



# United States Department of the Interior

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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: USFWS and ADF&G Recover Brown Bear Involved in Mauling on Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

(SOLDOTNA) – A brown bear involved in the September 22 mauling of a Texas man on Kenai National Wildlife Refuge near Doroshin Bay on Skilak Lake has been found dead by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Wildlife Officers and Alaska Department of Fish and Game personnel investigating the incident.

Gregory Matthews of Plano, Texas, was mauled at approximately 6 p.m. on September 22 after encountering a brown bear while moose hunting with his brother. Matthews was flown to Central Peninsula Hospital in Soldotna where he is recovering.

Matthews told Alaska State Troopers that the bear was accompanied by two large cubs and that it charged when he shouted to announce his presence. Matthews reported firing his rifle once at the bear during the attack, while his brother, Roger, fired multiple times while coming to Gregory's aid.

The bear, an adult female, was recovered on Wednesday afternoon, September 23. It had been mortally wounded and was found dead approximately 100 yards from the site of the attack.

The cubs were not located on Wednesday. It was determined that the adult bear had not been actively nursing, suggesting that the cubs were at least yearlings and possibly 2 or 3 years old. Salvageable parts of the animal were collected for future use by the Department of Fish and Game. Under the state's defense of life or property regulations a report will be filed within two weeks, allowing staff to complete investigation of the incident.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service posted the area to inform recreational users of the incident. The area remains open, including the Refuge's Doroshin Bay public use cabin.

*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](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usfws](http://www.facebook.com/usfws), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwshq](http://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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