

## Management

The Knik River Public Use Area is actively managed by the Southcentral Regional Office (SCRO) of the Division of Mining, Land, and Water, Department of Natural Resources. Some activities require land use authorizations, while other activities are generally allowed.

We encourage everyone enjoying our state lands to act responsibly and adhere to area wide rules. Groups or individuals found violating land use rules will be subject to citation(s). For a list of 'Citiable Offenses' see the inner fold of this brochure.

The Department of Natural Resources' overall management direction puts its focus on maintaining and enhancing public safety, public education, access and recreational opportunities for public and commercial users, protection of fish and wildlife habitat, and perpetuation of law enforcement throughout the entire area.

### For More Information

State of Alaska  
Department of Natural Resources  
**Administrative Office**  
550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 900c  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3557

**Field Office**  
17704 E. Sullivan Avenue, Suite 111  
Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 269-8503

[knikriver.alaska.gov](http://knikriver.alaska.gov)



[facebook.com/KnikRiver](https://facebook.com/KnikRiver)

Your Guide to The

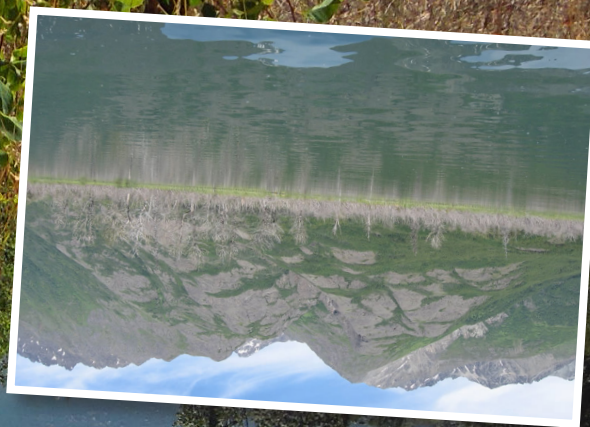
# Knik River Public Use Area



## Welcome

Like other Public Use Areas in the state, the purpose for establishing the Knik River Public Use Area (KRPUA) is to preserve, perpetuate, and enhance public recreation, enjoyment of fish and wildlife resources. The area provides for a full-spectrum of outdoor recreational opportunities, and is open to motorized and non-motorized recreational pursuits. Activities common to the area include the riding of off-highway vehicles (OHV's), hunting, fishing, trapping, target shooting, boating, flying planes, horseback riding, biking, hiking, camping, and wildlife viewing.

Prominent land features of the region include the Knik Glacier, Knik River, Pioneer Peak, Jim Creek, Bodenburg Creek, Friday Creek, Metal Creek, and Hunter Creek. The high elevation Chugach Mountains that form the Knik River Valley make for a dramatic backdrop to the alluvial gravel bars and winding braids of the Knik River. Overall the area is rugged and remote, which is what makes it such a popular destination for campers, off-road enthusiasts, fixed wing aviators, horseback riders, and boaters. The sprawling lakes and wetlands complex on the north side of the river is popular among bird watchers, boaters, anglers, and hunters. The area as a whole offers a wide range of multiple-use outdoor recreational pursuits for people of all ages and interests.



## Wildlife

The Knik River Area is home to a wide variety of animals including big game, small game, and furbearers. Big game animals found in the area include, Moose, Black Bear, Brown Bear, Dall Sheep, and Mountain Goat. Some examples of small game animals found in the area include Hares, Porcupine, Shrews, and Voles. Common furbearing animals of the area include Beaver, Coyote, Lynx, Marmot, Marten, Mink, Muskrat, Northern Flying Squirrel, Red Fox, River Otter, Weasels, Wolf, and Wolverine. Fish that are common to the area include Sockeye Salmon (Red), Coho Salmon (Silver), and Chum Salmon. Large runs of silver salmon migrate up Jim Creek to reach the streams of the lakes and wetlands complex. These lakes include Mud Lake, Jim Lake, Gull Lake, Swan Lake, and Chain Lakes. The expansive lakes and wetlands provide ideal habitat for the rearing of anadromous fish.

