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U.S. History
History-Social
Science Standard
11.11.5.



Many Voices, Many Visions: Analyzing Contemporary Environmental Issues

California Education and the Environment Initiative

Approved by the California State Board of Education, 2010

The Education and the Environment Initiative Curriculum is a cooperative endeavor of the following entities:

California Environmental Protection Agency
California Natural Resources Agency
California State Board of Education
California Department of Education
Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

Key Partners:

Special thanks to **Heal the Bay**, sponsor of the EEI law, for their partnership and participation in reviewing portions of the EEI curriculum.

Valuable assistance with maps, photos, videos and design was provided by the **National Geographic Society** under a contract with the State of California.

Office of Education and the Environment

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<http://www.CaliforniaEEI.org>

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Controversies in Redwood Conservation



California is home to a natural treasure—the tallest and most magnificent trees on Earth—coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and giant sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*). In Woody Guthrie’s famous folk song, This Land is Your Land, the reference to the redwood forest captures how these trees are beloved, not just for their beauty, but also as a national symbol.

Parklands, located along the coast of northern California, between Orick and Crescent City and south to Humboldt Redwoods State Park, are home to the coast redwoods and make up roughly 40 percent of the remaining old growth redwood forest.

The scientific name given the coast redwoods, *Sequoia sempervirens*, comes from the name

of the Cherokee Indian chief Sequoyah and from the Latin *sempervirens* meaning “always green.” Although these California natives have been cultivated elsewhere, this redwood species naturally achieves its lush, majestic heights only in one place—a 450-mile strip along the Pacific, beginning in southern Oregon and ending just south of Monterey. The coast redwood, although it



Early loggers

may look somewhat similar, is a different species from China's related dawn redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*).

Redwood National and State Parks contain over 130,000 acres; 38,982 are old growth. These parks boast a mild climate and fantastic sights: 40 to 50 miles of rugged and beautiful coastline, rocky promontories, beaches, forests, rivers, and prairies.



Hiking in redwoods

History: Land and Log

American Indians arrived in the area of the parks as early as 7,000 years ago. Four tribes ultimately inhabited the region: the Yurok, Tolowa, Hupa, and the Chilula. They lived off the bounty of salmon from the rivers, shellfish from the sea, and venison from the lands. They also gathered berries, roots, and herbs. By hollowing trunks of redwoods, they made canoes to fish and harvest mollusks. They preferred the mouths of watercourses or the edge of the surf to deep-sea fishing. They made use of fallen redwood logs but rarely cut down a living tree.

Early European settlers in the region viewed the coast redwoods as a source of lumber. Yet its durability and beauty were offset by the difficulty of felling these very tall trees by hand. Logging began in earnest when advanced machinery became available in the 1850s. At first, people believed the vast groves of huge redwoods were inexhaustible. Over the next century, however, most of the old-growth redwood forests were cut. Despite earlier conservation advocacy by the California Academy of Sciences and efforts by the Sempervirens Club, (now called the Sempervirens Fund), a National Geographic Society survey in 1963 revealed that only 300,000 of the original two million acres of primeval redwoods remained intact.

Creation of Redwood National and State Parks

By the early 1960s, efforts to preserve more old-growth redwood forests took hold. Ninety-five percent of the redwoods in California had been harvested, and citizens across the country were concerned about losing the remaining old-growth trees because of both their beauty and their particular value to wildlife. The Sierra Club launched the campaign for a national park. The National Geographic Society and the Save-the-Redwoods League were also at the forefront of this movement. In 1963, the National Geographic Society discovered that the three tallest known trees in the world were located in the area.



Redwood forest conservation protest

Not all people, however, saw the redwoods as an outdoor cathedral; others saw them as their livelihood. There was concern about the timber industry's importance to the regional economy. Lost timber jobs would directly affect the workers involved in the industry and would cause a domino effect to vendors and suppliers of tools and equipment. It also meant a reduced tax base to support schools, libraries, roads, welfare, and other basic services, including law enforcement.

The efforts of the Save-the-Redwoods League to preserve three large redwood groves eventually resulted in the establishment of Prairie Creek, Del Norte Coast, and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Parks.

In 1968, Congress surrounded these three state redwood parks with newly purchased land that created the Redwood National Park. This came amidst pressures by conservationists and a compromise with the timber industry, allowing unrestricted logging outside the park. The new park ultimately would contain 58,000 acres, with

30,000 under the care of the National Park Service, the remainder under the jurisdiction of the State of California.

While establishing the park helped preserve nearly half the Earth's remaining old-growth redwoods, jobs were lost in this sparsely populated area. Many felt founding the parks devastated the economies of Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. Although the government paid generous compensation to some families under the Redwood Employees Protection Program, others did not qualify under the rules. Some felt the money did not make up for individual losses, including retraining to industries—like tourism—that did not materialize to the degree expected. Many concerns were on the opposite side of the tug-of-war with economics: the unique redwood habitat, its diverse organisms, the ancient forest as a living lab of forest evolution, and the protection of its endangered species.

The 1978 Expansion: No Walk in the Park

The expansion of Redwood National and State Parks is a study in the complicated issues associated with environmental conservation. Animosity remains to this day between environmental protection and timber industry advocates on the North Coast. Controversy is as much a part of the local scene as the redwoods themselves.

At the forefront of opposing the expansion, the timber industry staged a memorable protest. They sent a convoy of logging trucks to Washington, D.C. They carried a log carved by chainsaws into the shape of a peanut—a reference to President Jimmy Carter's former occupation as a peanut farmer. Soon, many saw that it was not conducive to the preservation of the original park to be surrounded by land designated for timber production, so an additional 48,000 acres were purchased upstream from the existing park.

Park advocates were concerned that logging on adjacent private lands would be accelerated after

the park was created. When it was enlarged, much of the area had been actively harvested throughout its history. Only the lower third of the Redwood Creek watershed was protected in the park, so Congress designated another 30,000 of mostly private acres upstream as Park Protection Zone. Since one-third of the Redwood Creek watershed was included in the expansion, it became possible for the restoration to start. The National Park Service gained jurisdiction and control over land bordering the park. Logging near the park then had to meet the Park Service's erosion control standards. Some people saw public management of the forests as the only reliable solution to avoiding further degradation. Others felt it infringed on private enterprise.

Expansion of the Redwood National and State Parks continued to spark controversy and divisiveness. Timber industry workers lost more

jobs, mostly due to industry consolidation and modernization of the mills. Displaced workers blamed the limits on logging for many social ills, including higher than average unemployment and poverty. They

believed the park was expensive and not as accessible to tourists as other national parks, therefore, not big enough to draw more dollars into the local tourist economy.

Advocates for resource conservation, biological diversity, and natural beauty continued to hold that the economic hardships were worth overcoming. Increased awareness of the importance of sustainable forest practices on private and public lands will help all of the stakeholders work together to balance these competing demands on natural resources.

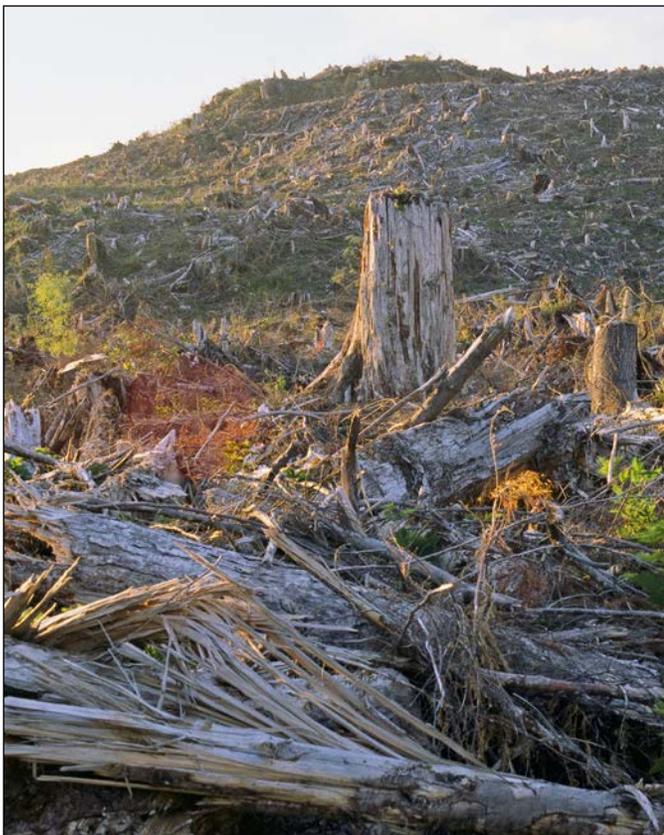
The Challenge Continues

Within this saga, many ethical and environmental questions go unanswered, such as “Do trees simply provide ecosystem services, like the clean air and water that we too often take for granted?” “How valuable is the habitat for endangered species?” “Can the increased regulations and environmental protections for harvesting help balance these competing demands on forests?”

