



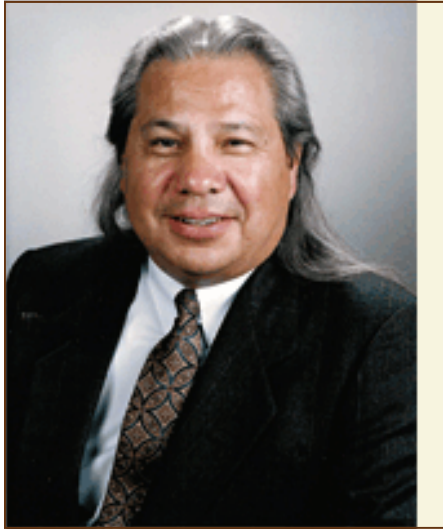
# ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ June 4, 2010 ~

Each week leading up to the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's 50<sup>th</sup> 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 US, and other news about why the Arctic Refuge deserves the strongest possible protections.

## Arctic Hero



**John Echohawk**, long-time supporter of protecting the Arctic Refuge, was the first Native American to graduate from New Mexico University School of Law. He has since committed his skills to preserving Native American lands and cultures. As founder of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), Echohawk bolstered the preservation of tribal resources and human rights for indigenous peoples across the United States. The most prominent achievement of NARF was the development of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which requires federal institutions to return Native American cultural items to their respective peoples. Throughout his work for Native American rights, Echohawk has championed stronger protection for the Porcupine Caribou Herd that relies on the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain as its birthing and nursery grounds. He cites the herd's importance to the environment and in particular to the people of the Gwich'in Nation, who have lived in the Arctic for thousands of years.

## Arctic Bird

The **American Golden Plover** breeds in the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain and Arctic's Brooks Range mountains, before journeying to Massachusetts and other states. The American Golden Plover's migration can exceed 25,000 miles—one of the longest in the world! During this extensive migration, these birds will travel 2,400 miles over open ocean where they are unable to stop to feed or drink.



## Arctic Action

The ongoing BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, one of the worst environmental tragedies the world has ever seen, has bizarrely become a rallying cry for some diehard drill-baby-drillers to bring oil and gas development to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The argument that onshore drilling is safer than off

shore is hard to swallow when the track record of the oil industry, especially BP, on Alaska's North Slope is taken into account. Just last week there was an oil spill about 100 miles south of Fairbanks, Alaska when thousands of gallons of crude oil poured out of the aging Trans-Alaska Pipeline (whose majority shareholder is BP). On average there are more than 400 oil spills a year on the North Slope. Rather than sacrifice more of our national wildlife refuges to the oil industry, we need to set aside special places like the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain for future generations. Please **cosponsor H.R. 39/S. 231**, which would designate Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge as wilderness.



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