



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ May 27, 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.

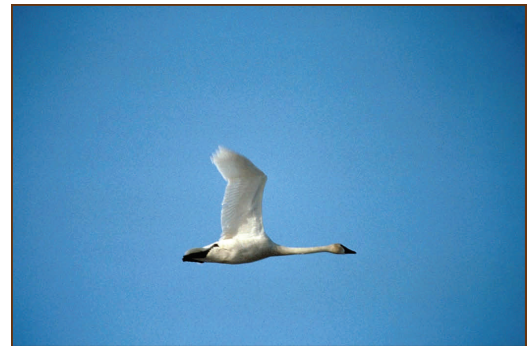
Arctic Hero



Congressman **Jay Inslee** (WA-1) has a long history of working to protect the Arctic, including supporting wilderness protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain, protection of the Polar Bear Seas from additional drilling, and leadership on renewable energy. Representative Inslee was awarded a Friends of the National Parks award by the National Parks Conservation Association in 2001. He credits his interest in the outdoors to the years his parents spent leading student groups on wilderness conservation trips. Inslee coauthored the book *Apollo's Fire: Igniting America's Clean Energy Economy*, which argues for improved federal policies to allow the US to wean itself off fossil fuels and stop global warming. More recently, Inslee has been in a leader in the fight to stop Shell's proposed exploratory drilling scheduled to begin in less than 35 days in the Arctic Ocean.

Arctic Bird

The **Tundra Swan** is the most common species of swan in North America, and can be found wintering from California to Maryland. Tundra Swans primarily forage for aquatic plants by upending while swimming. However, loss of habitat has made them increasingly rely on scavenging from farmland crops. The oldest recorded Tundra Swan was more than 24 years old!



Arctic Action

The Minerals Management Service, the government agency that is responsible for administering oil and gas leasing in our public lands and waters, has recently come under fire following the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Investigations have found that the agency has routinely failed to do full environmental

studies before allowing drilling, and in some cases have ignored scientific data in order to keep oil development on schedule. Investigators found that the MMS Alaska office refused to create a handbook for reviewing environmental issues, which was agency policy, leading to inconsistencies in how environmental reviews were conducted. The MMS would be responsible for managing any drilling on the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain, all the more reason to **cosponsor HR 39/S231**, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act, which would designate and protect the Refuge's Coastal Plain as wilderness.



For more information contact: Kiyana Allen, KAllen@defenders.org