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Form Letters

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Alaska Wilderness League I

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I appreciate your leadership in protecting this American icon for future generations and thank you for completing the Arctic Refuge Wilderness review.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was set aside 50 years ago for its “unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values,” and it continues to thrive as one of our nation’s most untouched wilderness areas.

The Coastal Plain – the Arctic Refuge’s biological heart – provides a vital home for polar bears, caribou, musk oxen, wolves and hundreds of bird species, which gather in the Arctic Refuge each year to hatch their young before traveling to all corners of the country and across six continents.

Long before the Arctic Refuge was set aside as a protected place, the value of the Coastal Plain was recognized by wilderness visionaries and the people of the Gwich’in Nation who know it as the “Sacred Place Where Life Begins.”

I support Alternative C in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan that would recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area, adding it to the existing Wilderness areas of the refuge. The Arctic Refuge, and particularly its Coastal Plain, deserves to be granted the strongest possible protections. The southern sections of the Arctic Refuge should be managed in a way that supports the Gwich’in people’s traditional and cultural access to the area while maintaining Wilderness characteristics. Oil and gas leasing, exploration, development and production, including seismic and any support infrastructure or activities, have no place in the Arctic Refuge and should continue to be prohibited by law as well as in refuge management policies.

I support the plan’s Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals that aim to protect the Special Values of the Arctic Refuge described in the plan. Overall, the entire 19-million acres that make up our nation’s largest, wildest refuge should be managed in a manner that leaves its natural biodiversity, ecological processes, Wilderness purposes and Special Values intact so it will remain an unparalleled piece of our nation’s natural heritage.

Alaska Wilderness League II

Dear Secretary Salazar,

First Class
Postage
Required

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was set aside 50 years ago for its "unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values," and it continues to thrive as one of our nation's most untouched wilderness areas. The Refuge's Coastal Plain provides a vital home for polar bears, caribou, musk oxen, wolves and hundreds of bird species, which gather in the Refuge each year to hatch their young before traveling to all corners of the country and across six continents.

I urge you to recommend the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain for wilderness designation through the Comprehensive Conservation Plan process. The Arctic Refuge, and particularly its Coastal Plain, deserves to be granted the strongest possible protections. I also encourage you to manage the Arctic Refuge in a manner that leaves its natural biodiversity, ecological processes and wilderness values intact so it can remain an unparalleled piece of our nation's natural heritage.

Let's leave a lasting legacy for our children.

c/o Alaska Wilderness League
122 C Street NW, Ste 240
Washington, DC 20001



Alaska Wilderness League III

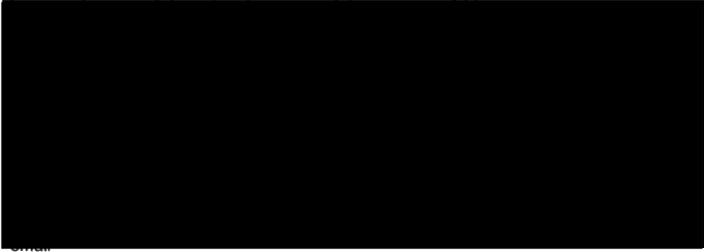
Dear Secretary Salazar,

First Class
Postage
Required

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I support Alternative C in the CCP that would recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area, adding it to the existing Wilderness areas of the refuge.

The Arctic Refuge, and particularly its Coastal Plain, deserves to be granted the strongest possible protections. The southern sections of the Arctic Refuge should be managed in a way that supports the Gwich'in people's traditional and cultural access to the area while maintaining Wilderness characteristics. Oil and gas leasing, exploration, development and production, have no place in the Arctic Refuge and should continue to be prohibited by law as well as in refuge management policies. I support the plan's Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals that aim to protect the Special Values of the Arctic Refuge described in the plan.

We owe it to future generations.



Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar

c/o Alaska Wilderness League
122 C Street NW, Ste 240
Washington, DC 20001



Alaska Wilderness League IV

Petition to Protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge!

Dear Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I support Alternative C in the CCP that would recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area, adding it to the existing Wilderness areas of the refuge.

The Arctic Refuge, and particularly its Coastal Plain, deserves to be granted the strongest possible protections. The southern sections of the Arctic Refuge should be managed in a way that supports the Gwich'in people's traditional and cultural access to the area while maintaining Wilderness characteristics. Oil and gas leasing, exploration, development and production, have no place in the Arctic Refuge and should continue to be prohibited by law as well as in refuge management policies. I support the plan's Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals that aim to protect the Special Values of the Arctic Refuge described in the plan.

We owe it to future generations.



Please print clearly and fill out the information completely.

Name	E-mail	Address	City	State	Zip

By signing the petition today, you will be guaranteed to receive email updates and action alerts from Alaska Wilderness League to help keep Alaska wild!

Please return completed petition to: Alaska Wilderness League, 122 C St. NW, Suite 240, Washington, DC 20001

Audubon Society

Sharon Seim, Planning Team Leader, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
101 12th Ave., Rm. 236
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Planning Team Leader, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I support Alternative C in the CCP that would recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area, adding it to the existing Wilderness areas of the refuge.

I value the Arctic Refuge for the abundant wildlife it supports, including caribou, muskoxen, wolves, grizzly bears, polar bears, seals, and migratory birds. The Coastal Plain provides essential calving habitat for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, the largest international migratory herd in the world. The Coastal Plain also supports nesting habitat for a variety of birds including shorebirds, waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors, as well as denning habitat for threatened polar bears.

Due to its size, remote location, wilderness character, and diversity of ecologically significant landscapes and wildlife, the Arctic Refuge is an irreplaceable national treasure that serves as a globally significant benchmark of ecological integrity in the Arctic.

I urge the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to recommend Wilderness designation for all non-designated Refuge lands, including the Coastal Plain (1002 area). This wilderness review and wilderness designation recommendation will help ensure the unique wildlife, wilderness, and subsistence values of the entire Arctic Refuge are protected for future generations.

Center for Biological Diversity I

Dear Secretary Salazar,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I support Alternative E, which would designate the entire Arctic refuge as wilderness. This alternative will provide the strongest possible protections for the refuge while allowing the continuation of traditional activities on the refuge by the Gwich'in and other Alaska Native people.

