



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
101 12th Avenue, Room 236
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-6237
(907) 456-0250



Dear Reader:

Enclosed is a summary of the draft revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (Plan) and draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The final version of this Plan will guide management of the Refuge for the next 15 years. The Plan summary outlines goals and objectives, Refuge management guidelines, and six alternatives for addressing management issues raised by the public and the agency. Also included is a summary of the Plan's Wilderness Review and Wild and Scenic River Review.

This summary of the Plan has been sent to you because public involvement in the planning process is essential for developing an effective plan. Please review and provide comment on the Plan's content no later than **November 15, 2011**. Comments should be specific and should address the merits of distinct aspects of the Plan such as the goals, objectives, management guidelines, or alternatives, or the adequacy of the environmental analysis. We will consider your comments as we prepare the final Plan. Objections that could have been raised at this draft stage may be waived if they are not raised until after completion of the final Plan.

All public comments received, including respondent names and addresses, will be included in the planning record, which will be available for public review. If you, as an individual, want us to withhold your name or contact information, please state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will honor your request to the extent allowed by law. We are unable to withhold the names or contact information for representatives or officials of organizations or businesses when they provide comments in their official capacity.

A complete copy of the draft revised Plan and EIS, including an evaluation of the environmental impacts associated with implementing each alternative and the Refuge manager's preliminary reviews of the compatibility of Refuge uses with Refuge purposes, are available online at <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>. You may also request a hard copy of the entire document (a 1,200-page 2-volume set) or a CD containing complete texts of all the documents. These are available in limited number and will be issued on a first-come first-served basis. Comments and requests should be received by the end of the comment period.

Submit comments by **November 15, 2011**, to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arctic NWR – Sharon Seim
101 12th Ave, Rm 236
Fairbanks AK 99701-6237

email: ArcticRefugeCCP@fws.gov
fax: 907-456-0428
web: <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>

Additional information about the planning process:

web: <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>
email: ArcticRefugeCCP@fws.gov
phone: 907-456-0501 or 800-362-4546

Information about Arctic Refuge:

web: <http://arctic.fws.gov/>
email: arctic_refuge@fws.gov
facebook: [facebook.com/arcticnationalwildliferefuge](https://www.facebook.com/arcticnationalwildliferefuge)
phone: 907-456-0250 or 800-362-4546

*Thank you for participating in our planning process!
Your comments will help us prepare a better plan for the future of Arctic Refuge.*

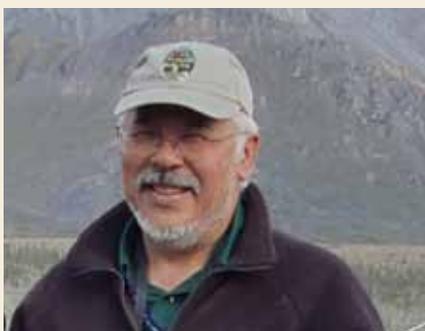


Arctic National Wildlife Refuge *Summary of Draft CCP*

Planning Update 3 / June 2011

Revised August 2011

A Message from the Refuge Manager



A year ago, I invited input from the public when Arctic Refuge began the planning process that will revise our Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)—the document that guides overall Refuge management.

Since you heard from me in the last planning update, a lot has happened. Refuge staff received many thoughtful ideas that have helped guide the content of the draft revised plan. We've also incorporated new scientific information, and changes in laws, policies, and Refuge conditions that have occurred since the original Arctic Refuge CCP was completed in 1988.

For day-to-day public use and management of the Refuge, the CCP "fine tunes" existing management. Refuge uses and our on-the-ground management would not incur any major changes. Our proposed goals, objectives, management policies and guidelines provide the details of how we plan to manage over the next 15-20 years.

Our alternatives focus on potential wilderness and wild river recommendations, and management of the Kongakut River. The draft plan does not include a preferred alternative.

We encourage you to read over this summary booklet or look at the full text. We welcome your comments.

Richard Voss
Refuge Manager

Public Input

The CCP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process includes two formal opportunities for public input. The first occurred in the spring of 2010, when the Fish and Wildlife Service introduced the planning process to the public and asked what concerns or issues the public thought the revised CCP should address (in first booklet at <http://arctic.fws.gov/pdf/ccp1b.pdf>).

During that first comment period, we received about 1,500 original responses and 92,500 form letters. Commenters shared their concerns about protecting wilderness qualities on the Refuge, the nation's need for oil development, recreational use, rivers, subsistence and Native issues, and biological resources (in second booklet at <http://arctic.fws.gov/pdf/ccp2b.pdf>).

Refuge staff worked diligently since then to complete the draft revised CCP, which is now available for review. Publication of this draft has set in motion the second opportunity for public comment, which extends for 90 days until November 15, 2011. Information about submitting comments is on page 20 of this booklet.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with us. The most useful comments will be about specific content in the CCP. Please tell us what you do or do not like about the vision or a particular goal, alternative, etc. We are also looking for important points we may have missed. Also keep in mind that comments do not constitute a vote—we are looking for quality not quantity. We will consider your comments as we write the final plan, scheduled for release in 2012.

The Draft Revised CCP



This booklet contains a summary of key parts of the draft text, including Refuge goals and objectives, management guidelines, issues, and alternatives. The full draft text, along with all maps and appendices, is available in two volumes linked from <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>.

The full draft revised CCP includes:

- Chapter 1:* Introduction, Refuge Overview, Purpose and Need for Action, Vision Statement
- Chapter 2:* Goals and Objectives, Management Guidelines
- Chapter 3:* Issues and Alternatives
- Chapter 4:* Description of the Refuge Environment
- Chapter 5:* Effects of Proposed Alternatives
- Appendix H:* Wilderness Review
- Appendix I:* Wild and Scenic River Review



Refuge Purposes

The Arctic Refuge was established in 1960 as the 9 million acre Arctic National Wildlife Range

“for the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values...”

These purposes continue to apply to all lands in the original Arctic Range.

In 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) enlarged the area to over 19 million acres, renamed it the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, designated 8 million acres of it as Wilderness, designated three Wild Rivers, and added four purposes to the entire Refuge:

- (i) To conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity;
- (ii) To fulfill the international fish and wildlife treaty obligations of the United States;
- (iii) To provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local residents, and
- (iv) To ensure water quality and necessary water quantity within the Refuge.

Mission Statements

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission



The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission



Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Refuge Vision

Comprehensive Conservation Plans incorporate a vision statement—an inspiring expression of the Refuge’s special character. Rooted in the Refuge’s purposes, the vision statement describes those qualities that should endure to be passed on to future generations.

The Arctic Refuge Vision

This untamed arctic landscape continues to sustain the ecological diversity and special values that inspired the Refuge’s establishment. Natural processes continue and traditional cultures thrive with the seasons and changing times; physical and mental challenges test our bodies, minds and spirit; and we honor the land, the wildlife and the native people with respect and restraint. Through responsible stewardship this vast wilderness is passed on, undiminished, to future generations.



Autumn bulls - USFWS



Planning Terms

Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP):

Comprehensive conservation plans (CCP) for National Wildlife Refuges guide overall Refuge management. Plans ensure management actions comply with all appropriate laws, regulations, and policies, and keep Refuges focused on the purposes for which they were established. CCPs provide frameworks for management decisions and ensure consistency in those decisions through time. They are an opportunity for the public to be involved in setting future directions for Refuge management. The CCP planning process follows National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines, which require either an Environmental Assessment (EA), or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In the case of the Arctic CCP, we are completing an EIS.

Step-Down Plans:

Step-down plans “step down” from general goals and objectives identified in a CCP. A step-down plan provides more detailed strategies to achieve Refuge goals. A step-down plan may be necessary where more information is required to take action and/or where the issue is highly complex. The CCP indicates which step-down plans are necessary and provides a schedule for their completion. Step-down plans follow NEPA requirements, including appropriate public involvement.

