




*Arctic National Wildlife Refuge:
Planning for its Future*

April 2010

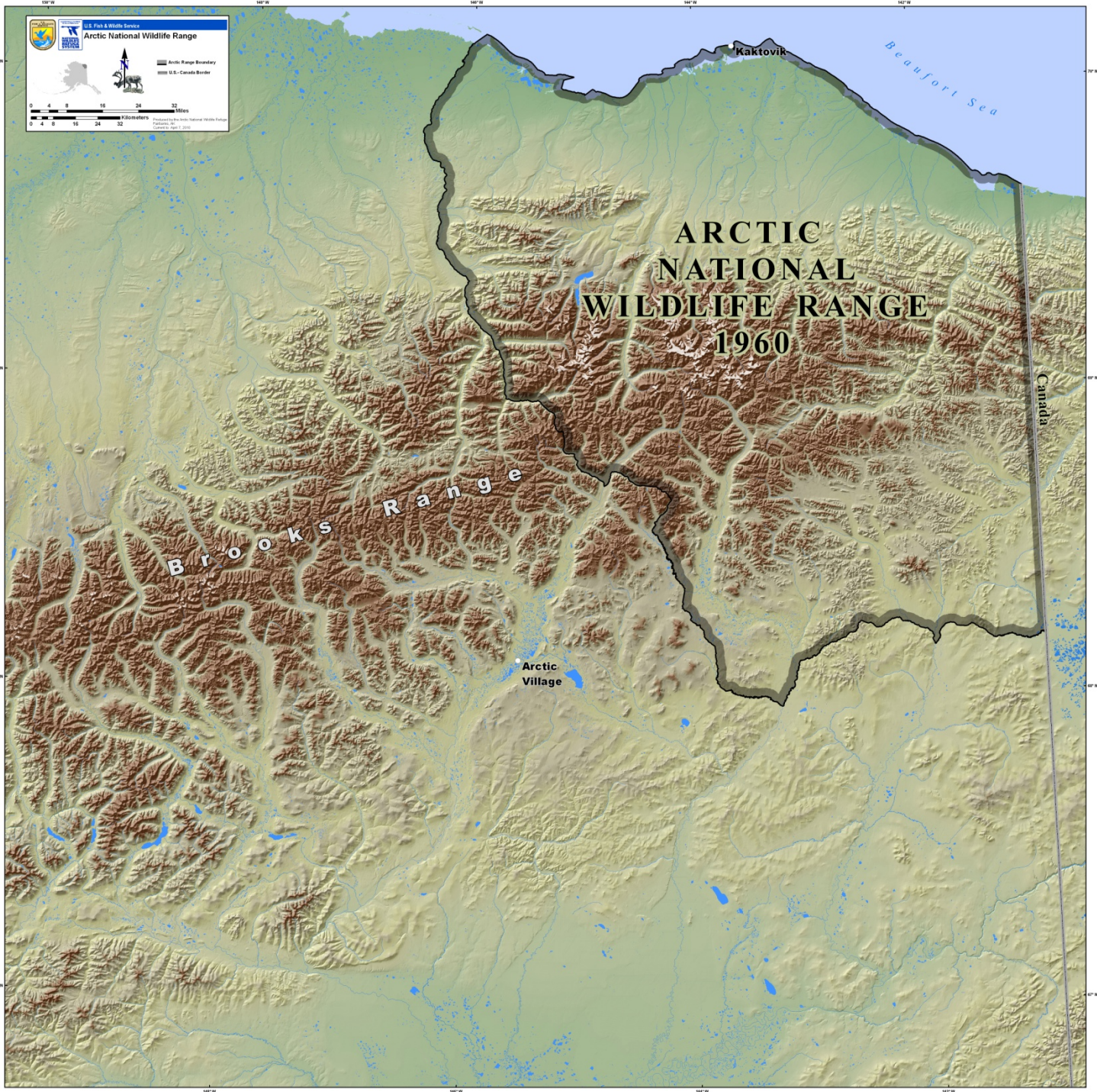


Refuge History and Purposes



The Arctic National Wildlife Range was established in 1960 for...


