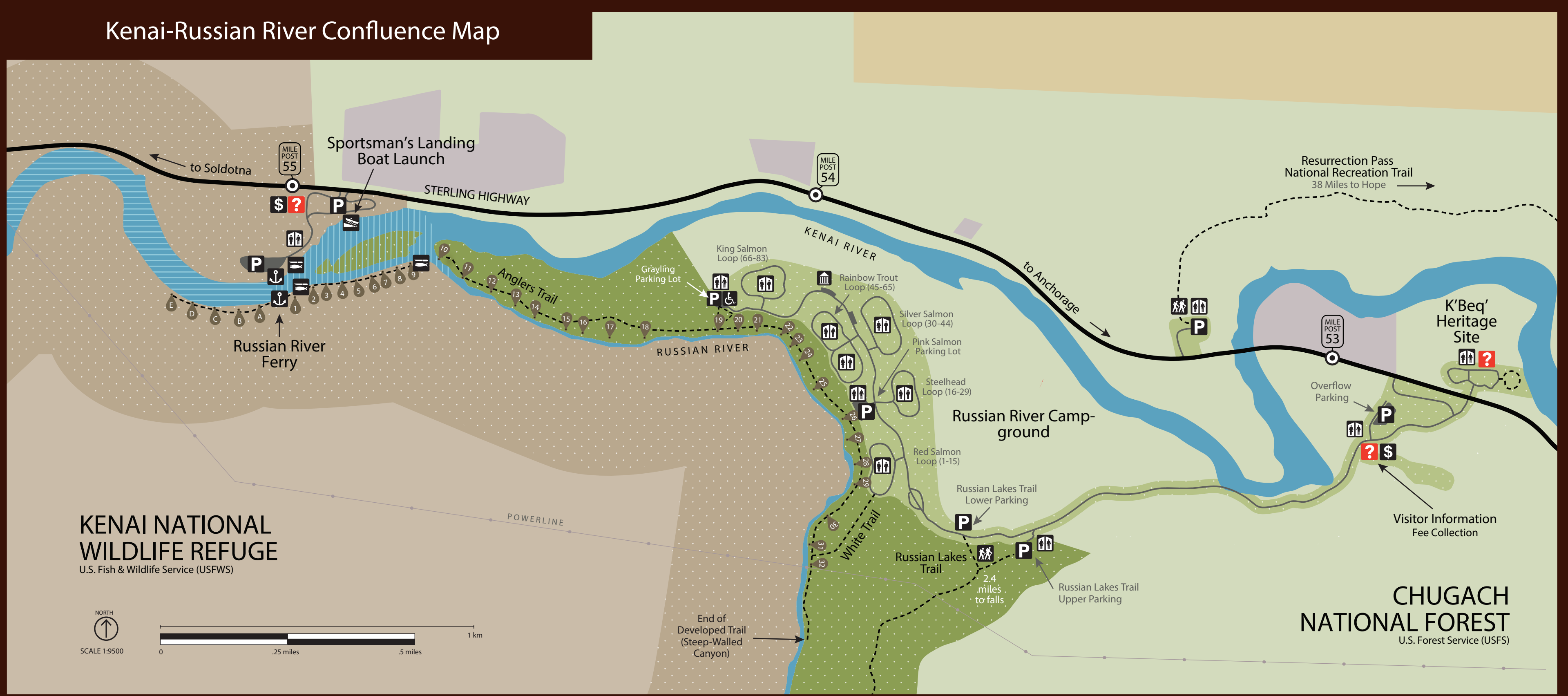


Kenai-Russian River Confluence Map



LEGEND

	Visitor Information		Chugach National Forest
	Restroom		Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
	Parking Lot		State of Alaska
	Russian River Ferry		Private Land
	Boat Launch		Sterling Highway
	Fish Cleaning Stations		Paved Road
	Fish Weir		Trail
	Cabin		Waterfall
	Accessible		Powerline
	Waterfall		River Access Points
	Fee Collection		
	Pavilion		

