



TO HELP SAVE THE REFUGE

1. Influence Congressional Action with letters and telephone calls. Each letter received in a Congressional office represents a much larger number of voters. Write your Representatives and two Senators. Following are sample points you can make in your letter, and Washington addresses. Urge them to support wilderness legislation for the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The letters you write, while being a small investment in time and energy will have an important impact.

SAMPLE POINTS YOU CAN MAKE IN YOUR LETTERS TO CONGRESS

- a) Oil drilling will destroy the wilderness values of the last untouched stretch of U.S. Arctic coastal plain.
- b) Oil drilling will result in a significant drop in the numbers of caribou, musk-oxen, grizzlies, polarbears, wolverine and snow geese that thrive in the area.
- c) Because oil drilling will seriously affect the numbers and migration route of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, the Gwich'in people who have depended on the caribou for thousands of years will face cultural annihilation.
- d) It is a mistake to destroy this area with oil exploration and development when other oil-saving energy strategies have not been pursued, e.g. raising automobile efficiency standards, developing alcohol fuels, building better mass-transit, encouraging alternative energy sources such as solar, wind, etc.

OR, IN YOUR OWN HANDWRITING COPY THIS SAMPLE LETTER:

I urge you to co-sponsor and support (HR1000 or S428) which designates the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a wilderness area.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVE
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

YOUR 2 SENATORS
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

WRITE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES & THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC
20005

Secretary Bruce Babbitt
Department of the Interior
18th. & C.st. NW
Washington, DC 20240

2. Help educate and inspire others to take action by helping us distribute "The Last Great Wilderness". We have produced a video version of our slide presentation. We encourage you to purchase or request a library copy of this video and to share it with others. Send a copy to a friend or organization. Have a get-together and show the video. Invite others to write letters and take action in any way they can.

3. Contribute time and money to support the work to save the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. "The Last Great Wilderness" and other projects to raise public awareness about the Refuge have been made possible by donations of many individual's money and time. Your donations are appreciated and vitally needed to continue our educational work.

FOR INFORMATION TO SPONSOR THE SLIDE SHOW, OR TO MAKE A DONATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:

THE LAST GREAT WILDERNESS PROJECT

P.O. Box 102, Todd, NC 28684, (910)877-1551

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Fact Sheet

ENERGY

- 1) There is an 81% chance - according to the U.S. Interior Department - that there will be no recoverable oil found in the refuge whatsoever.
- 2) In the slim chance that oil is found in the refuge, the median amount is estimated to be only 3.2 billion barrels. This would fuel America's energy demands for a mere 200 days. Chances of finding a field the size of neighboring Prudhoe Bay are only 1 in 100. Exploration would permanently destroy refuge wilderness.
- 3) Virtually all of Alaska's north slope is devoted to energy exploration and development. 85 million acres of Alaska's arctic coastline have already been opened to oil development; the coastal plain is less than 3% of the total size of this area.
- 4) President Reagan's rollback of auto efficiency standards cost the nation 400,000 barrels of oil ~~every day~~ (146 million barrels annually), 110,000 barrels more than the refuge could ever produce daily. Plundering a national treasure for such small potatoes is not the way to meet America's long-term energy needs. Only a serious federal policy commitment to energy conservation will solve our nation's growing energy problems.
- 5) The world is awash in oil, gas is cheaper in real terms than it was in the 70's, and oil wells are being capped in proven fields, making even the best estimates of recoverable oil seem limited economically.

POLLUTION

- 1) If oil development were to occur on the coastal plain, the infrastructure necessary has been conservatively estimated to require 4 fields, 2 ports, 2 desalination plants, 7 large production facilities, and 60-100 drill pads (at several acres per pad), 6,000 workers and 300 miles of roads. In effect, development would place a small industrial city right in the heart of the refuge.
- 2) Hazardous drilling wastes are stored in open pits that can - and do - leach out into the fragile tundra. The permafrost cannot absorb them there, and they spread out over the surface in a wide radius, endangering vegetation, birds and other wildlife.
- 3) Neighboring Prudhoe Bay oilfield is a giant air polluter. The nitrogen oxides (a major component of acid rain) emitted there amount to one-third of those of New York City.
- 4) There have been more than 17,000 oil spills on Alaska's North Slope since 1972, most at Prudhoe Bay.

