




ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE *News*

THE ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE NEWSLETTER • AUGUST 2006 • VOL XIV • NUMBER 4

Drilling the Arctic Refuge: A Bankrupt Policy

By Cindy Shogan, Executive Director and Kristen Miller, Legislative Director

Every year, thousands of bills are introduced in Congress yet few actually become law. This is especially true during election years since members of Congress spend more time back home campaigning for re-election, fundraising, kissing babies and avoiding controversial political issues. However, when lawmakers are touting their records to prospective voters, they want to at least be able to *say* their work in Washington will improve the quality of life for Americans. With this in

mind, notoriously pro-drilling Representative Richard Pombo (R-CA) dreamed up the so-called American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act.

Incredibly, the sole purpose of this misleadingly named bill is to open the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas drilling. Eager to take advantage of recent gas price spikes in the

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Here's Another **WILD** Idea... Almost 15 years ago, a person just like you had a wild idea: Protect a wild Alaska. The Alaska Wilderness League was born.

Because you believed in that wild idea, millions of people now understand wild Alaska's fundamental importance to our lives.

Over the years, we've shared a lot of wild ideas:

- Protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge – one of the last pristine landscapes.
- Save the Tongass National Forest – our nation's largest national forest.
- Join with Alaska Natives to protect over 23 million acres of wild land.

Together, we succeeded – often against amazing odds.

We've also confronted wild schemes:

- Covert plots and legislative maneuvering to open the Arctic Refuge to drilling.
- Efforts to convince Americans that Alaska's last-of-a-kind lands should be exploited for short-term gain – regardless of the cost.

Because you have done something about these "wild" ideas to preserve these precious lands, the "wild" schemes that would have us turn Alaska over to profiteers have been defeated. But, we are not out of the woods yet.

Stay tuned, there are more wild ideas – your ideas – to come. Together we can protect the "wild" life. ♦



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The Alaska Wilderness League

is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 1993 to further the protection of Alaska's incomparable natural endowment.

The Alaska Wilderness League

is a membership organization that advocates for public policy to protect Alaska's lands and waters, promotes national and local recognition of Alaska's spectacular environment through public education, strengthens grassroots activism on behalf of Alaska's environment, and provides leadership within the environmental community on issues that concern Alaska.

The Alaska Wilderness League's

main projects currently include fighting for the permanent protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the sustainable future of Alaska's rainforests. It also serves as a resource, both in training and facilities, for Alaska-based regional environmental organizations. The Alaska Wilderness League is the only Washington D.C.-based environmental group devoted full-time to Alaskan issues.

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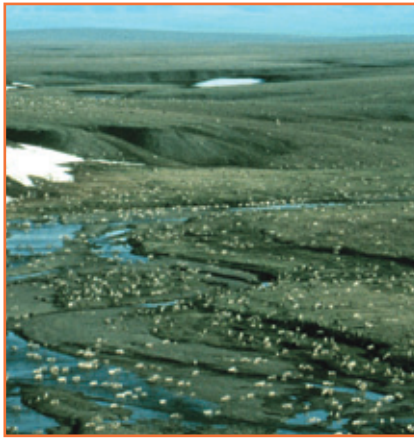
Cover bottom cameo photo:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services,

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Page 7 cameo photo: Amy Gulick

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Porcupine Caribou herd in the 1002 Area of the Arctic Refuge coastal plain.

Photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services,
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

week before Memorial Day, House leadership passed this stand alone Arctic Refuge drilling bill so that lawmakers could go home and deceptively claim that they had just done something to lower gas prices.

The debate on the House floor highlighted members' frustration with drilling proponents' empty answer to seemingly all of our country's energy problems. But the debate also brought to light the continued strong, bipartisan opposition to Arctic drilling. Retiring Representative Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) stated, "We ought not just oppose this bill, we ought to be ashamed of it."