I further support the following goals and guidelines:

- The proposed goals, especially 1 and 2, specifying protection of ecological processes and wilderness character;
- Management Guidelines 2.4.12 and 2.4.12.7, allowing the natural behavior, interactions and population dynamics of all species to continue (no predator control);
- Management Guideline 2.4.11, specifying leaving habitats natural, unaltered and free from manipulation and intensive management;
- Goals addressing climate change by reducing other stresses on wildlife and allowing natural systems to adapt and evolve as they will, without intervention; and
- Goal 5, supporting wilderness recreation to perpetuate opportunities for visitors to experience adventure, challenge, solitude, independence and freedom with minimal interference from the government.

I support the plan's Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals that aim to protect the "special values" of the refuge described in the plan. Overall, the entire 19 million acres that make up our nation's largest, wildest refuge should be managed in a manner that leaves its natural biodiversity, ecological processes, wilderness purposes and special values intact so it will remain an unparalleled piece of our nation's natural heritage.

Center for Biological Diversity II

Dear Secretary Salazar,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I support Alternative E, which would recommend designating the entire Arctic refuge as wilderness, particularly the coastal plain. This alternative will provide the strongest possible protections for the refuge while allowing the continuation of traditional activities on the refuge by the Gwich'in and other Alaska Native people.

I further support the following goals and guidelines:

- The proposed goals, especially 1 and 2, specifying protection of ecological processes and wilderness character;
- Management Guidelines 2.4.12 and 2.4.12.7, allowing the natural behavior, interactions and population dynamics of all species to continue (no predator control);
- Management Guideline 2.4.11, specifying leaving habitats natural, unaltered and free from manipulation and intensive management;
- Goals addressing climate change by reducing other stresses on wildlife and allowing natural systems to adapt and evolve as they will, without intervention; and
- Goal 5, supporting wilderness recreation to perpetuate opportunities for visitors to experience adventure, challenge, solitude, independence and freedom with minimal interference from the government.

I support the plan's Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals that aim to protect the "special values" of the refuge described in the plan. Overall, the entire 19 million acres that make up our nation's largest, wildest refuge should be managed in a manner that leaves its natural biodiversity, ecological processes, wilderness purposes and special values intact so it will remain an unparalleled piece of our nation's natural heritage.

Credo



CitizenLetter

An urgent message from a concerned citizen

September 20, 2011

USFW Director Dan Ashe
Office of Director Dan Ashe
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1849 C St, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear USFW Director Dan Ashe,

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Alaska is home to 250 species, including caribou, polar bears and musk oxen. The Coastal Plain, a 1.5 million-acre area of the refuge, is its biological heart, where polar bears give birth to their young and snow geese feed before heading south.

But the Coastal Plain has been targeted by the oil industry, so it's imperative that the region be protected from the havoc of drilling. The entire Arctic Refuge, including the Coastal Plain, deserves to be granted the strongest possible protections.

The Arctic Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service includes an option, Alternative C, which recommends wilderness designation of the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area, further protecting it from drilling.

I'm writing to ask that you ensure that the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan recommends Alternative C, so Congress can take the next step and legally classify the Coastal Plain as wilderness.

Please let me know how you intend to address this issue.

Sincerely,



Defenders of Wildlife

2011 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan Comments

Dear Comprehensive Conservation Plan Comments,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife and someone who cares about protecting our public lands, I value the Arctic Refuge as a pristine landscape and as an iconic part of America's natural heritage.

As you finalize the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, I strongly encourage you to adopt Alternative C under the proposed Plan. I support Alternative C because it would mean recommending that the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain be designated as wilderness.

As the refuge's biological heart and the focus of calls for oil and gas development, the coastal plain both deserves and needs wilderness protection within the Arctic Refuge. The coastal plain is the most important onshore denning habitat for the nation's threatened polar bears and the calving ground of the Porcupine caribou herd.

Wilderness protection would help keep these and other species safe from industrial oil and gas development, and would give them the best chance of adapting to climate change by keeping the landscape unpolluted and intact.

I strongly support draft goal number 1, which would preserve natural wildlife populations and wildlife interactions in the refuge. I also strongly support new management guideline number 2, which allows all native wildlife populations to remain un-manipulated.

I strongly oppose any State requests to conduct predator control in the Arctic Refuge. The CCP should specifically prohibit consideration of any State regulation or plan, including artificial manipulation or intensive management of wildlife, which conflicts with federal law and policy.

For the past fifty years, Americans have remained committed to protecting this remarkable area and the abundant wildlife that depends on it. We should maintain this legacy so the refuge can continue to be a vital piece of our nation's natural heritage.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Endangered Species Coalition I

Dear Ms. Seim,

I urge you to recommend a wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to permanently protect this unique wildlife habitat from destructive oil and gas development.

This one of a kind Arctic ecosystem is home to nearly 200 wildlife species, including polar bears, musk oxen and caribou. The Arctic Refuge coastal plain is critically important denning area for Beaufort Sea polar bears, migratory habitat for more than 135 bird species and a vital calving area for the 123,000 head Porcupine caribou herd. We simply mustn't allow wilderness of this value to be turned over to the oil industry.

I strongly urge the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to recommend Wilderness designation for all nondesignated Refuge lands, including the Coastal Plain (1002 area).

Endangered Species Coalition II

Dear Ms. Seim,

I urge you to recommend a wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to permanently protect this unique wildlife habitat from destructive oil and gas development.

This one of a kind Arctic ecosystem is home to nearly 200 wildlife species, including polar bears, musk oxen and caribou. The Arctic Refuge coastal plain is critically important denning area for Beaufort Sea polar bears, migratory habitat for more than 135 bird species and a vital calving area for the 123,000 head Porcupine caribou herd. We simply mustn't allow wilderness of this value to be turned over to the oil industry.

I support Alternative C in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan that would recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area, adding it to the existing Wilderness areas of the refuge.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges

We are in full support of the Arctic Refuge CCP comments submitted on behalf of the Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges (See below):

Comments on the Draft Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan

The Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges (Friends) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Our 315 volunteer members in 28 states and 6 foreign countries assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to maintain and enhance the wildlife and habitat in all 16 Alaska refuges.

In 1960, the Eisenhower administration established the 8.9 million acre Arctic National Wildlife Range uniquely "For the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values." In 1980, it was expanded to its present size and renamed the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is presently managed primarily as wilderness. This CCP is a historic opportunity for the FWS to recommend formal wilderness designation for almost the entire 19.8 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including permanent protection of its biological heart in the Arctic Coastal Plain. We urge the Fish and Wildlife Service to adopt a plan that will keep the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge natural, wild, and free from all commercial and destructive development.

Since the final plan will guide stewardship of this magnificent and wild "crown jewel" of the National Wildlife Refuge System for at least the next 15 years, the Friends submits these general comments now and will follow up with more detailed technical comments.

