



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ July 15, 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 US, and other news about why the Arctic Refuge deserves the strongest possible protections.

Arctic Hero



Doug Scott has helped advance protection for millions of acres of wilderness over three decades, and has been involved in virtually every major wilderness bill that has passed during that time. He is currently the policy manager for the Campaign for America's Wilderness. His work on the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act helped establish more than 100 million acres of public lands, and expanded the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge while designating about half of the Refuge as wilderness. Scott is considered one of our nation's leading historians on America's wilderness movement. His book "The Enduring Wilderness: Protecting Our Natural Heritage through the Wilderness Act" is an in-depth look at how the wilderness movement began.

Arctic Bird

Wilson's Warblers are small insect-eating birds that summer in the Arctic Refuge before migrating through Nebraska and numerous other states. Many Wilson's Warblers winter in the Gulf region, where they will likely face health threats this year due to the ongoing BP spill. This unprecedented disaster makes it more important than ever to protect breeding and summering grounds, including the Arctic Refuge, to ensure the long-term survival of this and many other bird species.



Arctic Action

This week, the Department of the Interior (DOI) recognized the need for balance in oil and gas leasing on Alaska's public lands when they chose not to offer for leasing important bird and caribou habitat surrounding Teshekpuk Lake in the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska. DOI's decision to take vital habitat areas off the table sets a good precedent for Alaska's North Slope. Under this paradigm, valuable habitats like the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should also be set aside from development. Please **cosponsor H.R. 39/S. 231**, which maintains this important balance by designating the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge as wilderness.



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