



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ October 15, 2010 ~

Each week leading up to the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's 50th Anniversary** on December 6, 2010, we will be sending you an Arctic Truth newsletter highlighting an **Arctic Hero**, an **Arctic bird** that migrates from the Refuge to other states in the U.S., and other news about why the Arctic Refuge deserves the strongest possible protections.



Arctic Hero

Senator **Maria Cantwell** (D-WA) has been a proponent of protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge ever since she took public office. Senator Cantwell has used her seat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to raise awareness about the importance of the Refuge and to encourage environmentally sound and responsible policy-making. With both a professional and personal dedication to the cause, Cantwell has fought hard to ban drilling in the Arctic Refuge, showing strong support for investment in and development of clean energy technologies. In 2006, President Obama praised Cantwell for her hard work saying "It's no exaggeration to say that without her personal courage and dogged determination, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would already be open to oil drilling."

Arctic Bird

The **Ruddy Turnstone** is a short, stocky bird with very unique coloring. Patterned with white, black and grey feathers around its head and parts of its body, it is most recognizable by the red feathers along its sides. Residing in rocky, coastal areas, the Ruddy Turnstone got its name for the way that it forages for food, by turning over rocks and other items. The Ruddy Turnstone spends winters in areas such as South Carolina and the summer months breeding in the north, including in the Arctic Refuge.



Arctic Action

This week in Alaska, Shell Oil and the agency formerly known as MMS have been up to their old tricks. Despite a recent Secretarial Order from Secretary of the Interior Salazar that science would guide the agency's decision-making, Alaska MMS has been rushing through a proposal by Shell to drill just 20 miles off the coast of the Arctic Refuge next summer. The lack of scientific understanding in the Arctic Ocean is staggering. In fact, courts have recently tossed out a leasing program and exploration plans due to inadequate science in the nearby Chukchi Sea. The same data gaps and conditions (harsh weather, icy waters, meager infrastructure) make drilling in the region extremely risky. As other parts of the Arctic are under threat, let's do what we can do protect the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain—the only area of the North Slope legislatively off-limits to oil and gas development—by **cosponsoring H.R. 39/S.231, the Arctic wilderness bill.**



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