Representative Charles Bass (R-NH) urged his party to re-think its tired pro-drilling strategy: "I rise today in strong opposition to ... the so-called American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act. Once again, we will spend valuable legislative hours

"Because rather than deal with our demands ... they have put all of their money on the oil companies. ... they have put it there with drilling in ANWR. It is a bankrupt policy."

— Representative George Miller (D-CA)

debating drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In the past few years, the House has repeatedly taken vote after vote on this issue. In each instance, Congress has ultimately not supported the opening of this refuge that was set aside by President Eisenhower 45 years ago."

Representative George Miller (D-CA) observed that drilling would do nothing to lower prices at the gas pump. "What they are telling us is that they have postponed conservation, they have postponed new technologies, and they have postponed new sources of energy. This is the most oil-friendly administration in recent times, and we still find that we cannot meet the demands of this country. Because rather than deal with our demands, rather than deal with the technologies and the innovations that are available to us today, they have put all of their money on the oil companies. They put it there with royalty relief. They put it there with incentives. They have put it there with bonus bid systems and they have put it there with drilling in ANWR. It is a bankrupt policy."

The Arctic drilling bill passed the house – as it has every year since the 2000 elections – but despite the media frenzy over rising gas prices, **the Arctic community kept all 30 moderate Republican "no" votes and even picked up three new Democratic votes from the previous year:** Representatives Edolphus Towns (NY-10), Stephanie

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A polar bear and her two cubs on the Beaufort Sea Coast.

Photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services,
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

...be sure to tell your representative and senators when you see them at home this summer to vote NO on any proposals to drill in the Arctic Refuge!

Herseth (SD-01), and Joe Baca (CA-43). This is a very strong showing going into the November elections. As soon as the House passed its Arctic Refuge drilling bill, Senate Minority Whip Richard Durbin (D-IL) sent out a press release declaring the issue "dead on arrival" in the Senate, indicating that a Senate companion to the Arctic Refuge drilling bill would end in a filibuster. Since last year the Senate filibustered a controversial defense appropriations bill that included Arctic Refuge drilling, there is almost no likelihood of the sham House bill resurfacing.

With your voice and support we will fight any and all desperate attempts by the Alaska delegation and their surrogates to pass Arctic Refuge drilling legislation. Alaska Wilderness League and the broader environmental community are participating in a summer of events to "Declare our Energy Independence." Be on the lookout for an event near you, and be sure to tell your representative and senators when you see them at home this summer to vote NO on any proposals to drill in the Arctic Refuge! ♦



Red Phalarope female in the 1002 area.

Photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

ARCTIC ACTION DAY POSTPONED!

Arctic Action Day originally scheduled for September 13 has been moved to next year. The new date is now March 20, 2007. This decision was made in order to have a bigger impact on the next session of Congress. Please mark your calendar! You can help us kick off the 110th Congress with a successful Arctic Action Day in Washington, D.C. on March 20.

Alaska Wilderness League will still host **Wilderness Week September 9-13, 2006**. For more information please visit our website at www.AlaskaWild.org. ♦

Arctic Circle of Giving

Check out our biggest donors and see if you're in the Arctic Circle of Giving

By Tara Lewis, Chief Operating Officer

As the assault on America's Arctic and Alaska's rainforests continue you have refused to give up the battle. Your generous donations pour in everyday; from foundations, major donors, members and activists. The donations you send help to mobilize our grassroots activists, convince your members of Congress to vote the right way and educate the public about the attack on Alaska's wild lands. Below are some of our most recent top donors.