Gwich'in Niintsyaa

Resolution to Prohibit Development in the Calving and Post-Calving Grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd

Whereas: For thousands of years our ancestors, the Gwich'in Athabascan Indians of northeast Alaska and northwest Canada, have relied on caribou for subsistence, and continue today to subsist on the Porcupine Caribou Herd which is essential to meet the nutritional, cultural and spiritual needs of our people.

Whereas: The Gwich'in have the inherent right to continue our own way of life, and that this right is recognized and affirmed by civilized nations in the international covenants on human rights, Article 1 of both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights read in part:

"...in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence."

Whereas: The health and productivity of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, and their availability to Gwich'in communities, and the very future of our people are endangered by proposed oil and gas exploration and development in the calving and post-calving grounds in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge - Coastal Plain.

Whereas: The entire Gwich'in Nation was called together by our Chiefs in Arctic Village June 8-10 to carefully address this issue and to seek the advice of our elders.

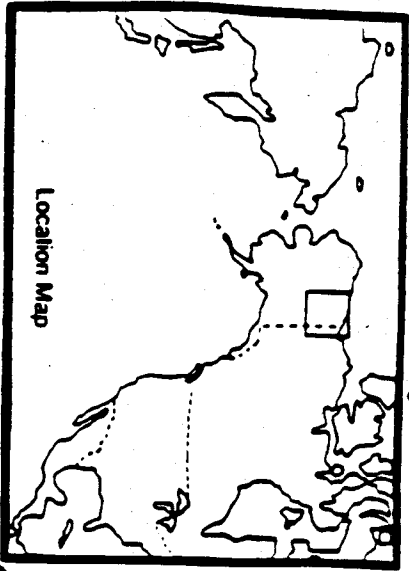
Whereas: The Gwich'in people of every community from Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Beaver, Calystoga, Birch Creek, Steven's Village, Circle, and Eagle in Alaska; from Old Crow, Fort McPherson, Arctic Red River, Allevik and Inuvik in Canada have reached consensus in our traditional way, and now speak with a single voice.

Now therefore it be resolved:






That the United States Congress and the President recognize the rights of our Gwich'in People to continue to live our way of life by prohibiting development in the calving and post-calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd; and

