

CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

Seward Ranger District

Order No. 10-04-30-20-07

FOREST ORDER

Russian River Area

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited on the Chugach National Forest in the Russian River area. These restrictions are in addition to those enumerated in Subpart A, Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 261, become effective when signed and will remain in effect until rescinded or revoked. This Order is in effect only during the following time period: May 1st through October 1st.

Prohibited Acts:

36 CFR 261.53 – Special Closures

Public Health and Safety [Title 36, CFR 261.53 (e)]

Possessing, transporting, or allowing entrance of pets; unless they are on a leash no greater than six (6) feet in length. This includes National Forest System lands within or partially within Sections 33 thru 35, T5N, R4W; Sections 4 and 9, T4N, R4W, SM as shown on Attachment A.

Public Health and Safety [Title 36, 261.53(e)]

To minimize the risk of potential harm to people and or property, discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property is prohibited except in cases that involve defense of life and property (DLP). This includes National Forest System lands within or partially within Sections 33 thru 35, T5N, R4W; Sections 4 and 9, T4N, R4W, SM as shown on Attachment A.

36 CFR 261.58 – Occupancy and Use

Possessing or storing any food or refuse, as specified by the order [Title 36, CFR 261.58 (cc)]

Leaving unattended wildlife attractants such as food, beverages, garbage, and equipment used to cook or store food (example: coolers/backpacks) unless it is acceptably stored in a vehicle, in a camping unit made of solid, non-pliable material, or retained and in no case more than 3 feet from the person. This includes National Forest System lands within or partially within Sections 33 thru 35, T5N, R4W; Sections 4 and 9, T4N, R4W, SM as shown on Attachment A.

Possessing, storing, or transporting any bird, fish, or animal parts thereof, as specified by the order [Title 36, CFR 261.58 (s)]

Leaving unattended any lawfully retained fish; unless it is closely attended which is no case more than 12 feet from the person. This includes National Forest System lands within or partially within Sections 33 thru 35, T5N, R4W; Sections 4 and 9, T4N, R4W, SM as shown on Attachment A.

Definitions:

- (1) **"Attractant"** means any substance, natural or man-made, including but not limited to items of food, beverage, personal hygiene, or odiferous refuse that may draw, entice, or otherwise cause a bear, or other wildlife to approach.
- (2) **"Food"** means any substance, solid or liquid, which is or may be eaten or otherwise taken into the body to sustain health or life, provide energy, or promote growth of any person or animal. Includes items such as soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, gum, candy, canned foods, pet foods, and all lawfully retained portions of processed fish meant for human consumption.
- (3) **"Acceptably stored"** means
 - a. Retained on the person or within the subject's immediate control, but in no case more than 3 feet from the place a person is located at the time in question; or
 - b. Located within the closed area of a motor vehicle such as a trunk or passenger compartment; or within a camper unit made of solid, non-pliable material.
 - c. Containment within a commercially produced and certified bear-resistant container.
- (4) **"Closely Attended"** means in no case more than 12 feet from the place a person is located at the time in question.
- (5) **"Possession"** means to have personal control.

- (6) **"DLP": 5 AAC 92.410. Taking game in defense of life or property**
 - a. Nothing in 5 AAC prohibits a person from taking game in defense of life or property if
 - (1) the necessity for the taking is not brought about by harassment or provocation of the animal, or by an unreasonable invasion of the animal's habitat;
 - (2) the necessity for the taking is not brought about by the improper disposal of garbage or a similar attractive nuisance; and
 - (3) all other practicable means to protect life and property are exhausted before the game is taken.
 - b. As used in this section, "property" means
 - (1) a dwelling, permanent or temporary;
 - (2) an aircraft, boat, automobile, or other conveyance;
 - (3) a domesticated animal;
 - (4) other property of substantial value necessary for the livelihood or survival of the owner

Exceptions:

Pursuant to Title 36 CFR 261.50 (e) the following are exempt from this order:

1. Any person with a permit authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Any Federal, State, or local law enforcement officer in the performance of an official duty.

/s/ Jeff Schramm

June 10, 2020

Jeff Schramm
Forest Supervisor
Chugach National Forest

Date

Executed in Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th day of June 2020.

Penalty:

Violations of these Prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months or both. [16 U.S.C. 551, and 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571]

Kenai-Russian River Confluence

For questions or more information about the Kenai-Russian River Confluence, please contact:



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

WELCOME

to the Kenai and Russian Rivers!