- REGULATIONS IN EFFECT
- Forest Service Food Storage Order for Developed Rec Sites—36 CFR 261.58. All attractants, including food and refuse, must be properly stored. See order for more information.
  - Forest Service Food Storage Order for Russian River and Angler Trail—36 CFR 261.50 (a). Attractants, including coolers and backpacks, must be within 3 ft. of you or acceptably stored in a hard-sided camper or vehicle. Retained fish must be within 12 ft. of you. Pets must be leashed.
  - USFWS Weapons Discharge, Food Storage, and Retained Fish Regulations—50 CFR 36.39(i)(5) & (11). Attractants, including coolers and backpacks, must be within 3 ft. of you. Retained fish must be within 12 ft. of you. Overnight camping and campfires prohibited except in designated areas. Discharge of firearms prohibited except in defense of life and property. Pets must be leashed.
  - ADF&G Kenai & Russian Rivers Confluence Sanctuary. Closed to all fishing from May 1st thru July 14th. From July 15th thru August 20th these waters are fly fishing only. See Sport Fishing Regulations for complete information. See Emergency Orders and News Releases for any early openings.
  - ADF&G Kenai River Sanctuary. Closed to all fishing from May 1st thru June 10th. From June 11th thru August 20th these waters are fly fishing only. See Sport Fishing Regulations for complete information. See Emergency Orders and News Releases for any early openings.
  - ADF&G Russian River Hunting Closure. Closed to hunting in June and July. See applicable Game Management Units 7 & 15 hunting regulations for more information.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Russian River Campground

The campground is operated by a private concessionaire under a permit with the USDA Forest Service. It consists of 83 campsites and 130 day-use parking spaces. The campground is open with full service from May through September with 24-hour operation at the visitor station. Comply with all campground rules and regulations to ensure a safe experience for everyone.

Russian River Ferry and Sportsman's Landing Boat Launch

The Russian River Ferry and Sportsman's Landing Boat Launch are operated by a private concessionaire, under a contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The ferry transports anglers across the Kenai River using the power of the current and a cable system.

Sportsman's Landing Boat Launch provides access to the Kenai River. Only non-motorized boats are allowed on this section of the river. 11AAC 20.865.



SPECIAL REGULATIONS IN EFFECT!

- ALL attractants and equipment used to cook and store food must be stored in a bear-resistant container, enclosed in a hard-sided camper or stored in your vehicle.
- On the river, all personal items such as backpacks must be within 3 feet of you (preferably on you).
- Stringers of fish must be kept within 12 feet of you.
- Pets must be leashed at all times.
- Discharging a firearm is prohibited except in defense of life or property. No warning shots. No hunting.

Failure to comply with these regulations is subject to citation. 50 CFR 36.39(i) (5) & (11) and 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and 36 CFR 261.10 (d). Fines up to \$3,000.

BEAR SAFETY BASICS



This area is NOT managed for bear viewing. Don't approach or follow bears, or behave in other ways that cause conflicts between people and bears.

Bears in Alaska have only a short season to find enough food to survive the winter. Both black and brown bears can be seen fishing in the rivers, resting on the banks, traveling along the trails and boardwalks and meandering through the campground.