Management Policies and Guidelines:

Management policies and guidelines are primarily derived from the laws governing the National Wildlife Refuge

System (Refuge System) and national and regional regulations, policies, and guidance developed to implement these laws. The policies and guidelines were also developed in cooperation with the State of Alaska. Although Arctic Refuge is unique, it is only one piece of the Refuge System. The management direction presented in the draft CCP was developed for Arctic Refuge from the common management base for all Refuges in Alaska. Regional management policies and guidelines allow flexibility in each CCP. Because the Service intends to manage Arctic Refuge at the far end of the unaltered spectrum, the Arctic Refuge plan calls for a more hands-off approach to management and allows less manipulation of the environment than other Alaska Refuge CCPs.

Management Categories:

ANILCA requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to designate areas according to their resources and values, and to specify programs and uses within those areas. To meet this requirement, five management categories were established as part of the Alaska-wide Refuge comprehensive planning effort: Minimal, Moderate, Intensive, Wilderness and Wild River Management. Note that Wilderness and Wild River Management can only be designated by Congress; while the other management categories are designated by the Service. For each category, appropriate activities and types of facilities have been identified. Lands within the Arctic Refuge currently fall into three management categories: Minimal, Wilderness, and Wild River.

Issues:

Issues in a CCP are any unsettled matters requiring management decisions. Issues can be opportunities or public concerns, such as resource threats or use conflicts.

Alternatives:

NEPA requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to present a reasonable range of management approaches in each CCP. This range must include a “no action” alternative which would retain current Refuge management and which serves as a baseline for comparison with other alternatives. All alternatives in a CCP aim to achieve Refuge purposes, vision, and goals, help fulfill the Refuge system mission, and resolve issues.

Goals:

Goals in a CCP are descriptive, open-ended, and often broad statements of desired future conditions that convey a purpose but do not define measurable units. They describe how Refuge management will meet Refuge purposes and achieve the vision.

Objectives:

Objectives in a CCP are more concise statements of what the Refuge wants to achieve; how, when, and where to achieve it; and who is responsible for the work. Objectives derive from goals and may vary by alternative.

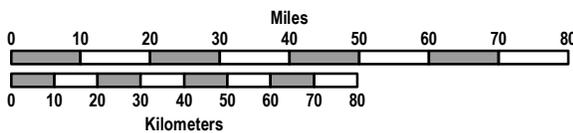


Map 1 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Land Designations

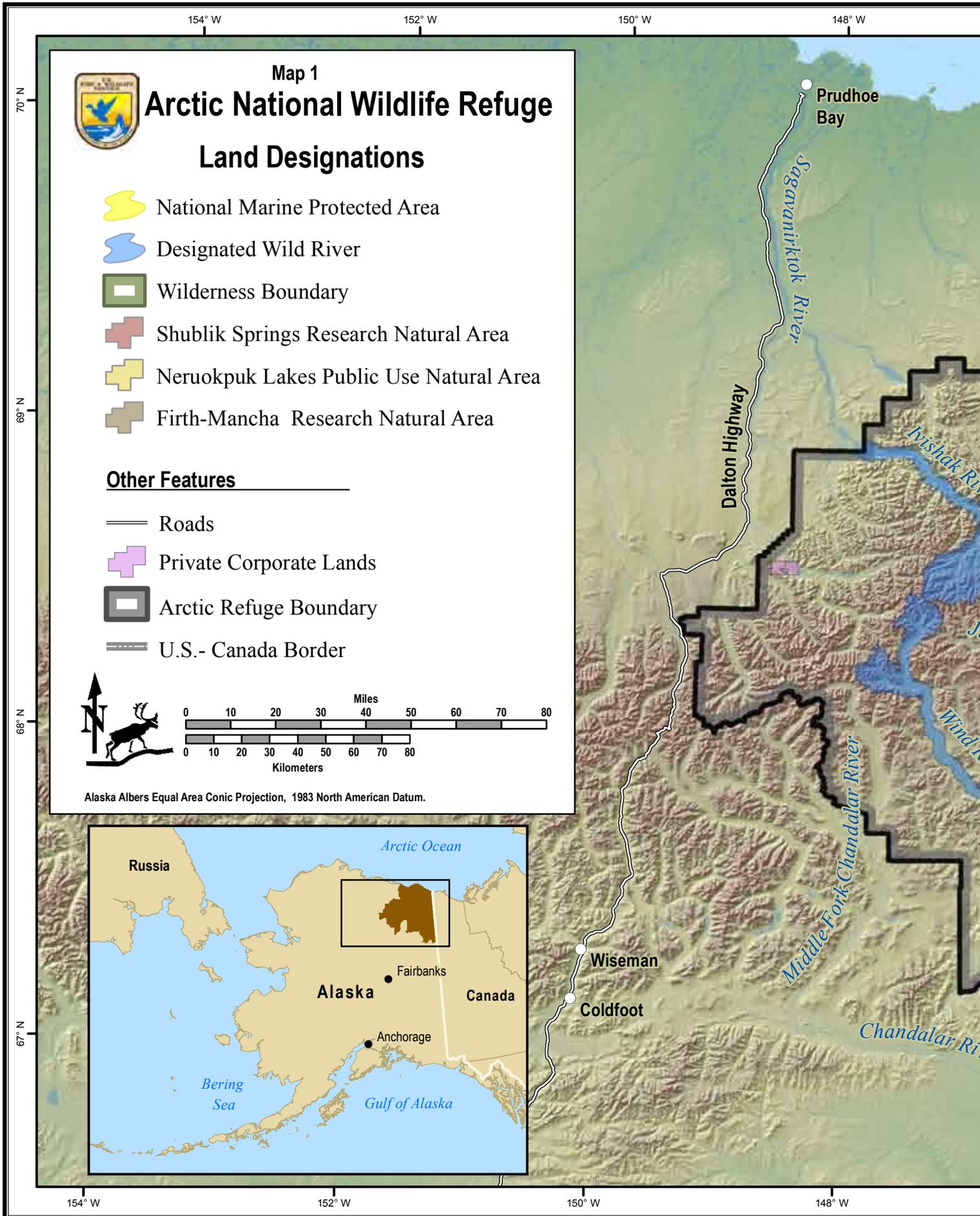
- National Marine Protected Area
- Designated Wild River
- Wilderness Boundary
- Shublik Springs Research Natural Area
- Neruokpuk Lakes Public Use Natural Area
- Firth-Mancha Research Natural Area

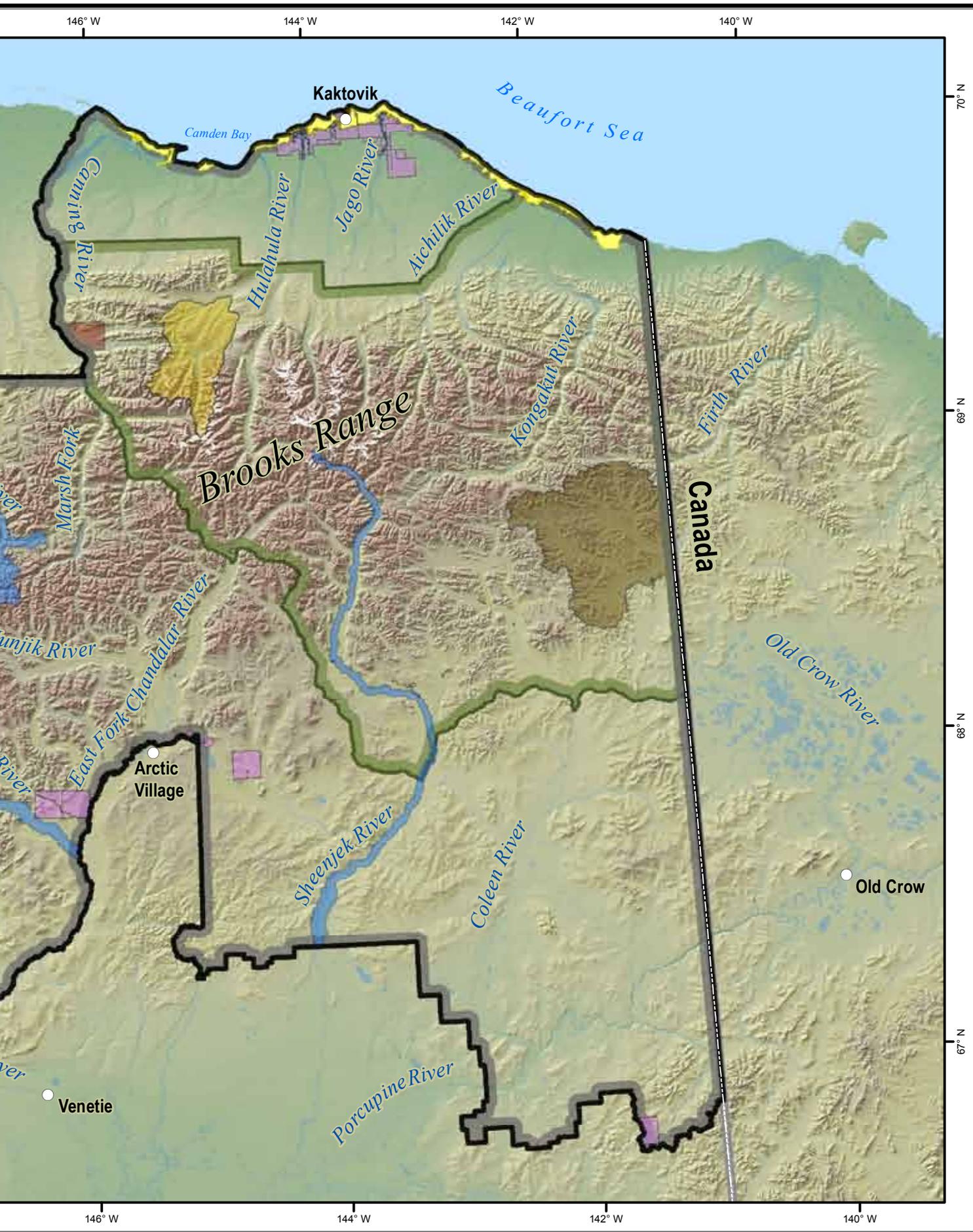
Other Features

- Roads
- Private Corporate Lands
- Arctic Refuge Boundary
- U.S.- Canada Border



Alaska Albers Equal Area Conic Projection, 1983 North American Datum.





Identified Issues (Article about Issues is on page 7.)	addressed through management guidelines ¹	included in objectives ¹	deferred to step-down plans	carried into alternatives	other ²
Ecological issues					
Introduction of diseases, organisms, and invasive species	X	X			
Hunting effects on population structures and genetics			X		
Climate change	X	X			
Fire activity			X		
Water quality and quantity		X	X		
Air quality and pollution			X		
Management issues					
Wilderness recommendation				X	
Wild and scenic river recommendation				X	
Conflict between wilderness values and science-related technologies			X		
Management of the Refuge's three designated wild rivers			X		
Management of the Refuge's research and public use natural areas	X				
Management of the Refuge's marine protected area	X				
Designate an area free of commercial use and mechanization			X		
Visitor use issues					
Kongakut River overuse				X	
Dispersed or concentrated visitor use			X		
Increased permits and recreational uses			X		
Implement different standards for different user groups			X		
Public interaction			X		
Crowding			X		
Group size			X		
Guided and non-guided visitor use allocation			X		
Human waste			X		
Erosion of hunt quality			X		
Conflicts among and between commercial and private users					X
Conflicts between general hunters and subsistence hunters					X
Polar bear viewing in Kaktovik					X
Monitoring commercial activities			X		
Regulation of air transporters			X		X
Environmental impacts of fixed-wing aircraft		X	X		
Prohibiting competitive events					X
Development issues					
Oil and gas development					X
Updating seismic data on the coastal plain					X
Policy issues					
ANILCA "no more" clauses					X
Other issues					
Removal of administrative buildings		X			
Archeological excavations and wilderness values			X		X
Impact of adjacent land uses and inholdings					X
Refraining from naming of features					X

Issues

We identified 37 issues from public comments and from within the Service. The issues raised included concerns about development, policy, ecology, management, visitor use, and administration. Staff carefully considered each issue, determining if the issue would best be addressed through management alternatives in the CCP, goals and objectives, or further step-down planning. The table on page 6 shows an overview of all the issues identified and how they are addressed through the CCP effort. CCP issues not addressed in the alternatives are outlined in Appendix D of the full CCP document. Issues carried into the alternatives are discussed on page 14.

The purpose of a CCP is to broadly outline management guidelines for a Refuge. However, many of the issues raised by the public for the Arctic Refuge CCP will require detailed planning. These issues deserve to be focused on in step-down plans which address specific topics. The Refuge is committed to developing several step-down plans, including an Ecological Inventory and Monitoring Plan, a Wilderness Stewardship Plan, a Visitor Use Management Plan, and Comprehensive River Management Plans. These plans will be initiated within two years of completion of the CCP and, depending on the plan, will take from three to seven years to complete.

Numerous issues were raised about visitor use of the Refuge and the impacts such use is having on Refuge resources and visitor experiences. Most of the issues identified are major and important planning issues that could be addressed through the CCP's alternatives. Refuge staff decided, however, that more public involvement and

study are needed, so the most appropriate way to deal with these complex and often interrelated concerns will be through a step-down planning effort focused on these issues. Thus, these issues will be addressed in a Visitor Use Management Plan.

Climate change is expected to continue to affect Refuge resources and the associated human environment for the foreseeable future. There are few actions the Refuge can take to manage the effects of climate change. Rather than incorporating climate change into the alternatives, the Refuge established several objectives to evaluate climate change through scientific research and monitoring, and the sharing of traditional knowledge in local communities. Concerns were also expressed about changes in fire behavior, the Service's response to fires, and smoke impacts. These concerns are best addressed through our fire management planning process.

Some commenters expressed concern over the administrative facility at Lake Peters and asked the Refuge to remove it. The Refuge will take action to modify or remove the facility's buildings by conducting an environmental analysis separate from the CCP process.

Other people wanted the Refuge to establish one or more commercial-free zones and/or an area free from mechanization where solitude and natural quiet are protected. The Refuge gave strong consideration to this issue and developed a range of options for the alternatives. However, the Refuge did not have the necessary data to adequately describe effects on access, private aircraft use, big-game hunting, and scientific research. Further, there were unresolved questions about specific requirements for establishment of such an area. These questions will be deferred to a Wilderness Stewardship Plan where they can be more fully explored.

The draft CCP does not provide a range of management alternatives for the Refuge's Public Use Natural Area, two Research Natural Areas, or the Marine Protected Area. We determined that existing management, in combination with Refuge purposes, afford a high degree of protection for the features and values in these specially designated

What about the "No More" Clause?

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) contains several provisions that are collectively referred to by some as "no more" clauses. These provisions include sections 101(d), 1326(a), and 1326(b). Section 101(d) states that Congress believes there should be no future legislation designating new conservation system units, national conservation areas, or national recreation areas. Section 1326(b) limits new withdrawals of public lands and disallows further studies of Federal lands in the State of Alaska for the single purpose of establishing a conservation system unit, national recreation area, national conservation area, or other similar purpose unless authorized by Congress.

For Arctic Refuge, a wilderness review is a tool the Fish and Wildlife Service can use to evaluate whether we are effectively managing the Refuge according to the Refuge's purposes and other legal requirements, including ANILCA Section 1004, which requires the Refuge to maintain the wilderness character of the coastal plain and its suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Section 5(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and Service planning policy require the Service to conduct a review of rivers for their potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as part of each CCP. These reviews are administrative actions and a means by which the Refuge can assess the efficacy of its management in meeting Refuge purposes and other legal requirements.

