

## STATE REFUGES, ETC.

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=habitatoversight.specialareas>

Since statehood, the Alaska State Legislature has designated 32 special areas across Alaska encompassing more than 3.2 million acres. These special areas include 12 game refuges, 17 critical habitat areas, and 3 wildlife sanctuaries (see the [Special Areas Locator](#)). ADF&G co-manages these areas with the Department of Natural Resources. Within ADF&G, the Divisions of Habitat and Wildlife Conservation manage these areas according to specific statutory purposes generally related to conservation of fish, wildlife, their habitats, and the public uses of these resources. However, the legislature also recognized that other important uses of these lands exist and, in some cases, have specified allowable activities within these areas and have mandated that ADF&G develop management plans to guide the approval of activities and development so that they are conducted in a manner compatible with the purpose for each special area.

Currently, 17 of these special areas have management plans that guide the management of the area and the permitting of activities ([Special Area Permits](#)) that may occur within the area. Individual area management plans can be downloaded from each area's web page. Area pages can be accessed via the [Special Areas Locator](#). Hard copies of the existing plans are also available at ADF&G offices.

Two [state ranges](#) totaling 220,051 acres provide habitat protection for wildlife, primarily moose and bison. While the Alaska Department of Natural Resources remains the primary land manager of these areas, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game manages the wildlife and habitat within the ranges.

<http://alaska.gov/kids/learn/parks.htm>

With 1.6 million acres of land, **Wood-Tikchik State Park** is the largest state park in America and is patrolled by only one ranger...we call him the Lone Ranger! **Chugach State Park** is the third largest state park in America and its location next to Anchorage makes Anchorage the only large city in America with a 500,000 acre park as one of its boundaries. With 3.2 million acres, Alaska has the largest state park system in America. Most of Alaska's state parks are road accessible, so they get twice the visitation of the national parks in the state; however, some parks are periodically closed, so visitors should contact the [Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation](#) before planning their trip.

In addition to the 15 national parks, one wild river, and 120 state parks, (including recreation areas, and historic parks), Alaska is home to 16 national wildlife refuges and two national forests. In all, Alaska contains over 322 million acres of public lands.