



ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE NEWS

Don't Be Reconciled to Arctic Drilling

Next Steps in Budget Process Are Crucial

By Brian Moore

The battle in Congress over the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has reached a crucial stage and will be a hot political topic all summer. The staff at the Alaska Wilderness League is committed to working as hard as ever over the next several months to convince decision makers in Congress to continue to protect the Arctic Wildlife Refuge from the Bush administration and corporate oil interests.

Recently both the House and the Senate passed a budget resolution, a non-binding blueprint for our nation's budget that included language that could open the Arctic Wildlife Refuge to oil leasing and development. Because of special rules, the only way to remove the Arctic provision was to vote down the whole budget resolution.

In the House, a very strong coalition of Republicans, led by Nancy

impressive 15 Republicans broke with their party's position by opposing the budget. The budget bill also passed the Senate by a vote of 52 to 47. The fact that both of these votes



Fledgling gyrfalcon chick takes flight. Hundreds of species of birds summer in the Arctic Refuge. Photograph by Subhankar Banerjee.

were so close is encouraging and should motivate Arctic activists for the final push during the budget reconciliation process to protect this pristine wilderness.

through most of the summer and into the early fall.

The inclusion of Arctic drilling in this process is not only controversial, but also unseemly. The budget process is one that was set up to ensure that we have a strong and balanced fiscal policy for the nation as a whole, not one that is intended to be used as an avenue for controversial policy decisions. The Alaska Wilderness League will be working in coalition with many others in the environmental, faith and labor communities to convince Congress to either remove these harmful provisions or, instead, to vote against the final budget reconciliation.

It is very important for your representatives and senators to hear from you as much as possible over the next few months. Encourage them to protect the Arctic Refuge from the hands of corporate polluters. Now, more than ever, the Arctic Refuge needs your support! ♦

In the House, a very strong coalition of Republicans, led by Nancy Johnson (R-CT), are committed to protecting the Arctic Refuge from drilling.

The next steps in the process are crucial. Over the next several months both the House and the

Johnson (R-CT), were so committed to protecting the Refuge that they voted against the final passage of the budget resolution. Because the budget process is one that usually follows party lines, their actions were especially courageous. Ultimately, the budget resolution passed the House by a vote of 214 to 211. An

Senate will work on the budget reconciliation, the part of the budget process that has the force of law. It will be up to the Resources Committee in the House and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the Senate to decide on whether or not to open the Arctic Refuge to drilling. The process is expected to last



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Take Back the Planet - Be There!

By Cindy Shogan

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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Office Address

122 C Street, NW, Ste 240

Washington, D.C. 20001

Tel: (202) 544-5205

Fax (202) 544-5197

www.alaskawild.org

On May 11, 2005 the Bush administration decimated the Roadless Rule, allowing states to open up our forest wilderness to logging. Soon we expect that Secretary of the Interior, Gail Norton, will open up the entire majestic Teshekpuk Lake on Alaska's North Slope to oil and gas development (even Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, would have protected more than Norton has). And, after ignoring it for 25 years, Norton's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) just issued a plan for seven million of the 80 million acres of land that they manage in Alaska. Guess what?

This drill-it-all administration mounts what seems like daily assaults on our planet.

According to Secretary Norton's misguided plan, not one acre out of the seven million was designated as having wilderness qualities.

These are just a few of what seems like daily assaults on our planet. The Bush administration will stop at nothing and continues to ignore the will of the American public.



Caribou calves in the Arctic Refuge. Photography by Barbara Kelly.



Two and lamb mountain goats on the Arctic tundra. Photography by Barbara Kelly.

This "drill-it-all" administration thinks they are very close to their number one goal of opening up the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The administration admits that opening the Refuge will do nothing to lower prices at the pump and the oil industry has even admitted that they're not that interested in drilling there. The Arctic has become this Administration's "key to destroying our nation's natural treasures." As Mr. "Ethical," Representative Tom DeLay (R-TX), admitted, "It's not about drilling the Refuge, it's about being able to drill everywhere."

Well, you know what? As wilderness mentor Mardy Murie observed years ago, "It's wonderful country. It's worth doing something very strenuous to protect it." Every person across the country has been exercising their voice against drilling in the pristine Arctic Wildlife Refuge. It's time to bring our voices to Washington. The administration and Congress can no longer ignore us. Join us and thousands of others as we rally to "Take Back the Planet" – the week of September 10, 2005 in Washington DC!!!! ♦

House Leadership Uses Backdoor Maneuver to Block Tongass Vote

By Natalie Brandon

In a major victory for Alaska's wilderness in June 2004, the House of Representatives passed an amendment to an annual spending bill that prevented taxpayer funds from being used to build new commercial logging roads in the Tongass National Forest.

Last year's amendment was championed by Representatives Steve Chabot (R-OH) and Robert Andrews (D-NJ), co-chairs of the Green

Those of us that love Alaska and care about wilderness areas and pristine forests have always known that cutting down ancient, old-growth trees in the Tongass Forest doesn't make sense. But with taxpayer losses on the Tongass logging program last year totaling \$48 million, those in favor of fiscal responsibility are also on our side.