Matching Grants:

Bank of America – \$535
 Monsanto Fund – \$1,200
 PG&E Corporation Campaign – \$300
 Microsoft Giving Campaign – \$300
 The Pew Charitable Trusts – \$2,000
 American Express Foundation – \$500
 Ameriprise Financial Employee Giving Campaign – \$100

Major Donors:

Tom and Sonja Campion – \$500,000
 Quiksilver – \$25,000
 Richard Brooks – \$25,000
 Volcom Clothing – \$20,000

Billabong – \$15,000
 Element – \$15,000
 Dave Bock – \$6,000
 William Donnelly – \$3,000
 Mark Wolf-Armstrong and Margaret Coon – \$1,500
 Marlyn Twitchell – \$1,000
 Ward and Lois Irwin – \$1,000
 Tim Mahoney – \$2,000
 Larry Jaeck – \$1,000
 Richard Spencer and Toni Armstrong – \$1,000
 David McCargo – \$1,000
 Dr. Roy and Leigh Farrell – \$1,000
 Joanne Roberts – \$1,000
 Reid Carron and Rebecca Rom – \$1,000 ♦



Alaska Policy: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

By Lexi Keogh, Development Director



Thumbs Up

New Staff – Alaska Wilderness League welcomes **Kristen Miller** as **Legislative Director** and **Becky Wynne** as **Communications Director** – two

more dedicated people working with you to protect Alaska's wilderness in the nation's capital.

Independence Day...From Bad Energy – Since the recent rise in gas prices, poll after poll has shown that Americans strongly favor forward-thinking energy solutions that emphasize renewable energy and conservation over the dead-end proposals of the past – such as drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Americans want real energy solutions and they expect their elected representatives to lead the country to a clean energy future. **Go to www.AlaskaWild.org for details.**



Thumbs Down

Vote to Drill Arctic Refuge Faces Death – The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill in May 2005 led

by Representative Richard Pombo (R-CA) that would allow drilling in America's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by a 225-201 vote. The sham vote was entirely a means to take advantage of Americans concerned about gas prices. It faces a certain death at the hands of an expected bipartisan filibuster in the Senate.

Americans can't drill their way to energy independence with 3% of the world's reserves while we use 25% of the world's oil.

"Wasted" Energy Week – Lawmakers proposed to take a hard look at energy issues this summer; but all we hear are proposals for more drilling and taxpayer-funded handouts to the oil and gas industry. Where are the real solutions to address America's oil addiction?

Americans Have No Energy – Tired pro-drilling propaganda masks the true problem: Americans can't drill their way to energy independence with 3% of the world's reserves while we use 25% of the world's oil. ♦

Alaska All-Stars: Christianne Hinks and Chuck Houston

What's the link between you and the Arctic? Christianne and Chuck know...

By Lisette Fee, Membership Director

Christianne and Chuck are truly dedicated conservationists and activists. Living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as contractors they both enjoy hiking, canoeing and backpacking and are active in protecting Alaska's wilderness and the wilderness of the Southwest.

Why did you join the Alaska Wilderness League?

We learned about Alaska Wilderness League from Ken Madsen (who led slideshow presentations of the Arctic Refuge) at a New Mexico Wilderness Alliance public lands rally. We took the literature home to read and decided that we wanted to join others who share the common goal of protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



Chuck takes a break from hiking with Christianne in the Arctic Refuge.

Photo by Christianne Hinks

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Christianne enjoys the view during a hike near Caribou Pass in the Arctic Refuge.

Photo by Chuck Houston

Have you been to Alaska? What was your favorite place or experience?

We traveled last year to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge – we backpacked and paddled on the Kongakut River. The smell of the tundra; drinking the water right out of the river, coming around a bend and seeing 500 caribou, watching an amazing number and variety of birds and grizzly grazing on the hillsides make the Arctic Refuge our favorite place.

What actions, if any, have you taken to protect Alaska’s wild places? Why did you decide to take action on these issues?

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the last great wilderness in the United States and deserves our best efforts to be protected.