Major Recommendations:

1. The Friends support Alternative E that would recommend formal Wilderness designation for the entire Refuge, except for lands near villages. Wilderness designation for all suitable and qualified lands will protect the wilderness values of the Refuge and also allow the continuation of traditional activities on the Refuge by the Gwich'in and other Alaska Natives, including subsistence gathering of food, timber harvest for local use, and guided travel within the Refuge.
2. The Friends support the proposed goals, especially 1 and 2, specifying protection of ecological processes and wilderness character.
3. The Friends support Management Guidelines 2.4.12 and 2.4.12.7 that would allow the natural behavior, interactions, and population dynamics of all species to continue (no predator control).
4. The Friends support management Guideline 2.4.11 that specifies the maintenance of habitats in their natural, unaltered state, free from manipulation and intensive management.
5. The Friends support addressing climate change by reducing other stressors on wildlife, and allowing natural systems to adapt and evolve as they will, without intervention.
6. The Friends support Goal 5, wilderness recreation that would perpetuate opportunities for visitors to experience adventure, challenge, solitude, independence, and freedom with minimal interference from the government.

Additional Recommendations:

1. State "Game" Management vs. Refuge Stewardship — The draft plan appropriately recognizes the need to coordinate with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

However, it fails to acknowledge that the State's goals for managing wildlife sometimes conflict with Refuge purposes of maintaining natural and wild wildlife populations, e.g. State-sponsored predator control and intensive management. The plan must explicitly state that when there is conflict, Refuge purposes and management must prevail.

2. The Fish and Wildlife Service must exercise its responsibility to preempt the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Game when necessary to protect the integrity of the Refuge and its wildlife.
3. Visitor Use Impacts and issues — During the scoping process, the public identified many actions needed to protect wilderness qualities and experiences, but almost all were deferred to some future planning process. The Refuge 1988 CCP previously committed the agency to address visitor use issues in future plans, but none was ever undertaken. Significant visitor use impacts and issues should be addressed in this plan.
4. Special Values — The Special Values of the Arctic Refuge section describes the most important characteristics of the Refuge. The refuge should be supported to serve as a guide for all management decisions.
5. Wilderness and Wild Rivers — Wilderness land designation would provide overall, enduring protection for the Refuge and its resources. Within wilderness, Wild River designation would be redundant and would compete for funds and resources needed to protect all of the wilderness values. It would introduce additional unneeded regulatory, monitoring, and enforcement requirements. Adopting formal Wilderness designation for all eligible lands in the Refuge should be the priority.

Greenpeace

Sharon Seim

AK

Dear Seim,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I appreciate your leadership in protecting this American icon for future generations and thank you for completing the Arctic Refuge Wilderness review.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was set aside 50 years ago for its "unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values," and it continues to thrive as one of our nation's most untouched wilderness areas.

The Coastal Plain the Arctic Refuge's biological heart provides a vital home for polar bears, caribou, musk oxen, wolves and hundreds of bird species, which gather in the Arctic Refuge each year to hatch their young before traveling to all corners of the country and across six continents.

Long before the Arctic Refuge was set aside as a protected place, the value of the Coastal Plain was recognized by wilderness visionaries and the people of the Gwich'in Nation who know it as the "Sacred Place Where Life Begins."

I support Alternative C in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan that would recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area, adding it to the existing Wilderness areas of the refuge.

The Arctic Refuge, and particularly its Coastal Plain, deserves to be granted the strongest possible protections. The southern sections of the Arctic Refuge should be managed in a way that supports the Gwich'in people's traditional and cultural access to the area while maintaining Wilderness characteristics. Oil and gas leasing, exploration, development and production, including seismic and any support infrastructure or activities, have no place in the Arctic Refuge and should continue to be prohibited by law as well as in refuge management policies.

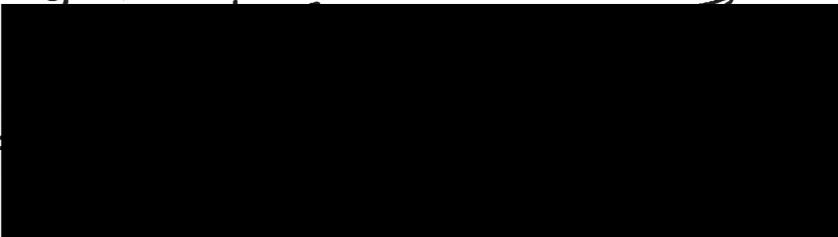
I support the plan's Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals that aim to protect the Special Values of the Arctic Refuge described in the plan. Overall, the entire 19-million acres that make up our nation's largest, wildest refuge should be managed in a manner that leaves its natural biodiversity, ecological processes, Wilderness purposes and Special Values intact so it will remain an unparalleled piece of our nation's natural heritage.

Gwich'in Nation

The late Chief and Traditional Chief Jonathon Solomon Sr. as the Chairman of the International Porcupine Caribou Commission **stated in 1988:** "For us, the 'opportunity to engage in subsistence' means the right to a productive, natural environment. **We recommend that the entire Arctic National Wildlife Refuge be made wilderness.**" This position was made after thoroughly examining how wilderness designation might affect the Gwich'in Nation way of life, and finding that it provides **the best protection for traditional and customary use especially subsistence.** The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and the Wilderness Act provide allowances for the personal use of firewood and house logs (including the payment of local residents for providing firewood and house logs within local communities) as well as allowing opportunities for local residents to engage in commercial guiding services. In particular, **wilderness designation provides the strongest possible protection for the habitat of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.** This has been the position of the entire Gwich'in Nation since 1988 when people gathered for the first time in over 100 years to consider our future. It has been reaffirmed at the biennial Gwich'in Gatherings as **stated in the Gwich'in Niintsyaa, "That the United States Congress and President recognize the rights of our Gwich'in people to continue to live our way of life by prohibiting development in the calving and post-calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd."**

Alternative E would protect both the coastal plain (calving area) and the rest of the Arctic Refuge (post-calving, migration and winter ranges) as Wilderness, and would best fulfill the long held position of the Gwich'in Nation.

Signed,



League of Conservation Voters

Arctic Refuge

Dear Refuge,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

As you know, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was set aside 50 years ago for its "unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values." The Gwich'in nation has long recognized the particular beauty and importance of the Refuge's coastal plain, naming it the "Sacred Place Where Life Begins."

The Arctic Refuge's coastal plain is the region's biological heart. We have a responsibility to preserve it for future generations - as such, we must grant the coastal plain the strongest protections we can.

That's why I support Alternative C in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, which would recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area.