Photograph by Amy Gillick.

Congress even had a chance to take a vote. Alaska Wilderness League along with the coalition of environmental groups working to protect the Tongass from wasteful logging will continue to push for a Tongass amendment in the Senate.

The League and its allies in Congress remain committed to protecting

the Tongass. It is an extraordinary natural resource that stretches more than 500 miles down the southeast coast of Alaska. At 17.2 million acres it is, in fact, the largest national forest in the United States and the largest, most intact temperate rainforest in the entire world. ♦

Over the past two decades taxpayer losses on the Tongass logging program have reached nearly one billion dollars.

Scissors Caucus, a group of lawmakers committed to cutting wasteful, environmentally harmful projects.

This year, both Representatives Chabot and Andrews were committed to offering the same amendment. But in an

extraordinary procedural maneuver, Republicans managed to stop the amendment before members of

Your Generosity Invigorates the Arctic Campaign

By Tara Lewis and Lisette Fee

With mounting attacks on the Arctic Refuge, Alaska Wilderness League members have shown tremendous support, from calling your members of Congress, writing letters to the editor, hosting conversation parties and making donations. Your contributions have been pouring in, with notes and messages of encouragement and concern that mean so much to us. We would like to thank all of our members for their generous support. Below are some of the top donors that have made our work possible this season.

Individual Donors

Pauline Nightingale - \$250
Susan Underwood - \$250
Marion Frasier - \$250
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William Myers - \$476
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Kristine Abshire - \$500
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Katie Sako - \$2,000
Anonymous - \$30,000

Corporate Gifts

Topics Entertainment (Greg James) - \$20,000
NHS, Inc. (Kevin O'Brian) - \$1,200

Foundation Support

PG&E Corporation Campaign for the Community Foundation - \$300
Sutherland Foundation, Inc. - \$5,000
Hugh & Jane Ferguson Foundation - \$10,000

The Lazar Foundation - \$20,000
Harder Foundation - \$25,000
Rockefeller Family Fund, Inc. - \$25,000
Marisla Foundation - \$25,000
The Brainerd Foundation - \$35,000

Matching Grants

Key Foundation - \$1,000
Nike - \$2,000
First Data Western Union Foundation - \$25
American Express Foundation - \$535
Bank of America - \$1,000
Microsoft Giving Campaign - \$90
World Reach, Inc. - \$70 ♦

Citizens From Different Walks of Life, Walk Together for the Arctic Refuge

By Erik Dumont

In the fall of 2003, Sue Bumbaugh walked down the sidewalk in her hometown of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania with Norma Kassi, a Gwich'in native from Old Crow in the upper Yukon. Norma, along with Ken Madsen were in town for one leg of the "Walk to Washington," a Seattle to DC journey to raise awareness about the Arctic Refuge. After Norma told Sue about her home in the Arctic, Sue knew she had to become involved and do something to help.

Sue has since become increasingly active working to protect America's Arctic Refuge. In February, Sue worked with Alaska Wilderness League to bring Chad Kister, a slideshow presenter, to Gettysburg during our two-week, 18-state slideshow blitz. The show was so successful that Sue and her friends invited Chad back for another

presentation at a local coffee house where attendance was so high that they had to make it standing room only. After the show was over, someone suggested that with only a couple of days before the vote, maybe they "should take to the streets". Before you knew it, Sue and others were bundled up and out on the sidewalks waving their signs and urging people to call Senator Arlen Specter to oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

As the co-chair for the environmental task force of a local chapter of Democracy for America, Sue has pledged to help keep the issue of the Arctic Refuge locally visible. Local activists like Sue are instrumental in protecting the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. If you are in Sue's area and want to get involved, email her at longpinelake@yahoo.com. ♦

An Arctic Summer

June 11, 2005: Arctic Action Day-Join supporters from all over the country who will begin hosting local gatherings to write or call Congress to protect the Arctic Refuge. We will provide you with an Arctic action kit, including the DVD of the documentary "Being Caribou."

July 4, 2005: League organizers will broadcast protecting the Arctic Refuge at Independence Day parades, events, and in the media. You can too! We will provide you with stickers and informational brochures.

Week of September 10, 2005: Hundreds of volunteers will come to Washington, DC for **Arctic Lobby Day!!!**

Please email Lisette Fee at lisette@alaskawild.org to participate in an event. She will mail you the appropriate information and materials. ♦

Arctic Bracelets On Their Way!

"Arctic-Keep It Wild!" bracelets have arrived and will be mailed immediately. We apologize for the delay in production. 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"/> \$ _____
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(your credit card will be automatically billed every month until you cancel)

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE:

Green silicone "Arctic-Keep It Wild!" bracelet Single \$3
 Bulk (5) \$12

Alaska Wilderness League T-shirt. Made by Patagonia with 100% organic cotton (Men: M, L, XL, XXL; Women: S, M, L) \$15

A polar bear poster: Two cubs nestled against their mother in the midst of an Arctic winter *Photo by Amy Gulick* \$10

A stunning poster of caribou on the Coastal Plain, with the Brooks Range to the south and the Arctic Ocean in the foreground
Taken by caribou biologist and photographer Ken Whitten \$10

Subhankar Banerjee's *Seasons of Life and Land*, stunning images of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge *Hardcover* \$75

TOTAL: \$ _____

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Please fax this form to (202) 544-5197 or mail it to: Alaska Wilderness League, 122 C Street, NW, Suite 240, Washington, DC 20001. Your membership contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Thank You!