Difficult challenges continued in the Redwood National and State Parks even after their designation in 1980 as an international World Heritage Site and a biosphere reserve. The biosphere reserve seeks to safeguard the diversity of plants, animals, and microorganisms that make up our living “biosphere” and, at the same time, to meet the material needs of an increasing human population.



Spotted owl



Clear-cut area

An Issue of Snowmobiles

Protected as a national park since 1872, Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming and Montana is considered one of the nation's greatest treasures. From the very beginning, its magnificent mountains, sweeping valleys, geothermal features, and abundant wildlife attracted visitors. Although the warmer months are the traditional vacation time for most people touring the park, winter visits are also popular. The quiet world of winter in Yellowstone is seen by some as a place to move silently across the landscape on skis and watch wildlife as the snow falls. Others see it as an exciting place to explore the outdoors on snowmobiles with family and friends. By the late 1990s the number of snowmobiles entering the park had grown dramatically, ultimately making their use a source of conflict.

Complaints were made about how snowmobiles were affecting the park. Some people did not like their noise and smell. Others reported that snowmobilers chased wildlife. Some park rangers wore masks to protect themselves from the pollution. In response to all the complaints, the National Park Service conducted a multiyear study. It looked at how snowmobiles affected the park's resources and natural systems. In November 2000, the National Park Service reported that use of snowmobiles harmed "wildlife, air quality, and natural soundscapes and odors." In late 2000, they issued a rule that would phase out snowmobiles. A lawsuit was filed but settled when the National Park Service agreed to more studies.

The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association and the State of Wyoming challenged the new winter use rules. Others, like the Blue Ribbon Coalition, joined them. They believed that the National Park Service did not study the newest snowmobile technology when making their decision. They also argued that economies of nearby towns would be hurt if snowmobiles were banned. The Park Service studied the issue

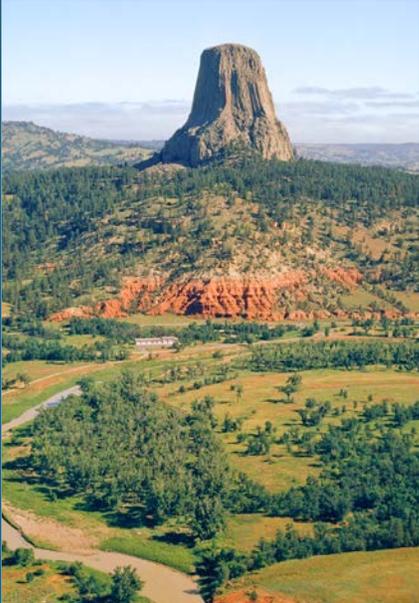
further. The phaseout rule remained in place. The research showed that even with new technologies, snowmobile use still had harmful effects on the park's natural resources.

Lobbying and protests continued. Both those who want to use snowmobiles in the park and those who do not want them there complained. Politicians and government officials joined the discussion. One judge ruled in favor of the phaseout and then, within months, another issued an injunction to halt it. The National Park Service came up with a temporary compromise that was implemented from 2004–2007. It allowed 720 snowmobiles in the park each day. Groups who wanted a ban were unhappy, and those who wanted more snowmobiles were not satisfied with the decision.

In March 2007, people were given a chance to comment on a new draft plan. The National Park Service's preferred plan allows more snowmobiles. It also requires using the best technology to reduce noise and pollution. The recommendation limits snowmobile use to guided tours on groomed roads. If chosen, it will leave all sides less than satisfied. The Yellowstone winter use issue shows how complicated it is to establish and maintain federal lands, and how they affect and involve people who live both near and far from the park boundaries.



Snowmobile near elk

	<p>National Park Service</p>	<p>“A National Park is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>NPS Criteria, 2007</i></p>
<p>Quick Facts</p> <p>The National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for about 80 million acres, or 13% of all federal land. It manages national parks and nearly 400 natural, cultural, and recreational sites across the country.</p> <p>Among the many NPS activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Monitoring park resources so that park managers can maintain healthy ecosystems ■ Conservation planning ■ Gathering public input on NPS decisions ■ Assisting with recovery of disturbed areas ■ Controlling the spread of introduced plant species ■ Removing human disturbances that are causing damage to resources 	<p>Mission: “The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. . .”</p>	<p>Challenges and Controversies</p> <p>These are some of the issues that NPS managers must deal with on their lands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fire management ■ Use by too many visitors ■ Air quality ■ Managing hunters ■ Damage or disturbances from off-highway vehicles (OHVs) ■ Presence of valuable minerals that people want to access ■ Grazing leases ■ Invasive species ■ Resource degradation (decline in resource quality) ■ Watershed management ■ Managing wilderness areas and designating new wilderness areas ■ Preserving habitat for wildlife and endangered species ■ Collection and research
<p>NPS lands include 43.5 million acres of designated “wilderness areas”.</p> <p>273 million people visit national park lands each year.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Resources Managed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Parks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Memorials</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Monuments</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Historic Sites and Parks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Battlefield Parks and Sites</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Battlefields</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Military Parks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Recreation Areas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Scenic Trails and Parkways</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Wild and Scenic Rivers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Rivers, Lakeshores, and Seashores</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Reserves and Preserves</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Designated Wilderness Areas</p>	
		



Quick Facts

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres, or about 30% of all federal lands. Their lands include national forests, national grasslands, wilderness areas, trails, wild and scenic rivers, and heritage sites. The Forest Service is the largest natural resource research organization in the world; it conducts research on management practices in 222 research and experimental forests.

The Forest Service uses a multiple-use approach to sustain healthy ecosystems while addressing people's need for resources and services. It works with many partners to manage, protect, and use forests. More than 1.5 billion board-feet of timber have been harvested in national forests.

Some of the activities of the Forest Service include:

- Managing public lands set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife, and plants
- Conducting research to provide tools for managing forests and rangelands
- Helping to control a wide range of destructive insects
- Working internationally to promote sustainable forest management and conservation of biodiversity
- Implementing programs to protect lives and property from wildfires
- Identifying and implementing strategies to reduce greenhouse gases

The Forest Service manages two-thirds of all firefighting resources in the United States and fights major wildfires across all lands. It has some type of stewardship role in about 80% of all the forests in the United States. More than 205 million visitors enjoy the resources of Forest Service lands each year. Hiking, hunting, fishing, riding off-highway vehicles, skiing, camping, bird watching, horseback riding, and water sports are some of the recreational opportunities available in national forests and grasslands.

USDA Forest Service

Established by the Forest Transfer Act of 1905

Mission: "The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations."

Multiple Uses

- Recreation
- Timber
- Wilderness
- Grazing
- Heritage
- Hunting
- Minerals/Mining
- Oil and Gas
- Wildlife Habitat
- Fishing

"We use an ecological approach to the multiple-use management of the National Forests and Grasslands."