“...preserving unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values...”



In 1980, ANILCA...

- enlarged the Refuge to 19.3 million Acres
- renamed it “Arctic National Wildlife Refuge”
- designated eight million acres of Wilderness
- designated three Wild Rivers
- sections 1002, 1003, and 1004 written specifically about the Refuge





ANILCA added four purposes...

- i. conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity...
- ii. fulfill international fish and wildlife treaty obligations of the United States
- iii. provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local residents
- iv. ensure water quality and necessary water quantity within the Refuge





About the Refuge

Forty-four species of terrestrial and marine mammals





Nearly 200 species of birds



About 40 species of fish



Arctic Refuge is:

One of the most biologically diverse, high-latitude, protected areas in the world





From the boreal forest and northern treeline...





...through the mountains of the Brooks Range...

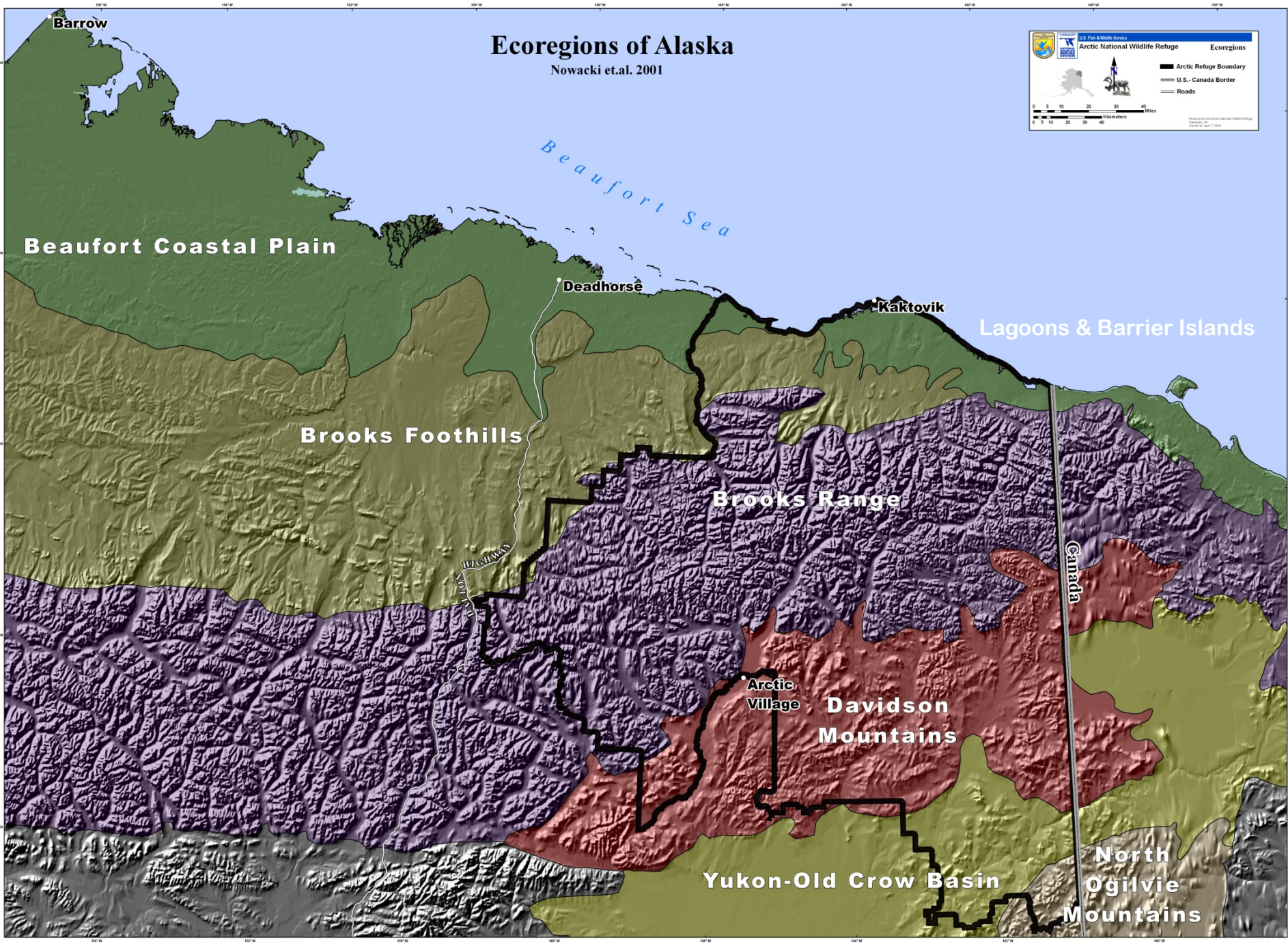






to the lagoons and barrier islands of the Beaufort Sea







Special Values

Special Values

- Wilderness character
- Ecological values
- Wildlife values
- Rivers
- Landscape scale and features
- Scientific values
- Native culture and subsistence
- Historic and heritage values
- Recreational values
- Hunting values
- A symbolic value



