

# Take Refuge

Fire recovery,  
morels and  
heavy visitation  
define  
Kenai Refuge's  
2020 summer

Presented by Rangers  
Matt Conner  
and Leah Eskelin





2019 Swan Lake Fire



This story map is best viewed on a desktop computer using google chrome.  
For viewing on smartphones/tablets, follow the on screen instructions for navigating through the story map.



Swan Lake Fire, June 7, 2019

# Swan Lake Fire at a Glance

*\*statistics current as of October 28, 2019*



Reported **June 5, 2019**  
**6:52 p.m.** (AKDT)



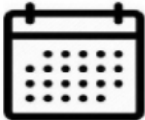
**167,182** acres  
(261.2 miles<sup>2</sup>)



Caused by **Lightning**



**Lat: 60° 37' 50"**  
**Long: 150° 26' 16"**  
5 miles NE of Sterling, AK



**146** days



**3000+** personnel



**~ \$48,715,000**



**11** injuries/illnesses



**5,000,000+** gallons of water



**115,000+** gallons of fire retardant



**65+** miles of fire hose



**51** miles of dozer line

# 2020

“2020 should be smooth sailing compared to 2019.”

- Ranger Matt, December 2019

- 10-11 weeks of overcapacity campground visitation in Skilak Wildlife Recreation Area and Swanson and Swan lake units.
- Trailhead parking lots were full with multiple cars parked on Skilak road around.
- Increased bear activity in campgrounds requiring law enforcement assistance in hazing and behavior management.





QUIZ!!! Where on the refuge is this??



Bottenintnin Lake Day Use Area



# Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)

- Skilak Road cleared of downed trees multiple times
- Kelly/Peterson Lake campgrounds
- Skyline trailhead and parking area
- Jean Lake campground
- Jims' Landing overflow parking
- Jims' Landing
- Kenai River trailhead and parking areas (east and west)
- Lower Ohmer Campground



- Hideout trailhead and parking area
- Pothole Lake Fire pullout
- Engineer Lake campground
- Engineer Lake Overlook
- Skilak Road RV dump station
- Lower Skilak Campground and parking area.







“Not Teleworking”





