

National Wildlife Refuge Week of Action Toolkit

with



What we're doing

October 10-16 is National Wildlife Refuge Week! Environment America is marking the occasion with a digital week of action.

[Wildlife refuges](#) are established for the express purpose of protecting particular species, such as endangered polar bears and migratory birds. But our wildlife refuge system is underfunded, and not all of these refuges have the resources and protections necessary to fulfill their mission. We need people like you to show your support so that we can keep refuges safe for the animals and plants that call them home. In doing so, we ensure that these incredible wild places are around and thriving for our future generations to enjoy.

This toolkit provides you with ways to take action throughout the week to raise awareness about wildlife refuges, learn more about the ones closest to you, reach our elected representatives, and appreciate the beauty and life that wildlife refuges provide. We need more nature, and wildlife refuges are a great place to preserve and enjoy it.

Tuesday, October 12

Action: Spread Awareness for Duck Stamps

Time Required: <5 minutes

One of the easiest ways to support Wildlife Refuges is by [buying a duck stamp](#)! Duck stamps [help fund](#) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service so that our Wildlife Refuges can remain wild and safe.

98 percent of the purchase price goes directly towards acquiring and protecting wetland habitat and towards purchasing conservation easements for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Wetlands acquired with Duck Stamp dollars are key for purifying water, aiding in flood control, reducing soil erosion and sedimentation, and enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities.

Whether you buy a stamp or not, **spread the word on social media!** Here are some sample posts you can use or draft your own:

- In honor of National #WildlifeRefuge Week, I just bought a duck stamp to help fund our Wildlife Refuges! We need these special places for #MoreNature and a healthy planet; buy one or spread the word: <https://www.duckstamp.com/products/>
- Happy National #WildlifeRefuge Week! I supported our Refuges by buying a duck stamp—you can buy one too, or spread the word: <https://www.duckstamp.com/products/>
- Duck stamps help fund @USFWS so they can keep our Wildlife Refuges safe for endangered species; Celebrate National #WildlifeRefuge week—buy a duck stamp or spread the word! <https://www.duckstamp.com/products/>
- Want to help endangered species prosper and keep our planet lush with #MoreNature but don't know how? Buy a duck stamp to help fund @USFWS's work with our National Wildlife Refuges: <https://www.duckstamp.com/products/>
- For National #WildlifeRefuge Week, check out duck stamps! You can buy one to help fund @USFWSRefuges, keeping endangered species protected and #MoreNature on Earth: <https://www.duckstamp.com/products/>

Wednesday, October 13

Action: Tweet at your Senators to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling

Time Required: <5 minutes

It's a tweetstorm! Tweet at your Senators to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling

In 2017, Congress opened up the refuge to oil and gas development in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts. A lease sale for tracts of land in the Coastal Plain—the refuge's "biological heart," teeming with biodiversity—was held in January 2021; 9 tracts were sold. A second lease sale is slated to be held by 2024.

Oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would be devastating to the wide array of biodiversity that relies upon the pristine landscape for survival, including endangered polar bears, the 200,000 strong Porcupine Caribou herd (sacred to the Indigenous Gwich'in Tribe), over 200 species of migratory birds, and so many more.

The Arctic is warming three times faster than anywhere else on the planet. Amidst a code red climate crisis, more fossil fuels are the last thing we need, and we have a chance to keep the Arctic protected from oil drilling. The budget bill has language in it that would remove the leasing program altogether. Tell your Senator to vote for a budget bill that protects the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Below, are some sample tweets you can use:

@SenatorXXX, it's National #WildlifeRefuge Week—why is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge still at risk of oil drilling in 2021? A refuge should be protected, not exploited. Keep protections for the Arctic in the Budget Bill! #ProtectTheArctic

@SenatorXXX, Happy National #WildlifeRefuge Week! Will you keep endangered polar bears and sacred indigenous lands safe by protecting the Arctic Refuge from oil drilling? #ProtectTheArctic #StandWithTheGwichin

@SenatorXXX, the Arctic National #WildlifeRefuge is our nation's greatest wilderness. If we drill for oil there, we put endangered species and indigenous tribes on the line. Keep protections for the Arctic in the Budget Bill! #ProtectTheArctic

Thursday, October 14

Action: Submit a Letter to the Editor to your local newspaper

Time Required: ~20 minutes

A Letter to the Editor (LTE) is a short, personal, and concise letter written by a concerned citizen about an issue for which they want to make a call to action on those in power. The Letters to the Editor section is one of the most-read sections of the newspaper—by the public at large and especially by decision-makers trying to get a sense of public opinion. They have the ability to reach a wide audience and make an impact on decision-makers. Published letters allow us to educate the public on our campaigns and draw more attention to the issues for which we advocate.

Make your voice heard! Our [LTE guide](#) provides information for how to write an LTE about protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling. Check it out [here](#) and submit your own letter about the Arctic Refuge or use the guidance to write an LTE about a Wildlife Refuge near and dear to you! Here's a sample letter (also in the guide):

Dear Editor:

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of our nation's most majestic public lands. It's home to the porcupine caribou herd, denning polar bears, musk oxen, wolves and nearly 200 species of migratory birds. But despite that fact, its biological heart, the coastal plain, is in the crosshairs for oil and gas development.

A 2017 Congressional vote opened it to oil and gas drilling and, in 2020, the Trump administration rushed a lease auction for these lands. The fire sale was a flop. However, even though those leases are financially unviable, they remain a threat to destroy one of America's last great wildernesses.

The Biden administration has taken temporary action to delay drilling. We need to keep drills out of the Arctic Refuge for good and it's up to our leaders in Washington, DC to make that happen. We must ensure that this magnificent place remains intact and untouched.

Sincerely,

<<name and contact information>>

Friday, October 15

Action: Sign a petition to your Senators

Time Required: ~1 minute

[Sign on to our petition](#) urging our Senators to keep the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge protected from oil drilling

Spread the word! Here are some sample posts you can use:

- Have you heard? It's National #WildlifeRefuge Week, and I celebrated by signing a petition to the Senate to keep the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge safe from oil and gas development! Add your voice to the call:
<https://tinyurl.com/5f97d3t7>
- For National #Wildlife Refuge Week, I'm calling on our Senators to keep the magnificent Arctic Refuge safe from oil drilling. Endangered polar bears can't afford the consequences of oil and gas development; sign-on:
<https://tinyurl.com/5f97d3t7>
- I want future generations to share Earth with polar bears, caribou, and a snowy Arctic. If we drill for oil there, we might be the last people to know such a planet. Tell your Senators to Protect the Arctic National #WildlifeRefuge:
<https://tinyurl.com/5f97d3t7>
- I used my voice to tell U.S. Senators that the Arctic Refuge needs protecting. Celebrate National #WildlifeRefuge Week—add your voice to the chorus. It only takes one minute! <https://tinyurl.com/5f97d3t7>

Saturday, October 16

Action: Visit a Refuge near you and post on Social

Find a Refuge near you [here](#), pay it a visit, and post a pic on social media. If you can't make it there, post any picture of you enjoying the great outdoors!

Use the hashtags: #MoreNature and #WildlifeRefuge

And don't forget to tag Environment America!

Twitter: @EnvAm

Facebook: @Environment America

Thank you for participating in our National Wildlife Refuge Week of Action!

Do you want more opportunities to take action and get involved?

Email jdinmore@environmentamerica.org to join our Arctic Activist
Network