



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ April 30, 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

At a press conference at the U.S. Capitol yesterday, **Senators Mark and Tom Udall** celebrated their family's long history of advocating for stronger protection for the Arctic Refuge. The Senators also shared tales of their own personal adventures in the Refuge. Mark spoke of a 400-mile, 40-day journey he took on skis through the Brooks Range a number of years ago. His cousin, Tom, talked about trekking up those mountains on foot while in the midst of a float trip down one of the Refuge's crystal clear rivers. Following in the footsteps of their conservation hero fathers Stewart and Morris Udall, Tom and Mark called on Congress to make this the year we finally designate the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge as wilderness.

Arctic Bird

Smith's Longspurs breed in the Arctic Refuge before migrating to Kansas and many central US states. They are brightly colored songbirds, and notably have one of the highest copulation rates of any bird in the world. During a one week timespan in June each year, the females will copulate over 350 times on average.



Arctic Action

Yesterday, Senators Tom Udall (NM) and Mark Udall (CO), Representative Ed Markey (MA), and Native and conservation leaders kicked off a year of celebrations for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's 50th anniversary at a press conference. Participants focused on the unrivaled wilderness of the Arctic Refuge, sharing their personal stories of time spent in the Refuge's wilds. As the tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico unfolds, the speakers couldn't help but make the connection that drilling does not belong in our nation's natural treasures like the Arctic Refuge. As Rep. Markey stated, "The recent events in the Gulf are an important reminder that there is no such thing as immaculate extraction." Join in the celebration and protection of the Arctic Refuge by cosponsoring H.R. 39, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act today!

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