SKYLINE TRAIL –Trail Length: 1.97 Miles  
Affected Area: 1.3 Miles

















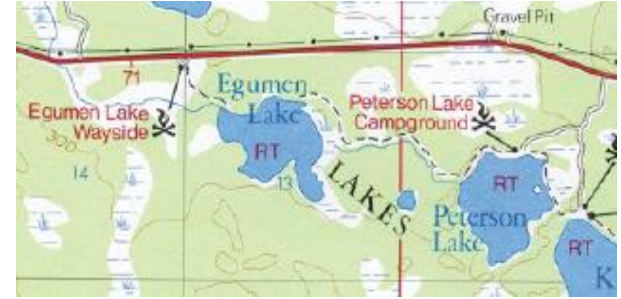








# EGUMEN LAKE TRAIL –Trail Length: .03 Miles Affected Area: .03 Miles





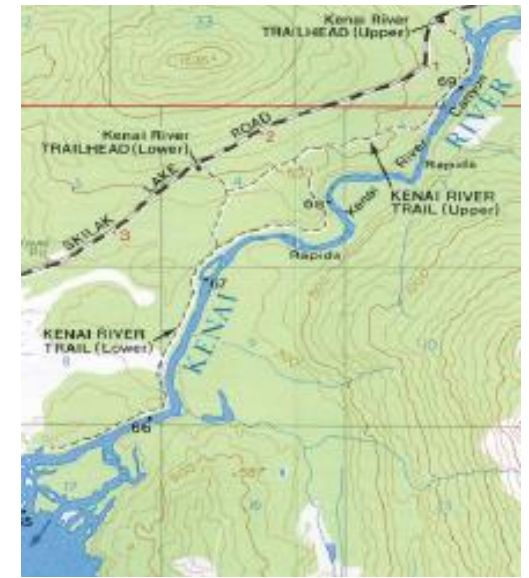




# KENAI RIVER TRAIL –

Trail Length: Upper 3.48 Miles

Lower 1.86 Miles Affected Area: 4.5 Miles













## FULLER LAKES

Trail Length: 2.4 Miles

Affected Area: .75 Miles





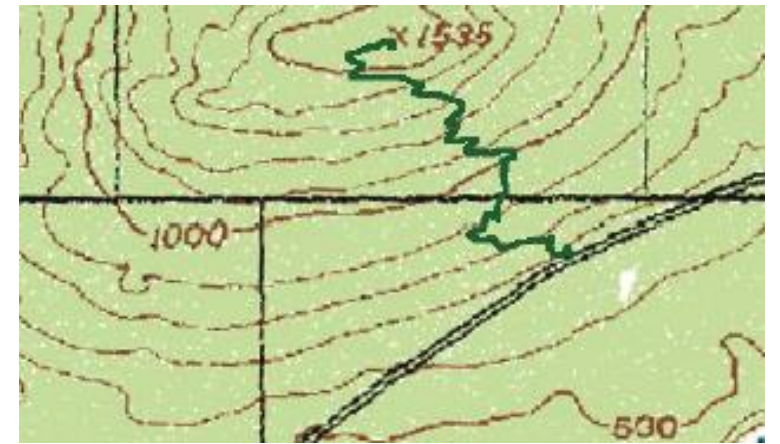




# HIDEOUT TRAIL

Trail Length: 1.05 Miles

Affected Area: .75 Miles













## SEVEN LAKES TRAIL

Trail Length: 5.23 Miles

Affected Area: 4.4 Miles



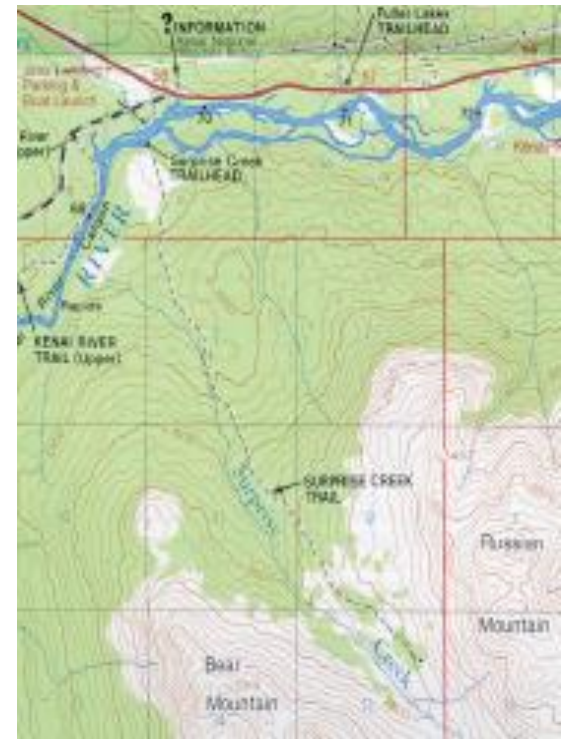
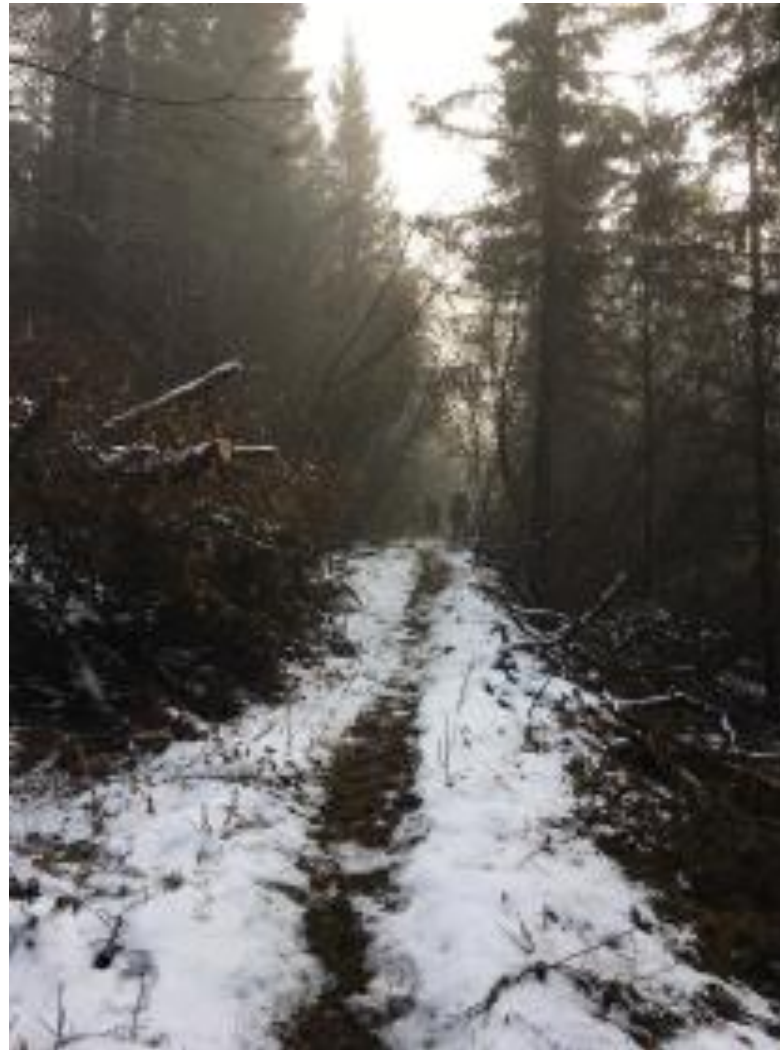






# SURPRISE CREEK TRAIL

Trail Length 3.03 Miles  
Affected Area: 3.03 Miles




























A video

# MORELS

AFTER THE SWAN LAKE FIRE

**TUESDAY, MAY 12 • 7PM**

LIVE ON KPBA ALERTS ON FACEBOOK





# Recreate Responsibly

to help stop the spread of COVID-19

**Give everyone space.**



stay 1 rod length away from other people

**Wash your hands often.**



Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer here.

**Keep your gear close.**



from belongings



from fish stringers

**Special bear safety regulations are in effect.**

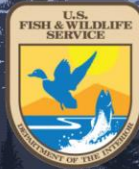
**Pack out your trash.**



Be prepared for limited, or no access to restrooms.

**Follow COVID-19 CDC Guidance and State of Alaska Health Mandates**

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)  
[covid19.alaska.gov](https://covid19.alaska.gov)



This is an **ERMINE**.  
Ermine like to live **ALONE**. They live in **UNDERGROUND** burrows. Their territories can be as large as **49 ACRES**. Be like the ermine and **PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Just don't go around immobilizing prey with your mouth. That would be super weird.



**SERIOUSLY, though...**

please help everyone stay safe by:

- giving others **SPACE**
- choosing **LESS CROWDED** trails
- **CLEANING** hands often
- packing **TRASH** out with you















**ALASKA WILDERNES**  
Adventure into Wilderness on Kenai National  
federally-protected public land





# Bring on 2021!

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