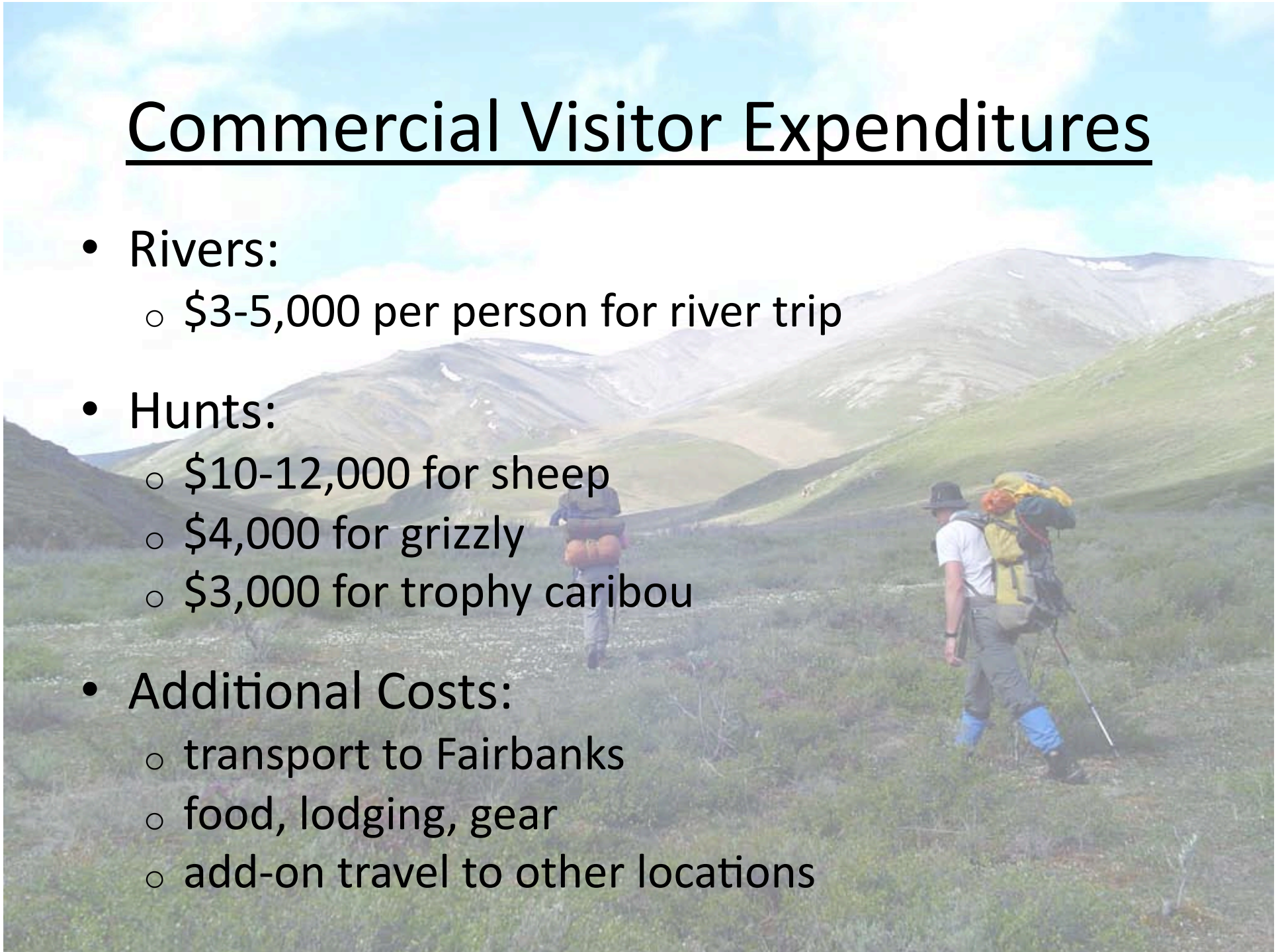
Visitor Use

Visitor Use

- The number of visitors privately accessing the Refuge are difficult to track and quantify due to its remoteness.
- Dalton Hiway is increasingly used for access.
- About 1000 people are commercially guided or transported annually ... averaging 9 days/trip.
- 50% commercial supported visitors are guided.
- Most visitors float rivers, backpack, or hunt.
- Most frequently visited areas:
 - Kongakut
 - Sheenjek
 - Hulahula
 - Marsh Fork Canning
 - Jago

Commercial Visitor Expenditures

- Rivers:
 - \$3-5,000 per person for river trip
- Hunts:
 - \$10-12,000 for sheep
 - \$4,000 for grizzly
 - \$3,000 for trophy caribou
- Additional Costs:
 - transport to Fairbanks
 - food, lodging, gear
 - add-on travel to other locations





Refuge Staff & Activities

Refuge Staff & Facilities

- Staff

- 21 people in Fairbanks
- 2 Refuge Information Technicians in villages
- 10 seasonal employees
- Youth Conservation Corps

- Facilities

- Fairbanks, Arctic Village & Kaktovik
- 3 Administrative cabins

Refuge Activities

- Biological Inventory and Monitoring
- Wilderness Management
- Public Use Management
 - Commercial Recreational & Hunting Guides
 - Scientific Research
 - Geological Investigations
 - Subsistence Cabins
 - Law Enforcement

Refuge Activities (cont.)

- Subsistence Hunting/Fishing Management
- International Commissions
 - International Porcupine Caribou Board (IPCB)
 - IPCB Technical Committee
- Fire Management
- Facility Management
- Environmental Information & Education

