

# Wilderness.net's Becharof Wilderness Fact Sheet



Credit:  
USFWS

## Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Becharof Wilderness in 1980 and it now has a total of 400,000 acres. All of the wilderness is in Alaska and is managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Description

Just where the state begins to slim down into the Alaska Peninsula, Becharof Wilderness extends from the northeast shore of Becharof Lake south to the Pacific Ocean and makes up roughly one-third of the Becharof National Wildlife Refuge. When the salmon spawn in the lake,

which is just outside the Wilderness boundary, brown bears travel to the area in great numbers. On the coast, Puale Bay provides haul-out beaches for thousands of Steller sea lions and other sea mammals. Multitudes of seabirds come and go along a coastline which are cut deeply by misty fjords (steep cliffs falling into narrow saltwater bays). Wolves, moose, and caribou are also commonly sighted, attracting wildlife observers and photographers. From brushy wetlands to snow-pressed alpine vegetation, Becharof Wilderness provides pristine habitat to many significant wildlife resources, and offers many subsistence and recreational opportunities. Hunters experience unusually high success rates with bears and caribou. Bear precautions are in order. Average summer temperatures range from the upper 40s (Fahrenheit) to low 60s. Winter temperatures average well below freezing—ranging from 9 to 24 degrees in January—with 19.7 inches of precipitation falling annually.

## Leave No Trace

How to follow the seven standard Leave No Trace principles differs in different parts of the country (desert vs. Rocky Mountains). Click on any of the principles listed below to learn more about how they apply in the Becharof Wilderness.

1. [Plan Ahead and Prepare](#)
2. [Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces](#)
3. [Dispose of Waste Properly](#)
4. [Leave What You Find](#)
5. [Minimize Campfire Impacts](#)
6. [Respect Wildlife](#)
7. [Be Considerate of Other Visitors](#)

For more information on Leave No Trace, [Visit the Leave No Trace, Inc. website.](#)

## Area Management

The Becharof Wilderness is part of the 110 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System. This System of lands provides clean air, water, and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals. In wilderness, you can enjoy challenging recreational activities like hiking, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, horse packing, bird watching, stargazing, and extraordinary opportunities for solitude. You play an important role in helping to *"secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness"* as called for by the Congress of the United States through the Wilderness Act of 1964. Please follow the requirements outlined below and use Leave No Trace techniques when visiting the Becharof Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.

Unless otherwise specified, no motorized equipment or mechanical transport, with the exception of wheelchairs, is allowed. This is generally true for all federal lands managed as designated wilderness.

## Links to Other Websites

[Alaska Region, Becharof National Wildlife Refuge](#)

## Links on Wilderness.net

[National, Regional and Local Wilderness Organizations \(NGOs\)](#)

A listing of societies, organizations, coalitions and other wilderness-related advocacy and stewardship groups.

[Career and Volunteer Opportunities](#)

A listing of sites providing information about wilderness- and environmentally-related career and volunteer opportunities.

## Applicable Wilderness Law(s)

Law	Date	Acreage Change (in acres)
<b>Public Law 96-487</b>	<b>December 2, 1980</b>	<b>400,000</b>
Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act - Public Law 96-487 (12/2/1980) Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act		

 [download 96-487](#)