We cannot afford to put our nation's wildest refuge - a major piece of America's natural heritage - at risk of being despoiled by big polluters and other special interests.

That's why I'm urging you to grant the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain full wilderness protection.

National Resources Defense Council

Sharon Seim
101 12th Ave., Rm 236
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Subject: I support Alternative E of the Arctic Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Dear Sharon Seim,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I am writing in strong support of Alternative E: the full Wilderness option, recommending most of the refuge as Wilderness, including the Coastal Plain.

The Coastal Plain is the Arctic Refuge's "biological heart and birthing ground" and provides a vital home for polar bears, caribou, musk oxen, wolves and hundreds of bird species, which gather in the Arctic Refuge each year to birth their young. The Arctic Refuge as a whole, and particularly its Coastal Plain, deserves to be granted the strongest possible protections. Oil and gas leasing, exploration, development and production, including seismic and any support infrastructure or activities, have no place in the Arctic Refuge and should continue to be prohibited by law as well as in refuge management policies.

I support the plan's Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals that aim to protect the natural behavior of wildlife populations, while leaving habitats natural and un-manipulated as described in the plan. Overall, the entire 19-million acres that make up our nation's largest, wildest refuge should be managed in a manner that leaves its natural biodiversity, ecological processes, wilderness character, Wilderness purposes and Special Values intact so it will remain an unparalleled piece of our nation's natural heritage.

I appreciate the Fish and Wildlife Service's management and protection of this American icon for future generations, and wish to thank you for completing the Arctic Refuge Wilderness review. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was set aside 50 years ago for its "unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values," and it continues to thrive as one of our nation's most pristine wilderness areas. To this end, I urge you to adopt Alternative E and protect the Refuge to the fullest extent possible.

National Wildlife Federation Action Fund

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

Dear Fish and Wildlife Service,

I am writing to urge you to recommend a Wilderness designation for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain in order to permanently protect one of America's greatest wilderness treasures from oil and gas development.

The Arctic Refuge provides crucial habitat for some of our most beloved species of wildlife including caribou, polar bears, grizzly bears, musk oxen, wolves, Arctic fox, and many more. These species are already struggling to survive in the face of climate change, and need protection from additional stresses like oil and gas drilling.

Drilling in the Arctic Refuge will do nothing to lower today's gas prices and will not address our nation's long-term energy needs. Instead, drilling will destroy important wildlife habitat while boosting Big Oil's billions of dollars in profits.

The enhanced protection offered by a wilderness designation is critical to helping the wildlife most threatened by climate change and protecting this wilderness icon for future generations.

National Wildlife Refuge Association I

Dear Director Haskett:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I stand with the National Wildlife Refuge Association in urging you to support Alternative C that would recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area, adding it to the existing Wilderness areas of the Refuge. The Arctic Refuge, and particularly its Coastal Plain, deserves the strongest possible protections.

In addition, I urge the FWS to modify Alternative C to include Wilderness recommendation for other refuge lands that are eligible and qualify for such designation but include exceptions to permit the continuation of traditional activities on the refuge by the Gwich'in people. These exempted areas should be managed in a manner that supports these traditional and cultural activities while maintaining Wilderness characteristics.

I further support the CCP Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals that aim to protect the Special Values of the Arctic Refuge described in the plan. The entire 19.6 million acres of our nation's wildest refuge should be managed in a manner that maintains the natural biodiversity, ecological processes, Wilderness purposes, and cultural and subsistence values that make it the Crown Jewel of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

National Wildlife Refuge Association II

Dear Director Haskett:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I stand with the National Wildlife Refuge Association in urging you to support Alternative E that would recommend Wilderness designation for almost the entire refuge, including the Coastal Plain. The Arctic Refuge, and particularly its Coastal Plain, deserves the strongest habitats natural possible protections.

As you finalize your plan, I further encourage you to protect the ecological processes and wilderness character of the refuge for future generations, allow the natural behavior, interactions, and population dynamics of all species to continue (no predator control), and leave habitats, unaltered, and free from manipulation and intensive management.

I further support the CCP Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals that aim to protect the Special Values of the Arctic Refuge described in the plan. The entire 19.6 million acres of our nation's wildest refuge should be managed in a manner that maintains the natural biodiversity, ecological processes, Wilderness purposes, and cultural and subsistence values that make it the Crown Jewel of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Operators Local 375

ANWR-CCP

September 2011

To whom it may concern:

I strongly support Alternative A: No action alternative – No new wilderness (No Revised Regional Management Guidelines).

In 1980 Congress excluded the 1002 area of the coastal plain from ANWR's large wilderness block in a compromise. They also mandated a study of the 1002 area's wildlife, environment and petroleum resources.

In 1987 the Department of the interior concluded oil development would have minimal impact on the wildlife.

With advances in technology, it is possible to develop the coastal plain's energy reserves while directly utilizing very little (potentially only 2000 acres) of the 1.5 million acres in the 1002 area.

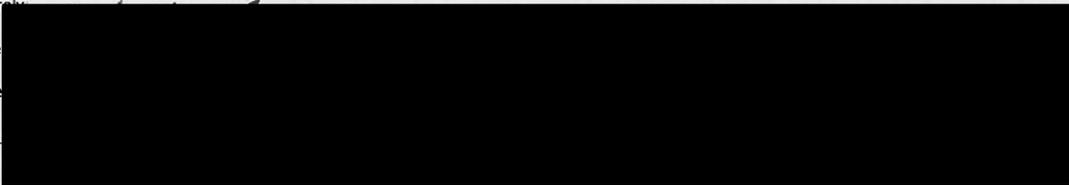
In today's hard economic times it is more important now, then ever to develop Alaska's oil and gas resources.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

Zip:



Pacific Environment

Ken Salazar Secretary of the Interior

U.S. Department of Interior

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I appreciate your leadership in protecting this American icon for future generations and thank you for completing the Arctic Refuge Wilderness review.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was set aside 50 years ago for its "unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values," and it continues to thrive as one of our nation's most untouched wilderness areas.

The Coastal Plain – the Arctic Refuge's biological heart – provides a vital home for polar bears, caribou, musk oxen, wolves and hundreds of bird species, which gather in the Arctic Refuge each year to hatch their young before traveling to all corners of the country and across six continents.

Long before the Arctic Refuge was set aside as a protected place, the value of the Coastal Plain was recognized by wilderness visionaries and the people of the Gwich'in Nation who know it as the "Sacred Place Where Life Begins."

