

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

- The Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts that the United States will need 47 percent more petroleum and 54 percent more natural gas by 2025 to keep pace with the energy needs of a growing population and a growing U.S. economy.¹
- According to EIA, total energy consumption is expected to increase more rapidly than domestic energy production through 2025. As a result, America's dependence on foreign oil is growing—net imports represented 55 percent in 2001 and are expected to reach 68 percent by 2025.
- If America's needs for oil and natural gas are to be met, there is no choice except to migrate into new areas for exploration and production.

ANWR was set aside for possible future exploration in 1980.

- In 1980, President Carter and a democratically controlled Congress set aside a small portion (about 8 percent) of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)—called the “1002 Area”—for potential gas and oil development.
- Exploration of ANWR will be done in an environmentally sensitive fashion. Prudhoe Bay, located 60 miles to the west of ANWR, has been operating for 26 years and has produced more than 10 billion barrels of oil during that time. It is among the most environmentally sensitive oil operations in the world. The Central Arctic caribou herd, which resides around Prudhoe Bay, has grown from less than 5,000 when energy production began there 30 years ago, to today's count of more than 27,000.
- Advanced technology ensures even greater environmental protection today. It is estimated that only 2,000 acres (an area roughly one fifth the size of Dulles International Airport) would be needed for development of ANWR. That's 2,000 acres out of a total ANWR area of 19.8 million acres (about the size of South Carolina).



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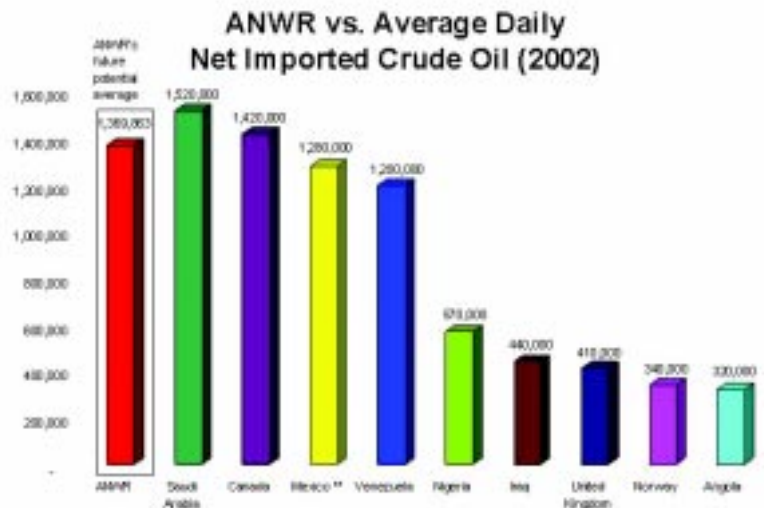
- Exploration will be limited to the winter and early spring months, between November and May, to protect breeding and wildlife migration patterns. Ice roads and ice airstrips, which melt away in the spring, will protect wildlife. Strict analysis of each proposed exploration site will be mandated to avoid environmental damage to sensitive springs, streams, rivers and wetlands.

ANWR will create jobs and has broad public support.

- A Public Opinion Strategies poll from 2002 shows that 62 percent of the public favors drilling in ANWR. In Alaska, the support is even stronger: 71 percent of Alaskans support opening ANWR. In Kaktovic, the small Inupiat community that is actually located in ANWR, 78 percent of the residents support opening ANWR for exploration.
- Men and women of organized labor also strongly support responsible ANWR development. Labor unions calculate ANWR will create tens of thousands of new American jobs.

Energy production in ANWR could lessen U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

- Assuming ANWR contains 10 billion barrels of oil, it could add up to 1.3 million barrels of oil per day to the nation's energy supply for the next 25 years, about 50 percent of the amount the U.S. currently imports from the Persian Gulf.
- The U.S. imports 800,000 barrels of oil per day. In 2001, the U.S. imported 972 million barrels of oil from the Persian Gulf; about 30 percent of this imported oil came from Iraq.



* Office of Oil and Gas, Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, "Potential Oil Production from the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Updated Assessment" p. 6 (May 2002).
 ** Reflects Net Total Oil Imports from Mexico into the US
 Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, "World Market Highlights"

¹ Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Outlook 2003*, DOE/EIA-0383 (2003), January 2003.