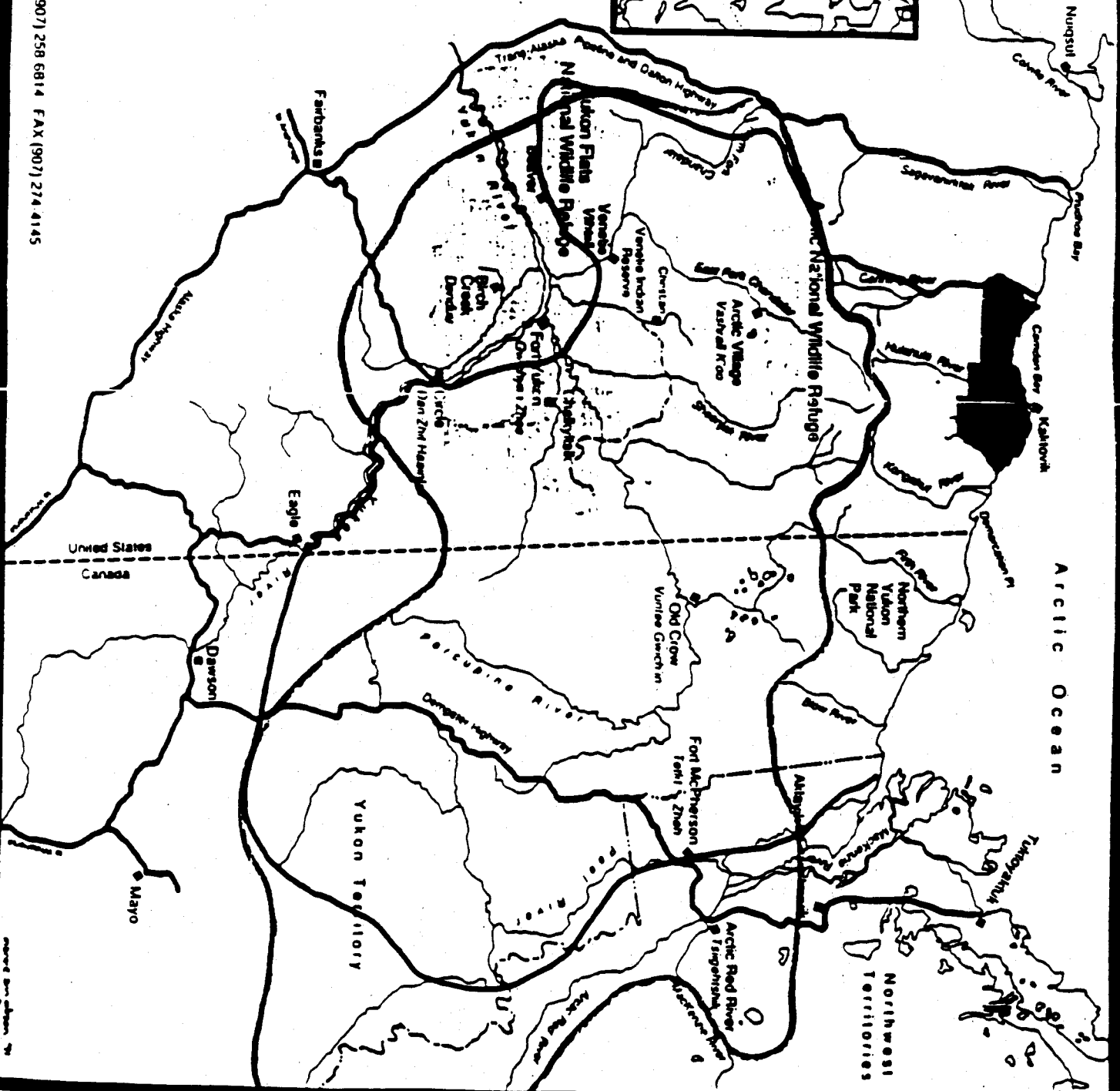
Be it further resolved:

That the 1002 area of the Arctic National Range be made Wilderness to achieve this end.



Primary Habitat of the Porcupine Caribou Herd

-  Traditional Homeland of the Gwich'in Indians
-  Range of the Porcupine (River) Caribou Herd
-  100Z Area
-  Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
-  National Park and Wildlife Refuges



Gwich'in Steering Committee
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Caribou News

Porcupine Caribou Herd

The latest count of the Porcupine herd in July, 1989 totalled 178,000 caribou. There were 139,000 adults and 39,000 calves. The herd has been increasing at a rate of about 5% per year for the past decade.

Central Arctic Caribou Herd

For almost 20 years there have been mild winters in the Arctic, and the caribou herds of Alaska and Canada have all grown very fast. The Central Arctic Herd, which calves near Prudhoe Bay oil fields grew to three times its earlier size, and the oil industry tells anyone who will listen that this proves you can develop the Arctic Refuge without hurting the Porcupine Caribou Herd. Now things are changing.

After the first hard winter in years, ('88 - '89) many of the pregnant cows of the Central Caribou Herd apparently aborted their young. In the summer of 1989, only 29 calves for every hundred cows were born in the herd's western calving ground (around Kuparuk oil field) and 70 calves per every 100 cows.