I support Alternative C in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan that would recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area, adding it to the existing Wilderness areas of the refuge. The Arctic Refuge, and particularly its Coastal Plain, deserves to be granted the strongest possible protections. The southern sections of the Arctic Refuge should be managed in a way that supports the Gwich'in people's traditional and cultural access to the area while maintaining Wilderness characteristics.

Oil and gas leasing, exploration, development and production, including seismic and any support infrastructure or activities, have no place in the Arctic Refuge and should continue to be prohibited by law as well as in refuge management policies.

I support the plan's Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals that aim to protect the Special Values of the Arctic Refuge described in the plan. Overall, the entire 19-million acres that make up our nation's largest, wildest refuge should be managed in a manner that leaves its natural biodiversity, ecological processes, Wilderness purposes and Special Values intact so it will remain an unparalleled piece of our nation's natural heritage.

Republicans for Environmental Protection I

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Dear U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

As a conservative who cares about protecting America's great natural heritage, I strongly urge you to adopt a final Arctic National Wildlife Refuge management plan that includes a recommendation to designate the coastal plain as wilderness, based on the plain's exceptional wilderness characteristics.

The coastal plain is an unspoiled treasure that is one of the few places left in our country where nature's raw beauty and an immense variety of wildlife can be experienced and enjoyed on an epic scale. Wilderness designation would ensure permanent protection for the coastal plain's rare and irreplaceable natural treasures.

Wilderness designation also would reduce ongoing threats of industrialization that would spoil the coastal plain's wilderness character irrevocably, degrade its rich wildlife habitat, and perpetuate America's dangerous overdependence on oil. Drilling for oil in the coastal plain is a blind alley that would not deliver the lower prices and energy security that drilling proponents promise with little regard for facts.

A wilderness recommendation would send an unmistakable message to Congress that the coastal plain's inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System is a long overdue step for good stewardship.

Thank you.

Republicans for Environmental Protection II

Dear U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

Dear Fish & Wildlife Service:

As a citizen who cares about America's wildlife heritage, I urge you to adopt Alternative E for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan. I support wilderness recommendations for the refuge's coastal plain, Brooks Range, and Porcupine Plateau wilderness study areas.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the most biologically diverse area in the entire circumpolar North. Wilderness protection for the coastal plain, Brooks Range and Porcupine Plateau wilderness study areas would ensure the strongest possible protection for this unique resource.

There is no place for industrial activity in America's largest and wildest national wildlife refuge. Your recommendation favoring wilderness designation on 11 million acres of the refuge would send an unmistakable message that conservation is and always must remain the highest and best use for this extraordinary American place.

Thank you.

Resource Development Council I

149

RE: Strongly oppose new federal wilderness designations in ANWR

Dear Ms. Seim:

The 1002 Area of the ANWR coastal plain was excluded from wilderness designation in a compromise struck under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. In exchange, Congress designated eight million acres of wilderness outside the 1002 Area, essentially closing 92 percent of the refuge to development. In recognizing the coastal plain's enormous oil and gas potential, Congress mandated a study of the 1002 Area's geology and petroleum resources, as well as its wildlife and environmental values. In 1987, the Department of Interior concluded that oil development would have minimal impact on wildlife and recommended the coastal plain be open to development.

A federal wilderness designation over the coastal plain, which accounts for seven percent of the refuge, would forever place off-limits what is likely America's most prolific onshore oil and gas prospect. I strongly oppose the wilderness alternatives outlined in the draft management plan. At a minimum, the option of future energy development in the 1002 Area should remain, considering national economic and energy security imperatives. The 1002 Area must continue to be excluded from wilderness designation.

Further comment: _____

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Resource Development Council II

I oppose any change to the current status of the Arctic National Wildlife Preserve.

The option of future energy development in the 1002 area should remain on the table, precluding any new Wilderness designation over the Coastal Plain.

Not only would new Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River designations violate the “no more” clauses of ANILCA, they would go against the original intent of Congress and the law.

There is no need for additional Wilderness designations in ANWR, given most of the refuge is already closed to development and managed to maintain its wilderness character. Alaska already contains 58 million acres of federal Wilderness and accounts for 53 percent of America’s federal Wilderness areas.

The Service has unreasonably restricted the scope of alternatives and public comment by refusing to consider an oil and gas development alternative in the draft CCP. ANILCA required the Service to study 1002 area’s petroleum resources and consider how oil and gas development could impact wildlife and the environment. It also directed the Secretary of Interior to provide Congress with recommendations with respect to such development. In 1987, the Department of the Interior concluded oil development would have minimal impact on wildlife and recommended Congress open the coastal plain to development.

ANILCA mandated the Service to periodically revisit the issue of oil and gas activity within the 1002 area. This directive is as clear as the mandate the Service claims to have that requires it to revisit wilderness issues. There have been considerable advancements in oil and gas exploration and development in the nearly 25 years since the original study was completed.

A federal Wilderness designation over the 1002 area would forever place off-limits North America’s most promising onshore oil and gas prospect to development and destroy the agreements made when ANILCA became law. In contrast, oil and gas development in the 1002 area would not disturb a single acre of federal Wilderness.

Alaskans strongly oppose a Wilderness designation on ANWR’s coastal plain. In fact, 78 percent of Alaskans support oil exploration in the 1002 area. Every Alaskan Governor and every legislature and elected congressional representative and senator from Alaska has supported responsible development. The North Slope Borough and the Alaska Federation of Natives also support responsible development, as well as a majority of residents in Kaktovik, a village within the Coastal Plain.

There are compelling national economic and energy security reasons for opening the 1002 area to responsible oil and gas development, including a safe and secure source of energy to the nation, create hundreds of thousands of jobs throughout the country, and refill the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, which is operating at one-third its original capacity and continually declining.

Upwards of 16 billion barrels of oil and 18 trillion cubic feet of natural gas are estimated to lie within the 1002 area of ANWR.

With advances in technology, it is possible to develop the coastal plain’s energy reserves while directly utilizing very little (potentially only 2,000 acres) of the 1.5 million acres in the 1002 area. Such development would allow access to energy Americans need without any significant disturbance to wildlife.

I oppose any change to the current status of the Arctic National Wildlife Preserve.

Save our Environment Action Center I

Dear Interior Secretary Salazar,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I appreciate your leadership in protecting this American icon for future generations and thank you for completing the Arctic Refuge Wilderness review.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was set aside 50 years ago for its "unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values," and it continues to thrive as one of our nation's most untouched wilderness areas. The Coastal Plain – the Arctic Refuge's biological heart – provides a vital home for polar bears, caribou, musk oxen, wolves and hundreds of bird species, which gather in the Arctic Refuge each year to hatch their young before traveling to all corners of the country and across six continents.