Refuge Expenditures

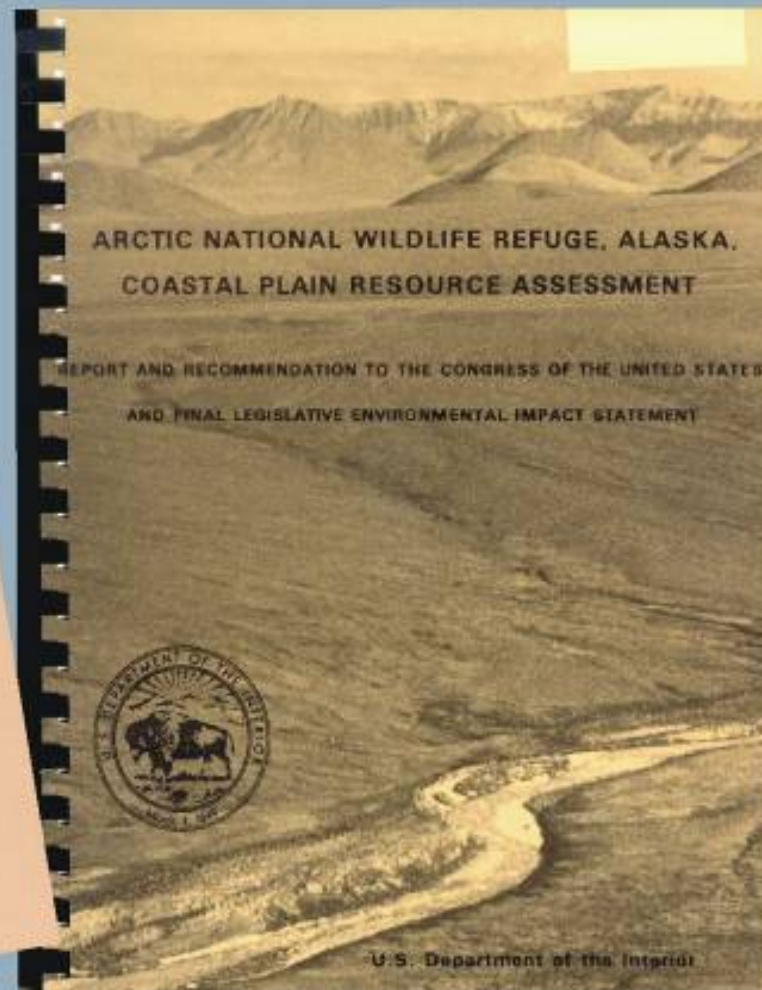
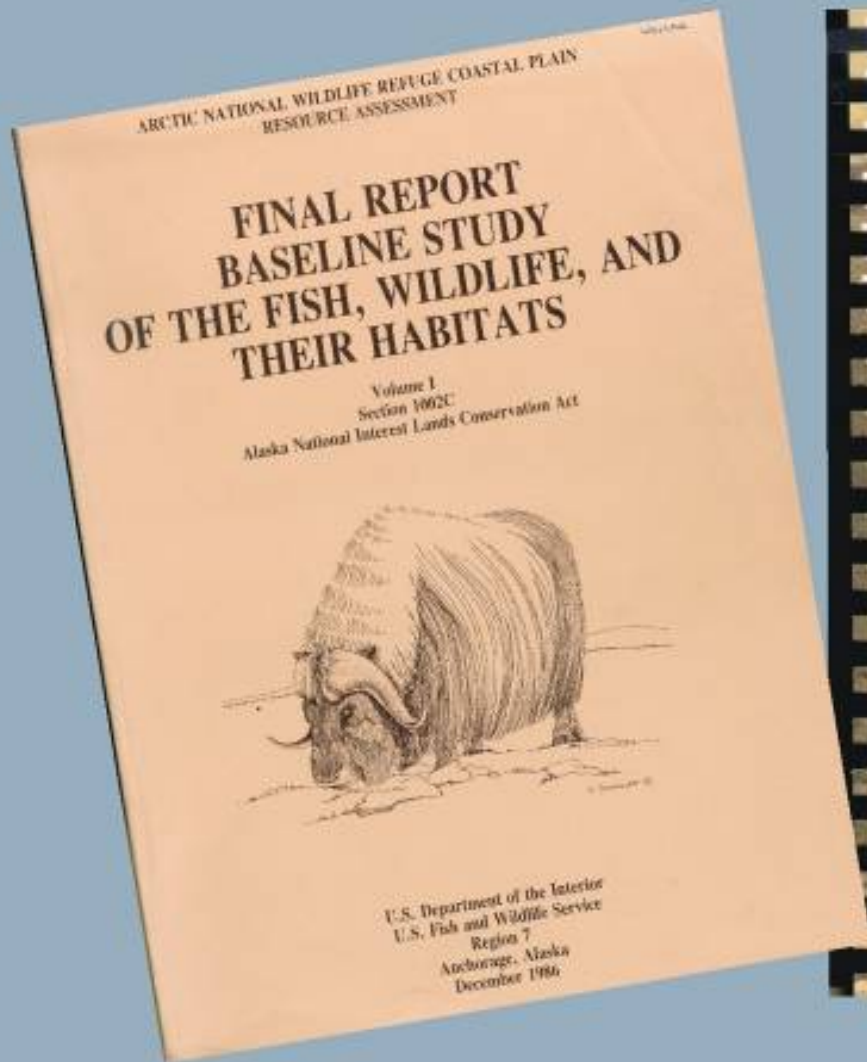
- Wages contribute to local economies
 - housing, food, entertainment, etc.
- Contracts with Alaska-based businesses
 - aviation fuel, lodging, field equipment, office supplies, etc.
- Department of Interior contracts
 - computers, satellite radio tracking equipment, etc.



