



ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ January 7, 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.



Photo: www.wikimedia.com

Arctic Hero

This week's hero is **Dwight D. Eisenhower**. In 1960, President Eisenhower established the 8.9 million acre Arctic National Wildlife Range, starting a long bipartisan history of protecting this area for future generations. The area was set aside in order to protect its "unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values." He had the wisdom and foresight to include the entire ecosystem, both north and south of the Brooks Range, and the biologically rich coastal plain. Over the past 50 years, this range has been expanded and renamed the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Arctic Bird

Birds migrate from the Arctic Refuge to every state in the US. This week's bird is the **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, one of North America's smallest birds, which breeds in the Refuge and then travels down to Alabama and many other states for the winter.



Photo: Donna Dewhurt, USFWS

Arctic Action

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has been recognized for its abundant wildlife, spectacular scenery, and unparalleled wilderness for more than half a century. The importance of this area was highlighted again in November 2009 when the US Fish & Wildlife Service proposed much of the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain as **critical habitat for the polar bear**.

In the face of continuous threats to open this area to drilling, the time has come to add stronger protections for the Refuge once and for all. If you have not already done so, please **cosponsor HR 39/S231**, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act, which would designate the coastal plain of the Refuge as wilderness.



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