We’ve taken every necessary action to protect Alaska’s wilderness ranging from letters and phone calls to our representative and senators, phoning New Mexico Wilderness Alliance members asking them to call legislators on strategic voting days, writing letters to the editor of our local newspaper, and presenting slideshows of our trips. We also met personally with our congresswoman, Representative Heather Wilson (R-NM). We participated in a radio interview about our upcoming

As migratory species return every fall we like to think we saw them nesting in the Refuge in summertime (when we visited) and consider the link we all have to Alaska and the Arctic.

trip to the Refuge on the Canning River, and we wear our “Save the Arctic” buttons to inspire discussion with people we meet everywhere we go.

We’re discouraged at how easily the oil lobby, politicians and the media can misrepresent the impact that drilling has on our wild places.

Tell us about the local places that are important to you.

The Chama River in northern New Mexico is federally designated as a Wild and Scenic River and is one of the prettiest rivers in the Southwest. While paddling we have seen deer, elk, turkey, eagles and many other species – we never realized rattlesnakes were swimmers until we saw one swimming by our canoe. There are side canyons with dinosaur tracks, cactus, hot springs and historical ranch sites.

Tell us something about your- self. What are your hobbies? What else do you enjoy doing in your free time?

We both like paddling rivers, backpacking, backcountry skiing and birding.

Chuck is a musician, playing blues and bluegrass guitar. Christianne likes gardening, preserving food for winter and dehydrating food for trips.

We live on the edge of a nature preserve in the middle of Albuquerque on the Rio Grande and share our backyard with sand-hill cranes, ducks, geese, pheasants, barn owls and many

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other birds. As migratory species return every fall we like to think we saw them nesting in the Refuge in summertime (when we visited) and consider the link we all have to Alaska and the Arctic. Sometimes the effort to try and repair the damage our species has created is overwhelming, but we find we are sharing the experience with wonderful, energetic and dedicated friends. ♦



Chuck poses next to an FBI warning sign at the Trans Alaska Oil Pipeline.

Photo by Christianne Hinks

Winged Migration

Our sandpiper flies across the country to save Teshekpuk Lake

By Lisette Fee, Membership Director

So how did we get a sandpiper to fly across the country for our Save Teshekpuk Lake Campaign? Our new organizer Mark Stilp, complete in full sandpiper plumage, will be educating people about the impending lease sale for Teshekpuk Lake at concerts, fairs, festivals and events across the country.

And you're invited! Check out our event listing below and invite your friends and family to meet Mark and show support for the Save Teshekpuk Lake Campaign.

Mark will be handing out Teshekpuk Lake postcards for people to sign, sending a message to U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne urging him to cancel an oil and gas lease sale that would open one of the most important wetland areas in the entire circumpolar Arctic! ♦



Mark gives a big thumbs down to the BP (British Petroleum) truck at the Chicago Blues Festival.

Our new organizer Mark Stilp, complete in full sandpiper plumage, will be educating people about the impending lease sale for Teshekpuk Lake at concerts, fairs, festivals and events across the country.

Schedule of Summer Events

What	Where	When
Ohio State Fair	Columbus, OH	Aug. 2 – 13
Wisconsin State Fair	Milwaukee, WI	Aug. 3 – 13
Lollapalooza Concert	Chicago, IL	Aug. 4 – 6
Indiana State Fair	Indianapolis, IN	Aug. 9 – 20
Illinois State Fair	Springfield, IL	Aug. 11 – 20
Gathering of the Vibes	Mariaville, NY	Aug. 17 – 20
Michigan State Fair	Detroit, MI	Aug. 23 – Sept. 4
Washington/Evergreen State Fair	Monroe, WA	Aug. 24 – Sept. 4
New York State Fair	Syracuse, NY	Aug. 24 – Sept. 4
Minnesota State Fair	St. Paul, MN	Aug. 24 – Sept. 4
Ducks Unlimited Great Outdoors Festival	Oshkosh, WI	Aug. 25 – 27
Oregon State Fair	Salem, OR	Aug. 25 – Sept. 4
New Hampshire State Fair	Contoocook, NH	Aug. 31 – Sept. 4
Bumbershoot Music Festival	Seattle, WA	Sept. 2 – 4
Wings n' Water Festival	Stone Harbor, NJ	Sept. 16 – 17
Cradle of Birding Wildlife and Conservation Fund	Philadelphia, PA	Sept. 16 – 17
Crane Fest XII	Lansing, MI	Oct. 14 – 15
Cape May Bird Show	Cape May, NJ	Oct. 27 – 29

Alaska Wilderness League – You Can Take it With You!