ANILCA Sections 1002 - 1004

Baseline studies on 1002 conducted 1982 - 1986

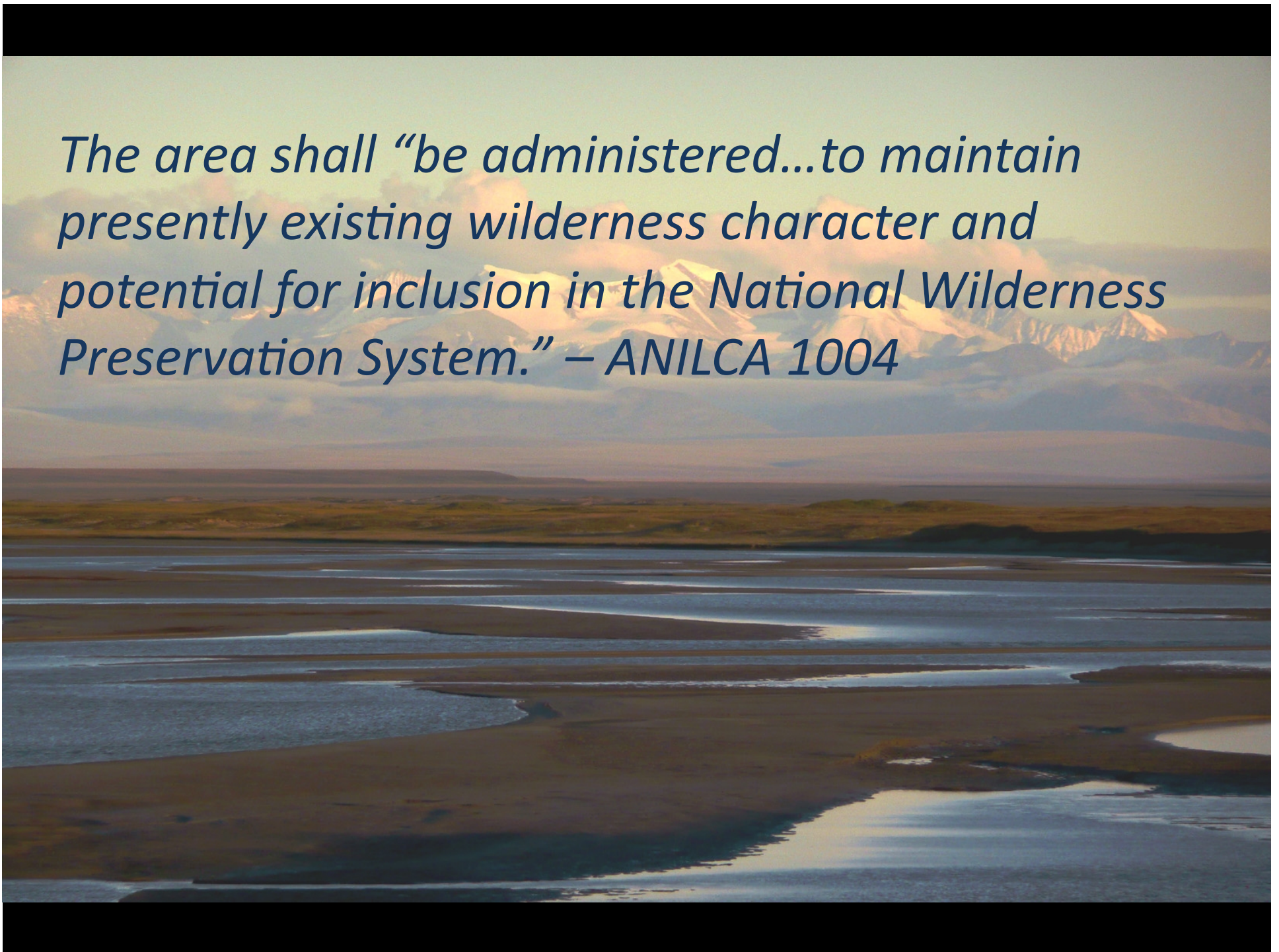




“Production...is prohibited and no leasing or other development leading to production of oil and gas from the Refuge shall be undertaken until authorized by an Act of Congress.” – ANILCA 1003



The area shall “be administered...to maintain presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.” – ANILCA 1004





About the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)

What Will the CCP Do?

- Make sure management decisions meet Refuge purposes
- Ensure Refuge management is consistent with national laws and policies
- State a vision for the future of the Refuge
- Establish management goals and objectives
- Select a management approach that incorporates public input
- Include Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River reviews

Why Revise the CCP?

- The existing CCP is 22 years old
- The Refuge must comply with new laws and policies
- The Dalton Highway is now open to the public and visitor use patterns have changed
- Climate change has emerged as a concern
- To engage the public in the Refuge's future

ANILCA: information needed

- Fish & wildlife populations and habitats
- Special values of the Refuge
- Other values
 - cultural, ecological, geological, historical, scenic, wilderness, etc.
- Areas suitable for administrative sites or visitor facilities
- Existing and potential future access
- Significant problems that could adversely affect fish & wildlife populations and habitats

ANILCA: each plan must...

