

# WHICH ONE IS THE REAL ANWR?



AOGA



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The one on the *right*, right? Majestic mountains. Sweeping panoramas. The Serengeti of the North. The last remaining Arctic ecosystem. Pristine. Untouched. Home to millions of animals. Caribou, bears, wolves, muskox.

Well, you're mostly correct. 8 million acres of The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) looks just like that picture. But that land is already designated as Wilderness. And over 9 million more acres are classified as a National Wildlife Refuge. No one can touch that land, ever. That 17 million acres is off limits to any kind of development. In fact, combined with the rest of the land designated as Wilderness in Alaska, we're talking about an area the size of four or five States in the lower 48. Alaska alone has over 60 % of all federally-designated Wilderness lands.

Look again at the picture on the left. And listen to some facts.

These facts aren't as pretty or as emotionally appealing. But they are important for anyone involved in the ANWR debate. On the coastal plain, the Arctic winter lasts for 9 months. It is dark continuously for 56 days in midwinter. Temperatures with the wind chill can reach -110 degrees F. It's not pristine. There are villages, roads, houses, schools, and military installations. It's not a unique Arctic ecosystem. The coastal plain is only a small fraction of the 88,000 square miles that make up the North Slope. The same tundra environment and wildlife can be found throughout the circumpolar Arctic regions. The 1002 Area is flat. That's why they call it a plain.