

Protect Your Arctic National Wildlife Refuge!



The Heart of the Arctic

A Kids for Saving Earth
Action Program

1. What's The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?

Because you are a U.S. resident, this protected park land belongs to you. It is 19 million acres of arctic forests, snow capped mountains, beautiful prairie wetland and precious Arctic Ocean shoreline. It's almost at the top of the world. Look for it on a map. It's in northeastern Alaska.

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/arctic/maps1.html>

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of 500 wildlife parks that are protected by the United States Government for you, for me, and all the animals who need this home to survive. For helpful information about the Refuge, go to KSE Action Program partner The Alaska Wilderness League's site <http://www.alaskawild.org/> Also the official Arctic National Wildlife Refuge site is <http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/arctic/>

It's a wondrous protected area where spring brings glorious fields of wildflowers to the tundra (arctic prairie). The 1.5 million acre Coastal Plain on the Arctic Ocean provides a home for precious species who can live nowhere else.

2. What's the Problem?

For now-- it's against the law for anyone to harm the water, land or living creatures in our Refuge. But that may change soon without your help. Oil companies plan to drill for oil on the Coastal Plains of the Refuge. Some government leaders want to help these oil companies by changing our protection laws. Environmentalists, like KSE members, don't want oil companies to drill for oil in this special part of the planet. We need to protect this area for the wild species who live there and for the Gwich'in people and Inupiat Eskimos (Native American inhabitants) who have had it as their homeland for thousands of years.

If they were to drill for oil in our Refuge, it could be all used up in about 6 months. Oil companies will make their money and then leave the damaged lands. The fact is, we don't really need this oil! With energy efficiency,

Americans could easily save the same amount of oil that can be found in the Coastal Plain. And now that we have sun power, wind power and electric and hybrid cars, we won't need so much oil. Using less oil will help slow global warming and solve other air pollution problems as well.

