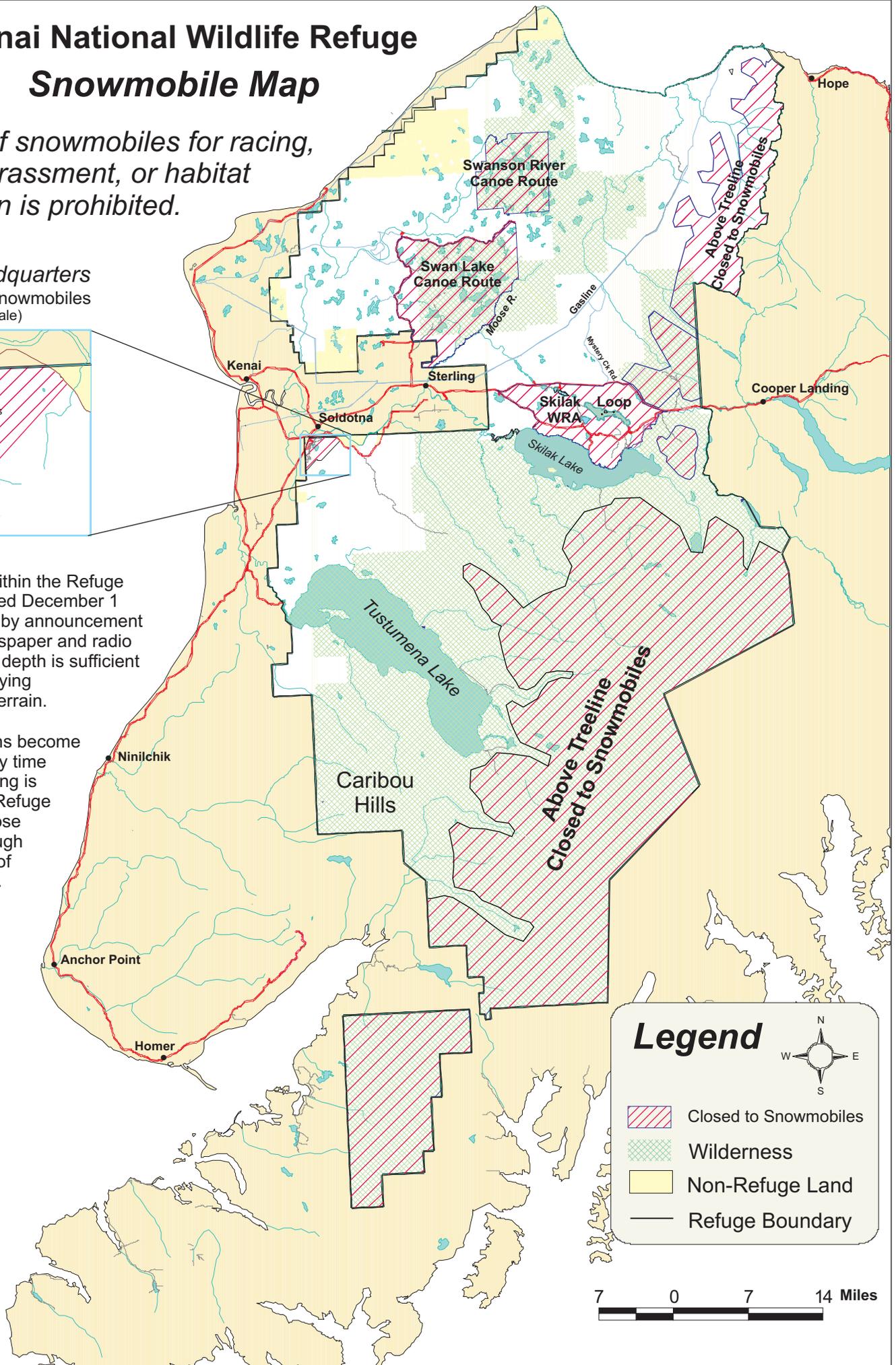
The use of snowmobiles for racing, wildlife harassment, or habitat destruction is prohibited.

Refuge Headquarters
Area closed to snowmobiles
(Not to scale)



Snowmobiling within the Refuge may be authorized December 1 through April 30 by announcement through the newspaper and radio only when snow depth is sufficient to protect underlying vegetation and terrain.

If snow conditions become insufficient at any time after snowmobiling is authorized, the Refuge Manager can close the season through the same types of announcements.



Legend

- Closed to Snowmobiles
- Wilderness
- Non-Refuge Land
- Refuge Boundary

