



ANWR

INFORMATION BRIEF



Inuit children on the North Slope will share the benefits if ANWR's oil developed

A lot of us support ANWR development

We're the Inuit people of the North Slope, and despite what you may have been told, a lot of us support responsible oil and gas development in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

About 6,500 of us live in small communities on the Arctic Slope.

We've watched the petroleum industry operate in the Prudhoe Bay area for more than 30 years, and if the companies discover oil in ANWR's coastal plain, we think they'll develop it with care for the environment.

We hope to be partners with the industry, in fact. Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, our Native regional corporation for the Arctic in which we're all shareholders, owns

subsurface rights in 94,000 acres of ANWR's coastal plain. If the rest of the plain is opened our lands can be explored too ([federal law prohibits us from developing our lands until Congress approves exploration on the rest of the coastal plain.](#))

Our neighbors to the south talk sour grapes, however. Gwich'in Indians who live south of ANWR say they oppose development on our lands. But is that because they were unlucky when oil companies didn't find oil on their lands, after they leased them?

The fact is that oil development has brought many benefits to the people of northern Alaska. Living conditions were difficult in our villages before the oil companies

came. We didn't have much in the way of schools or basic public services.

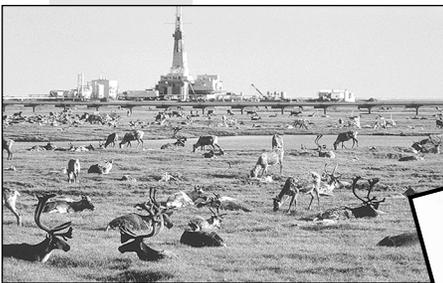
But thanks to the industrial tax base created by the oil fields, our local government is able to offer many excellent public services. Thanks to oil development on the North Slope, we have opportunities we couldn't have dreamed of 30 years ago.

But development of ANWR's coastal plain is important for the country, not just for us. America is going to need that oil, sooner than we think.

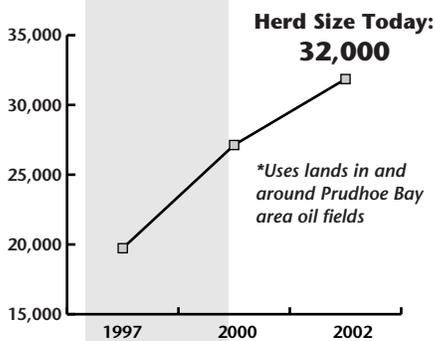
So don't let some people claim to speak for all Alaska Natives. If you want to know our opinions, come and ask us. We want ANWR developed responsibly, and we know it can be.

Do the caribou really care?

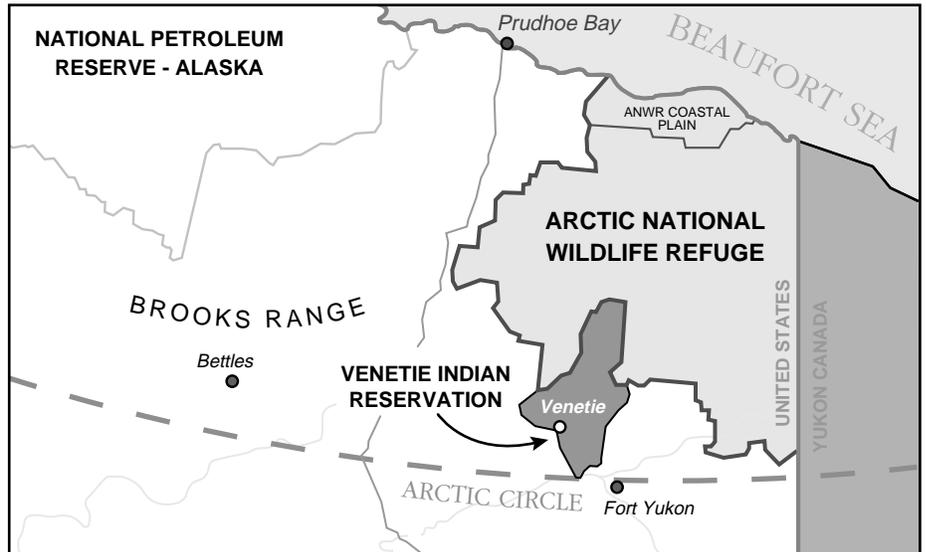
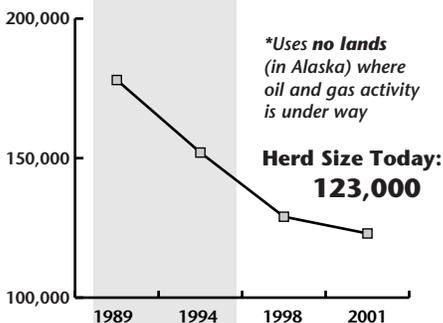
Are caribou affected by oil development on the North Slope? It would appear not, based on scientists' observations. The Central Arctic Herd, which uses the area around Prudhoe Bay, has increased five-fold in population since oil development started in the early 1970s. There are four major caribou herds in northern Alaska. Besides the Porcupine and Central Arctic herds, there is the Western Arctic Herd, which is more than twice the size of the Porcupine Herd, and the smaller Teshekpuk Lake herd. Populations of these herds rise and fall by natural cycles. Three decades of oil and gas activity in the central North Slope has had no apparent impact.