USDA Forest Service, 2006

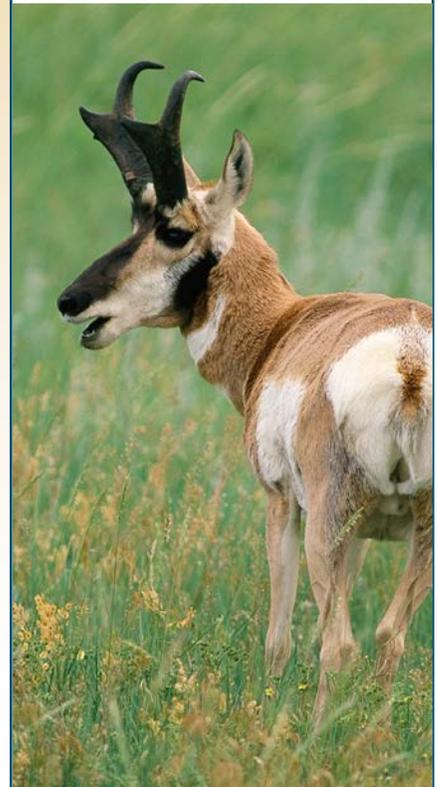
"Caring for the Land and Serving People"

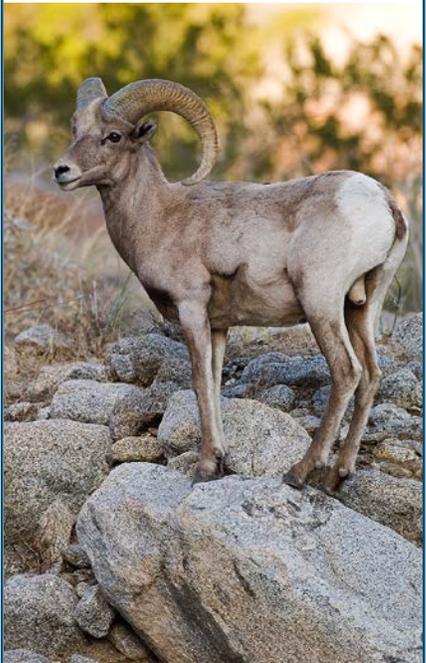
USFS, 2007

Challenges and Controversies

These are some of the issues that Forest Service managers must deal with:

- Managing fuel and fires
- Controlling the spread of invasive species
- Maintaining open space
- Watershed management
- Logging practices
- Grazing policies
- Fire policies
- Road building and use
- Off-highway vehicle policies
- Designating and managing wilderness areas
- Protecting wildlife and habitats for endangered species



	<p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p>	<p>“Conserving the Nature of America”</p> <p><i>USFWS, 2008</i></p>
<p>Quick Facts</p> <p>The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) conserves, protects, and enhances fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats. It is the only agency in the federal government whose primary responsibility is to manage these natural resources. The Service also provides opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors.</p> <p>FWS enforces some of the Nation’s most important environmental laws. These include the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. FWS also manages the 96 million acre National Wildlife Refuge System. These public lands are devoted to protection and conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats. These refuges make up 15% of federal lands. FWS also manages wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and cultural resources like archaeological sites, buildings and structures, and historic documents. Each year, more than 82 million visitors to national wildlife refuges and other FWS sites enjoy hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, interpretive programs, riding off-highway vehicles, and other outdoor recreation activities.</p>	<p>Mission: “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s mission is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are the only agency of the U.S. Government with that primary mission.”</p>	<p>Challenges and Controversies</p> <p>These are some of the issues that FWS managers must deal with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adding or removing species from the Threatened and Endangered Species Lists ■ Oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge ■ The spread of invasive species ■ Environmental contamination ■ Diseases affecting wildlife ■ Land acquisition ■ Fisheries management practices ■ Habitat management practices ■ Water quality and supply ■ Watershed management ■ Fire management ■ Refuge law enforcement ■ Using appropriate grazing practices to manage plant growth
<p>Included among the many FWS activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enforcing federal wildlife laws ■ Protecting endangered species ■ Managing migratory birds ■ Restoring important fisheries ■ Conserving and restoring wildlife habitats ■ Helping foreign governments with international conservation efforts ■ Distributing hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies ■ Operating National Fish Hatcheries ■ Conducting scientific research on public lands <p>FWS works in partnership with many other organizations to accomplish its goals.</p>	<p>Priorities</p> <p>National Wildlife Refuge System: Conserving our lands and resources</p> <p>Landscape Conservation: Working with others</p> <p>Migratory Birds: Conservation and management</p> <p>Threatened and Endangered Species: Achieving recovery and preventing extinction</p> <p>Aquatic species: National Fish Habitat Initiative and trust species</p> <p>Connecting People with Nature: Ensuring the future of conservation</p>	

	<p>U.S. Bureau of Land Management</p>	<p>“The BLM has perhaps the most complex and far-reaching mission in the Department of the Interior.”</p> <p><i>BLM Strategic Plan, 2000–2005</i></p>
	<p>Established by Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946</p>	
<p>Quick Facts</p> <p>The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) carries out programs for the management and conservation of resources on more than 40% of all federal land. It is responsible for about 260 million acres on the surface, as well as 700 million acres of underground land containing mineral resources. BLM manages more federal land than any other agency. Their public lands make up about 13% of the total land surface of the United States. Most BLM lands are in the western United States.</p>	<p>Mission: “The BLM’s mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.”</p>	<p>Challenges and Controversies</p> <p>These are some of the issues that managers must deal with on BLM lands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pressures due to population growth ■ Managing wilderness areas ■ Damaged or degraded resources and facilities ■ “At risk” cultural or paleontological properties ■ Grazing regulations ■ Energy and mineral resource exploration and leasing ■ Habitat conservation for endangered species ■ Safety for visitors (including abandoned mines, hazardous materials, unauthorized use, and illegal dumping) ■ Invasive species ■ Overpopulation of wild horses and burros ■ Reducing risk of fire damage to cultural and historic properties
<p>The Bureau of Land Management manages land for multiples uses, meaning that it manages for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Commercial activities like mining, grazing, and logging ■ Recreational activities like camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicles (OHVs), bird watching, and mountain biking ■ Habitat for endangered species and other wildlife ■ Wilderness preservation ■ Cultural preservation <p>BLM is responsible for rangelands for 57,000 wild horses and burros and 117,000 miles of fisheries habitat. Forty percent of the nation’s coal production comes from BLM lands. Nearly 12 million acres support oil and gas exploration and production. The agency also protects American Indian cliff dwellings, remaining traces of historical trails, and many areas that provide for scientific research.</p> <p>BLM is one of the top revenue-generating agencies in the federal government. Activities on BLM lands generate about \$3.2 billion per year for the federal government and the states and counties where the lands are located.</p> <p>In 2008, there were 57 million visitors to BLM-managed lands and waters.</p>	<p>Multiple Uses</p> <p>Environmentally responsible commercial activities, including energy and mineral development and timber sales</p> <p>Recreation opportunities, including interpretation and other visitor education activities</p> <p>Wild free-roaming horses and burros</p> <p>Fish and wildlife habitat</p> <p>Paleontological, archaeological, and historical sites</p> <p>Transportation systems, including roads, trails, and bridges</p> <p>Wilderness areas/wild and scenic rivers</p> <p>Rare and valuable plant communities</p> <p>Public land survey system</p>	

California Desert Conservation Area

The California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) is within the larger California Desert District. The CDCA is huge and includes about one-fourth of California's land. The public lands within the CDCA are managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Three deserts fall within its boundaries: the Mojave, the Sonoran, and part of the Great Basin. Deserts are fragile lands filled with contrasts and contradictions. They experience extreme temperatures and a dry climate. The CDCA includes vast stretches of wilderness with nearly 100 mountain ranges towering above its floor; few roads cross the land. American Indians first lived here and skillfully used the desert's resources in their daily lives. Today endangered species, such as the bighorn sheep and desert tortoise, share the land with historic mining claims, wind farms, grazing livestock, and mountain bikers.