## Kenny and Patti Barber Shooting Range

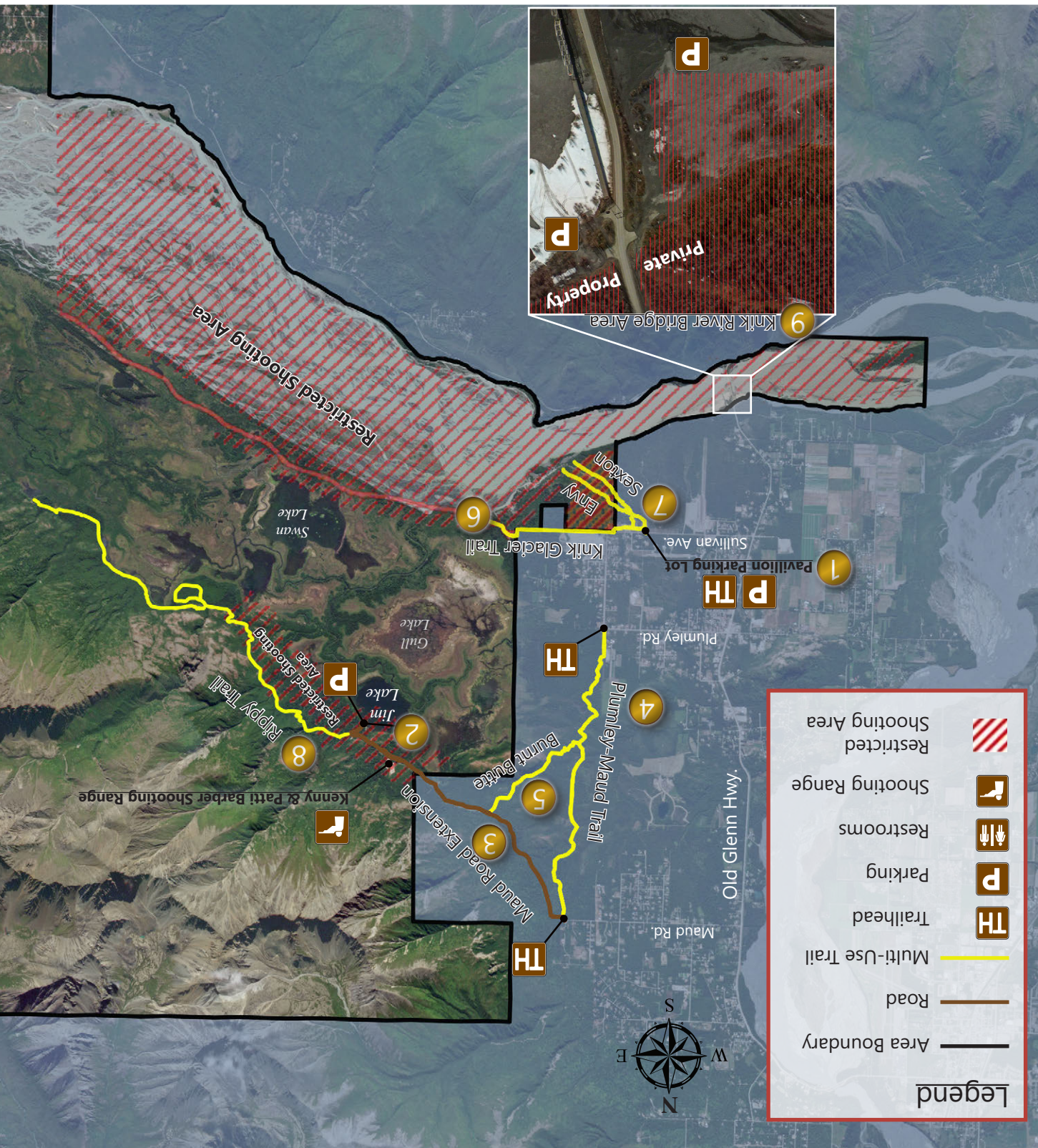
Opened in 2015, the shooting range's normal schedule is 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.. **The range is closed every Wednesday.** There are 18 lanes of fire on the 100 yard range, and 10-12 lanes of fire on the 25 yard range. Located between Palmer and Butte Alaska, the Kenny and Patti Barber Shooting Range is off of the Maud Road Extension, approximately 2.7 miles from the end of the paved section of Maud Road. It is approximately 1,000 feet past Mud Lake with signage marking its location. Please ensure you have read and understood all the **Range Rules and Range Fees.** Up to date documents are available at [knikriver.alaska.gov](http://knikriver.alaska.gov). Both DNR land managers and the State Troopers have citation authority at the range.