I support Alternative C in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan that would recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area, adding it to the existing Wilderness areas of the refuge. The Arctic Refuge, and particularly its Coastal Plain, deserves to be granted the strongest possible protections. Oil and gas leasing, exploration, development and production, including seismic and any support infrastructure or activities, have no place in the Arctic Refuge and should continue to be prohibited by law as well as in refuge management policies.

I support the plan's Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals that aim to protect the Special Values of the Arctic Refuge described in the plan. Overall, the entire 19-million acres that make up our nation's largest, wildest refuge should be managed in a manner that leaves its natural biodiversity, ecological processes, Wilderness purposes and Special Values intact so it will remain an unparalleled piece of our nation's natural heritage.

Save Our Environment Action Center II

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I support Alternative C in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan that would recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area, adding it to the existing Wilderness areas of the refuge. The Arctic Refuge, and particularly its Coastal Plain, deserves to be granted the strongest possible protections. Oil and gas leasing, exploration, development and production, including seismic and any support infrastructure or activities, have no place in the Arctic Refuge and should continue to be prohibited by law as well as in refuge management policies.

I support the plan's Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals that aim to protect the Special Values of the Arctic Refuge described in the plan.

Overall, the entire 19-million acres that make up our nation's largest, wildest refuge should be managed in a manner that leaves its natural biodiversity, ecological processes, Wilderness purposes and Special Values intact so it will remain an unparalleled piece of our nation's natural heritage.

Sierra Club I

Mr. Dan Ashe

Dear Mr. Ashe,

I urge you to recommend a wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to permanently protect America's greatest wild treasure from oil and gas development.

Already the warming Arctic is threatening the region and its wildlife so it is our job to defend the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge, its coastal plain. By protecting the Refuge we ensure critical habitat for caribou, polar bears, grizzly bears, musk oxen, Dall sheep, wolves, wolverines, and birds that visit all 50 states.

We cannot hand this wildlife refuge over to Big Oil. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge will not lower today's gas prices or solve our energy crisis; it would only prolong it. Any oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge will disrupt and harm the fragile ecosystem and wildlife the USFWS Refuge system is supposed to protect.

Recommend Alternative C for a wilderness designation for the coastal plain. This is critical to keep the wildlife and this wilderness icon protected for future generations.

Sierra Club II

Already the warming Arctic is threatening the region and its wildlife so it is our job to defend the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge, its coastal plain. By protecting the Refuge we ensure critical habitat for caribou, polar bears, grizzly bears, musk oxen, Dall sheep, wolves, wolverines, and birds that visit all 50 states.

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Sierra Club III

Mr. Dan Ashe

Dear Mr. Ashe,

I urge you to recommend a wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to permanently protect America's greatest wild treasure from oil and gas development.

Already the warming Arctic is threatening the region and its wildlife so it is our job to defend the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge, its coastal plain. By protecting the Refuge we ensure critical habitat for caribou, polar bears, grizzly bears, musk oxen, Dall sheep, wolves, wolverines, and birds that visit all 50 states.

We cannot hand this wildlife refuge over to Big Oil. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge will not lower today's gas prices or solve our energy crisis; it would only prolong it. Any oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge will disrupt and harm the fragile ecosystem and wildlife the USFWS Refuge system is supposed to protect.

A wilderness designation for the coastal plain is critical to keep the wildlife and this wilderness icon protected for future generations.

Sierra Club IV

Keep the Arctic Refuge Wild!

Dear US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe,

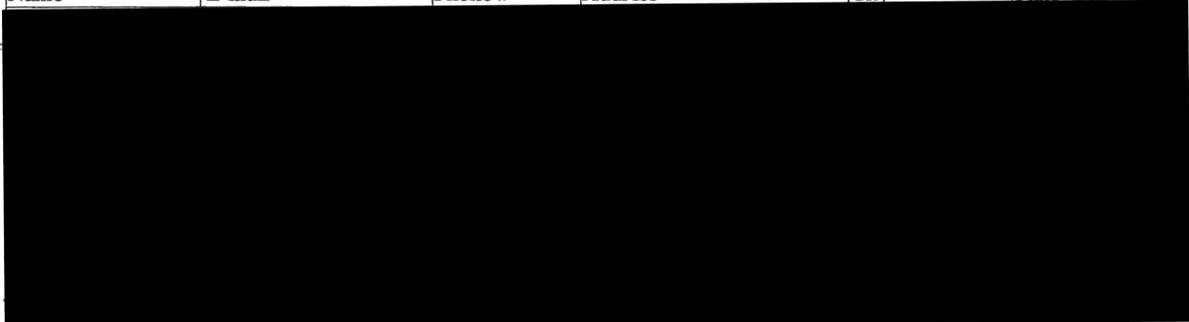
I urge you to recommend a Wilderness designation for the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to permanently protect America's greatest wild treasure from destructive oil and gas development.

Already rising temperatures are threatening the region and its wildlife. It is our job to defend the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge, its coastal plain. By protecting the Refuge we ensure critical habitat for caribou, polar bears, grizzly bears, musk oxen, Dall sheep, wolves, wolverines, and birds that visit all 50 states. This habitat is essential for helping wildlife to adapt to melting sea ice, coastal erosion and other results of a rapidly changing climate.

We cannot hand this wildlife refuge over to Big Oil. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge will not lower today's gas prices or solve our energy crisis; it will only prolong it. Any oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge will disrupt and harm the fragile natural system and wildlife the USFWS Refuge System is supposed to protect.

Please recommend Alternative C for a wilderness designation of the coastal plain. This is critical to keep the wildlife and this wilderness icon protected for future generations.

Please print clearly and fill out the information completely.

Name	E-mail	Phone #	Address	City	State	Zip
						

Providing your email address makes you a member of the Sierra Club's Online Community. As a member, you'll stay informed and involved with the latest environmental news, information and action alerts.

Sierra Club V

Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe,

I urge you to recommend a wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to permanently protect America's greatest wild treasure from oil and gas development.

Already the warming Arctic is threatening the region and its wildlife so it is our job to defend the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge, its coastal plain. By protecting the Refuge we ensure critical habitat for caribou, polar bears, grizzly bears, musk oxen, Dall sheep, wolves, wolverines, and birds from all 50 states.

We cannot hand this wildlife refuge over to Big Oil. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge will not lower today's gas prices or solve our energy crisis; it would only prolong it. Any oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge will disrupt and harm the fragile ecosystem and wildlife the USFWS Refuge system is supposed to protect.