New merchandise from Alaska Wilderness League

By Justin Bricarell, Development Associate

This 100% cotton canvas tote bag is tough enough to carry the largest loads. What a great way to show your support for Keeping Alaska Wild! Canvas tote bag: \$20



The 22 oz. Nalgene bottle is made of durable plastic so it is ready to go wherever your trek takes you – the Arctic Refuge, Denali State Park or the Tongass National Forest. Water bottle: \$10



This adjustable, one-size-fits-all hat is the perfect compliment to any outfit. Cotton hat: \$20

To order your Alaska Wilderness League merchandise, fill out the merchandise form below and send it in the inserted remit envelope. Or you may call or email Justin Bricarell at (202) 544-5205 or Justin@alaskawild.org. Your membership contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Thank you! ♦



I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE:

- | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| An additional contribution | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ |
| A new annual membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ |
| A monthly recurring membership
(your credit card will be automatically billed every month until you cancel) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ |

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE:

- Alaska Wilderness League small-neck Nalgene bottle (Qty:____@ \$10 ea.)
- Alaska Wilderness League Canvas Tote Bag (Qty:____@ \$20 ea.)
- Alaska Wilderness League Cotton Hat ... (Qty:____@ \$20 ea.)
- Plush Porcupine Caribou Toy (Qty:____@ \$20 ea.)
- Alaska Wilderness League T-shirt. Made by Patagonia with 100% organic cotton. Men: M, L, XL, XXL; Women: S, M, L Please circle size(s) (Qty:____@ \$15 ea.)
- Subhankar Banerjee's *Seasons of Life and Land*, stunning images of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. *Softcover* (Qty:____@ \$75 ea.)
- Arctic Wings: Birds of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*, magnificent images by Subhankar Banerjee and other photographers. *Softcover*..... (Qty:____@ \$75 ea.)
- Caribou Rising*, by Rick Bass. *Hardcover*.... (Qty:____@ \$20 ea.)
- Arctic Refuge: A Circle of Testimony*, compiled by Hank Lentfer and Carolyn Servid. *Softcover* (Qty:____@ \$10 ea.)

- Midnight Wilderness: Journeys in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*, by Debbie S. Miller. *Softcover* (Qty:____@ \$10 ea.)
- The Last Wilderness: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*, by Kennan Ward. *Hardcover* (Qty:____@ \$20 ea.)

TOTAL \$ _____

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SO WE CAN ENSURE THAT YOU RECEIVE EVERYTHING WITHOUT DELAY.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

My check or money order is enclosed

Please charge my Visa MasterCard

Card# _____ Exp _____

Take Action: Save Teshekpuk Lake

Call or write ConocoPhillips CEO James Mulva and U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne. Tell them Teshekpuk Lake is too important to sacrifice for the short-term profits of oil companies.

James J. Mulva
Chairman and CEO ConocoPhillips
600 North Dairy Ashford
P.O. Box 2197
Houston, TX 77252-2197
Phone: (281) 293-1000
jjmulva@conocophillips.com

Secretary Dirk Kempthorne
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: (202) 208-3100
Web form: www.doi.gov/contact.html

Visit www.saveTlake.org to take action and learn more about the campaign! ♦



Tens of thousands of Brant flock to America's Arctic annually to molt their feathers.

Photo by Gary Braasch



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Bird Research Camp on Canning River Delta within the 1002 Area of the Arctic Refuge coastal plain.

Photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services,
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge