Opening the Arctic Refuge to Drilling: Simply Irresponsible

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the last, untouched wild places in America, rich with birds and other wildlife. Drilling would irreversibly damage this landscape through a spiderweb of infrastructure and regular oil spills—the North Slope of Alaska averages more than one spill per day. The Senate budget proposes to open the Arctic Refuge to drilling to offset tax cuts, but such a proposal would mean drilling on 1.5 million acres of public land. To meet the Senate’s projections, the deal would have to raise $2 billion because half goes to Alaska.

It’s Just Bad Math

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Estimate</th>
<th>Reality Check</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leasing 1.5 million acres</td>
<td>Between 2010–2015 only 1.5%–5.5% of available acres in NPR-A drew bids</td>
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<td>Resulting in total sale of $75 million</td>
<td>Between 1999-2016, the average sale drew only $50 per acre, which is only 3.7% of $1,334 per acre required to hit goal</td>
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What Could Be Lost?

Almost 200 species of birds, including:

- Fox Sparrow
- Snow Goose
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Peregrine Falcon
- Northern Shrike
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Least Sandpiper
- Red-throated Loon
- American Pipit
- Wilson’s Warbler
- Dunlin
- Horned Grebe
- Northern Shrike
- Snow Bunting
- Varied Thrush
- Wilson’s Snipe
- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Long-tailed Duck
- Least Sandpiper
- Red-throated Loon
- American Pipit
- Wilson’s Warbler
- Dunlin

Maps and graphics by Carol Zuber-Mallison/ZM Graphics.