

WHICH ONE IS THE REAL ANWR?



AOGA



Danny Lehman

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.

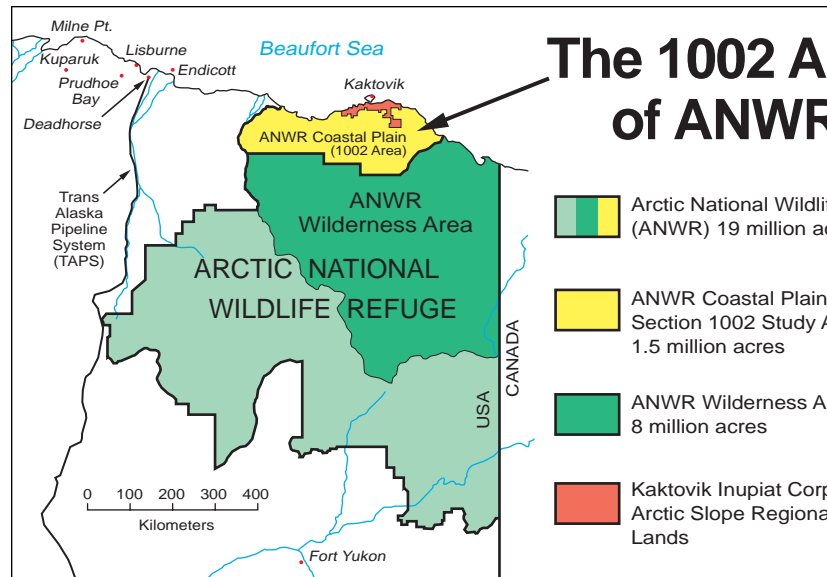
ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The coastal plain of ANWR, the 1002 Area, is the only area potentially open for development. Some groups want to make the 1002 Area a wilderness. But a vote for wilderness is a vote against American jobs. Against a stronger, revitalized American economy.

We all want energy conservation and we want to reduce oil imports. But we cannot conserve our way out of importing oil. Conservation is not a source of energy.

Over 350,000 jobs have been lost across the country in the oil and gas industry in the last decade and the number is on the rise. That is more than the 264,000 lost in the steel industry and over three times the amount lost in the auto manufacturing industry. Jobs related to drilling have been cut 50 percent in the last ten years. The number of drilling rigs in the U.S. is at its lowest since 1942.

All these numbers have a direct impact on our State and Federal economy. In Alaska, 80 percent of every state dollar is generated by taxes and royalties on North Slope crude oil. State taxes on oil production used to account for 1 of every 6 tax dollars nationally. Now that number is 1 in 29. The United States currently imports over half its oil. Domestic production is at 1961 levels and decreasing. More importantly, the trade deficit is at an astronomically high level, and over 50 percent of that is the cost of imported oil.



“The direct and indirect economic impacts of ANWR development would create 735,000 jobs across the nation over the next decade.”



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"Nowhere in the world is oil produced as safely as it is on Alaska's North Slope."

ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD

Oil exploration and production is one of the most comprehensively regulated industries in the U.S.. Environmental laws in other oil-producing countries are not as strictly enforced as they are here at home. If we want to protect the environment and continue to use oil, the oil we use should employ the safest technologies and be produced in the cleanest way possible. When our oil comes from foreign sources, we're not only paying more than we should and sending jobs and money overseas, we're doing less than the best we can to protect our global environment.

Alaska's North Slope represents a significant achievement in the exploration for and production of hydrocarbons. Construction of a major facility in the Arctic required innovation and adaptation of new technologies. In Alaska, we value our wilderness areas, but we're also proud of our industrial experience. We've developed our abundant resources responsibly for many decades.

And what about the caribou? Some groups say they don't know how the Porcupine Caribou Herd will react to pipelines in the 1002 Area. The Central Arctic herd, which lives in the Prudhoe Bay oil field, has increased from 3,000 to 20,000 since production began. And still counting. The fact is, we know more today about the North Slope than almost any other ecosystem on the earth. ANWR is our environment. The Arctic is not just a pretty summertime picture in a magazine. It's our home, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Make sure you have the real picture of ANWR.



RECOMMENDATION

The Alaska Women in Timber organization encourages Members of Congress to balance the need for additional wilderness in Alaska with the economic needs of the State and the nation. Review the environmental performance of the oil and gas industry on the North Slope, visit ANWR, learn the truth. We who live in Alaska want to see responsible development and growth in the State's economy. We recommend a vote against wilderness designation for the 1002 Area.



Oil and gas production on Alaska's North Slope.