Quick Facts

- 25,000,000 acres
- 85 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- 69 wilderness areas, covering approximately 3.5 million acres
- 22 wilderness study areas
- Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument
- Desert Tortoise Natural Area
- Nine watchable wildlife sites
- One national scenic byway
- Two national trails: Pacific Crest and San Juan Bautista
- Six national natural landmarks
- Ten off-highway vehicle areas
- Regional wild horse and burro facility
- Geothermal, wind, and solar energy production
- Eight energy production and utility corridors
- Historic Bradshaw Trail
- Four long-term visitor areas
- 11 campgrounds



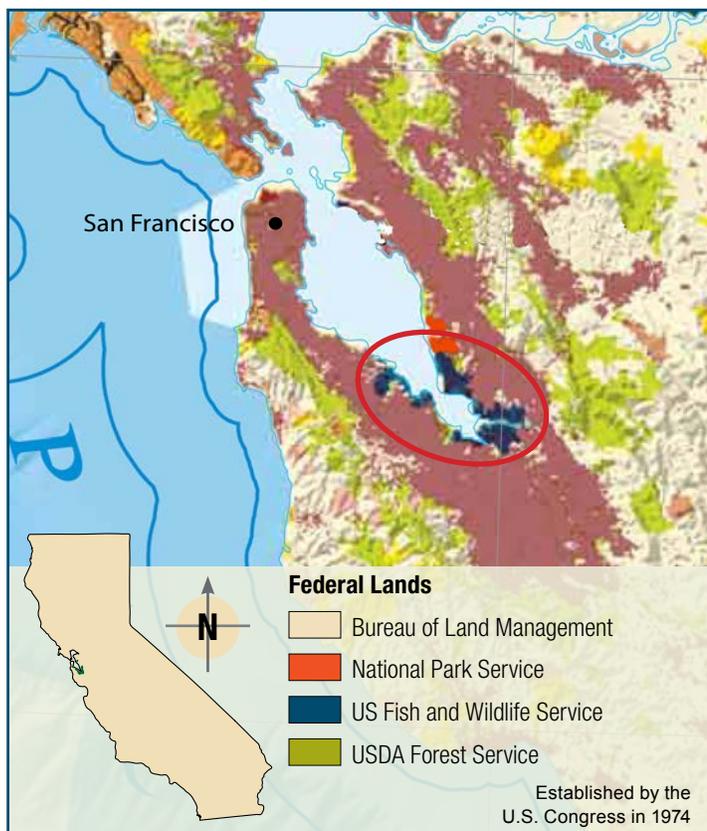
Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge was the first urban national wildlife refuge. Human activity changed 90% of San Francisco Bay's shoreline as the region grew to 7 million people in recent years. Thousands of acres were used as salt ponds or filled in for development. The Don Edwards refuge was created to preserve and improve wildlife habitat, protect migratory birds, and protect threatened and endangered species. The refuge gives the community the opportunity to view wildlife, fish or hunt from the shore, and study nature. State, local, and regional groups have partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore former salt ponds. The restoration created more habitat for the millions of birds and other species that live in or pass through the refuge. More waterfowl and shore birds flock to the area as the wetlands are restored.



Quick Facts

- 30,000 acres of open bay, salt pond, salt marsh, mudflat, upland, and vernal pool habitats
- 280 species of birds
- 80 species of birds nest on the site
- Resting point for millions of birds during spring and fall migrations along the Pacific Flyway
- Home to the endangered California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse
- Contains a visitor center and environmental education center
- Offers interpretive programs
- Offers hiking trails and fishing from boats, the shore, and a public fishing pier
- Contains seasonal hunting sites
- Allows nonmotorized boating
- Provides commercial salt production
- Conducts wetland restoration projects



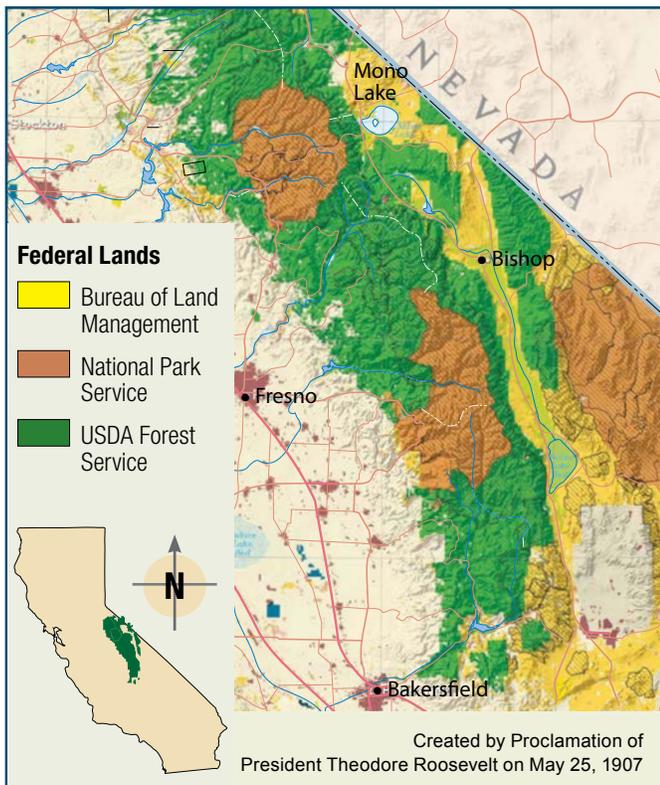
Inyo National Forest

Inyo National Forest contains 1.9 million acres stretched over 165 miles in California and along the Nevada border. It includes Mono Lake, Mt. Whitney, Devil's Postpile National Monument, and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. The John Muir and Pacific Crest trails pass through it. Visitors and industries use it for logging, livestock grazing, skiing, mountain biking, hunting, and wilderness hiking. The forest also provides off-highway vehicle trails, geothermal energy, wild and scenic rivers, and mountain resorts. Some recreationists enjoy outfitted pack trips, rock and ice climbing, and fly-fishing there. A once-vital mining region in the forest is now mostly gone. Volcanic and geothermal features mark the Mono Basin area. Inyo includes many peaks over 10,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada and White mountain ranges and is home to many plant and animal species.



Quick Facts

- 1.9 million acres
- Highest point in California: 14,496 feet at the peak of Mt. Whitney, the highest mountain in the continental United States
- Highest point in Nevada: 13,140 feet at Boundary Peak
- 650,000 acres of wilderness in seven wilderness areas
- 519 glacial lakes
- 150 miles of streams, many renowned for their trout
- Methuselah, a bristlecone pine tree in the White Mountains, is more than 4,750 years old and is the oldest living tree in the world
- Mammoth Mountain Ski Area is the highest in California, with more than 150 trails and 28 lifts
- 101-foot Rainbow Falls
- Mono Lake, estimated to be at least 760,000 years old
- Hot magma three miles below the surface creates scalding temperatures, geysers, and mud pots in places, such as Hot Creek
- 10 million visitors per year



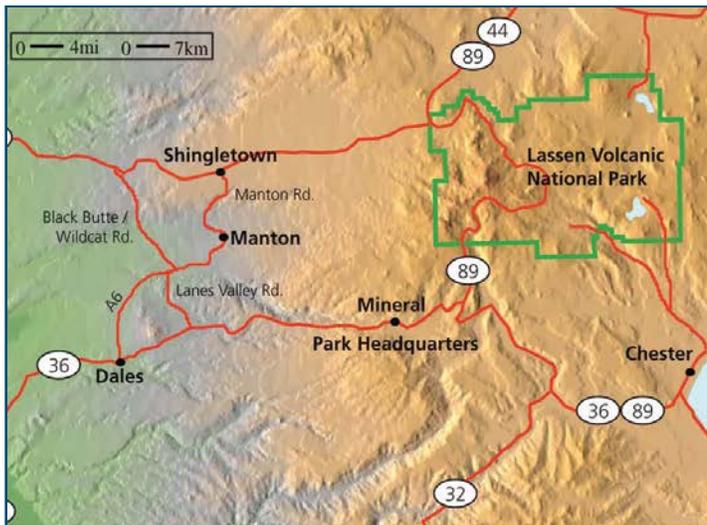
Lassen Volcanic National Park

More than 30 volcanic domes once erupted in the area known as Lassen Volcanic National Park. Surrounded by the Lassen National Forest, the lowest elevation in the park is over a mile high. The Maidu and Atsugewi people were the first inhabitants of this area, and they viewed the park's land as a sacred place. Park sites with names, such as Bumpass Hell and Sulphur Works, draw visitors wanting to see the bubbling "mud pots" and boiling pools. Many other outdoor recreational activities are also possible here. More than 75% of the park is wilderness, offering miles of trails for backcountry hikers and campers. Park rangers lead interpretive programs about thermal activity, the area's history, and the many plants and animals found here. Scientists believe the volcanoes may erupt again, perhaps thousands of years from now.