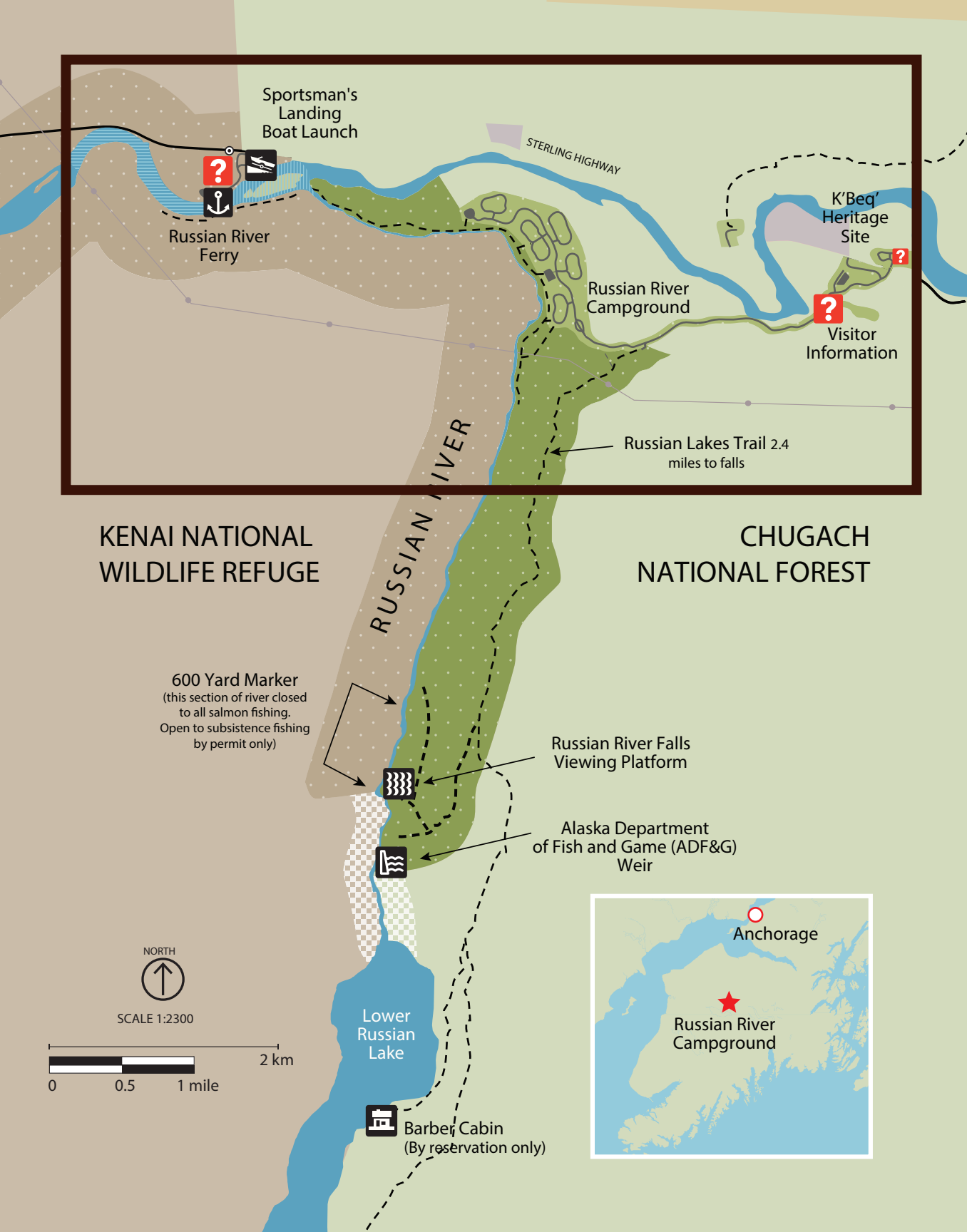
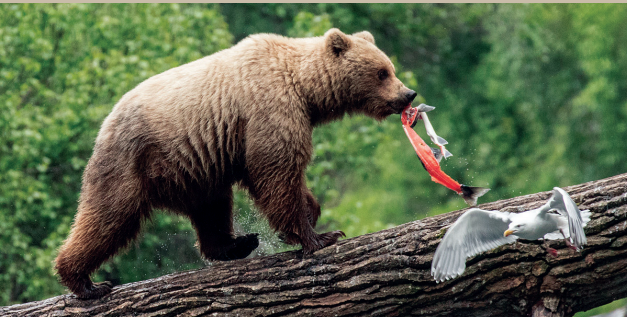
Recreating in proximity to wild animals including moose and bears carries an inherent risk. Your safety is your own responsibility.



- For All Visitors
- Stay on trails and make noise to prevent surprise encounters.
  - Do not run from bears. Running could trigger a pursuit.
  - Stay in a group and keep children close.
  - Carry accessible bear spray and be prepared to use it.
  - Follow all regulations at all times. They are designed to protect you, your family, and the bears.
  - Immediately report all bear encounters to agency staff.

