



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ December 2, 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

Thirty years ago today, on December 2, 1980, **President Jimmy Carter** signed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) into federal law. ANILCA has protected the people, animals and natural environment of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from development and oil exploration for 30 years. This law designated 43 millions acres of land in Alaska as part of the national park system, 54 million acres as national wildlife refuges and 56 million acres of federal lands as wilderness. President Carter's leadership in enacting this law helped protect one of the most untouched places on earth from exploitation for the sake of economic gain. Since leaving office in 1981, Carter has continued to fight for responsible energy policy-making and further protections for the Arctic Refuge, by writing articles and speaking

Arctic Bird

The **Redpoll** is a bird common to the higher latitudes of North America. Breeding in the summer months in the Arctic Refuge and parts of northern Canada, the Redpoll maintains a population in Alaska all year long. They make the trip down to the northern parts of North America only about every other winter. These birds also exhibit a small pouch in their throat which allows them to store seeds for short periods of time. After collecting enough, they fly to a safer, warmer area to enjoy their meal.



Arctic Action

Today, Representatives Ed Markey (D-MA), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Jay Inslee (D-WA), Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) and Lois Capps (D-CA) held a press conference with national conservation and Native leaders from across the country, who gathered at the House Triangle in front of the U.S. Capitol Building to celebrate the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's 50th anniversary. Many of these same leaders will continue the celebration this evening at The Living Arctic Gala at the Newseum in D.C. This event will honor many Arctic champions, including President Jimmy Carter, Cynthia Wayburn, Patagonia, and President Eisenhower, whose vision in setting this area aside 50 years ago allows us to celebrate its wilderness values today. We would love you to consider attending tonight's special gala event to honor the Arctic Refuge.



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