Quick Facts

- 106,372 acres
- Lassen Peak at 10,457 feet
- One of the southernmost volcanoes in the Cascade Range (most recent major eruption in 1915)
- Four types of volcanoes found in park (shield, plug dome, cinder cone, and composite)
- Eight hydrothermal areas, including fumaroles, bubbling mud pots, boiling pools, and steaming ground
- 322° F (161° C) steam coming from Big Boiler, the largest fumarole in the park
- 150 miles of hiking trails
- 200 lakes
- Eight campgrounds
- 40 feet of snow per year
- 700 flowering plant species and 250 species of animals
- 78,982 acres of wilderness (more than 75% of the park)
- 400,000 visitors a year



Established by the John Raker Act on August 9, 1916

Stakeholder 1:

I represent the Healthy Forests Initiative. Our motto is “reducing the risks of wildfire to people, communities, and the environment.” I am reading from a statement on the official Healthy Forests Initiative Web site.

“The Healthy Forests Initiative was launched in August 2002 by President Bush with the intent to reduce the risks severe wildfires pose to people, communities, and the environment. By protecting forests, woodlands, shrublands, and grasslands from unnaturally intensive and destructive fires, HFI helps improve the condition of our public lands, increases firefighter safety, and conserves landscape attributes valued by society.”

U.S. Government
Official Healthy Forests Web site, May 2007

Stakeholder 2:

I represent the Sierra Club. Our motto is to “explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth.” I am reading from our position statement on the Healthy Forests Initiative.

“The Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI) is President Bush’s response to the past year’s forest fires. The initiative is based on the false assumption that landscape-wide logging will decrease forest fires. This premise is contradicted by the general scientific consensus, which has found that logging can increase fire risk. This disconnect between what the administration says and what science says about logging and fire reveals the administration’s true goal which is to use the forest fire issue to cut the public out of the public lands management decision-making process and to give logging companies virtually free access to our National Forests....”

Sierra Club
“Forest Protection and Restoration: Debunking the ‘Healthy Forests Initiative’”

Stakeholder 3:

I represent the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. Our motto is “working to increase profit opportunities for cattle and beef producers by enhancing the business climate and building consumer demand.” I am reading from one of my organization’s official statements on the Healthy Forests Initiative.

“The President’s Healthy Forests Initiative, designed to care for forests and rangelands, reduce the risk to communities, and protect delicate ecosystem and wildlife habitat...passed the Senate late yesterday. The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) and Public Lands Council (PLC) have long supported the bill, which will prevent forage from being crowded by invasive weeds or afflicted with insects or disease. In addition, wildfire prevention measures will enhance the safety of rural communities vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire. The vote is especially timely as one of the worst wildfires in California’s history has already destroyed nearly 900 square miles—an area about the size of Rhode Island—and continues to burn....”

National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
2003 News Archive

Stakeholder 4:

I represent The Environmental Protection Information Center. We are a “community based, non-profit organization that actively works to protect and restore forests, watersheds, coastal estuaries, and native species in northwest California.” I am reading from an article published in our Winter 2003 newsletter.

“As massive fires raged in Southern California, the Bush Administration’s attempts to establish the ‘Healthy Forests Initiative’ were fueled by flames. Congress’ passage of ‘healthy forests’ legislation marks the triumph of a propaganda campaign to change the debate over forest policy. Though sold as a compromise by politicians and press, the bill gives the Bush Administration—and the logging industry—pretty much what it asked for...The natural threats to the health of forest ecosystems are real, but our National Forests now face further threats from the timber industry and the Forest Service, acting under the Bush Administration’s Healthy Forests Initiative. Environmental analysts warn ... that the law will lead to more cutting of mature and old-growth forests, further damage to wildlife habitat, greater risk of destructive fires, and little additional assurance to communities.”

“Healthy Forests Initiative: A Campaign of Severe Forest Policy Rollbacks”
Wild California (Winter 2003)
The Environmental Protection Information Center

Stakeholder 5:

I represent the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA). We are the association of family woodland owners and are “dedicated to the protection, management, use, and enhancement of Oregon’s Forest Resources.” I am reading from the OSWA position statement on the Healthy Forests Initiative.

“...OSWA believes the President’s plan is a step in the right direction. It refocuses the direction of forest management away from a do nothing policy to a more active guidance. One that, hopefully, ensures a reduction of the catastrophic losses from fire, insects and disease that have become the norm over the past decade...OSWA understands that the President is not proposing a return to old-growth, high grade logging, with little regard for environmental safeguards. OSWA believes that with a carefully managed and controlled harvest, one that reflects the concerns of all interested parties, the forests will benefit. Active careful management will also yield other benefits of a more social and economic nature as well. OSWA believes that products produced by implementing the Healthy Forests Initiative may be critical to survival of private family forest management and communities in much of the interior West...”

OSWA Position Statement
“The President’s Healthy Forests Initiative”
Oregon Small Woodlands Association, May 5, 2003

Establishing the Arctic National Wildlife Range

By virtue of the authority vested in the President, and pursuant to Executive Order No. 10355 of May 26, 1952, it is ordered as follows:

1. For the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values, all of the hereinafter described area in northeastern Alaska, containing approximately 8,900,000 acres is hereby, subject to valid existing withdrawals, withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining but not the mineral leasing laws, nor disposals of materials under the Act of July 31, 1947 (61 Stat. 681; 30 U.S.C. 601-604), as amended, and reserved for use of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as the Arctic National Wildlife Range;

- Beginning at the intersection of the International Boundary line between Alaska and Yukon Territory, Canada, with the line of extreme low water of the Arctic Ocean in the Vicinity of Monument 1 of said International Boundary line;
- thence westerly along the said line of extreme low water, including all offshore bars, reefs, and islands to a point of land on the Arctic Seacoast known as Brownlow Point, at approximate longitude 145 degrees 51' W., and latitude 70 degrees 10' N.;
- thence in a southwesterly direction approximately three (3) miles to the mean high water mark of the extreme west bank of the Canning River;
- thence southerly up the said west bank of the Canning River along the mean high water mark approximately seventy (70) miles to the mouth of Marsh Fork of Canning River at approximately longitude 145 degrees 53' W., and latitude 69 degrees 12' N., and 10½ miles E. of Mt. Salisbury;
- thence continuing in a southerly direction up the west bank of the Canning River approximately fourteen (14) miles to another fork of the river at approximate longitude 145 degrees 40' W., and latitude 69 degrees 00' N.;



Wildlife in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

- thence easterly up the south bank of the stream approximately fifteen (15) miles to its source at the crest of an unnamed mountain whose elevation is approximately 7,900 feet and whose location is at approximate longitude 145 degrees 13' W., and latitude 68 degrees 53' N.;
- thence southeasterly down the west and south banks of a stream which is tributary to the east fork of the Chandalar River approximately eighteen (18) miles to its junction with the Chandalar River at approximately longitude 144 degrees 47' W., and latitude 68 degrees 42' N.;
- thence up the east bank of the said Chandalar River approximately three (3) miles to a point opposite the south bank of a tributary stream which flows from the southeast;
- thence up the south bank of the said tributary stream approximately fifteen (15) miles to the crest of a mountain at the head of a branch of Old Woman Creek whose elevation is approximately 7,400 feet and whose location is approximate longitude 144 degrees 14' W., and latitude 68 degrees 41' N.;
- thence in a generally southerly direction down the west and south banks of the said branch of Old Woman Creek approximately fifteen (15) miles to its junction with Old Woman Creek;
- thence southeasterly down the south bank of Old Woman Creek approximately twelve and one-half (12½) miles to the point where said creek intersects a straight line projected from Brushman Mountain to Index Mountain;

