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LICENSED  
AND  
BONDED



National  
Park



Wildlife  
Refuge



National  
Forest



Wild and  
Scenic  
Rivers

# D<sup>2</sup>

D2 legislation may create Wilderness of part or all of the D2 national parks, forests, refuges, and wild and scenic rivers. The



word "wilderness" means a wilderness as per the Wilderness Act of 1964: pristine, untrammeled by man, without the intrusion of motorized technology.

## What is a Wildlife Refuge?

A national wildlife refuge is an area of federal land rich with birds, fish and animals comfortable in their natural surroundings, managed by the federal Fish and Wildlife Service to protect not only the wildlife but the wildlands and waters in which they live. Wildlife protection is the dominant purpose of a refuge although man-uses are permitted if they are compatible with the purpose of the individual refuge. Since species, habitats and conditions vary widely with each refuge, the Fish and Wildlife Service has very generalized management regulations which may be strengthened or relaxed to allow or disallow man's use of a refuge and which give the Secretary of the Interior or the refuge manager authority to specify uses of a unit.

New mining claims are generally not permitted. Sport and trophy hunting, trapping, new oil and gas leasing, commercial timber cutting, commercial cultivation, sport and commercial fishing are allowed on some refuges, prohibited on others. The basic determinant is whether or not the use is compatible with the purpose for which the refuge is created.

For instance, sport hunting is not allowed on some refuges in the eastern United States but is allowed on almost all Alaskan refuges which are of greater size and less pressured by encroaching civilization. Farming is en-



couraged on a number of stateside refuges because it enhances the habitat for certain species of birds; but according to Fish and Wildlife Service officials, farming would be discouraged on certain Alaskan refuges since the Service feels Nature has provided adequate habitats.

Commercial timber cutting such as the chip operation on the burn area of the Swanson River moose range on the Kenai may also be allowed on the refuges proposed in D2 legislation, again depending on the terrain and the discretion of the refuge director, or Congress.

Use depends on the individual unit circumstances. Certain activities on a refuge require permits, including trapping and other activities of a light commercial nature, or certain types of movie filming, or other activities which might be considered "out of the ordinary" on a refuge.

Refuges are created in two ways: units established by the Secretary of Interior under Section 204(c) of the Federal Land Policy Management Act, or units created by legislation in Congress which are governed by the do's and don'ts mandated by Congress and by the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act. Alaska's existing refuges were not created by Congress; the D2 refuges will be the first Congressionally created refuges in Alaska, and any uses or non-uses of those refuges will be determined in the D2 legislation.

## What is a Wilderness-Wildlife Refuge?

Unless Congress legislates otherwise, prospecting and new mining, commercial timber cutting, gas and oil development, farming and other uses that require motorization, permanent structures or commercial development will be prohibited on a wilderness refuge under terms of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Hunting, fishing and trapping and wilderness-oriented recreation may be allowed on refuges designated as wilderness.

Brought to you by:

State of Alaska, D2 Information Office, 1016 W. 6th Ave., Suite 435, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.



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In Alaska, most D2 bills permit snowmachine subsistence access and existing levels of other motorized use, including aircraft and motorboat access. But the wilderness-oriented uses are subject to regulation by the refuge manager.

In the case of Native and non-Native subsistence users, D2 legislation would allow snowmachines to be used in traditional hunting and fishing areas although aircraft use for such activities would be banned.