The 1989 calving success of the Porcupine herd remained at 90 calves/100 cows, even after the hard winter. Other herds also seemed unaffected, on the Central Arctic herd was hurt. The trend seems to be continuing. The winter of '89 - '90 was very mild, but the calving rate remained low at 75 calves/100 cows on average.

THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

- OUR LAST GREAT WILDERNESS -

by Lenny Kohm

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska is one of the last remnants of true wilderness left in America. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service points to the Arctic Refuge as "the only conservation system unit in North America that protects, in an undisturbed condition, the complete spectrum of arctic and subarctic ecosystems."

Covering the northeastern corner of Alaska, the Arctic Refuge stretches from the Beaufort Sea, south across the coastal plain to the forests and peaks of the Brooks Range.

The wildlife here is unique and abundant. Polar bears den on the arctic plains, musk-ox roam along glacial rivers, and wolves prowl the foothills. Grizzly bears stalk the open tundra. Dall sheep scale the mountain tops, and moose range in the Talga Forest south of the mountains.

Most notable of all, is a herd of 160,000 caribou known as the Porcupine herd, named after the Porcupine River. The caribou of the Porcupine herd migrate hundreds of miles annually between their wintering grounds and the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge, where they give birth to their young every spring.

Such a mass-migration of animals has not been seen since the days when the buffalo roamed the Great Plain. This natural wonder deserves protection for future generations.

THE HISTORY

In 1960, President Eisenhower established the Arctic Wildlife Range, in recognition of the area's unparalleled scenic, wildlife, and recreational values. In 1980, Congress renamed the Arctic Wildlife Range the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and enlarged the Refuge to 19 million acres, most of the former Range a part of the Wilderness Preservation System.

The only area left unprotected was the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service calls this stretch the heart of the Arctic Refuge because it is "the center of wildlife activity."

Activists from all political persuasions are working to secure permanent protection for the coastal plain by encouraging Congress to designate the coastal plain as a wilderness area. Wilderness legislation would grant permanent protection to the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge.

PUTTING PEOPLE, THE FIRST PEOPLE FIRST

Near the northern Yukon village of Old Crow, at Bluefish Cave, is the oldest evidence of human occupation in North America. For more than 20,000 years the Gwich'in people of northern Alaska and Canada have lived off the land.

Countless generations have raised their children, and sustained themselves from their single most important resource—the Porcupine caribou herd. Their continued survival is a testament to their knowledge and ability to live in harmony with nature.

Today the Gwich'in people in Alaska and northern Canada still follow a subsistence lifestyle. They live as their ancestors have, measuring their lives with the caribou.

The Porcupine caribou herd sustains some 7,000 aboriginal people in northern Canada and Alaska. They rely on caribou meat for food and on the herd for learning the ways of their culture. For the Gwich'in, which means "caribou people," this animal is the spiritual center of life.

Young men learn from their fathers and uncles how to hunt wisely and use all parts of the animal. Young women learn from their mothers and aunts how to preserve the meat and take care of the hides. Elders share their knowledge with their people, teaching them how to make valuable medicines and clothing from the caribou.

Today the essentials of life, the values and social order of the Gwich'in depends upon nature's natural cycle, and the return of the caribou. For these people, the caribou must return each year forever.

If the Porcupine caribou herd is disrupted, even for a few years, many people may have to leave their communities to survive, but skills that are invaluable on the land often do not translate into jobs in the city or in the oil fields.

If this herd is at risk, an ancient culture is at risk. A way of life these people must pass on to their children and grandchildren may follow the ancestors of their cousins to the pages of history if the proposed oil and gas development places its huge footprint on the Porcupine caribou herd's calving grounds.

The clash over the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge finds the Gwich'in people face to face with the consumptive demands of modern American society. The threat comes not from nature, but from a handful of people a world away.

