

Arctic Refuge Information Sheet

Defending the Sacred

- To the Gwich'in People, the Coastal Plains of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) are called "the sacred place where life begins¹."
- Opening the Coastal Plains to oil and gas drilling without the consent of the Gwich'in Nation is a human rights violation and "an attack on [their] culture and way of life²."

Food Sovereignty

- *Eighty percent* of the Gwich'in People's diet comes from the Porcupine Caribou Herd, which raises its young in the Coastal Plains of the Arctic Refuge³.
- In 2016, the Gwich'in Nation passed a resolution to "prohibit development in the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herds" in order to continue their traditional way of life⁴.

Climate Justice

- The only seismic exploration project on the Coastal Plains was the 1985 KIC-1 test well, which killed surrounding vegetation and melted the permafrost. 30 years later, the area has still not recovered⁵.
- Further drilling in the Coastal Plains would negatively impact the sensitive caribou calves by filling their habitat with roads, landing strips, housing complexes, excessive noise, and "produced water", a toxin laden by-product of oil drilling that can cause birth defects⁶.

Dollars and Sense

- The sale of oil and gas leases in the Arctic Refuge will likely generate no more than \$37.5 million in revenue for the federal government over the next 10 years, which would cover less than 1% of the \$1.5 trillion tax deficit from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017: the legislation that opened up the Arctic Refuge to drilling⁷.
- Would drilling in the Arctic Refuge help us pay less at the gas pump? In the best-case scenarios, "we're talking lowering the price of gas by three cents, 20 years from now⁶."

Sources:

1. <http://ourarcticrefuge.org/about-the-refuge/the-coastal-plain-the-sacred-place-where-life-begins/>
2. http://www.newsminer.com/opinion/community_perspectives/when-will-the-delegation-stand-up-for-the-rights-of/article_68fff886-4791-11e8-9022-9beb7f6e35ad.html
3. <https://rootsrated.com/stories/protecting-the-arctic-national-wildlife-refuge-isn-t-just-an-environmental-issue-it-s-a-human-rights-affair>
4. <http://www.gwichinsteeringcommittee.org/gwichinniintsyaa.html>
5. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/15/climate/arctic-drilling-anwr.html>
6. <https://www.livescience.com/4979-oil-drilling-risks-rewards.html>
7. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/news/2017/10/10/440559/arctic-national-wildlife-refuge-101/>



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-- Prepared by Alaska Rising Tide --

CALL: Forward together

RESPONSE: Not one step back

CALL: What do we want?

RESPONSE: Justice!

CALL: When human rights are under attack what do we do?

RESPONSE: Fight back!

CALL: People power on the rise

RESPONSE: Now it's time to organize!

CHANT: Hey, Hey! Ho, Ho!

Corporate greed has got to go

CHANT: Ain't no power like the power of the people
cause the power of the people won't stop!

(Say what!)

CHANT: Circumpolar, wind and solar

SONG: People gonna rise like the water

(We're gonna calm this crisis down)

I hear the voices of my great granddaughter

(Saying climate justice now!)

CALL: When do we want it?

RESPONSE: Now!

(Call and response)

Everywhere we go

People want to know

Who we are

So we tell them

We are the people

The mighty, mighty people

Defend the sacred

Protect the arctic

SONG: *Somebody's threatening our land*

And it's going on far too long

Yes, it's going on far too long

It's going on far too long

I said, *somebody's threatening our land*

And it's going on far too long

And we won't be silent anymore

ADDITIONAL VERSES

Somebody's threatening our food

Somebody's poisoning our water

Somebody's Changing our climate