

# Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

## Obstacles, Benefits, Solution

### Question:

Can the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge ever be opened with its powerful opposition nationwide?

### Answer:

Yes, it can be opened if it is approached from a cost-benefit analysis and both sides agree to compromise.

### Costs

- Potential harm to wildlife

### Benefits

- Increased Energy Independence
- Increased Revenue
- Increased Jobs
- Only 2,000 acres will be used

### Solution

- Compromise among pro-ANWR and anti-ANWR people
- Education
- Publicizing it so it is at the forefront of people's minds



### U.S. Congress

Congress is an obstacle for ANWR because of their structure. They are a bicameral legislature, meaning that legislation must pass both the House and the Senate in order for it to become law. The other obstacle that faces ANWR is the separation of Powers. If Congress does pass Legislation, it must also be approved by the President. The only time ANWR legislation made it pass the Congress was in 1995, and it got vetoed by President Clinton.

Constituents are an obstacle if they are opposed to ANWR. Most constituents who are opposed to ANWR make their opinion known to their congressional member and their congressional member does not favor any legislation for ANWR.

### Environmentalists

Environmentalists are an obstacle for ANWR because they are the constituents that are convincing Congress not to approve legislation that would open ANWR.

They believe that human life is just as valuable as plant and animal life. They value the untouched nature because it gives them their spiritual freedom. They believe that any risk involved is too much risk. They do not take into consideration the benefit of drilling in ANWR.



### Solutions

#### Education

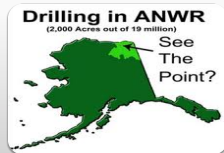
In order to open ANWR people must be aware of it. A national campaign needs to spread the news about ANWR. They need to spread the costs and benefits on a factual basis. The American people need to hear about ANWR every day on their radio, televisions and newspapers. It must be at the forefront of peoples' minds if it is to get back on the congressional agenda. In order for it to get passed on the legislative agenda, legislators and constituents need to be fully knowledgeable on the truth about ANWR.

#### Compromise

Neither side will ever see eye to eye. However those who are risk averse and those who are risk takers must compromise. There are not only negatives to drilling in ANWR, but there are positives, too. There needs to be give and take. ANWR might never be opened and all those resources and steps toward progress will fade. The Anti and the Pro have to come together and make compromises for the good of the country – for the good of the people.

Benefits to opening ANWR are increased jobs, revenue, energy security and these outweigh the risks of potential environmental harm.

Three Main Differences Between Environmentalists and Pro-Drilling



### The Actual Size of ANWR

- ANWR is separated into 3 different areas: 9.16 million acres of Refuge, 8 million acres in wilderness, and 1.5 million acres are reserved for research and development. The research area is called the "1002" area.
- The 1002 area is comprised of 1.5 million acres, but only 2,000 of those acres will be used for oil extraction.
- That means that only 2,000 acres out of 19.6 million acres (001% of it), will be open.
- Thus, opening drilling in ANWR will not touch (or "ruin") the entire refuge, instead it will only touch.



### Value of ANWR

The environmentalists value ANWR's aesthetic qualities and benefits derived from it by extracting only spiritual freedom from it. They also believe that the best way to live is to let nature be. Pro-drillers get their value from ANWR in an economic sense and America can benefit from the economic gain that can be extracted from it.



### Wildlife in ANWR

The environmentalists believe that ANWR wildlife will be impacted negatively. However, there has only been an increase in Porcupine Caribou in the region around Prudhoe Bay. From Prudhoe Bay, we see that the Caribou can exist alongside human activity.