- Designate areas according to resources and values
- Specify programs for conserving fish, wildlife, and special values
- Specify compatible uses
- Identify opportunities for:
 - compatible fish & wildlife oriented recreation
 - ecological research
 - environmental education and interpretation

ANILCA: plan revision

- Consult with appropriate State agencies and Native corporations
- Hold public hearings in local communities and elsewhere
- Publish public notices in the Federal Register
- Provide for public comment

What Won't the CCP Do?

- Address every conflict or concern brought to our attention
 - Smaller details are best left to step-down plans
- Decide whether the coastal plain should be made available to oil and gas development
 - Only Congress can resolve this issue

The CCP Planning Process

- Refuge staff prepares for the CCP process
- The public provides comments = scoping:
 - individuals, refuge users, organizations, state and federal agencies, tribes and native organizations
- Refuge staff uses comments to develop a range of management alternatives
- The public comments on the draft CCP
- Refuge staff uses comments to finalize the CCP

The CCP Planning Schedule

Fall 2009

✓ Preplanning

Spring 2010

○ Public Involvement and Scoping

Summer & Fall 2010

○ Develop and Analyze Alternatives

February 2011

○ Release Draft CCP/EIS

March 2012

○ Release CCP/Final EIS

April 2012

○ Record of Decision

How To Get Involved

- Read about the Refuge and the CCP

<http://arctic.fws.gov>

- Submit comments about what the CCP should include
- Submit your comments on the Draft CCP/EIS

