



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

## *Planning for its future*

### About the CCP

#### What is a CCP?

A Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) is a document that guides long-term management for a National Wildlife Refuge. We are now undertaking a multi-year process to revise the 1988 CCP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

#### Why Revise the CCP?

- The existing CCP is 22 years old
- The Refuge must comply with new federal subsistence policies and other new laws and policies
- Visitor use patterns have changed, and the Dalton Highway is now open to the public
- Climate change has emerged as a concern
- To engage the public in planning the Refuge's future

#### What will the CCP do?

- Make sure management decisions meet Refuge purposes
- Ensure Refuge management is consistent with national laws and policies
- State a vision for the future of the Refuge
- Select a management approach that incorporates public input
- Set management goals and objectives
- Include Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River reviews

#### What won't the CCP do?

- Address every conflict or concern brought to our attention—smaller details are best left to step-down plans
- Decide whether the coastal plain should be made available to oil and gas development, because only Congress can decide to open the Refuge coastal plain to development

#### How to get involved:

- Read about the Refuge and the CCP at <http://arctic.fws.gov/>
- Early in the process, submit comments about what the CCP should include (at meetings, by mail, email or web)
- Later in the process, submit comments on the Draft CCP/EIS (at meetings, by mail, email or web)

#### Who will decide?

- Many people contribute to the CCP
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for making the final decision



### About the Refuge

Everything that Refuge staff does is rooted in the purposes of the Arctic Refuge. Everything in the CCP must comply with these purposes.

The Refuge was established in 1960 for "preserving unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values."

In 1980 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) enlarged the Refuge, designated 8 million acres as Wilderness, and designated three Wild Rivers.

ANILCA added four purposes:

- conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity;
- fulfill international fish and wildlife treaty obligations of the United States;
- provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local residents;
- and ensure water quality and necessary quantity within the Refuge.

The Refuge covers a continuous and diverse range of ecological regions—from interior Alaska, north through the Brooks Range, across the coastal plain, to the Arctic Ocean.



The Refuge is a treasured landscape—vast and wild. Ecological processes and natural diversity are sustained across the Refuge. It is a living laboratory where intact arctic and subarctic processes can be studied and appreciated.

The area sustains Native peoples and local residents, whose traditional ways continue throughout the seasons.



Refuge visitors find challenges to their bodies, minds, and spirits.



Many who will never visit hold the Refuge in high esteem, appreciating that Refuge resources are managed with a light footprint on the land.

We have inherited the Arctic Refuge from those who came before us. Can we pass it on, undiminished, to future generations?



### We'd like to hear from you

The purpose of public involvement is for you to tell us what your concerns are for the Arctic Refuge, and to comment on Refuge management.

- What future do you want for the Refuge?
- What issues or opportunities do you see?
- How are we doing meeting Refuge purposes?
- How should we deal with problems or conflicts?
- What information can you provide regarding Wilderness or Wild and Scenic Rivers?

Here are some of the types of information you might wish to provide:

Our founding purposes, ANILCA, and the Refuge System Improvement Act all require that we manage the Refuge for wildlife.

- Are we meeting our wildlife management mandates, and will we be in the future?
- What actions or research are needed or appropriate for wildlife resources?



We are required to preserve wilderness values across the entire Refuge.

- Are we meeting our wilderness stewardship responsibilities?
- How should we maintain values associated with the Refuge's Wild Rivers?



We are required to preserve recreational values throughout the Refuge.

- What qualities are important for maintaining recreational values and experiences?
- Are there conflicts among users that need to be addressed?



Subsistence is an ongoing use of the Refuge.

- Do we adequately provide for subsistence opportunities to fulfill the needs of rural residents?
- Are there concerns regarding subsistence and other Refuge uses?



- Is the Refuge meeting our obligations under fish and wildlife treaties and agreements?
- Is the Refuge meeting water quality and quantity mandates?
- How should the Refuge respond to the effect of climate change?



Read about the Refuge and the CCP at <http://arctic.fws.gov/>

Submit comments about what the CCP should include (at meetings or by email, mail, or on the web).

Later you'll also have opportunities to submit comments on the draft CCP/EIS.