The Kenai-Russian River Confluence lies 110 miles south of Anchorage and 40 miles east of Soldotna, surrounded by the Chugach National Forest and 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' Cultural Site.

The Dena'ina 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 your culture, nature, or harvesting food, we hope you enjoy your stay, and join us in respecting the cultural and natural resources. Chiqinik (Thank you)!

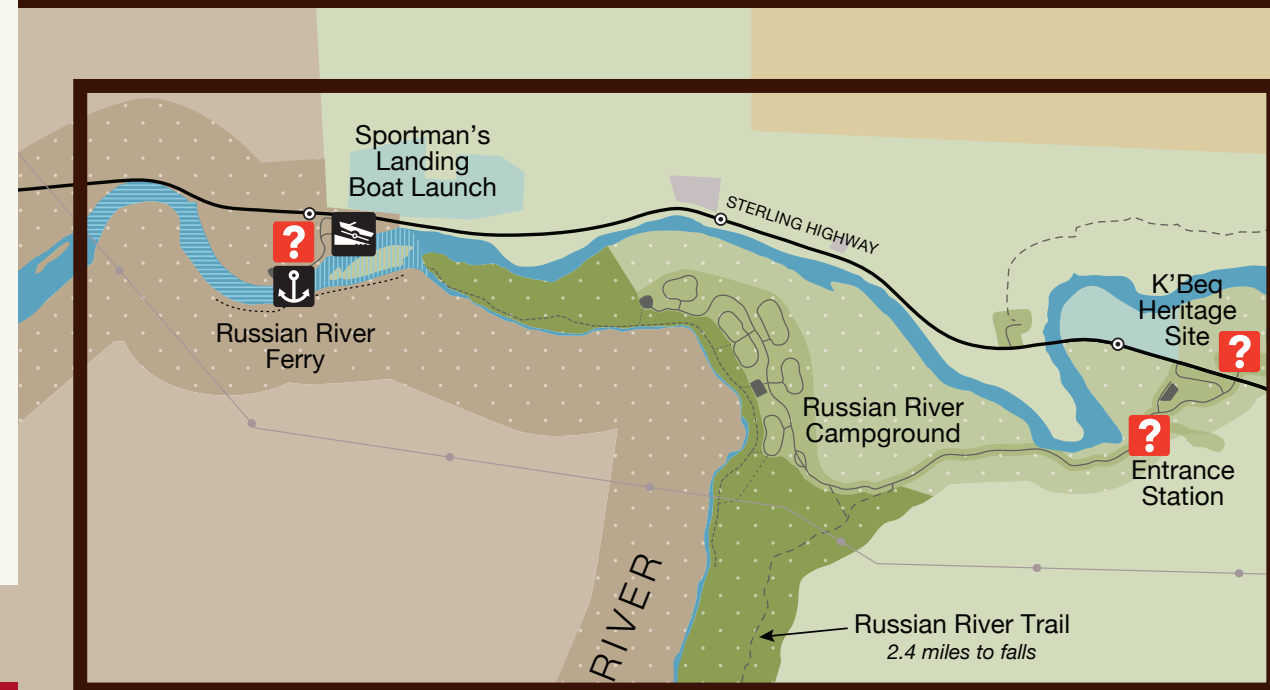
SPECIAL REGULATIONS IN EFFECT!

- 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).

Overview Map

Legend and regulations shown on other side of this flyer



ANGLER INFORMATION

Tips for Catch & Release

- If you're planning to release a fish, keep it underwater at all times—this increases its chance 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.

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.

- 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.

Fish Waste Attracts Bears!

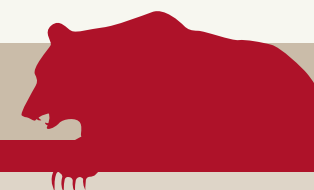
Bears eat fish heads, backbones, and other parts left behind from filleting. Reducing fish waste (and all human food sources) will help reduce bear-human conflicts.

- 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.

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.



