U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge

A Special Place in Alaska!

- Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge was established to conserve trumpeter swans, white-fronted geese, canvasback ducks and other waterfowl and migratory birds, as well as moose, caribou, martens, wolverines, otters, fur bearers, salmon, sheefish, and northern pike.

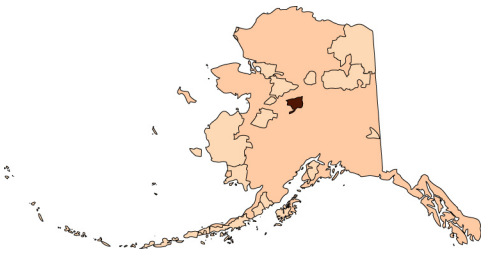
- The Nowitna River bisects the 2.1 million acre refuge and forms a broad meandering flood plain. This nationally designated Wild and Scenic River passes through a 15 mile canyon with peaks up to 2,100 feet.

- More than two-thirds of this river's nearly 300 mile length is within refuge boundaries. In the spring, high water and ice dams can back the river up more than 100 miles, affecting water levels and permitting the migration of fish from many adjacent lakes and sloughs.

- When floating the Nowitna River, a canoeist is likely to see Canada geese, black bears and moose.

USFWS

Biologists monitor waterfowl on the Nowitna River each summer.



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

- Nowitna's topography varies from flat lowlands dotted with wetlands to rolling hills capped by alpine tundra.

- The observant visitor is likely to see several birds of prey, including the bald eagle, northern harrier, rough-legged and red-tailed hawks.

- During the summer, Nowitna's varied habitats support over 125 bird species. The number drops to only a few dozen during the winter.

- The Palisades, a series of bluffs on the Yukon River near the northeast boundary of the refuge, is a rich source of fossils and other evidence of Pleistocene Era animals and plants. Collecting fossils is prohibited.

- Lands on the Nowitna Refuge have been used for centuries by Athabascan people. Hunting, fishing and trapping are still popular activities today.

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