

# IZEMBEK

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Wilderness & Wildlife Values

## Species



Water Birds (includes steller's eider, emperor goose, Pacific brant, and tundra swan).



Shore Birds



Brown Bear



Caribou

## Land Status



Designated Wilderness Area



IZEMBEK NWR Boundary

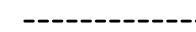
## Infrastructure



Proposed Road



Existing Road



Secondary Road



Airstrips



Village



Existing Hovercraft Site



Future Hovercraft Site



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Sources: Aleutians East Borough, 2007; Alaska Department of Natural Resources, 2007; US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2007



**IZEMBEK LAGOON** - Izembek and Kinzarof Lagoons sustain some of the world's largest eelgrass beds—a coastal wetland ecosystem important for birds, fish, and marine mammals, including several threatened species. A road could impact both lagoons, and the wetlands complex between them, undermining habitat values across the whole refuge.

**BIRDS** - The world's population of Pacific Flyway brant (120,000) and emperor goose (59,000) stops at Izembek Lagoon to rest and feed during migration. Lagoon eelgrass, shorelines, and surrounding tundra also provide habitat for 23,000 Steller's eiders (a threatened species), more than 30 shorebird species, and 600 resident Tundra swans. A road could disrupt birds from critical nesting, breeding, feeding and resting areas, displacing them to less suitable habitat.

**CARIBOU** - The isthmus between Izembek and Kinzarof lagoons is the primary corridor used by the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd to travel to and from calving grounds, and is also important winter habitat. A road here would likely divide and weaken this already vulnerable herd.

**BROWN BEARS** - The highest densities of brown bears on the southern Alaska Peninsula are found in Izembek NWR. A road could displace these wide-ranging animals from denning and foraging habitats, and increase human impacts.