BEAR SAFETY BASICS

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

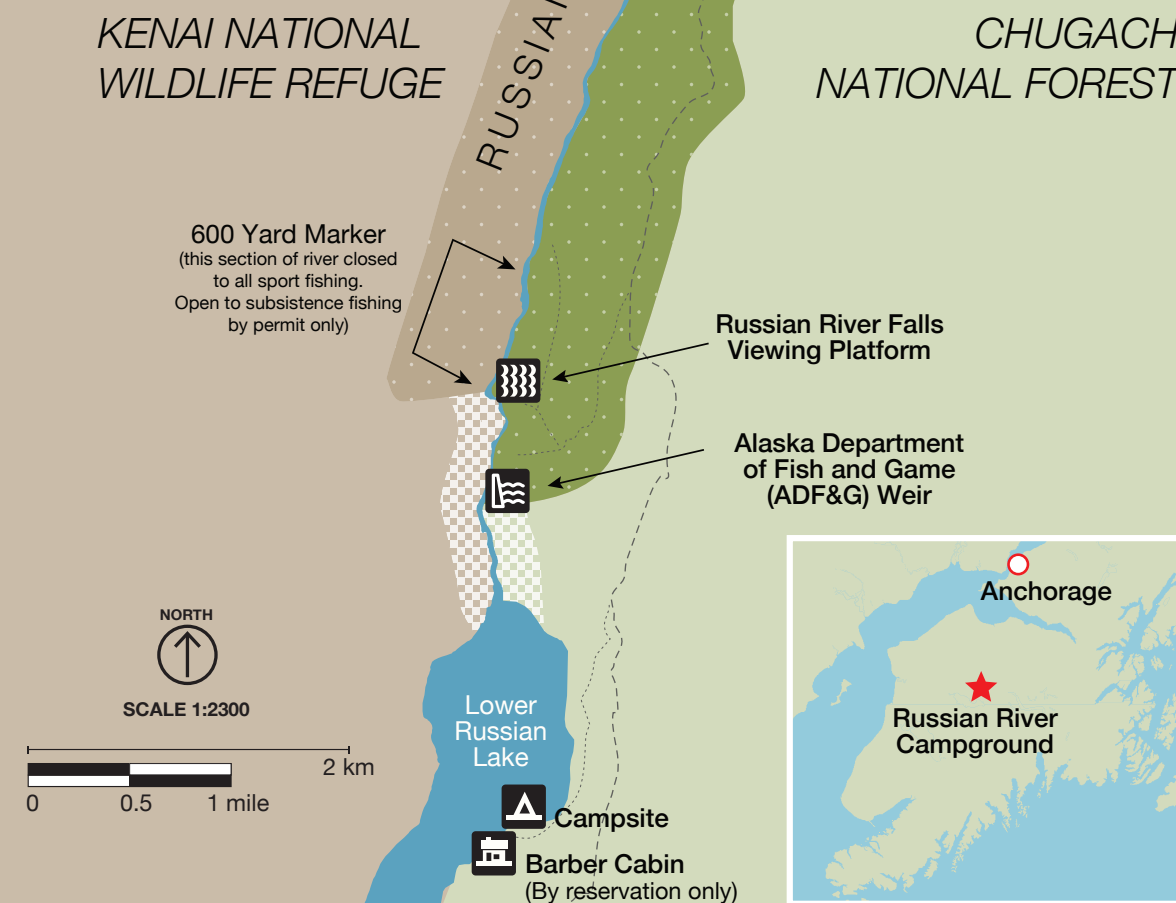
- If a bear approaches while you are reeling in a fish, cut the line. Do not let a bear get a fish from your line.
- Don't let bears get an easy meal of fish waste. Carry your catch out whole, or chop your fish waste into small pieces and throw them in fast-moving water.

For Campers

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

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST



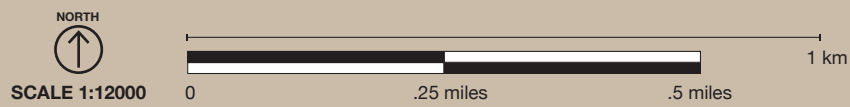
Kenai-Russian River Confluence Map

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.



KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)



LEGEND

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Russian River Ferry | Visitor Information | Parking Lot |
| Boat Launch | Fee Collection | Restroom |
| Fish Cleaning Stations | Chugach National Forest | Sterling Highway |
| Fish Weir | Kenai National Wildlife Refuge | Paved Road |
| Cabin | State of Alaska | Trail |
| Campsite | Cook Inlet Region Inc. | Angler's Trail |
| Waterfall | Private Land | Powerline |
| | | River Access Points |

REGULATIONS IN EFFECT

- Forest Service Weapons Discharge Order—36 CFR 261.10 (d).** Discharge of weapons/firearms prohibited except in defense of life or property.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. (Area not shown above, area shown on overview map on other side of flyer)