- thence approximately two and one-half (2½) miles south along said line to its intersection with a north fork of Monument Creek;
- thence southerly down the west bank of said fork to its junction with Monument Creek;
- thence down the west and south banks of Monument Creek approximately sixteen and one-half (16½) miles to a point on the east bank of Sheenjak River opposite the mouth of Monument Creek;
- thence northeasterly up the east bank of the Sheenjak River approximately eight and one-half (8½) miles to its junction with a tributary which flows from the east, at approximately longitude 143 degrees 09' W., and latitude 68 degrees 05' N.;
- thence up the east and south banks of the said tributary stream approximately ten (10) miles to a fork in the stream one-half (½) mile above a one and one-half (1½) mile lake, at approximate longitude 142 degrees 52' W., and latitude 68 degrees 11' N.;
- thence up the south bank of the main south fork of the stream approximately eight (8) miles to the crest of the saddle where it arises at approximate longitude 142 degrees 35' W., and latitude 68 degrees 14' N.;
- thence easterly from the said saddle following down the south bank of a stream which arises at approximately this point for approximately eleven (11) miles to its junction with the Coleen River at approximate longitude 142 degrees 10' W., and latitude 68 degrees 15' N.;
- thence following down the west bank of the Coleen River along the mean high water mark for approximately eight (8) miles to its junction with the tributary stream which flows into the Coleen



Alaskan natives with game

- River from the east at approximate longitude 141 degrees 57' W., and latitude 68 degrees 10' N.;
- thence up the east and south bank of the said tributary stream in a northeasterly direction to the saddle between its headwaters and those of Bilwaddy Creek at approximate longitude 141 degrees 32' W., and latitude 68 degrees 14' N.;
- thence down the south bank of the said Bilwaddy Creek approximately eighteen (18) miles to the International Boundary line between Alaska and Yukon Territory, being a point located at approximate longitude 141 degrees 00' W., and latitude 68 degrees 11' N.;
- thence north with the said International Boundary line approximately one hundred (100) miles to the point of beginning.

2. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to permit the hunting and the taking of game animals, birds, and fish in the wildlife range, or parts thereof, as well as the trapping of fur animals. However, no person may hunt, trap, capture, kill, or willfully disturb any wild mammal, wild bird, or fish, or take or destroy the eggs or nests of any such bird or fish within the wildlife range, except as may be prescribed by the Secretary. The provisions of State law shall govern all hunting and taking of wildlife which the Secretary of the Interior permits under the terms of this order.

Fred A. Seaton, Secretary of the Interior
December 6, 1960. [F.R. Doc. 60-11510; Filed, Dec. 8, 1960]



Environmentally Responsible Energy Production in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)

Environmentally responsible energy production in a sliver of Alaska's vast Coastal Plain will reduce America's dependence on unreliable foreign sources of oil by providing America with a homegrown, secure and stable supply of energy. It will create new jobs for Americans here in America. Environmentally responsible energy production is supported by labor unions, farm groups and others in a bipartisan coalition that includes Alaskan Eskimos who live in the area proposed for energy production.

According to legislation most recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, no more than 2,000 acres out of the 19-million-acre refuge will be utilized for energy production. Likewise, in order to ensure that energy production does not have any significant adverse impact on the environment, the best environmental technology and American ingenuity will be required for exploration and development. Exploration will be limited to the winter months between November and May to protect wildlife. Ice roads and airstrips will protect the sensitive tundra. In addition, strict rules will be mandated to protect streams, rivers, springs, and wetlands.

ANWR represents America's single greatest onshore prospect for oil. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that ANWR contains a mean expected value of 10.4 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil. At peak production, ANWR could produce more oil than any U.S. state, including Texas and Louisiana.

In 1980, President Carter and Congress set aside 1.5 million acres of ANWR's Northern Coastal Plain for potential oil development. This area is often called the "1002 Area" because it was set-aside in Section 1002 of the law. The U.S. House of Representatives has endorsed the environmentally responsible development of ANWR twice in the past four years.

U.S. Department of the Interior
http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/energy_new.html



Oil operations on Alaska's North Slope

Protect the Sacred Place Where Life Begins *Lizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit*

The Gwich'in Nation of Northeast Alaska and Northwest Canada have a unified longstanding position to seek permanent protection of *"Lizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit"* The Sacred Place Where Life Begins, the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The coastal plain is the primary birthplace and nursery for the Porcupine Caribou Herd where 40-50,000 calves are born. The herd is 123,000 strong. Our Gwich'in villages are strategically located along the migratory paths of the caribou, and the area where we live is virtually within the same range as the caribou.

The Gwich'in rely on the Porcupine Caribou Herd to meet our essential physical, cultural, social, economic and spiritual needs. The caribou has provided for our clothing, tools, weapons, shelter, medicines and nutritional needs. The Gwich'in Nation is comprised of approximately 8,000 people who live in fifteen isolated communities. Reliance on traditional and customary use (now termed "subsistence") of the Porcupine Caribou Herd is a matter of survival. Beyond the importance of our basic needs, the caribou is also central to our traditional spirituality. Our songs and dances tell of the relationship that we have to the caribou. The caribou is a part of us.

In our Creation story, it has been told that the Gwich'in came from the caribou when there was a separation of humans from the animals. We have been told that there was an agreement between the caribou and the Gwich'in. From that time on...

"The Gwich'in would retain a part of the caribou heart and the caribou would retain a part of the Gwich'in heart..."

What befalls the caribou befalls the Gwich'in. We have an obligation to our future generations to uphold the integrity of our spiritual beliefs, as well as our ancestral way of life that has been handed down one generation to the next.



We have a modern hunting culture with traditional ties to the animals and the land. Our villages have modern schools, post offices, administrative council offices, health care facilities, laundromats, and some Gwich'in villages even have solar powered facilities. At first glance, one may not see the deeply held traditional values guiding life in the villages. This fabric of our subsistence culture and livelihood exists in a deeper manifestation which time spent with us reveals. Our relationship with the caribou mirrors that of the Plains Indians to the buffalo, and we fear that the Porcupine

Caribou Herd will go the way of the buffalo. We cannot allow this to happen—our future is dependent on the future of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Gwich'in Steering Committee,
Fairbanks, Alaska
<http://www.arcticrefugeaction.org/aboutrefuge/2004Gwichinbrochure.pdf>



Eskimos: Open ANWR Now

By Deroy Murdock

May 17, 2001

National Review Online

Accessed December 27, 2007

<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=YjlxMDhkMjFhN2MwODY1N2JlOTgzMmU2YzdhNjFhNWl=>

Even before President Bush could lay out his energy blueprint today, environmentalists, petroleum executives, and politicians lined up for and against oil and gas development in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. About the only people absent from the discussion have been the Eskimos eager to resolve ANWR's fate. Their desire to open ANWR deserves the immediate attention of policymakers and journalists alike.

Within ANWR's 19.6 million acres, Eskimos own 92,000 acres of now private property that Washington granted them in the 1980s to settle aboriginal land claims. The Eskimos' right to lease their North Slope territory for fossil-fuel production was conditioned on Congress opening the rest of ANWR. Despite initial expectations of timely approval, this issue has remained mired in controversy until today. Meanwhile, Eskimos wonder if they ever will benefit from their lands.

"We feel as if we are a colony and that the imperial powers are dictating to us," Inupiat Eskimo Donald Olson, M.D. tells me by phone. The Democratic Alaska state senator is working with the Washington office of a non-profit called Arctic Power to present the native view on ANWR. "We've got a right here that is being infringed upon by the federal government," Olson adds. "We are having shackles put around us and are being held as economic hostages by people from the lower 48 who never have been to Alaska or the North Slope." Olson also believes oil companies "have had 30 years of environmentally sensitive dealings with us. We anticipate this will be the same way."

Olson, who practices general medicine, notes that his constituents in Kaktovik (pop. 256) "do not have running water or a sewer system. That means they are relegated to Third World conditions where people have to melt ice to bathe and to drink. They use five-gallon containers for sanitation." This absence of flush toilets causes sometimes—fatal cases of hepatitis A and contributes to high infant mortality rates.

Olson and other Eskimos attribute what progress they are making exclusively to job

creation and income generated from oil operations at nearby Prudhoe Bay. Says Olson's chief of staff, John Jemewouk: "The standard of living has increased dramatically in the last 30 years since the oil companies came to Alaska." He explains that Eskimos have used petroleum royalties and tax revenues to manage caribou herds more effectively, raising their numbers six-fold.

