



President Releases Plan to Drill the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

April 20, 2018

Washington, D.C. In the week leading up to Earth Day and on the 8th anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Trump Administration is moving towards allowing oil and gas operations and drilling on the iconic Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the crown jewel of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The [Notice of Intent](#), to be publically released today, states that the Administration will move forward with oil and gas leasing program within the Coastal Plain of the Arctic NWR and plans to begin drafting a Leasing Environmental Impact Statement (Leasing EIS) – that they expect to complete in a year's time.

“In its rush to drill America’s Last Frontier, the Trump Administration is trying to sell leases in the iconic coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as fast as they can, with no regard for why the refuge was created in the first place,” said **Geoffrey Haskett, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association**. “This race to drill flies in the face of the Arctic Refuge’s purposes such as conserving natural diversity. This is a tragic and poorly thought-out move, which should not go forward .”

Today we are faced with a government that caters to the oil and gas industry while ignoring its citizens, but is not the end of the fight to save the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Arctic Refuge is too important to allow oil and gas operations that will inalterably harm these resources. The fight to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has just begun. For almost 60 years, the Arctic Refuge has remained protected because of the support of the American people. Despite the issuance of this Notice of Intent, we stand ready to fight for America’s last great wilderness for our children and grandchildren. We will not for a moment turn away from our commitment to defend this irreplaceable, iconic and deeply cherished landscape. We will do everything in our power to keep the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge a ‘place where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man’.

We urge you to get involved in the public commenting period by signing up for our Action Alerts [here](#). We will be reviewing all materials as they are released today, and will put out an action alert early next week.



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The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America's wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries that secure its ecological integrity. For more information, visit www.refugeassociation.org or contact [Geoff Haskett](#), President, National Wildlife Refuge Association.