Decisions made in corporate boardrooms of the petroleum industry, and decisions pending in the chambers of Congress may have a devastating effect on these people.

What is at stake is a way of life thousands of years old. Nonetheless, the lives, culture and future of the Gwich'in people in this remote part of the world are at risk for a possible 200 days of oil.

THE THREAT

The 125-mile-long coastal plain is the only remaining stretch of Arctic coastline spared from oil and gas leasing. More than 600 square miles of the oil-rich Prudhoe Bay region supports massive industrial infrastructure, and suffers from air and water pollution and hazardous waste problems. The wildlife habitat there is destroyed and polluted beyond repair.

The oil industry believes that oil also lies underneath the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain and is urging Congress to allow them to drill there. However, there is less than a one-in-five chance that any economically recoverable oil exists on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge.

Despite these odds, the oil industry and its supporters tout the Arctic Refuge as "another Prudhoe Bay." In actuality, according to Interior Department figures, there is only a 1-in-100 chance of a find that size in the Arctic Refuge.

THE ALTERNATIVES

We wouldn't flood the Grand Canyon to build a hydroelectric dam. We wouldn't plug Yellowstone's Old Faithful to tap its geothermal energy. Why should we irreparably harm this unique wilderness for a short-term supply of oil that wouldn't be available for another 10 years?

There are other options and resources that can permanently reduce this country's dependence on oil. Rather than follow the oil industry's "drain America first" philosophy, concerned Americans support the safer and more long-lasting alternative of energy conservation.

Greater energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable, non-polluting energy alternatives, such as solar or wind power, will save this country much more oil than could ever be taken from the Arctic. Increased auto fuel efficiency alone would save enough oil to make drilling in the Arctic and other environmentally sensitive areas unnecessary.

Simply raising the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for American car manufacturers from the current 27.5 mpg to 45 mpg (with a corresponding increase for light trucks) would save America 2.9 million barrels of oil a day. That's more oil than we import from the entire Persian Gulf. This would significantly reduce our country's reliance on foreign oil, thereby bolstering

our economy and our national security.

Raising auto fuel economy also would reduce air pollution and global warming pollution. Every gallon of gasoline burned pumps 19 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and cars and light trucks account for roughly 20% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing fuel economy is the biggest single step we can take to curbing global warming and saving oil.

Saving energy, through increased fuel efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources would: provide a safe, clean, permanent way to increase national security; boost the nation's economy; reduce air pollution; slow global warming; and protect the Arctic Refuge and other valuable wilderness areas that are part of our national heritage.

THE COST OF INFLATION

We don't normally think of tire inflation as an environmental issue, but it is. Keeping tires properly inflated preserves the life of the tires (preventing premature wear from over-flexing and overheating), and burns less gas.

Right now, there are more than half a billion tires in use in the U.S. Estimates are that an inconceivable 50 - 80% of them are under-inflated! Since under-inflation can waste up to 5% of a car's fuel by increasing "rolling resistance, this means that more than 65 million car owners could significantly boost their cars' fuel efficiency by simply putting more air in their tires.

How much gas could we save with this simple step? Up to 2 billion gallons a year. It takes one hundred five million barrels of crude oil per year to produce this much gasoline.

The American Petroleum Institute claims the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge might produce as much as 250 thousand barrels of crude oil per day, that is about 105 million barrels per year, the same amount we could save annually by properly inflating our tires.

So, the question is: Are we willing to destroy the last complete ecosystem in North America, and risk yet another valuable native culture because we are *too lazy* to check the air in our tires?

To help protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or for more information please contact:
Lenny Kohm c/o The Last Great Wilderness, P.O. Box 102, Todd, NC 28684 (910)877-1551 (voice & fax) EcoNet/Internet; lgw@lgc.apc.org
or: Doug Urquhart, c/o Porcupine Caribou Management Board of Canada, 61 - 13th. Ave., Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada Y1A 4K6, (403)633-4780 (voice & fax)