Such benefits have earned ANWR development widespread support among the roughly 8,000 Eskimos who populate Alaska's North Slope Borough, an 89,000 square mile, Minnesota-sized county. A January 2000 survey of 68 Kaktovik residents found that 78 percent favor opening ANWR while only 9 percent are opposed. (For details, visit kaktovik.com.) The Alaska Federation of Natives, representing some 80,000 Eskimos, adopted a resolution in 1995 calling for opening ANWR as a "critically important economic opportunity for Alaska Natives."

According to NSB mayor George Ahmaogak Sr., "71 percent of our annual revenues are generated by property taxes on oil field equipment and installations." These funds have given many Eskimos access to police and fire protection, landfills, and other basic services.

Those who want to keep ANWR closed may expect the Eskimos to find other work. Their options are highly limited. "We have the most to lose if ANWR is not open," says the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation's Tara Sweeney, a native of Barrow, America's northernmost town. "We do not have an economy in our area at all other than the oil industry." The Eskimos once trapped animals and sold their pelts, but that profession went the way of the fur coat. For Eskimos, it literally has become oil or nothing.

"Our land provides the critical connection with our ancient culture and traditions that is necessary for our spiritual well being," says ASRC chairman Jacob Adams. "And, in the form of jobs and tax revenues from the petroleum industry it supports, our land provides the opportunity for economic security, self-determination, and freedom..."



Don Young



Car at gas station

Hot Issue

ANWR

Don Young, Congressman for All Alaska

Like you, I am concerned about the high cost of energy. Congress must take the necessary steps to address this critical issue in a meaningful and decisive way. While I do not know the entire solution to this problem, I remain convinced that opening up ANWR to oil and gas development should be part of any solution to solve this problem. For too long, Americans have been dependent upon foreign nations, many of which harbor hostility towards the U.S., to supply our country with oil. The U.S. Energy Administration estimated the mean amount of recoverable oil in ANWR is 10.4 billion barrels, or nearly 30 years worth of Saudi Arabian imports. Essentially, if ANWR is opened for exploration and drilling, we would increase our supply of oil, which would in turn lower prices.

Although many criticize drilling in ANWR for environmental reasons, there is no question that ANWR can and would be developed in an environmentally sound and responsible way using the latest technologies. It would require an area no larger than 3.31 square miles, and any threat to the surrounding area is minuscule. Like all issues that come before Congress, there are trade-offs that must be made. Regardless, the right choice is clear: ANWR would provide enough oil to last for 30 years, and would play a role in lowering prices at the pump. ANWR is American oil, and would provide thousands of jobs for Americans. Finally, developing ANWR would increase our National Security and provide us with the energy independence to handle a natural disaster. It is crucial on several levels that we allow oil exploration and drilling in ANWR, and I will continue to work to make this a reality.

U.S. Representative Don Young, Congressional Web site
<http://donyoung.house.gov/HotIssue.aspx?NewsID=1696>

THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Protecting Life on the Coastal Plain

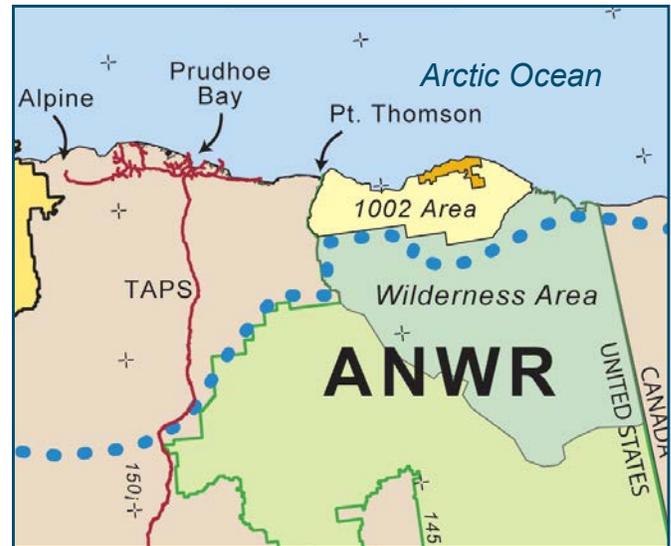
Why destroy America's foremost wildlife refuge for less oil than we consume in a single year?

Nestled between the Brooks Mountain Range and the Beaufort Sea in Northeast Alaska, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain is home for nearly 200 wildlife species, including polar bears, musk oxen and caribou. Every summer, millions of tundra swans, snowy owls, eider ducks and other birds migrate there to nest, molt and feed. Because of its abundant and diverse wildlife, the refuge is often likened to Africa's Serengeti.

Scientists consider the coastal plain to be the biological heart of the entire refuge. It is this very heart that has been targeted by some members of Congress and oil companies even though there is relatively little oil there, if any. Any amount of oil from the refuge would not significantly reduce U.S. dependence on imported oil and would irreparably harm the wildlife that depend on this unique habitat.



Polar bears



If Congress allows oil drilling in the coastal plain, it would set a dangerous precedent. Not only would oil development permanently scar this pristine, fragile wilderness, but it also would open the door to industrializing America's last remaining wildlands....

The Arctic Refuge coastal plain is the most critical part of the delicate ecosystem that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was established to protect. It is too fragile—and too valuable—to be sacrificed for a relatively small amount of oil. We would not put a dam in the Grand Canyon, or cut down Sequoia trees for firewood, so why would we allow oil derricks in one of our last pristine wildernesses? Some places should be off-limits to oil drilling and industrial development, and the Arctic Refuge is one of them. We have a moral responsibility to save wild places, such as the Arctic Refuge, for future generations.

©National Resources Defense Council, 2005 in collaboration with the Alaska Wilderness League and the Alaska Coalition <http://www.nrdc.org/land/wilderness/arcticrefuge/facts1.pdf>

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as Amended

By the 1960s, plant and animal species, such as the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), and the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), were threatened. Pesticide pollution and other human actions harmed them. Some scientists reported that species extinctions were occurring at a much faster rate than the normal, or “background rate.” In 1962, Rachel Carson wrote *Silent Spring*, a groundbreaking book that caught the public’s attention. It raised awareness about threats to humans and other species from chemicals, such as DDT. The U.S. Congress passed laws to begin to protect those species that were threatened or endangered. Many laws protecting the environment were passed in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Endangered Species Act, passed in 1973, strengthened and added to laws enacted in the 1960s. The stated purposes of the act are to “provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved” [and] “to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species.” Key features of the law include:

- the authority to identify and list endangered and threatened species
- the authority to identify geographic areas as critical habitat necessary to conserve a species
- a ban on taking, possessing, selling, or transporting endangered species
- the authority to buy land to conserve listed species
- the authority to work cooperatively with states and American Indian tribes to protect endangered and threatened wildlife and plants
- the authority to fine or prosecute those who violate the act and to pay for rewards for those



Point Arena mountain beaver

- who furnish information that leads to arrest and conviction of those violating the act
- a requirement that government agencies not take, authorize, or fund actions that are likely to harm listed species or modify their critical habitat
- recovery plan criteria for listed species and a requirement to develop recovery plans for listed species
- a plan for monitoring recovered species regularly



California chinook salmon



San Joaquin kit foxes



California tiger salamander



Morro Bay kangaroo rat

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service were given responsibility for the Endangered Species Act. Each agency developed its own set of policies and regulations to guide the act's implementation. The Florida panther (*Puma concolor*), the Hawaiian goose [Nene] (*Nesochen sandvicensis*), the San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*), and the Arizona trout (*Salmo apache*) were among the first species to be listed as endangered. By May 2007, 541 U.S. animal species and 744 U.S. plant species were included on the official list of U.S. endangered species. Another 277 U.S. species were candidates for listing. Critical habitat was identified for 486 species. Some species are considered to have "recovered" and are no longer listed as endangered. Among them are the American alligator, the bald eagle, and the peregrine falcon. Others, like the Santa Barbara song sparrow and the blue pike, are now extinct.