These wilderness and wild and scenic river reviews are required of the Refuge and do not violate the "no more" clauses of ANILCA because they are not a withdrawal and are not being conducted for the sole purpose of establishing a new conservation system unit.



(Continued on page 15)

Footnotes to "Identified Issues" table on page 6:

¹ not in Alternative A

² Issues addressed through existing Refuge administrative or management tools such as Special Use Permits, through permit conditions, or through engaging with affected parties and interests; issue resolved on a case-by-case basis; issue is question of policy-level or legal interpretation.

Goals and Objectives

Refuge staff developed the following management goals for the Refuge. Each goal has numerous objectives that specify how it is to be achieved. The objectives listed here are not a complete list. See chapter 2 of the full plan to read the complete set of objectives, along with detailed descriptions and rationales.

Goal 1:

Ecological processes shape the Refuge, and its management remains essentially free of the intent to alter the natural order, including natural population densities and dynamics, and levels of variation of native fish, wildlife, and plants.

Objectives include:

- revise the Ecological Inventory and Monitoring Plan;
- prepare a Research Plan;
- conduct an Ecological Review of the Refuge's biological program;
- revise the Refuge's fire management plan;
- prepare a land protection plan;
- identify stressors for species and ecosystems;
- identify and determine the status of rare species;
- conduct long-term ecological monitoring.

Goal 2:

The Refuge retains its exceptional wilderness values without loss of natural condition and wild character and manages designated wilderness consistent with the intent of the Wilderness Act and ANILCA.

Objectives include:

- complete a Minimum Requirements Analysis for administrative activities in designated wilderness;
- provide wilderness training for staff;
- initiate a Wilderness Stewardship Plan;
- remove at least one of the buildings at Peter's Lake.

Goal 3:

The Refuge's designated wild rivers flow freely through unaltered corridors; their ecological functions, character, and values are protected; and opportunities for recreation and traditional uses are consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and ANILCA.

Objectives include:

- complete a comprehensive river management plan for each designated Wild River;
- provide Wild River information to the public.

Goal 4:

The Refuge provides continued subsistence opportunities to federally qualified rural residents, consistent with ANILCA.

Objectives include:

- work with local communities and advisory groups to address subsistence issues;
- compile existing and historical subsistence use data;
- continue the Refuge Information Technician program with local employees;
- conduct a traditional access study;
- develop harvest monitoring programs in partnership with local communities.

Goal 5:

The Refuge provides a place for wildlife-dependent and wilderness-associated recreational activities that emphasize adventure, independence, self-reliance, exploration, and solitude while protecting the biological and physical environments.

Objectives include:

- employ least intrusive means of managing public use;
- develop a Visitor Use Management Plan;



- coordinate with partners to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement;
- maintain a long-term dataset about visitor experience;
- implement aircraft management strategies to address impacts to sensitive vegetation and the land.

Goal 6:

The effects of climate change on Refuge resources are evaluated through scientific research and monitoring, the sharing of traditional knowledge in local communities, and are considered in Refuge management.

Objectives include:

- evaluate potential effects of climate change on Refuge resources;
- monitor biological components vulnerable to climate change;
- consider non-climate change stressors to Refuge resources;
- collaborate with others.

Goal 7:

The Refuge and its partners conduct research and monitoring in support of the Refuge's role as an internationally recognized benchmark for naturally functioning arctic and subarctic ecosystems.

Objectives include:

- develop research protocols;
- participate in collaborative research;
- work with international partners;
- repeat 1990 water quality study.

Goal 8:

The Refuge's cultural resources, historic and prehistoric, are conserved to allow visitors and community members to appreciate the interconnectedness of the people of the region and their environment.

Objectives include:

- develop a cultural resources management plan;
- cooperate with others to define projects;
- collect traditional ecological knowledge;
- consult with tribes, Alaska Native groups and other local entities;
- provide cultural resource training for staff;
- monitor at risk sites;
- create a cultural inventory;
- compile a place name directory and atlas of cultural and historic sites.

Goal 9:

The Refuge provides information to diverse audiences, near and far, to enhance their understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the Refuge and its resources, and reflecting the nation's interest in this place.

Objectives include:

- provide information and programs to the public about traveling to and in the Refuge;
- work with gateway communities on collaborative projects;
- use modern media technologies to provide information to the public;
- partner with Federal agencies and communities to support visitor centers;
- present educational materials and programs to students;
- provide opportunities for volunteers;
- continue the Arctic Refuge National Interest Study.



Management Alternatives

(Article about Alternatives is on page 14. Map is on pages 12-13.)



River valley - Bill Brody

Issues	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B
Issue 1: Wilderness		
Should additional Wilderness Study Areas be recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and if so, which areas?	No new Wilderness recommended.	Recommend the Brooks Range Wilderness Study Area.
Issue 2: Wild and Scenic Rivers		
Should additional rivers be recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS), and if so, which rivers?	No rivers recommended. Use existing management tools to maintain values on the Atigun, Hulahula, Kongakut, and Marsh Fork Canning rivers.	Recommend the Hulahula, Kongakut, and Marsh Fork Canning rivers. Use existing management tools to maintain values on the Atigun River.
Issue 3: Kongakut River Visitor Use		
How will the Refuge manage Kongakut River visitor use to protect natural resources and visitor experience?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group size limits exist for commercially guided groups (7 hikers, 10 floaters). There are no group size limits for non-guided visitors, just recommendations. Guides limited to one group on a river at one time. Commercial service providers have Special Use permits with occasional compliance checks. In the Kongakut Valley, air taxi Special Use Permits are conditioned to limit landing to non-vegetated surfaces only; subject to safety and weather; they must maintain minimum 2,000 feet above ground level flight operations with no intentional low flights over camps or people; aircraft operations cannot harass wildlife or interfere with Refuge visitors or subsistence users. Visitor use monitoring occurs every other year or less frequently. Campsite conditions are monitored periodically. 	<p>Same as Alternative A, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise the interim monitoring program of physical and social conditions to evaluate the effectiveness of management actions. <p>Plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop educational materials for the public with targeted messages explaining preferred practices and strategies for minimizing impacts, such as proper waste disposal practices, avoiding wildlife impacts, and alleviating crowding among groups. Publish schedules of proposed guided launch dates and past visitor use activity patterns. Conduct site-specific rehabilitation of impaired and impacted areas. Address Kongakut River management issues in step-down planning (e.g., Visitor Use Management Plan or Wilderness Stewardship Plan), to be initiated within 2 years of Plan approval. The step-down plan(s) would include long-term monitoring protocols.

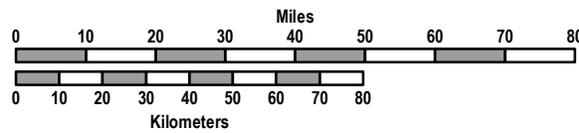
Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
Recommend the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area.	Recommend the Brooks Range and Porcupine Plateau Wilderness Study Areas.	Recommend the Brooks Range, Porcupine Plateau, and Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Areas.	Same as Alternative A.
Recommend the Atigun River. Use existing management tools to maintain values on the Hulahula, Kongakut, and Marsh Fork Canning rivers.	Recommend the Atigun, Kongakut, and Marsh Fork Canning rivers, and those portions of the Hulahula River managed by the Refuge.	Recommend the Atigun, Hulahula, Kongakut, and Marsh Fork Canning rivers.	Same as Alternative A.
Same as Alternative B.	<p>Same as Alternative B, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase efforts to educate about compliance and then enforce compliance of Special Use Permit conditions and existing visitor use regulations. <p>Plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redistribute the number of groups on the river during heavy use periods (late June and mid-August) by working with commercial guides to voluntarily modify their use of the river basin throughout the season. • Work with commercial air taxi operators to avoid flight-seeing activities and to disperse commuting flight paths in and out of the Kongakut Valley, subject to safe aircraft operation, inclement weather conditions, and takeoff and landing approach requirements. 	Same as Alternative D.	<p>Same as Alternative B, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Visitor Use Management step-down plan would decide how to enforce compliance of Special Use Permit conditions and existing visitor use regulations.



