

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner

www.DNR.Alaska.Gov



Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: August 21, 2019

Wildfire danger prompts closure of Knik River shooting range

(Palmer, AK) – Continuing extreme wildland fire hazards in the Matanuska-Susitna Valleys have prompted state officials to close the Kenny and Patti Barber Shooting Range in the Knik River Public Use Area.

“With these dry conditions and the wind being unpredictable and occasionally very strong, we decided to take this step to protect against creating even more fire danger,” said Clark Cox, Southcentral Regional Manager for the Division of Mining, Land and Water.

The range, at mile 2.7 of the Maud Road extension, was closed today for regular maintenance, and will remain closed until fire conditions moderate and public safety allows.

Cox acknowledged that many hunters want to prepare for the approaching fall hunting season by sighting in their rifles or renewing marksmanship skills at a shooting range. But he said helping prevent potentially devastating wildland fires will help ensure the opportunity for safer and possibly more productive hunting experiences for all.

He noted several alternative shooting ranges, both public and private, may be available while the Knik River shooting range is closed:

- Birchwood Shooting Park, 20269 Birchwood Spur Rd in Chugiak, 688-2809
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game’s Rabbit Creek Shooting Park, 15222 Seward Hwy., 345-7831
- Matanuska Valley Sportsmen’s Shooting Range, 38.5 Mile Glenn Highway, Palmer, 746-4862
- Upper Susitna Shooting Club, 52645 Parks Hwy., Talkeetna, 733-3323

CONTACT: Clark Cox, (907) 269-7470, clark.cox@alaska.gov

###