



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ April 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** – someone who has gone above and beyond to protect the natural treasures of the Arctic Refuge – an **Arctic bird** that migrates from the Refuge to other states in the US – and other news about why the Arctic Refuge deserves the strongest possible protections.



Arctic Hero

Senator **William V. Roth** was a five term Republican Senator from Delaware, chairman of the Finance Committee, and well known for his relentless pursuit of tax cuts and high-profile inquiries into alleged taxpayer abuses. In the late 80's Senator Roth introduced the first Senate bill to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain as Wilderness. Throughout his career he was a champion for the Refuge, including leading the first effort to remove the Refuge drilling revenues from the budget bill in 2000.

Arctic Bird

The **Red-throated loon** is a fairly common breeder and migrant along the Arctic Refuge coast in the Arctic Ocean. It spends the winter at high latitudes in North America and Eurasia. Arrivals on the Arctic breeding ground ponds are announced with raucous calling and ritual flights circling high above the recently thawed ponds and lakes. As is customary for all loons, both adults care for their young. The loon spends its entire life on water, except when incubating its eggs. Any oil it encounters destroys both the insulative value of its feathers and its ability to dive to capture prey.



Courtesy of US FWS

Arctic Action

This week, President Obama and Secretary Salazar made a major announcement regarding oil and gas development off our nation's coasts. The Department of Interior was required to reassess the offshore drilling plan for our nation as a result of a lawsuit filed by the Alaska Wilderness League together with the Native Village of Point Hope and other conservation allies. In their new plan, the administration chose to walk a fine line in America's Arctic.

The good news is that they cancelled five lease sales and called for intensive scientific study before any future leasing will take place in this fragile ecosystem. The bad news was that they gave the nod to "exploratory drilling" in these same waters, beginning this summer. To the Inupiat people of the Arctic coast, who have lived off the bounty of the Arctic Ocean for thousands of years, "exploratory drilling" is drilling pure and simple. There is a risk of an oil spill and no proven technology to clean up a spill in these icy and harsh conditions. In the Arctic, the President needs a comprehensive plan based on science to protect the most ecologically important areas. You can support this effort by ensuring that one of the most important Arctic areas is granted Wilderness protection: please **cosponsor HR39 the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Refuge Wilderness Act**.



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