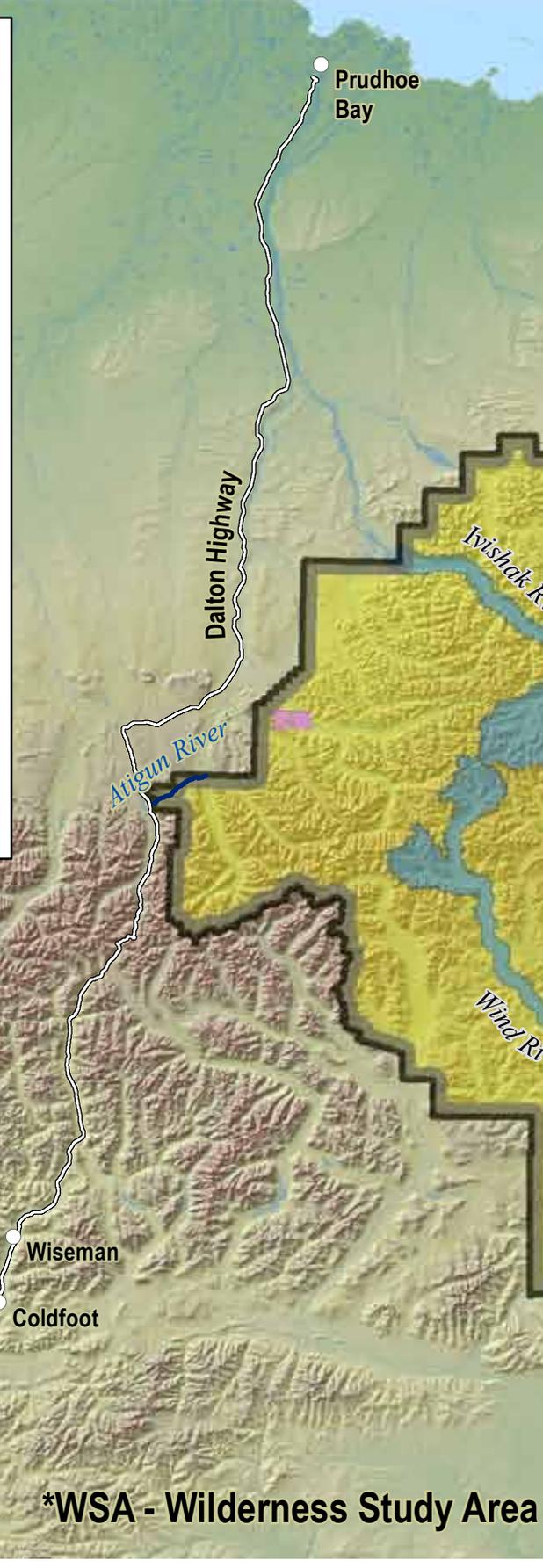
Map 2 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Areas Discussed in Alternatives

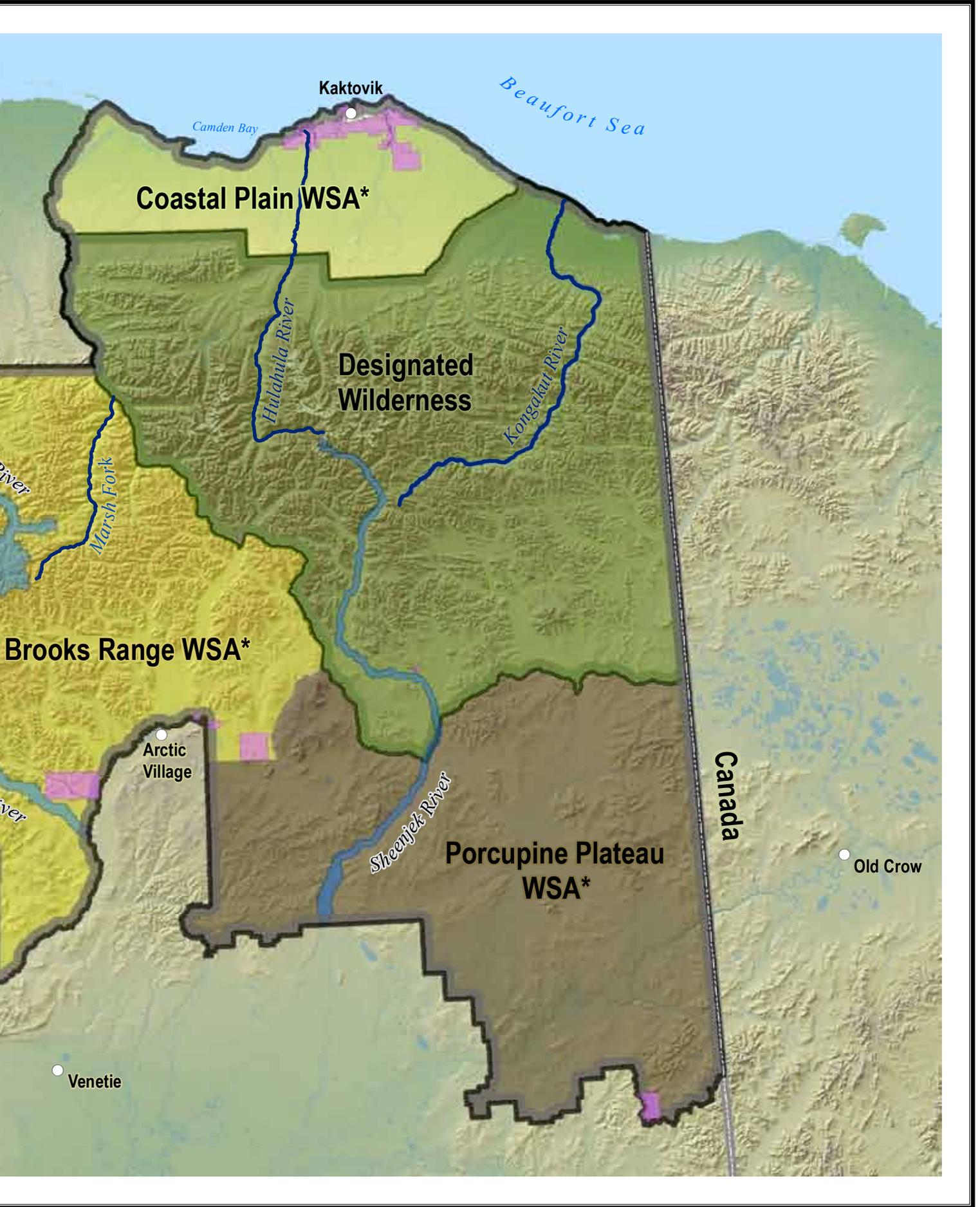
-  Wild Rivers
-  Suitable Rivers¹
-  Arctic Refuge Boundary
-  Private Corporate Lands
-  Roads
-  U.S. - Canada Border



Alaska Albers Equal Area Conic Projection, 1983 North American Datum.
¹ Rivers preliminarily determined suitable through the Arctic Refuge Wild & Scenic River review.



*WSA - Wilderness Study Area



Alternatives (Table of Alternatives is on pages 10-11. Map is on pages 12-13.)

Multiple elements combine to create each of the alternatives (see chapters 2 and 3 of the full document):

- 1) goals and objectives (except for Alternative A);
- 2) management categories (which are the same across all alternatives);
- 3) management policies and guidelines;
- 4) different strategies to respond to issues, public concerns, and opportunities identified during the planning process.

