



# ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ August 13, 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



**Terry Tempest Williams**, an American author, has been a driving force in many forms of activism throughout her writing career. She is known as a fervent advocate of freedom of speech. Her rogue track record, having testified in front of Congress on women's health issues, served jail time for civil disobedience, been a guest at the White House, and camped in remote areas of Utah and Alaska, classifies Williams much in the same way that one would categorize her writing: unequivocally unique. She has written several acclaimed pieces of environmental literature and in 2006, received the Robert Marshall Award from the Wilderness Society. Her writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Orion Magazine*, and numerous anthologies as a voice for ecological awareness. As a constant voice for the protection of the Arctic Refuge, Williams has authored several works about this iconic place.

## Arctic Bird

The **Sandhill Crane** is one of the few crane species in the world that is still common, and is in fact the oldest known bird species to survive today. Lesser Sandhill Cranes, the smallest of the Sandhill's at approximately six pounds and three-feet tall, breed in the Arctic Refuge and are known to visit the Refuge's Coastal Plain. These birds spend their winters in the southern United States - commonly in New Mexico. During the spring and summer months, these gray-feathered birds often preen iron-rich mud into their feathers, creating a rusty brown hue.



## Arctic Action

This weekend, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Tom Strickland, is in Alaska to kick-off the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) 50th anniversary celebration of the Arctic Refuge. FWS will begin their yearlong celebration with a party in Anchorage on Saturday, and continue with events throughout the rest of 2010 and into 2011. These events will be held across the country and will include a traveling exhibit entitled "Arctic Sanctuary" with photographs by Jeff Jones and essays by Laurie Hoyle that will also be made into a book; an original stage production called "Wild Legacy" that is based on the collected writings of Olaus and Margaret Murie, who were instrumental in the establishment of the Arctic Refuge; and "America's Wildest Refuge: Discovering the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" a video documentary. You too can join the celebration by helping to protect the Arctic Refuge once and for all by **cosponsoring H.R. 39/S. 231**, which would designate the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge as wilderness.



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