

PUBLIC NOTICE

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is reevaluating the use of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for scientific research. Currently, this use, in compliance with state and federal regulations, is allowed on the refuges.

Prior to authorizing this use, federal law requires the Service first determine that it is a compatible use. A compatible use is a proposed or existing wildlife-dependent recreational use, or any other use of a national wildlife refuge which, based on sound professional judgment, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission or the purposes of the national wildlife refuge. We develop a draft compatibility determination document to facilitate evaluation of such uses.

The Service would like to know what you think about continuing the refuge use described by the draft compatibility determination. Copies are available for public review and comment. All comments received by May 17, 2005 will be considered in finalizing that determination. We hope to make a final decision on continuing these uses within thirty days following closure of the public comment period.

You can view the draft compatibility determination online at:

<http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/>.

Copies can be mailed or emailed upon request at (907) 456-0512. Comments must be received by the Refuge headquarters within the 30 day comment period to receive timely consideration.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Attn: Compatibility Determination Comments
101 12th Avenue, Box 20, Room 236
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

or by email to: arctic_refuge@fws.gov

Please place the words, "Research Comments", in the subject line and your comments in the body of the text. Please do not include attachments because they will not be opened due to the potential of computer viruses.

The period of public review and comment began 04/18/2005 and will end 05/17/2005

For more information contact Arctic Refuge, arctic_refuge@fws.gov, 907.456.0250.