



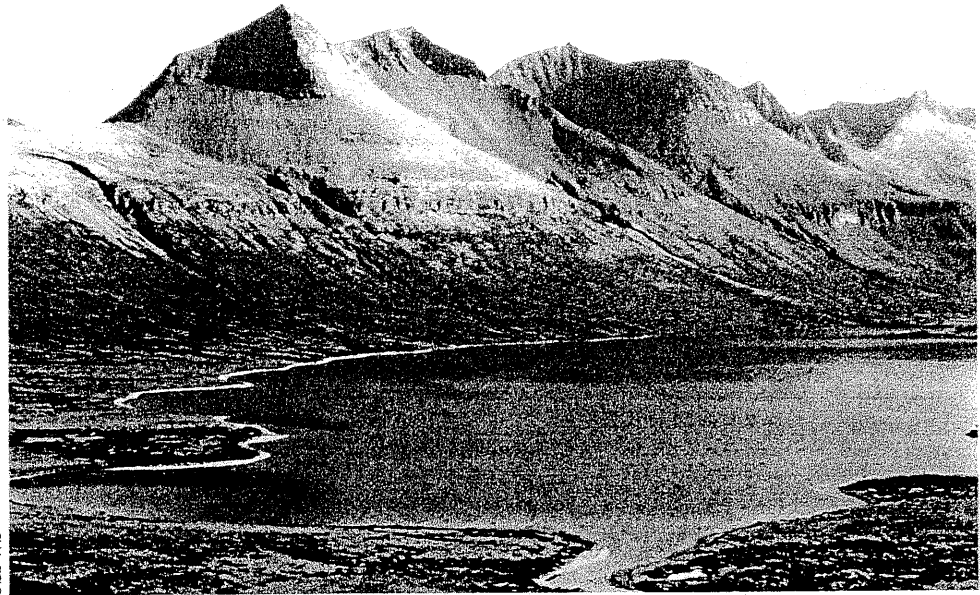
CELEBRATING A  
**CENTURY**  
of CONSERVATION

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Becharof National Wildlife Refuge

*A Special Place in Alaska!*

- Becharof Refuge was established in 1980, to conserve salmon, large mammals including brown bears and the Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd, migratory birds, marine birds, and marine mammals.
- The refuge is a land of spectacular beauty with rolling tundra, braided rivers, glacial lakes, towering mountains, active volcanoes, rugged sea cliffs, and pristine coastlines. Land elevations range from sea level to the summit of Mt. Peulik Volcano at 4,835 feet. The boundaries of the refuge encompass approximately 1.2 million acres.
- Refuge lands offer a variety of recreational opportunities including sport fishing and hunting, flight seeing, observing and photographing wildlife, hiking, backpacking, boating, and camping. Refuge lands are remote and accessible only by small aircraft, boat or rugged cross-country hiking. There are no roads or maintained trails.



USFWS

*Ruth Lake*



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

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- Mt. Peulik is the most prominent mountain (4,835) on the Becharof Refuge and rises majestically along the southern edge of Becharof Lake. The volcano is known to have erupted in 1814 and 1852.
- The Ukinrek Maars are two large steam explosion craters formed during a violent volcanic eruption. During ten days of geologic activity in 1977, the two maars were formed near the south shore of Becharof Lake. This is the only maar-producing activity ever recorded in the United States. The larger east maar is approximately 900 feet in diameter and 200 feet deep.
- Becharof Lake is the largest lake in the Refuge System (35 miles long by 15 miles wide), the third largest freshwater lake in the United States and is more than 600 feet deep in places. It covers approximately 290,000 acres. This glacial lake is the

nursery for the world's second largest run of sockeye salmon.

- Many of the salmon from the world's most valuable sockeye salmon fishery (Bristol Bay) spawn in the streams that originate on refuge lands. There are more than 1,000 salmon producing streams on the Becharof Refuge and the adjacent Alaska Peninsula Refuge. A conservative estimate of the number of adult salmon produced annually from waters on the Becharof and Alaska Peninsula refuges exceeds 30 million fish.
- With an abundant supply of salmon, berries and carrion, the refuge provides excellent habitat for brown bears. The bear population on both refuges is estimated at 2,500 to 3,000 animals. Bears use nearly all refuge lands, from mountain tops to the sea coast.