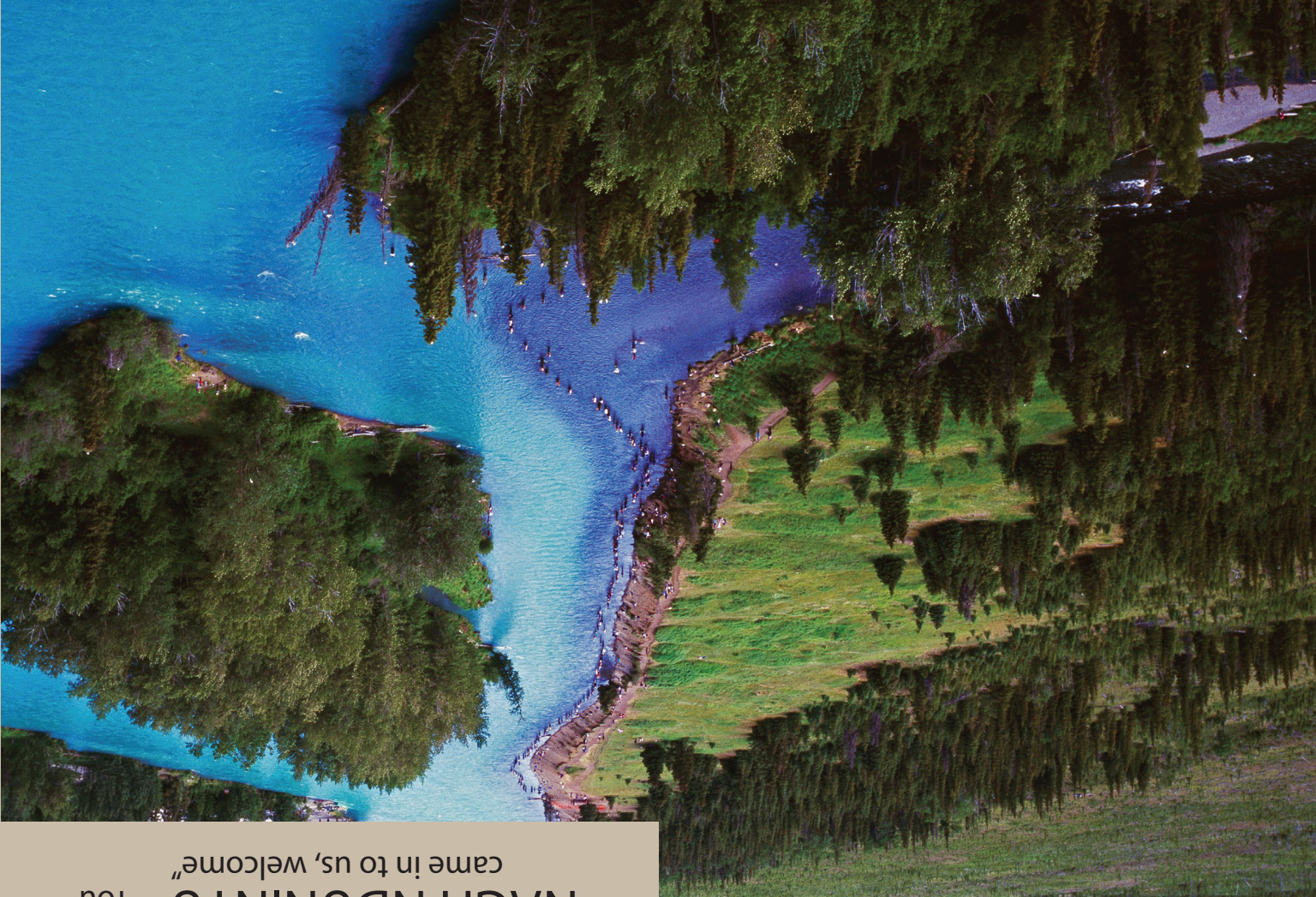
- For Anglers
- If a bear approaches while you are reeling in a fish, cut the line. Do not let a bear get a fish from your line.
  - Don't let bears get an easy meal of fish waste. Carry your catch out whole, or chop your fish waste into small pieces and throw them in fast-moving water.

- For Campers
- Keep a clean camp. Store all attractants in bear resistant containers or your vehicle.



Overview Map





“NAGH NDUNINYU” “You came in to us, welcome”



The Denaina people have lived in this region, known as Sqilantnu (Ridge Place River), for thousands of years. It remains an important site for present-day Alaskans. Whether your visit includes connecting with nature, or harvesting food, we hope you enjoy your stay, and join us in respecting the cultural and natural resources. Chiqinik (Thank you!)

to the Kenai and Russian Rivers!

The Kenai-Russian River Confluence lies 10 miles south of Anchorage and 40 miles east of Soldotna, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. This unique area combines world-class fishing opportunities, important cultural heritage sites, and spectacular scenery.

Each year, over 150,000 people visit the Russian River Campground, Ferry Access Site, Sportsman's Boat Launch, Russian River Falls, Russian Lakes Trail and K'Beq' Heritage Site.



- Stay on established trails and respect signs and habitat fencing. Enter and exit the river at the access points.
- Pack it in, pack it out! Do not litter.
- Plan ahead for bathroom needs. There are no restrooms along the river or at the falls.
- Recycle monoflament line in collection tubes along the river—this helps prevent wildlife entanglement.
- Build campfires only within designated fire rings.
- Volunteer with Stream Watch. This award-winning volunteer program helps management agencies safeguard rivers through stewardship projects and peer-to-peer education. Find more information at [www.kenaiwatershed.org/streamwatch](http://www.kenaiwatershed.org/streamwatch).

## RIVER STEWARDSHIP

Although the river banks may look green and lush today, in the early 1990's, they were eroded by heavy foot traffic. Only through costly restoration projects, dedicated volunteer time, and careful management has the river returned to a healthy state.

## Help the Kenai and Russian Rivers Thrive

Each year, rivers absorb huge human impacts. Simple choices can make big differences—let's work together to sustain this area for future generations.