Implementation of the Endangered Species Act is controversial. The need to protect species is accepted by most people. However, the need to protect critical habitat often puts landowners, farmers, developers, and others at odds with the law. Opinions differ on how to identify and list species. Some believe that the recovery plans are not working. Some people see the law as a threat to property rights and liberties. Others believe

it is the most important piece of environmental legislation ever enacted. Attempts to amend the act in the mid-2000s stimulated vigorous debate on all sides. There are continuing efforts by varying interest groups to protect, change, or eliminate the law. Others want to revise implementation policies and regulations. Although the Endangered Species Act is "permanent," such laws and the associated regulations are subject to continual revisions and updates.

Some Actions Prohibited by the Endangered Species Act:

- taking threatened or endangered species by
 - harassing, harming, or chasing them
 - hunting, trapping, shooting, wounding, or killing them
 - capturing or collecting them
- transporting, selling, or buying threatened or endangered species
- making detrimental changes to a geographic area that includes critical habitat
- destroying critical habitat

Wilderness Act of 1964, as Amended

When the U.S. Congress passed the Wilderness Act of 1964, it established the National Wilderness Preservation System. The goal of the law was to “secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.” Pressures from population growth, development, and pollution raised fears that the remaining wild areas would be lost forever. Passage of the law was not easy. It took almost 10 years of discussion, negotiation, and compromise before the law was enacted. Today there are over 700 areas in 44 states covering over 100 million acres that are protected by the Wilderness Act, and more are proposed as additions to the system.

What exactly is “wilderness?” People define it in many different ways. Some believe it is a threatening and dangerous place. Others see it as a resource to be developed and used. Some believe it is essential to the human spirit and necessary for the health of the planet. Early settlers took pride in “taming” the wilderness. They created communities, farms, and ranches from the great forests and plains. Talented painters and writers captured it on canvas and in words and helped start the modern conservation movement. The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines wilderness as a place that has a certain “wilderness character.” The act states that an area may be designated a wilderness if it has all of the following qualities:

- “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”
- “an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation.”
- “protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions...with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.”
- “has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.”



Aerial view of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Four federal agencies were given primary responsibility for helping identify and manage wilderness areas: the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, and the National Park Service. Each agency has a different purpose. Therefore, each agency had to develop its own policies and regulations to implement the Wilderness Act of 1964. For example, the Forest Service developed its own wilderness policies. They helped staff members understand how to manage wilderness on National Forest land. Likewise, the Bureau of Land Management developed its own set of regulations. “Part 6300: Management of Designated Wilderness Areas” creates rules for wilderness areas on BLM land. These policies and regulations vary from agency to agency, but all of them must meet the intent and purpose of the Wilderness Act.

The management of wilderness areas is complex. Many different laws are considered in making wilderness management decisions, including laws like the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Decisions must be made following the planning guidelines of the National Environmental Policy Act. People interpret the Wilderness Act of 1964 in different ways. They sometimes disagree about how it should be administered. “Nonconforming uses” that do not follow all the rules are allowed in

some wilderness areas. Not all people agree that designating wilderness areas is a good idea. They want other recreational, agricultural, or business uses allowed. Some people want the land returned to private or state ownership. Most, however, are supportive of the protections given our federal wilderness lands.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Uses in Wilderness Areas

All activities in wilderness areas must preserve the “wilderness character.” Recreation and public users are expected to make a minimum impact on the wilderness. Some people refer to this as “Leave No Trace.” Wilderness managers must also use a “minimum tool requirements” approach. This means that they must complete projects using methods that preserve wilderness character, using traditional tools, such as a crosscut saw or pack animals, whenever possible. Sometimes a minimum tool can be a piece of motorized equipment or form of mechanized transport, but tools like this usually are avoided. To the right are some of the things that are and are not allowed in wilderness areas.



Kayakers in wilderness lake



Deer hunter

Usually Allowed:

- Fishing
- Trapping and hunting (except in National Parks)
- Horses, mules, and llamas
- Backpacking
- Canoes or kayaks
- Dogs are allowed in some national parks
- Structures of historical significance

Usually Not Allowed:

- Logging
- Mountain bikes
- Snowmobiles (except in Alaska)
- Airstrips (except in Alaska)
- Paddleboats and sailboats
- Permanent roads

Sometimes Allowed:

- Livestock grazing with permits issued before September 3, 1964
- Water projects
- Mining or oil and gas exploration with claims established before September 3, 1964
- Motorized vehicles for rescues
- Chainsaws for firefighting
- Helicopters for fire and rescue activities



Livestock on BLM lands

A Sampling of Advocacy Groups

Lesson 6 | page 1 of 2

Organization	Purpose	Date Founded
American Farm Bureau Federation http://www.fb.org/	“AFBF is the unified national voice of agriculture, working through our grassroots organization to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities.”	1919
American Forest and Paper Association http://www.afandpa.org/	“AF&PA’s mission is to influence successfully public policy to benefit the U.S. paper and forest products industry.”	1993
American Forest Resource Council http://www.amforest.org/	“Managing our forested environments responsibly and sustainably.”	2000
American Land Rights Association http://www.landrights.org/	“ALRA and its members are dedicated to the wise use of our resources, access to our Federal lands and the protection of our private property rights.”	1978
Americans for Responsible Recreation Access (coalition) http://www.arra-access.com/arra/home.html	“ARRA has been formed to ensure that outdoor enthusiasts can keep their right to enjoy and use public lands and waterways.”	Unknown
Blue Ribbon Coalition http://www.sharetrails.org/	“Preserving our natural resources for the public instead of from the public.”	1987
California Wilderness Coalition http://www.calwild.org/	“The California Wilderness Coalition protects the natural landscapes that make California unique, providing clean air and water, a home to wildlife, and a place for recreation and spiritual renewal.”	1976
Cato Institute http://www.cato.org/	“The Cato Institute seeks to broaden the parameters of public policy debate to allow consideration of the traditional American principles of limited government, individual liberty, free markets and peace... .”	1977
Forests Forever http://www.forestsforever.org/	“Our mission is to protect and enhance the forests and wildlife habitat of California through educational, legislative, and electoral activities; to recruit, educate and train articulate and effective organizers in the skills needed to convey our message to the citizens of California.”	1989
Mountain States Legal Foundation http://www.mountainstateslegal.org/	“Mountain States Legal Foundation is dedicated to individual liberty, the right to own and use property, limited and ethical government, and the free enterprise system.”	1977

A Sampling of Advocacy Groups

Lesson 6 | page 2 of 2

Organization	Purpose	Date Founded
National Cattlemen's Beef Organization http://www.beef.org/	"Working to increase profit opportunities for cattle and beef producers by enhancing the business climate and building consumer demand."	1898
Property and Environment Research Center http://www.perc.org/	"PERC is a non-profit institute dedicated to improving environmental quality through markets."	1980
Public Lands for the People Inc. http://www.plp2.org/	"Our purpose is to represent all types of outdoor user groups that are interested in keeping Public and Private Lands open for the purpose of mining, timber, grazing and all forms of recreation on a non-discriminatory basis."	Unknown
Sierra Club http://www.sierraclub.org/	"To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth."	1892
Society for Range Management http://www.rangelands.org/srm.shtml	"To promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources."	1947
The Environmental Protection Information Center http://www.wildcalifornia.org/	"EPIC...actively works to protect and restore forests, watersheds, coastal estuaries, and native species in northwest California."	1977
The Forest Foundation http://www.calforestfoundation.org/	"The Forest Foundation strives to foster public understanding of the roles forests play in the environmental and economic health of the state and the necessity of managing a portion of California's private and public forests to provide wood products for a growing population."	1994
The National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition http://www.nesarc.org/	"Working to improve and update the ESA."	1992
Ventana Wilderness Alliance http://www.ventanawild.org/	"The mission of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance is to protect, preserve, enhance and restore the wilderness qualities and biodiversity of the public lands within California's northern Santa Lucia Mountains and Big Sur coast."	1998
Washington Legal Foundation http://www.wlf.org/	"To defend and promote the principles of freedom and justice."	1978



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