258 Recommend Alternative C for a wilderness designation for the coastal plain. This is critical to keep this wildlife and wilderness icon protected for this and future generations

Sincerely,
YOUR NAME HERE

The Wilderness Society

Mr. Richard Voss

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Arctic NWR - Sharon Seim 101 12th Ave., Rm 236

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Mr. Richard Voss, Mr. Voss,

The ongoing revision of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge presents a historic opportunity to protect one of the nation's greatest wild areas and one of the premier intact ecosystems left on the planet, and ensure that the Coastal Plain of the refuge will continue to exist as the birthing ground for the Porcupine caribou herd, polar bears, thousands of migratory birds and many other species. It is vitally important that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service take this opportunity to take the next step toward permanent protection for the Coastal Plain and other areas of the Refuge, and maintain it as America's premier wilderness refuge.

The Arctic Refuge is irreplaceable, and contains the greatest wildlife diversity of any conservation area in the circumpolar north. Yet, this area, which has sustained Native cultures for thousands of years, is also one of the most vulnerable because oil and gas interests have been eyeing it for decades and are keen to industrialize its ecological heart -- the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. Only by permanently protecting the Coastal Plain can we ensure that this treasured ecosystem will remain intact and unspoiled.

For this reason, I urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to recommend wilderness for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the final revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. I also fully support the agency choosing Alternative E in the final plan and complete wilderness reviews and recommendations for the remaining suitable lands in refuge while continuing to accommodate the subsistence needs of Native peoples.

Please recommend wilderness for the Coastal Plain and approve Alternative E in the final plan for the Arctic Refuge.

Unknown 1

597
Dear Mr. Voss,

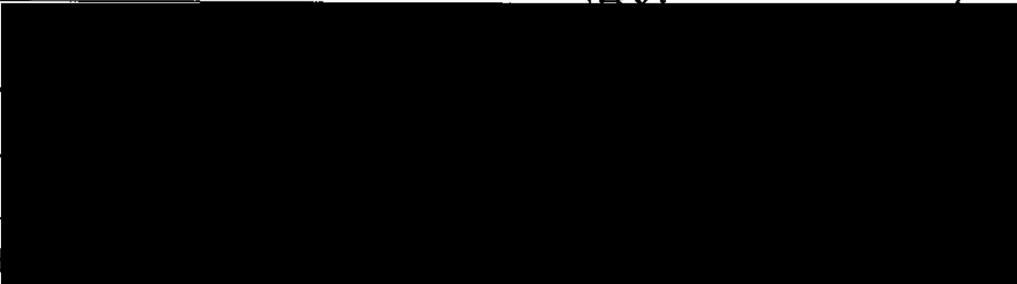
I urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to select the alternative that recommends wilderness designation for the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain and other non-designated lands. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is home to priceless intact ecosystems, diverse wildlife spectacles, and vital subsistence cultures. The Refuge is America's gold standard for wilderness. I request that you safeguard the integrity of the ecosystem of the refuge as a whole through appropriate stewardship, so that we may pass on this wild legacy to the future. I oppose any oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development because it would permanently harm wildlife and wilderness and the subsistence way of life of the Gwich'in and others.

Please keep me informed on the CCP process.

Additional Comments: _____

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OCT 24 2011
BY:

Name _____
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City _____
Email Address _____

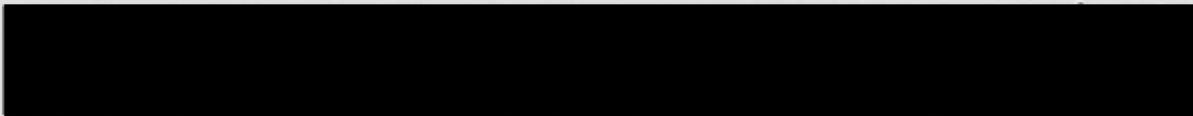


Unknown II

Dear Refuge Manager Voss,

As an Alaskan, I thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP).

- I support Alternative C in the CCP that would Recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area, adding it to existing Wilderness areas of the refuge. The Arctic Refuge, and particularly its Coastal Plain, deserves to be granted strong protections for its wilderness purpose. The southern sections of the Arctic Refuge should be managed in a way that supports the Gwich'in people's traditional and cultural access while maintaining Wilderness characteristics.
- Oil & gas leasing, exploration, development and production, including seismic and any support facilities, have no place in the Arctic Refuge and should continue to be prohibited by law as well as in refuge management policies.
- I support the Arctic Refuge Vision Statement and Goals aimed to protect Special Values of Arctic Refuge. *I personally support Arctic Refuge wilderness for these reasons:*



City/State/Zip

E-mail

NOV 15 2011
BY: _____

Unknown III

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
OF ARCTIC REFUGE WILDERNESS!**

I support the strongest protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to take this opportunity to honor the Arctic Refuge in its 50th year and support wilderness designation for these special lands, home of 3 bears (grizzly, black and polar), caribou and destination to more than 198 migratory bird species from six continents and every state in the nation.

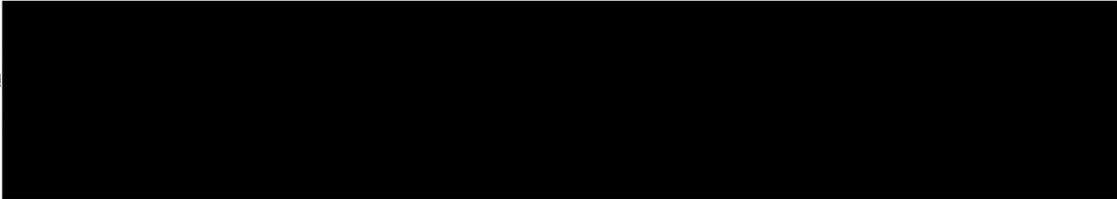
The Arctic Refuge is unique among refuges in that it was established to preserve wilderness values. The wholeness of the refuge as an entire, intact, natural sub-arctic and arctic landscape deserves responsible stewardship as designated wilderness for future generations. The Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain (1002 Area) is a vital part of the larger ecosystem and connected to existing wilderness through its scenic habitats, watersheds, rivers, and bird and caribou migrations.

I urge that the revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan:

- ♦ Recommend wilderness designation for the entire Coastal Plain and also all non-designated lands so that the wilderness, wildlife, and subsistence values of the whole refuge are protected for future generations;
- ♦ Include a wilderness review for the entire Coastal Plain and for all refuge lands not yet designated as wilderness; and
- ♦ Safeguard the wilderness qualities and integrity of the ecosystem of the refuge as a whole through appropriate stewardship.

