

# Alaska Region (7) Overview

Federal wildlife management in Alaska, which would eventually become the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Region 7, began in 1869 with regulation of the state's fishing and fur seal industries by the Department of the Treasury. Since then conservation efforts in Alaska have been, and continue to be, challenged by the size, remoteness, and ruggedness of the lands involved. Migratory birds, marine mammals (walrus, polar bear, and sea otter), endangered species, and the federal management of subsistence hunting and fishing by rural Alaskans are among the unique responsibilities that justify Alaska's position as the Service's only single-state region, which is headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska.



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## Resource Facts and Figures

- 16 national wildlife refuges
- Nearly 77 million acres in refuge lands (Alaska's refuges account for more than 80 percent of the acreage in the entire National Wildlife Refuge System)
- Last year more than 1.6 million people visited Alaska's refuges for recreational or subsistence purposes, despite the fact that only two refuges are accessible via the road system.
- 7 species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.
- 1 species candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.
- The Region has 555 FTEs

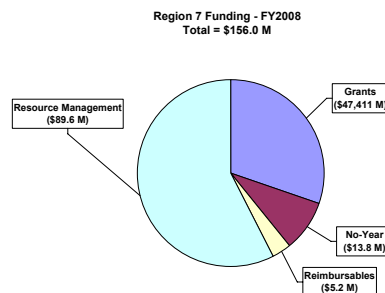
## Regional Demographics

- Unlike other Service regions, the Alaska Region encompasses only one state, with two senators and one congressional district.
- The state is home to some 230 federally-recognized tribes.
- Alaska has a population of more than 670,000 people. About 20 percent of the state's population—live in rural Alaska and participate to varying degrees in subsistence activities unique to Alaska.
- Alaska residents bought more than 130,000 hunting or fishing licenses in 2007. (out of a total population of about 670,000).
- Nonresidents bought 340,000 hunting or fishing licenses in Alaska in 2007.

## Key Habitats and Ecosystems

Alaska is a land of extremes, ranging from the rainforests of its southeastern coastal regions to the great boreal forests of the interior to the tundra of the north. Much of it remains relatively undeveloped. In the state, most of which is not accessible by road, boats or bush planes provide the same sort of services that cars and taxis offer in the Lower 49 states.

## Regional Budget



## Conservation Successes and Challenges

*Polar bear listing* – The 2008 listing of the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act is, many believe, one of the most significant listings in the Act's history.



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*Federal subsistence* – The federal subsistence program in Alaska, which regulates the customary and traditional take of fish and wildlife by rural Alaskans on federal lands, regularly deals with difficult issues and a diverse group of stakeholders.

*Pacific walrus* – The Service has been petitioned to list the Pacific walrus in Alaska. This decision will be made difficult by the fact that we know less about walrus populations than we do about polar bear.

*Refuges and development* – Conflicts relating to Alaska's national wildlife refuges, and particularly relating to development within them, have been conservation battlegrounds for decades.

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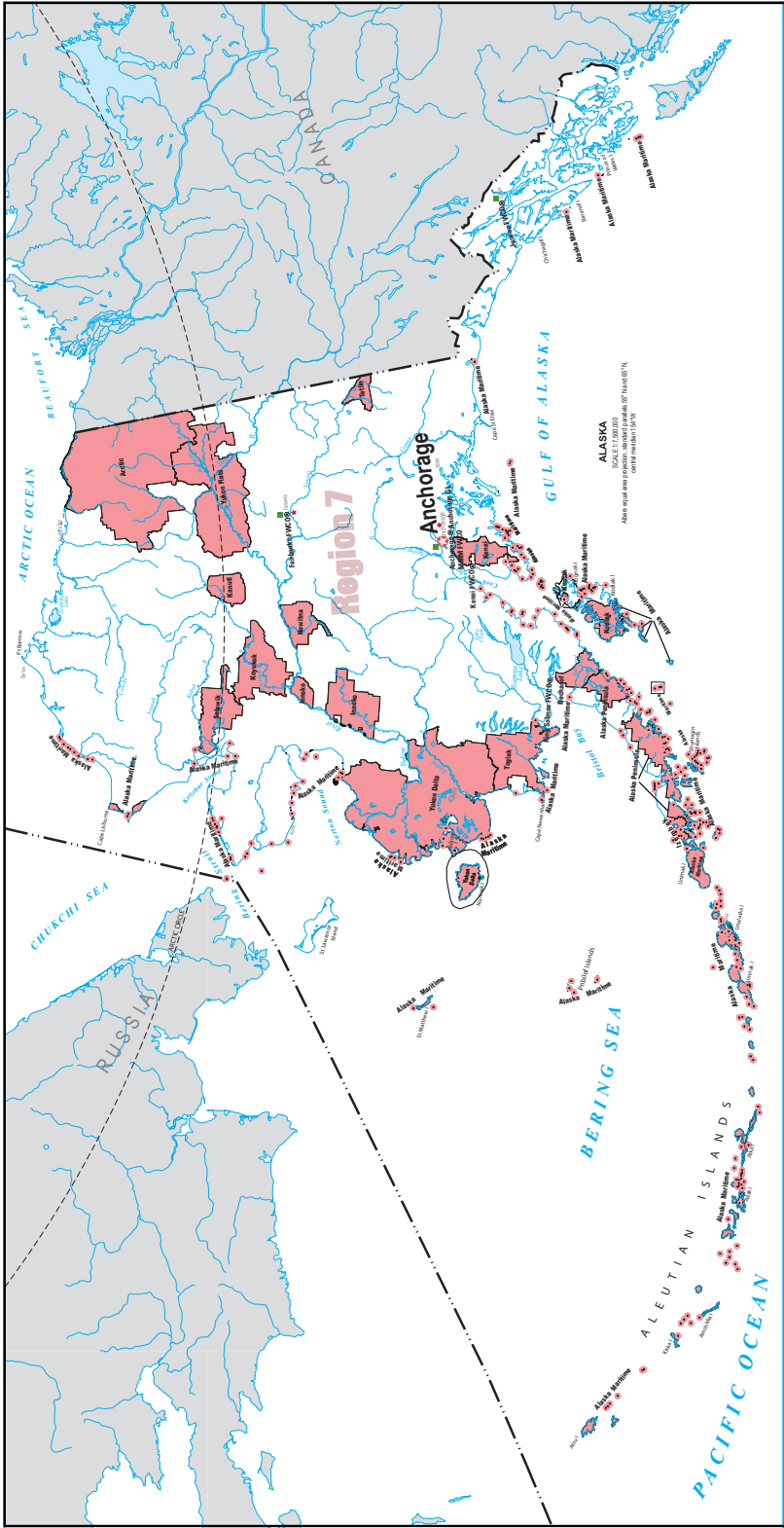
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







U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Region 7

Alaska



 National Wildlife Refuge units of 23,000 acres or more  
 National Wildlife Refuge units less than 23,000 acres  
 Red/Rock Lakes  
 Washita

 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Office  
 Fish Genetics Laboratory

 Ecological Services Field Office  
 Office of Law Enforcement RAC Offices

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 WASHINGTON, DC  
 LAND STATUS CURRENT TO: 9/30/2018  
 MAP DATE: 10/01/2018  
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