PUBLIC HEARING
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pursuant to federal regulations at 50 CFR 36.42, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will hold public hearings to provide notice of and information on the October 26, 2013 emergency closure of sport hunting for brown bear on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. The closure was implemented as a conservation measure, because total human-caused mortalities of brown bears, including adult female brown bears, on the Refuge and on the Kenai Peninsula as a whole during 2013 exceeded sustainable levels.

Copies of the Notice of Emergency Closure are available at Refuge Headquarters, Ski Hill Road, Soldotna, Alaska and may also be obtained by contacting the Refuge at 907-262-7021. The Notice of Emergency Closure and an accompanying News Release are also available electronically at

http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/13-5018%20Kenai%20Brown%20Bear%20Closure%20(1)(1).pdf

The public hearings will be held from 6-9 pm on Thursday November 21, 2013 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska and from 6-9 pm on Monday, November 25 at the Gilman River Center, 514 Funny River Road, Soldotna, Alaska. The public may provide written or oral comments in person between 6 and 9 pm at the hearings. In addition, written comments will be accepted until December 13, 2013. Written comments may be submitted by mail to: Refuge Manager, P.O. Box 2139, Soldotna, AK 99669; by fax to 907-262-3599 (attention Refuge Manager), or by email to kenai@fws.gov. For additional information, contact the Refuge at 907-262-7021.

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