Three issues were carried forward into the Alternatives of the CCP. We developed a range of six management alternatives to address these issues (see table of Alternatives on pages 10-11). Alternative A represents the current management situation at Arctic Refuge; it is also called the “no action” alternative. Alternative A would not adopt any new management goals or objectives, and it would maintain the management policies and guidelines identified in the 1988 CCP, except where they conflict with more recent legislation, regulations, or national policies.

Alternative F is similar to Alternative A, but it would adopt all the proposed objectives and updated regional management policies and guidelines. Alternatives B through E would adopt the Refuge management objectives, management policies, and guidelines, but differ in how they would address the three significant planning issues.

All six alternatives would maintain three management categories for Refuge lands: Minimal, Wilderness, and Wild River. The draft plan does not include a preferred alternative.

The following issues are being addressed through alternatives in the CCP:

Wilderness

In the wilderness review all three Wilderness Study Areas were determined to meet the minimum criteria for wilderness. The CCP will decide whether one, two, three, or none of the units will be recommended as wilderness. Only Congress can designate wilderness.

Until Congress makes a decision, lands are managed in the Minimal Management category.

Nearly all commenters addressed this issue, most of them focusing on the coastal plain and the effect wilderness designation might have on potential oil and gas development there. There were relatively few comments specific to either the Brooks Range or the Porcupine Plateau Wilderness Study Area. Most wilderness comments not focused on the coastal plain stated that either all or none of the Refuge’s non wilderness areas should be recommended for designation.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

The wild and scenic river review found four of the ten eligible rivers to be preliminarily suitable for wild and scenic river designation. Only Congress can designate rivers for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Until Congress makes a decision, rivers are managed in their current management category (Wilderness or Minimal Management).

Comments received that addressed wild and scenic rivers were generally in favor of the Service conducting a review, although some comments expressed opposition.

Kongakut River Visitor Management

The Kongakut River, on the north side of the Brooks Range, offers spectacular views from the mountains to the coastal plain; contains a variety of unique geologic features; receives nearly one-quarter (24%) of the documented visitors to the Refuge; and its entire extent is in designated wilderness.

Visitation patterns, such as numerous groups launching on the same day during peak use periods and larger groups staying for longer periods, are threatening the wilderness experience on the Kongakut River. Poor camping practices and weather-related transportation backlogs have further impacted visitors’ experiences. Refuge staff have received visitor reports of group crowding; user conflicts; excessive over-flights; fire rings, tent rings, and human waste accumulations at concentrated access points and popular camp areas; hardening or impairment of

fragile riparian and tundra habitats; and increased footprint of aircraft landing areas. All of these negatively impact the Refuge’s wilderness character and biological resources.

The Kongakut River visitor use management issue focuses on: developing targeted messages to inform visitors about preferred camping and hiking practices; increasing rehabilitation efforts at impaired and impacted sites; working with commercial operators to spread out visitor use and the number of groups during peak use periods, and to disperse commuter aircraft over-flights in the Kongakut valley; initiating an adaptive management framework for monitoring recreation impacts; and, upon completion of the CCP, expanding Kongakut River visitor management strategies into a comprehensive step-down plan for managing visitor use Refuge-wide.

The vast majority of public comments we received specific to the Kongakut River suggested a need for greater management efforts along the river corridor. Requests for increased management efforts for the Kongakut River focused on retaining—or restoring—quality of visitor experience. Many comments suggested specific ways to improve visitor experiences, particularly by addressing crowding. Some specific suggestions included modifying group size limits, implementing a lottery system for float trips, and spreading out launch days. Other concerns raised by the public included the need to designate the Kongakut as a wild river and to address potential impacts to river access landing areas.



Blueberries - USFWS

New Management Guidelines

Chapter 2, Sections 2.2 through 2.5 of the full draft revised CCP contains the complete text of the management guidelines. This summary highlights a few key provisions of the draft revised CCP, especially those management activities, public uses, or facilities that would be managed differently under the revised CCP. If you would like more information about the new management guidelines, please refer to the full CCP for additional narrative description and the full table of activities, public uses, commercial activities or uses, and facilities by management categories.

The following section summarizes key provisions of the new Management Guidelines for the three management categories that apply to Arctic Refuge. The Refuge is proposing to change a number of the Management Guidelines from the original plan to reflect current laws, regulations, and policies and the Refuge's unique purposes and management's vision to maintain the ecological function and wilderness characteristics of the Refuge's lands and waters.

Six key changes are:

- 1) **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management:** Fish and wildlife habitat would not be actively managed, or altered. Rather, management would seek to sustain the highest degree of natural diversity and biological integrity. Activities such as crushing, chemical,

or mechanical treatments or the construction of structures would not be allowed unless necessary to address invasive species or management emergencies.

- 2) **Fish and Wildlife Control:** All native species are an integral part of the Refuge, and management will allow native fish and wildlife populations to continue without control or manipulation, subject to management emergencies.
- 3) **Fishery Restoration and Enhancement:** The Refuge will maintain undisturbed habitat conditions and no fish restoration or enhancement structures would be allowed unless necessary to address invasive species or management emergencies.
- 4) **Public Use Facilities:** Public use facilities will be maintained at communities near the Refuge that provide gateways for visitors and at developed sites along the Dalton Highway. Facilities such as boat launches, signs, and kiosks will not be developed on Refuge lands.
- 5) **Recreation and Other Public Uses:** The Refuge will remain a place where people experience self-reliance, solitude, and adventure. We will manage existing public uses to ensure they remain compatible with the purposes for which the Refuge was established.

- 6) **Climate Change:** The Refuge added a climate change component to the Management Guidelines. Refuge staff will monitor and study climate change, but will follow a process of non-intervention with the exception of invasive species or management emergencies such as public safety, threatened or endangered species, or subsistence resources.

Also, off-road vehicles/all terrain vehicles (ORV/ATVs) continue to be prohibited, by regulation, for recreational access. Helicopters will not be allowed for recreational access. Other components of the management guidelines such as research, inventory and monitoring; control of non-native and pest plants, management of subsistence, recreation, and commercial uses do not vary substantially from current management direction.

These new Guidelines apply to all alternatives (see table of Alternatives on pages 10-11) except the "no action" Alternative A. In Alternative A, management would follow the guidelines in the 1988 Arctic CCP, except where they conflict with more recent legislation, regulations, or national policies.

The table on pages 16-17 summarizes key provisions of Table 2.1 from the draft revised CCP. If you would like to view the complete table, refer to Chapter 2, section 2.5 of the full draft revised CCP.



(Issues: Continued from page 7)

areas and that no additional management guidance is needed. Similarly, the draft CCP does not provide a range of management options for the Refuge's three Wild Rivers. Their management will be addressed through step-down management plans called Comprehensive River Management Plans.

We did not address developmental issues such as oil and gas development or updating seismic data on the coastal plain in the draft CCP. An overwhelming majority of the almost 95,000 comments received from the public pertained to the Refuge's coastal plain (also known as the 1002 Area). There was support for and opposition to wilderness designation and oil

and gas development. However, according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the alternatives considered in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must meet the purpose and need for the proposed action. The purpose and need for the CCP is to ensure that activities, actions and alternatives fulfill the legal purposes for which the Refuge was established. The CCP also must fulfill the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System and provide direction on how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will meet these purposes. It is outside the Refuge's and Service's administrative authority to consider or propose oil and gas development alternatives. Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on oil and gas development in Arctic Refuge.

