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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Reopened Maud Road improves access to shooting range, Jim Lake

(Palmer, AK) – A newly upgraded road at the Knik River Public Use Area reopened Thursday morning, restoring and improving access to the Kenny and Patti Barber Shooting Range and to Jim Lake and area trails.

The Division of Mining, Land and Water closed the 3.3-mile Maud Road Extension in April, after potholes and regular wear and tear made the 30-year-old road unsafe and difficult to navigate.

The repair and upgrade project included substantial improvements to the roadbed, installation of culverts to prevent erosion, cutting brush in the right-of-way to improve visibility, expanding a parking and turn-around area, and making other improvements.

The improved road provides easier access to the popular Kenny and Patti Barber Shooting Range, located at Mile 2.7, and to the Knik River Public Use Area.

“We were very pleased to get this project finished on time, to help out area sportsmen and hunters who need to get out to the range to sight in their rifles before the fall hunting season,” said Travis Jensen, land manager of the Knik River Public Use Area.

The \$1.5 million project was funded primarily from the federal Pittman-Roberts fund, funded with voluntary taxes paid nationally by sportsmen on firearms and ammunition sales. Each state dollar is matched with three Pittman-Robertson dollars.

“This is a place where folks living in a populated area can take a short drive and be in a place as beautiful as anywhere in the state,” said Jensen. “This road makes that experience more accessible to more Alaskans.”

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