## GENERATIONS OF ANGLERS

### PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

**Cultural Heritage:**  
The Sqilantnu Archaeological District  
The Russian River (Chunuk'tnu) stretches 12 miles from its origin in the glacially-carved Kenai Mountains to its confluence with the Kenai River (Kahtnu). This area is rich with human stories and archeological sites dating back at least 9,000-11,000 years. The good land (Yaghanen) provided abundant natural resources which sustained ancient communities physically, spiritually, and culturally. Past generations left behind a complex of heritage sites, known as the Sqilantnu Archaeological District. This area includes at least four major cultural traditions: American Paleoarctic, Northern Archaic, Riverine Kachemak, and Dena'ina.



### Educating Future Generations: The K'Beq' Heritage Site

Directly across the road from the entrance to the Russian River Campground is the K'Beq' Heritage Site. K'Beq', meaning “footprints,” gives visitors a glimpse into traditional Dena'ina customs and culture. This site features informational signs, a boardwalk, and a gift shop. Tribal members and staff host interpretive walks and presentations to share traditions, stories and culture. Visitors can learn how past generations made a living by viewing artifacts, replicas and archeological sites. It is open four days a week, June through August. Admission is free.



“SQILANTNU”  
“Ridge Place River”

## A WEALTH OF FISH

All five species of Pacific salmon inhabit the Kenai-Russian River watershed: Chinook (king), coho (silver), sockeye (red), pink (humpy) and chum (dog). Dolly Varden char and rainbow trout also swim these waters.

The river's busiest fishery is sockeye salmon. Two distinct sockeye populations spawn here: an early run from mid-July to June until mid-July, and a late run from mid-July to late-August. Retention of sockeye salmon is legal from June 11th to August 20th.

Sport fishing in the Kenai and Russian Rivers is managed by the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). Anglers are required to have a State of Alaska Fishing license and obey all regulations and emergency orders. Information can be obtained online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov).

Below Russian River Falls, you may see anglers fishing for sockeye as part of a federally-managed subsistence fishery.



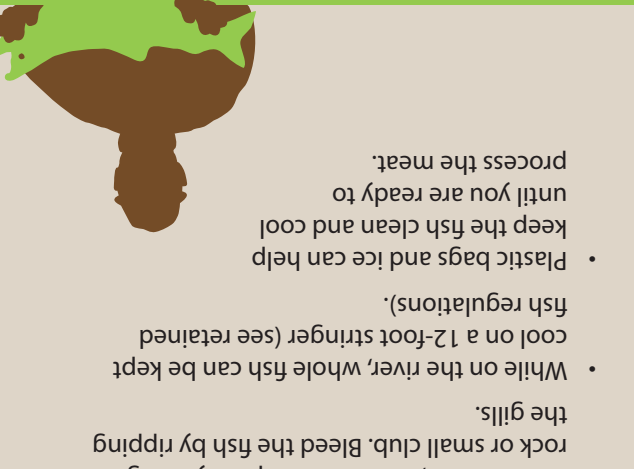
**Fish Waste Attracts Bears!**  
Bears eat fish heads, backbones, and other parts left behind from filleting. Reducing fish waste (and all human food sources) will help reduce bear-human conflicts.

- Keep em wet! Releasing a fish underwater increases its chances of survival and reproduction. If you want a photo, keep the fish out of the water for less than 10 seconds.
- Using barbless hooks and a rubber net makes it easier to release fish.
- Once landed, stun the fish quickly using a rock or small club. Bleed the fish by ripping the gills.
- While on the river, whole fish can be kept cool on a 12-foot stringer (see retained fish regulations).
- Plastic bags and ice can help keep the fish clean and cool until you are ready to process the meat.



### Treat Your Catch with Care

Salmon is one of the most nutritious foods in the world. By taking excellent care of your fish, you can look forward to many delicious meals.



- Remove fish whole and fillet it offsite. (Take it home or to a local commercial fish processor.)
- If you must fillet onsite, use the cleaning tables at the Kenai-Russian confluence, or at the ferry.
- After filleting, cut carcasses into many pieces and throw them into fast-moving currents.

For questions or more information about the Kenai-Russian River Confluence, please contact any of the following partner organizations:



Chugach National Forest,  
Seward Ranger District  
(907) 288-3178



Kenai National Wildlife Refuge  
(907) 260-2820



Alaska Department of  
Fish & Game, Soldotna Office  
(907) 262-9368



Alaska State Parks, Soldotna  
(907) 262-5581



Kenaitze Indian Tribe  
(907) 335-7200

Forest Service Alaska Region  
R10-RG-238 May 2018

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