Summary of Selected Management Provisions

Activity or Use	Wilderness	Wild Rivers	Minimal Management
<i>Ecosystem and Landscape Management</i>			
<i>Habitat Management - Mechanical Treatment</i>	Not allowed; with exceptions. Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) required	Not allowed; with exceptions	Not allowed; with exceptions
<i>Habitat Management - Chemical and Manual Treatment</i>	May be allowed; MRA required	May be allowed	May be allowed
<i>Fire Management - Prescribed Fires and Wildland Fire Use</i>	Allowed; MRA required	Allowed	Allowed
<i>Fish and Wildlife Control</i>	May be allowed; MRA required	May be allowed	May be allowed
<i>Subsistence</i>			
<i>Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Berry Picking</i>	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<i>Collection of House Logs and Firewood</i> Harvesting live standing timber greater than 6 inches diameter at breast height for personal or extended family use.	May be authorized	May be authorized	May be authorized
<i>Collection of House Logs and Firewood</i> Harvesting live standing timber between 3 and 6 inches diameter at breast height for personal or extended family use.	20 trees or fewer per year allowed; more than 20 trees per year may be authorized	20 trees or fewer per year allowed; more than 20 trees per year may be authorized	20 trees or fewer per year allowed; more than 20 trees per year may be authorized
<i>Collection of Plant Materials</i> Includes harvesting trees less than 3 inches diameter at breast height.	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<i>Temporary Facilities</i> Includes tent platforms, shelters, caches, and other temporary facilities and equipment.	May be authorized	May be allowed	May be allowed
<i>Subsistence Access</i> Snowmobiles, motorboats, and other means of surface transportation traditionally used for subsistence purposes.	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<i>Subsistence Cabins</i>	Existing cabins allowed to remain; new cabins may be authorized	Existing cabins allowed to remain; new cabins may be authorized	Existing cabins allowed to remain; new cabins may be authorized

Activity or Use	Wilderness	Wild Rivers	Minimal Management
<i>Public Access, Public Use, and Recreation</i>			
<i>Access on Foot, by Dog Team, or with other Domestic Animals.</i> Includes horses, mules, llamas, etc. (certified weed-free feed required).	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<i>Motorized / Traditional Access</i> Use of snowmobiles, motorboats, airplanes, and non-motorized surface transportation methods including non-motorized boats for traditional activities and for travel to and from villages and home sites.	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<i>Off-Road Vehicles (All-Terrain Vehicles)</i> Includes air boats and air-cushion vehicles.	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
<i>Helicopters</i>	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
<i>Hunting, Fishing, Wildlife Observation, Wildlife Photography, Interpretation, and Environmental Education</i>	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<i>Trapping, Hiking, and Camping</i>	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<i>Cleared Landing Areas</i>	Existing areas allowed to remain, MRA required; new areas not allowed	May be allowed	May be allowed
<i>Guiding and Outfitting, Transporting, and Fixed-Wing Air Taxis</i>	May be authorized	May be authorized	May be authorized
<i>Commercial Activities or Uses</i>			
<i>Oil and Gas Leasing</i>	Can only be authorized by Congress, under Section 1003 of Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)	Can only be authorized by Congress, under Section 1003 of ANILCA	Can only be authorized by Congress, under Section 1003 of ANILCA
<i>Commercial Timber and Firewood Harvest</i>	Not allowed	May be authorized	May be authorized
<i>Transportation and Utility Systems</i>	May be authorized by Congress	May be authorized	May be authorized

NOTE: May be allowed = Subject to site-specific NEPA analysis, appropriate use finding (when required), and compatibility determination (when required).

May be authorized = Requires a special use permit or other authorization.

Wilderness Review

By Refuge System policy, wilderness reviews are elements of comprehensive conservation plans, and we are directed to conduct wilderness reviews during the planning process. For Arctic Refuge, a wilderness review is a tool we use to evaluate whether we are effectively managing the Refuge according to its purposes and Section 1004 of ANILCA, which requires the Refuge to maintain the wilderness character of the coastal plain.

The current wilderness review incorporates recent information on the Refuge's resources, uses, and management concerns. For the entire review refer to Appendix H of the full revised draft CCP.

About 41 percent (8 million acres) of Arctic Refuge was designated as wilderness by ANILCA in 1980. Arctic Refuge has now completed a wilderness review of the remaining lands as part of this revision of the CCP.

A wilderness review process has three phases, all of which consider public input:

- 1) **Inventory:** Identify lands and waters that meet the minimum criteria for wilderness according to the Wilderness Act. These are called Wilderness Study Areas (WSA). Criteria for wilderness include size, natural condition, and opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.
- 2) **Study:** Evaluate WSAs to determine if they are suitable for wilderness designation. In this phase, values, resources, public uses, and Refuge management activities are considered to compare the benefits and impacts of managing an entire WSA, a portion of the WSA, or none of the WSA as a designated wilderness. The study also evaluates how designation would achieve Refuge purposes and purposes of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- 3) **Recommendation:** Findings of each WSA study are used to determine if the Fish and Wildlife Service will make a wilderness recommendation. Any recommendation(s) included in the final revised CCP will be forwarded by the Director of the Fish and

Wildlife Service to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary may forward the recommendation(s) to the President who may transmit them to Congress. Only Congress can designate an area as wilderness. Lands recommended for wilderness status are managed in the Minimal Management category until Congress makes a decision regarding their designation.

The Arctic Refuge wilderness review divides the Refuge's non-wilderness lands into three WSAs: the Brooks Range; the Porcupine Plateau; and the Coastal Plain (see map on pages 12-13). Each WSA is included in two or more of the draft CCP alternatives (see table of Alternatives on pages 10-11).

Brooks Range WSA

This is a large area of rugged relief that straddles the continental divide on the western side of the Refuge. It encompasses 5.4 million acres, comprising 28 percent of the Refuge. Mountain peaks and elongated ridges reach up to elevations between 6,000 and 7,500 feet. Small glaciers are found along the divide, and the headwaters of the majority of rivers occurring in the western half of the Refuge originate in this WSA.

Wildlife and fish species occurring here include brown bear, wolf, wolverine, Dall's sheep, moose, gyrfalcon, chum and Chinook salmon, lake trout, Dolly Varden, and Arctic char. Much of the Central Arctic Caribou herd seasonally inhabits the area north of the continental divide, while the valleys south of the divide provide important wintering habitat for both the Porcupine Caribou herd and the Central Arctic herd.

With the exception of a 39,549 acre area in the vicinity of Arctic Village, Old John Lake, and a travel corridor between them, all Refuge lands and waters within the Brooks Range WSA meet the Wilderness Act criteria. Using the more detailed suitability criteria, an additional 181,077 acre area around Arctic Village has been determined to be not suitable for wilderness designation. The area is non-suitable because it is a high-use area for Arctic Village residents, motorized activity is frequent, and the area contains a number of privately owned parcels.

Porcupine Plateau WSA

This is an area of scattered mountains and rolling hills south of the Brooks Range. It is approximately 4.4 million acres in size and comprises 23 percent of the Refuge. The WSA is dominated by broad valleys with extensive stands of spruce and broadleaf forest and riverine communities dotted with shallow lakes and wetlands.

This area provides vast, unaltered habitat for brown and black bears, moose, and many species of furbearers, including wolf, wolverine, and marten. It is particularly important to the Porcupine Caribou herd as a wintering area and as a spring and fall migratory route. This WSA provides some of the best nesting areas for the American peregrine falcon in Alaska. Fish species include chum, coho and Chinook salmon.

All Refuge lands and waters within the Porcupine Plateau WSA meet the Wilderness Act criteria and have been found suitable for wilderness designation.

Coastal Plain WSA

This WSA is sometimes called the "1002 Area" after the section of ANILCA in which it is described. It is approximately 1.4 million acres in size and comprises 7 percent of the Refuge. It includes 121 miles or 79 percent of the Refuge's coastal habitat and encompasses shallow lakes and ponds; bluffs, lagoons, and salt marshes; and barrier islands, spits and river deltas.