## Trails & Access

**1** Jim Creek Parking Lot: Located near the corner of Caudill Road and Sullivan Road, this Mat-Su Borough maintained trails as well as the Knik Glacier Trail. Fees are paid to the Mat-Su Borough.  
**2** Jim Lake Parking: Located on state land at the north end of Jim Lake. This minimally developed parking area provides access to Jim Lake and Rippy Trail.  
**3** Maud Road Extension: Located at the end of Maud Road, this minimally maintained 17b road crosses Eklutna Inc., Mat-Su Borough and State land. It provides access from Maud Road to Jim Lake Parking Area.  
**4** Plumley-Maud Trail: Located at the beginning of the Maud Road Extension, this trail provides access between Maud and Plumley Roads thru private and Mat-Su Borough lands. This trail is reserved for multi-use.  
**5** Burnt Butte: Located 1.5 miles down the Maud Road Extension, it connects to the Plumley-Maud Trail, crossing Mat-Su Borough and Eklutna Inc. land. This trail is reserved for non-motorized uses.  
**6** Knik Glacier Trail: Located east of the Jim Creek Parking Area, this reserved historic trail provides year-round multi-use access through the north side of the KRPUA.  
**7** Envy/Sexton Trails: Located directly from the Jim Creek Parking Area, these trails lead to the lower Knik flats. Both trails are year-round multi-use.  
**8** Rippy Trail: Accessed at the Jim Lake parking lot, this 3-mile-long trail extends just over Jim Creek, has a looped turn around, and is reserved for multi-use.

**9** Knik River Bridge Area: Access to the KRPUA is available by State right-of-way next to both sides of the Knik River bridge. Crossing or using private lands without the landowner's permission, other than on legally established easements or public access, rights-of-way, may be considered trespass.





# Knik River

## Public Use Area



↑ Lazy Mtn.



↑ Matanuska Peak

### Knik River Public Use Area History

The Knik River Public Use Area (KRPUA) is a legislatively designated area (AS 41.23.180-230) managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Mining, Land, and Water, Southcentral Regional Office. The area was created through a legislative process and signed into law by Governor Frank Murkowski on June 30, 2006.

Land within the KRPUA boundary consists of approximately 269,310 acres of primarily state-owned lands east of the City of Palmer. DNR works hard to deconflict land uses with our adjoining land owners both within and next to the Public Use Area (PUA). Roughly 36,145 acres are retained in federal ownership awaiting transfer to Eklutna Native Corporation's existing 22,962 acres. Another roughly 1,900 acres of private landowners are contained within the KRPUA's boundary. Please respect the land ownership rights of these private parcels, as you would expect them to respect your own land and property.

### 📍 River Crossing Locations

1. Jim Creek Crossing  
61.524021°, -148.953065°
2. Friday Creek Site Easement  
61.485170°, -148.793300°
3. Wolf Point  
61.480097°, -148.709480°
4. Knik Moraine  
61.407233°, -148.582781°



### KNIK RIVER PUA REGULATIONS

1. Failure to obtain permit for activity listed in 11 AAC 96.010 - \$150
2. Failure to register commercial recreation use - \$50
3. Commercial harvest of non-timber forest products without a permit - \$100
4. Leaving vehicle unattended more than 72 hours - \$400
5. Transporting non-functional vehicle into the area - \$400
6. Unauthorized operation of a vehicle - \$150
7. Unauthorized operation of a vehicle resulting in disturbance of wetlands or organic mat to a depth greater than 6 inches - \$300
8. Unauthorized fire - \$50
9. Burning a wooden pallet, structure, or other unauthorized object or material - \$50
10. Placing, dumping, or discarding waste or refuse - \$200
11. Placing, dumping, discarding, or releasing hazardous substances - \$300
12. Unauthorized construction, maintenance or abandonment of a structure - \$200
13. Unauthorized cutting, collecting, or harvesting of trees larger than 5-inch diameter - \$75
14. Erecting a camp, structure, or facility for more than the authorized time limit - \$100
15. Discharging a firearm at unauthorized target - \$150
16. Discharging a firearm - \$50
17. Discharging a firearm in prohibited area - \$150
18. Repeatedly approaching fish or wildlife, altering animal's behavior - \$300
19. Unauthorized construction, development, widening, brushing, or creating road or trail - \$100
20. Damaging, defacing, destroying, or removing public property - \$300
21. Unauthorized use of a vehicle on or within 100 feet of Manmade Lake - \$150
22. Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle on Jim Lake - \$150
23. Failure to comply with shooting range regulations - \$150

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### Learn Outdoor Skills

Get informed, take a class, or invite an experienced friend. If you come prepared for the wilderness, it will be much kinder to you.

Headed to the backcountry? Tell a friend where you're going, who you're going with, and when you'll return. This is VERY important if something unexpected happens.

**PLEASE,  
PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN :)**



0 1 2 4 Miles