Central Arctic Herd*

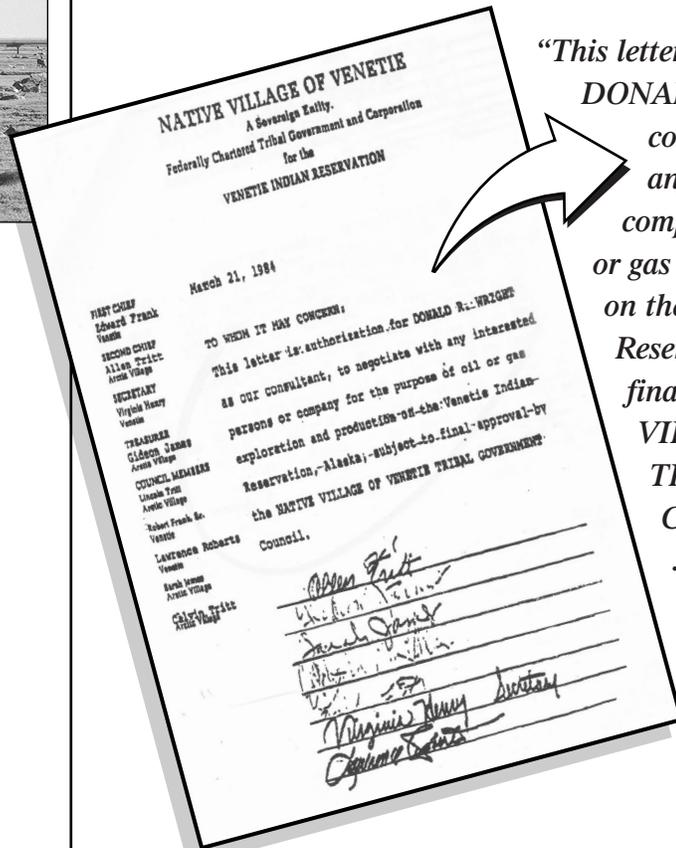


Porcupine Herd*



Sour Grapes?

Gwich'in now complain when Inupiat want to lease their land yet did it themselves on March 21, 1984
The Venetie Tribal Gov. offered 1,799,927 acres for Oil and Gas lease.



*"This letter is authorization for DONALD R. WRIGHT as our consultant, to negotiate with any interested persons or company for the purpose of oil or gas exploration and production on the Venetie Indian Reservation, Alaska; subject to final approval by the NATIVE VILLAGE OF VENETIE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT Council...
 ...The Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government hereby gives formal notice of intention to offer lands for competitive oil and gas lease."*

Unlike the Inuit the Gwich'in included no provision for protection of the environment or caribou in their leases.