This WSA is the biologically most productive part of the Refuge and contains important habitats for a great diversity and abundance of life including calving grounds for the Porcupine Caribou herd, post-calving habitats for the Porcupine and Central Arctic Caribou herds, nesting habitats for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds, overwintering habitats for six common resident and anadromous species of fish, and feeding and denning habitats for polar bears. Other species occurring here are muskox, grizzly bear, moose, wolf, wolverine, seals, beluga whale, and occasionally bowhead whale.

With the exception of a 9,978 acre area within two miles of Kaktovik, all Refuge lands and waters within the Coastal Plain

Ground squirrel - USFWS



WSA meet the Wilderness Act criteria. This lagoon area is so close to the sights and sounds of the community that no real sense of solitude or primitive recreation is possible. Additionally, a 29,160 acre area of lagoon waters near Kaktovik has been determined to be not suitable for wilderness designation. This area is non-suitable because it is a high-use area for Kaktovik and receives frequent use by motorized vehicles.

Recommendations

A preliminary recommendation for the Brooks Range WSA is included in three of the draft CCP alternatives, while recommendations for the Porcupine Plateau WSA and the Coastal Plain WSA are each included in two of the alternatives. In one of the alternatives, all three WSAs are preliminarily recommended for wilderness designation.

Any recommendations included in the final CCP will be forwarded by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary may forward the recommendation(s) to the President who may transmit them to Congress. Only Congress can designate wilderness.

Until Congress makes a decision regarding designation, the wilderness characteristics of the WSAs will be maintained through management in the Minimal Management category. If Congress designates any of the WSAs, they will be managed in the Wilderness Management category and according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act, ANILCA, and the Fish and Wildlife Service's wilderness stewardship policy.

How would management be different in designated wilderness?

The currently applied Minimal Management category includes many

of the same protections for wilderness characteristics as designated wilderness, and it includes most of the same limitations on public uses and Refuge management activities (see the table on pages 16-17). There would be no additional restrictions to public use, access, or subsistence compared to the present situation.

With only a few exceptions, lands under Minimal Management and those in designated wilderness have been managed in much the same manner. The major difference between Minimal Management and the management of designated wilderness is that wilderness designation confers statutory protection. This protection could only be changed by an act of Congress. Because provisions of the Wilderness Act are rooted in law, they are more binding upon the Service than those prescribed by administrative management categories adopted through CCPs. Minimal Management is an administrative category. Guidelines for Minimal Management could become less protective through future revisions to the CCP or a with a CCP amendment.

Designated wilderness is managed to a higher standard of wilderness character and requires more restraint on the part of managers than lands managed under the Minimal Management category. Service policy requires a Minimal Requirement Analysis (MRA) for all management and research activities in designated wilderness. An MRA is a written decision-making process consisting of two steps. During the first step it is determined if an administrative activity proposed for designated wilderness is necessary to manage the area as wilderness. If the activity is found acceptable, then, in a second step, tools or techniques are selected to minimize impacts.

Wild and Scenic River Review

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 established the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS), classifying rivers as either wild, scenic, or recreational. It authorized the Secretary of the Interior to study areas and submit proposals to the President and Congress for additions to the system. The act requires that a Wild and Scenic River review be completed whenever Federal agencies revise their land use plans. The process consists of two steps:

- 1) **Eligibility:** During the first phase of the review the Fish and Wildlife Service determines which rivers and river systems on Service lands within the Refuge meet the criteria to be eligible for designation. Potential rivers must be free-flowing and possess one or more outstandingly remarkable values. These values include: scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural. To be considered outstandingly remarkable, a value must be river-related or river-dependent and rare, unique, or exemplary in a regional or national context. Outstandingly remarkable values are generally recorded if they are within half a mile on each side of the river.

Refuge staff began by inventorying all potential rivers. We identified 160 named rivers and creeks, all of which are free-flowing. Due to the general lack of information about most of these waterways, staff focused on a subset of these rivers at this time. Nothing in this review precludes other waters from being reviewed in the future.

Visitor use is currently the greatest management concern on Refuge rivers. For this reason, the focus was on waters with visitor use and reliable flow. Twenty waters were identified as having river-related visitor use and were evaluated for eligibility. Of these rivers, ten were identified as free flowing and possessing at least one outstandingly remarkable value.

Rivers determined eligible are classified in one of three categories—wild, scenic, recreational—depending on the level of development in the river corridor. All eligible rivers within the Refuge were classified as wild. **(Continued on page 20)**

(River Review: Continued from page 19)

2) **Suitability:** The purpose of the second phase of the review is to determine whether eligible segments would be appropriate additions to the NWSRS by considering tradeoffs between development and protection. Suitability factors include the physical, social and political environments; the economic consequences; and the manageability of rivers if they are designated.

For each eligible waterbody, we considered eleven suitability factors. Stakeholders had the opportunity to provide input about eligible waters and their values during a 30-day comment period in October 2010. The responses from this inquiry have been incorporated into the suitability study.

Two factors heavily influenced the suitability determinations. First, we considered whether designation would result in a suite of management tools that would help better manage the river corridor. Second, we considered whether designation might create new management issues, such as displacing visitor use to other rivers or areas of the Refuge.

Four Refuge rivers were preliminarily determined suitable: Atigun, Marsh Fork Canning, Hulahula, and Kongakut (see map on pages 12-13). The final decision on the suitability of each of these rivers will be made in the Record of Decision for the CCP. Only Congress can designate a Wild and Scenic River. In keeping with NWSRS requirements, rivers determined suitable must be managed to maintain their free-flowing character and outstandingly remarkable values until Congress makes a decision about their designation.

What happens if a river is designated?

Refuge rivers designated by Congress under the Wild and Scenic River Act are protected and managed as Wild Rivers to maintain their free-flowing character and the outstandingly remarkable values that led to their designation. The Wild and Scenic River Act also requires that a detailed river corridor boundary be established and that a specific management plan be created based on the characteristics of the river.

Until Congress makes a decision regarding their designation,

recommended rivers would continue to be managed according to their existing management categories: Wilderness Management for the Kongakut and upper Hulahula rivers, and Minimal Management for all other river segments. If designated, the rivers would be managed via the Wild River Management category and according to the provisions of Fish and Wildlife Service policy, ANILCA, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Public use and access would continue, consistent with provisions of the Wild and Scenic River Act. The numbers of visitors could be restricted if river values were to be threatened.



How to get involved

We are looking for comments specific to the content of the draft revised CCP. Comments should be well-founded and avoid general statements. We encourage you to read this summary booklet, and any parts of the complete draft revised CCP that interest you, before submitting your comments.

This booklet contains a summary of key parts of the draft text. The full draft text, along with all maps and appendices, is available on the web at <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm> and on CD. We also have a limited number of copies of the complete plan printed in two volumes totalling 1,200 pages. Contact us if you'd like us to mail you a CD or the printed volumes.

Comments will be accepted until November 15, 2011. You can submit comments in a number of ways:

Online at <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>

Email to ArcticRefugeCCP@fws.gov

Mail to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arctic NWR - Sharon Seim
101 12th Ave, Rm 236
Fairbanks AK 99701-6237

Fax to 907-456-0428

Additional copies of this planning booklet:

Additional copies of this summary booklet are available on the web at <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>.

Public meetings:

Meeting dates are planned for the following communities. Visit the web at <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm> for the most current information.

2011 Meeting Dates

Anchorage	Open House Sept. 20 Public Hearing Sept. 21
Fairbanks	Open House Aug. 24 Public Hearing Oct. 19
Fort Yukon	October 28
Kaktovik	October 25
Arctic Village	October 4
Venetie	September 1

Learn more:

Information about the Arctic Refuge is available at <http://arctic.fws.gov>.

Information about the CCP process, and all CCP-related materials, are available at <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>. This page will be periodically updated to provide the most recent information on the planning process.

We look forward to receiving your comments about the draft revised CCP. They are critical to making this plan the best it can be.