

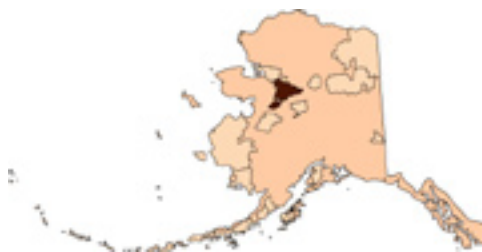


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Koyukuk / Northern Innoko National Wildlife Refuges

A Special Place in Alaska!

- Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge was established to conserve waterfowl, moose, caribou, fur bearers, and salmon.
- The 3.5 million acre Koyukuk Refuge lies in a basin surrounded by rolling, low mountains and is bisected by the Koyukuk River. This tributary of the Yukon River, which flows down from the Brooks Range, is the third largest river in Alaska.
- The refuge's rich wetlands combine with lowland forests to support a diversity of wildlife, including numerous local moose and large populations of migrating waterfowl that arrive via four continental flyways. There are about 15,000 lakes and over 5,500 miles of rivers and streams within the boundaries of the refuge.
- Predators on the refuge include wolves, lynx, pike, raptors, black and grizzly bears.



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service manages 16 national wildlife refuges in Alaska, or nearly 82% of the National Wildlife Refuge System acreage.

Koyukuk and Northern Innoko National Wildlife Refuges
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Extensive wetlands are a trademark of the Koyukuk Refuge.

- Fire is a major contributor to the diversity of the northern forest ecosystem. On an average day in June or July, more than 500 lightning strikes can be recorded in the immediate area, and more than 5,000 in the surrounding Galena Zone of the Alaska Fire Service.
- The northwest corner of the refuge provides a living diorama of the transition from boreal forest to arctic tundra ecosystem.
- Koyukuk Refuge contains 400,000 acres of designated Wilderness which encompasses the unique geological phenomenon, Nogabahara Sand Dunes. These dunes were formed thousands of years ago when sand exposed by receding glaciers was blown up against the Nulato Hills. The active dunes encompass a roughly circular area approximately six miles in diameter.
- An archaeological site called Batza Téna lies in the northeastern portion of the Koyukuk Refuge. This area was the major source of obsidian used by Natives in northern Alaska in prehistoric times.
- The 751,000 acre northern unit of Innoko Refuge was established to conserve waterfowl, peregrine falcons, other migratory birds, black bear, moose, fur bearers and other mammals, and salmon.
- Pike that winter in the Kaiyuh Flats (Northern Innoko NWR) sometimes spend the whole winter in one section of a lake that's not more than 6 feet deep. These long-lived fish can reach large sizes after feeding all summer in the lake waters, which are enriched annually by flooding of the Yukon River.
- Refuge lands support nesting waterfowl that annually produce over 100,000 ducklings and goslings.
- Koyukuk Refuge contains some of Alaska's highest quality moose habitat. The Three Day Slough area has at times supported more than 10 moose per square mile. Current densities are about 5 moose per square mile in some of the best habitats.
- The Koyukuk Refuge is within the range of the 425,000 to 450,000 strong Western Arctic Caribou Herd. The refuge also supports a resident caribou population of approximately 300 animals in the Galena Mountain Caribou Herd.
- There are six Native (Koyukon Athabascan) villages adjacent to, or within, the refuge boundaries.