Any oil and gas leasing, exploration and development would permanently harm the wildlife and wilderness values of the Coastal Plain and rest of the refuge and would be especially serious and long-lasting to coastal birds like long-tailed ducks, loons and shorebirds.

 Name
 Email



Unknown V

Petition to Protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

To the Refuge Manager:

I support the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge the way it is today-- home to fish and wildlife, intact ecosystems, and vital subsistence cultures. Please support wilderness designation for the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain and other suitable lands in the Plan. I want to pass on this wild legacy for future generations.

Please print clearly and fill out the information completely.

Name	E-mail	Address	City	State	Zip	Keep me informed on the Plan (CCP)
						

By signing this petition today, I ask the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to consider my signature an official individual comment for the draft Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Plan (Comprehensive Conservation Plan & Wilderness Review / Environmental Impact Statement).

Wilderness Watch

1. Support Alternative E recommending wilderness designation for the entire Refuge except for lands near villages.
2. Support the CCP's proposed goals, especially 1 and 2, specifying protection of ecological processes and wilderness character.
3. Support Management Guidelines 2.4.11, 2.4.12, and 2.4.12.7 allowing the natural behavior, interactions, and population dynamics of all species to continue (no predator control), and leaving habitats natural, unaltered, and unmanipulated.
4. Support addressing climate change by reducing other stressors on wildlife, and allowing natural systems to adapt and evolve as they will, without intervention.
5. Support goal 5, wilderness recreation, proposing to perpetuate opportunities for visitors to experience adventure, challenge, solitude, independence, and freedom with minimal interference from management.
6. Support the CCP's Special Values of the Arctic Refuge section and insist that it is used to guide all management decisions.
7. Visitor Use Impacts and issues - During the scoping process, the public identified many actions that are needed to protect wilderness qualities and experiences, but almost all were deferred to some future planning process. The Refuge's 1988 CCP also committed the agency to address visitor use issues in future plans, but none were ever begun.

Significant visitor use impacts that should be addressed now in this plan include:

- Restoring wilderness character: Since 1980, when Wilderness was designated in the Refuge, public use has grown and concentrated along certain river corridors resulting in degraded wilderness conditions.
 - The plan must include measures that restore the wilderness character to that which existed at the time of designation.
 - Aircraft landing sites: The CCP must mandate a process for developing regulations that prevent proliferation of aircraft landing sites in the Refuge and prescribe measures to restore impacted areas.
 - The CCP should develop and implement a system of zones within the Refuge where aircraft landings are not permitted, and it should limit landings to durable services, such as gravel bars.
 - Commercial services: The CCP should require the FWS to establish limits on the number of commercial outfitters allowed in the Refuge. The plan should also establish commercial free zones (as provided for by the FWS's nationwide Wilderness Stewardship Policy).
8. State "Game" Management v. Refuge Management - The draft plan appropriately recognizes the need to coordinate with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. However, it fails to acknowledge that the state's goals for managing wildlife (i.e. predator control, intensive management) sometimes conflict with the Refuge's purposes for maintaining natural and wild wildlife populations.

- The plan needs to explicitly state that when in conflict with the state’s goals, wilderness values and Refuge purposes must prevail, and in such cases, the FWS must exercise its responsibility to preempt the state game department and Board of Game.
- The final plan must assure that the primary Refuge purpose to conserve natural diversity must never be compromised by decisions to allow predator control or habitat manipulation to increase game species for hunting.

The CCP draft is greatly remiss in not addressing the visitor use issues described in sections D.5.11-D.5.10. The problems and impacts they relate to are only growing worse and need to be addressed now.

The 1988 CCP recognized that and stated the development of a public use management plan would be a high priority. That was in 1988, and no related step-down plans have even begun. Your CCP workbook asked what issues the plan should address and the public identified these issues. They shouldn’t be delayed to some possible future planning process. In particular, crowding on popular rivers needs to be reduced, aircraft landing impacts need to be addressed now, group size should be limited to 8 or 9 people, and for use allocation, a private user preference or “freedom of choice” policy should be implemented.

In Appendix B, 1.1, the statement that the FWS and ADF&G “share a mutual concern for all fish and wildlife resources” is misleading if not untrue. Consider the Unimak Island and other predator control issues.

This should be deleted and replaced with an acknowledgement that where the agencies differ, refuge purposes have supremacy and the state should be preempted.

In Appendix D, 3.2 the issue of trophy hunting altering the genetic structure of Dall Sheep and perhaps other species is relegated to a “consider studying” category. It should be addressed in the plan because the refuge’s mandate to protect biodiversity includes genetic compositions and thus requires action.

Regarding Appendix D.4.1, the issue of conflict between wilderness values and science-related technologies should be addressed in the plan because it is escalating and not adequately resolved by the current MRA process.

Regarding Appendix D.6.1, the unsightly administrative buildings on Peters and Big Ram Lakes should be removed. This is a significant issue and should be addressed in the alternatives.

Regarding the Kongakut River, the alternatives do not provide a reasonable range of means for protecting this overused river. Limiting the number of groups during peak periods needs to be an alternative.

The draft plan’s description of purposes and special values of the Arctic Refuge are excellent and should guide all management decisions.

The Glossary (page M-22) incorrectly defines the word “untrammled,” the key descriptor for Wilderness. As defined in the glossary, untrammled only refers to “the human intent to permanently intervene, alter, control, or manipulate natural conditions or processes.” The qualifier “permanently” must be deleted because it is not a qualification from the Wilderness Act, and is not consistent with the intent of the Wilderness Act. Maintaining the untrammled condition of Wilderness requires foregoing any effort, temporary or permanent, to intervene or manipulate natural processes.

Goal 1 is good, but the word “essentially” needs to be deleted. The goal should be to maintain the refuge free from the intent to alter the natural order, recognizing that goals are not always entirely attainable.

Goals 2 and 5 are excellent.

Goal 6 needs to be expanded to include the non-intervention policy described in the climate change management guideline.

The climate change management guideline is excellent, especially in specifying a non-intervention policy.

The management guideline prohibiting helicopter landing for recreation is good, but more limits on the use of helicopters by the agency should be specified.

The management guidelines related to Recreation and Public Use are generally excellent, but would be improved if they referenced the relevant Special Values of the refuge. As previously noted, visitor use issues should be addressed now, not deferred.

The Administration Sites and Visitor Facilities management guideline should be modified to prohibit construction of any new buildings in the refuge.