Alaska's Environment Eclipsed By Drill-It-All Energy Policy

By Natalie Brandon

All across America, in Florida, in Alaska, throughout the West and from sea to shining sea, millions of acres of public land – land owned by American taxpayers – are under attack by a pro-drilling Congress and White House determined to give away our country's most special places to the oil and gas industry.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in Alaska.

The administration plans to open every inch of public land in the northwest and northeast planning areas of the 23 million-acre National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) – including Teshekpuk Lake, one of the most ecologically important wetland ecosystems in the world – as well as unrelenting efforts to open America's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge through backdoor legislative maneuvers in Congress. The appetite of the pro-drillers seems to be endless.

After saturating much of Alaska's North Slope with oil and gas development, the oil industry and the pro-drilling Department of Interior now have their eyes on the Beaufort



Above: : Gas flaring at Prudhoe Bay. Photograph by Pam Miller. Below: Icebergs scattered across the Arctic Ocean just off the coast of the Arctic Refuge. Photograph by Erik Dumont.

Earlier this spring, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) opened the bidding process for oil companies interested in buying offshore leases in nearly 9.4 million acres of the

Beaufort Sea.

As a result of already existing incentives and

low royalty fees for oil companies, the MMS collected over \$47 million in bids, 95 percent of which came from a single oil company, Shell, Inc. The most notable bids were for leases

directly offshore of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and north of Teshekpuk Lake in the NPR-A.

Unfortunately, the current energy bill being considered in Congress provides oil companies with enormous incentives to drill for oil and gas both on and offshore of America's Arctic. Now with oil and gas development coming from all directions, the Inupiat people of the Arctic face the possibility of multiple roads, airstrips, pipelines and massive oil and gas platforms and infrastructure.

It doesn't have to be this way. The people of Alaska do not have to sacrifice their land and their culture for lower gas prices. We live in the 21st century and there are numerous solutions to our country's energy needs, including incentives for renewable energy development, better fuel efficiency standards and tax breaks for people to invest in hybrid cars and use wind power to run their homes. Unfortunately, very few of these have made it into the current energy bill under consideration in Congress, which relies on more archaic nonrenewable sources of energy such as oil and gas development.

As Americans committed to responsible, renewable energy development, we must contact those in power and urge them to give America an energy bill that will not destroy the most pristine environment and native cultures of Alaska. ♦

The oil industry now has it's eyes on the Beaufort Sea, a large swath of ocean that hugs Alaska's Arctic coastline.

Sea, a large swathe of ocean that hugs the coastlines of the NPR-A, Prudhoe Bay and the Arctic Refuge. Home to bowhead and beluga whales and many other species of marine mammals, the Beaufort Sea is a critical hunting area for Inupiat Eskimos living in villages along the North Slope. Enduring some of the harshest weather conditions on the planet, the Inupiat people rely on the animals and land of the Arctic for their survival.

New Leaf Chart Here.

Don't Bake Alaska!

By Hannah Allen-Yeager

Friday, April 22, 2005 - Alaska Wilderness League joined Greenpeace, Ben & Jerry's and hundreds of citizen activists to speak out against drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

How did we grab the attention of Congress, CNN and The Daily Show's Jon Stewart all in one day? By serving a giant Baked Alaska on

The Baked Alaska weighed 900 pounds and measured four feet tall and four feet in diameter.

the west lawn of the Capitol. The Baked Alaska (which symbolized the environmental damage that drilling in the Arctic Refuge would cause) weighed 900 pounds and measured four feet tall and four feet in diam-

eter. This ice cream treat was created from 3,600 four-ounce scoops of Ben & Jerry's new flavor, Fossil Fuel, 90 pounds of cake and 150 pounds of marshmallow crème. The event is part of Ben & Jerry's ongoing "Lick Global Warming" campaign to encourage our country to make a strong national commitment to increasing the use of renewable sources of energy and reducing the pollution that leads to global warming.

Alaska Wilderness League's Legislative Director, Brian Moore, spoke about the value of keeping the pristine Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge wild for future generations. He was joined by John Passacantando, Executive Director for



Baked Alaska on the front lawn of the Capitol. Photograph by John McCaib.

Greenpeace USA, and Yola Carlough, Ben & Jerry's Head of Social Mission.

Activists present at the event filled out postcards to their members of Congress to oppose any legislation that would open the Arctic Refuge up to drilling. The event was a tasty success, and sent a strong message to Congress: keep the Arctic Refuge off-limits to drilling because Americans care as deeply about protecting this pristine wildlife habitat as the oil industry does about its exorbitant profits!♦



122 C Street, NW, Ste 240
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*Arctic polar bear joins the League to tell Congress, "don't Bake Alaska!"
Photograph by John McCaib.*