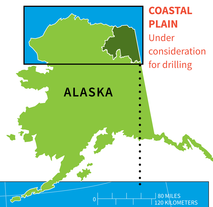
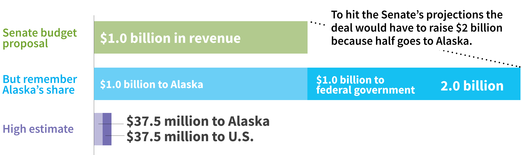
Opening the Arctic Refuge to Drilling: Simply Irresponsible

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 proposal suggests opening the Refuge to drilling to offset tax cuts, but it would require leasing every single acre—at 25 times the average fee—to meet that promise. We have an obligation to future generations to protect this special place and to budget responsibly. Call on Congress to protect the Arctic Refuge.



It's Just Bad Math



Budget Proposal

Every one of the **1.5 million acres**

× Average bid of **$1,300**

Resulting in total sale of **$2 billion**

÷ **Half goes to Alaska**

To reach promised goal of **$1 billion**

Reality Check

2016 National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) sale (touted as a banner year) drew only **42%** of acres offered

Between 2010–2015 only **1.5%–5.5%** of available acres in NPR-A drew bids

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

High Estimate

Leasing **1.5 million acres**

× Average bid of **$50**

Resulting in total sale of **$75 million**

÷ **Half goes to Alaska**

U.S. earning just **$37.5 million**

$37.5 million is not $1 billion

What Could Be Lost?
Almost 200 species of birds, including:

Fox Sparrow
Snow Goose
Baird's Sandpiper
Peregrine Falcon
Wandering Tattler
Northern Flicker
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Merlin
Least Sandpiper
Red-throated Loon
American Pipit
Wilson's Warbler
Dunlin
Sandhill Crane
Brant
Horned Grebe
Northern Shrike
Snow Bunting
Varied Thrush
Wilson's Snipe
Hoary Redpoll
Bohemian Waxwing
Pomarine Jaeger
Black-bellied Plover
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Short-eared Owl
Dark-eyed Junco
Smith's Longspur
Tundra Swan
Long-tailed Duck
Golden Eagle
Green-winged Teal
Parasitic Jaeger
Canvasback
Rough-legged Hawk
Savannah Sparrow
Lapland Longspur
Ruddy Turnstone
Killdeer
Rusty Blackbird
Townsend's Solitaire
Common Nighthawk
Say's Phoebe
Greater White-fronted Goose

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

Audubon