

ECOTRUST GIS PORTFOLIO: EXPLODING THE ARCTIC REFUGE 2000-ACRE MYTH

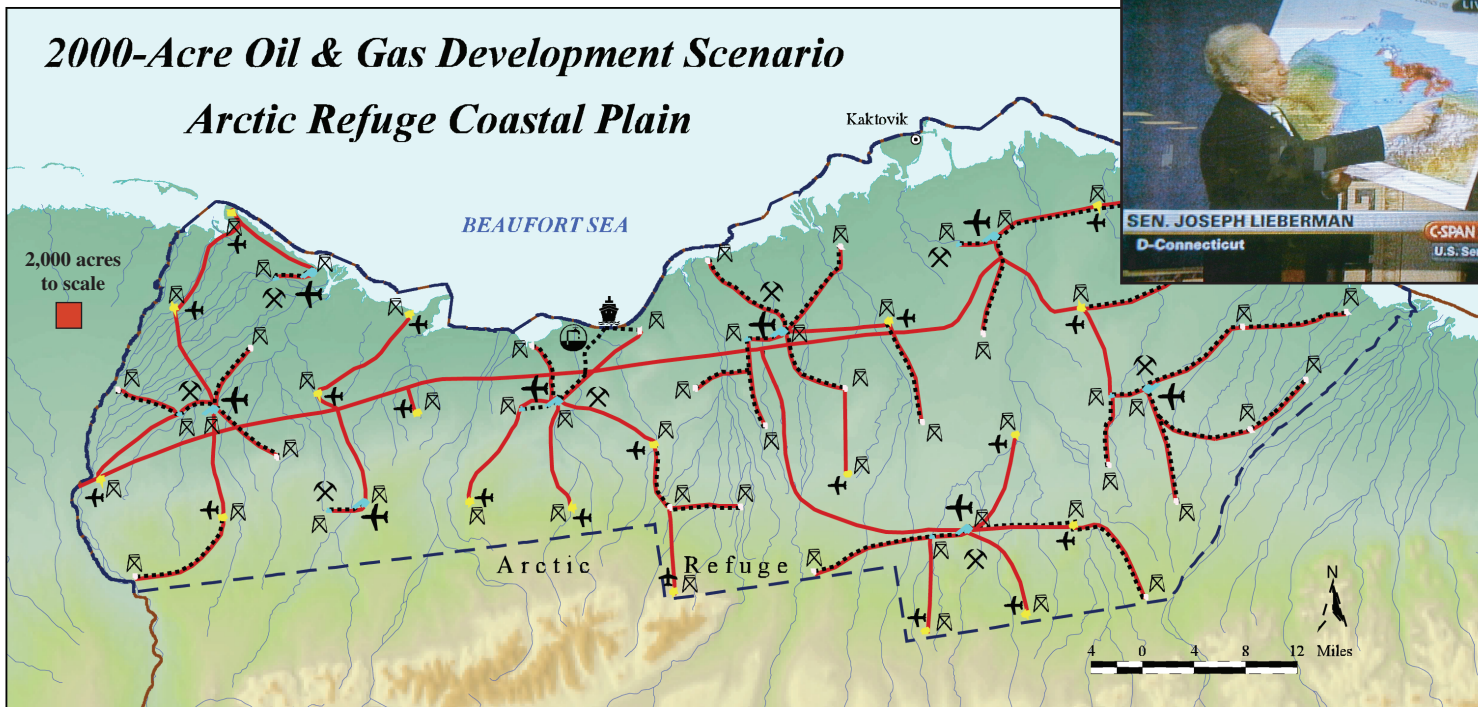
The 19.8 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) was established in 1960 and enlarged to its present size in 1980. The jewel of the Arctic Refuge is its 1.5 million-acre Coastal Plain, seasonal home to 45 species of mammals, including the porcupine caribou herd, and migrating birds from five continents.

In August of 2001 the House of Representatives passed Energy Bill HR4, which would have opened the Coastal Plain to oil and gas development. Proponents emphasized its moderate inclusion of a 2,000-acre footprint limitation.

Contiguity of development, however, was not mandated by HR4, and so this "limitation" was greatly misleading. Development of roads, pipelines and gravel pits would not only not be counted as part of the 2000 acres, but would spread across the entire Coastal Plain, disrupting an integrated habitat vital to many species.

As the Arctic Refuge issue came to the fore, Ecotrust's Anchorage-based GIS analyst worked together with the Alaska Conservation Alliance to produce a series of maps highlighting important aspects of the debate: A Historical Progression of North Slope Oil Development, Migration Routes of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, and this 2000-Acre Oil & Gas Development Scenario.

Throughout the winter of 2001-2 the Senate addressed the proposed opening of the Arctic Refuge. In these debates, Ecotrust/Alaska Conservation Alliance maps were employed on the Senate floor by Sen. Joseph Lieberman to argue for its continued protection. The Senate voted 54-46 on April 18, 2002 to do just that.



This speculative development scenario is based on the 2,000-acre "limitation" in the House Energy Bill (H.R. 4).

It makes these assumptions:
Industry has 4-mile directional drilling reach from Drill Sites

Facilities included in the 2,000-acre maximum:

- 8 Alpine-type fields @ 82 acres each (Central Processing Pad with housing, storage, drilling; second Drill Site; airstrip)
- 19 Satellite fields like proposed Alpine satellite, Fiord @ 37 acres each (Drill Site, airstrip or storage pad)
- 26 Satellite fields like proposed Alpine satellite, Nanuk @ 11 acres each (Drill Site)
- 2 Docks @ 5 acres each (1,100 foot long solid-fill gravel causeway like Badami)
- 2 Seawater treatment Plants @ 100 acres each

Facilities not subject to the 2,000-acre limitation:

- Roads (in-field roads; main roads to docks, etc.)
- Pipelines (main trunk and sales lines, feeder lines; except negligible amount for support posts (VSM's))
- 8 Gravel Mines @ 150 acres each

Facilities and activities not subject to the 2,000-acre limitation that are not mapped:

- Seismic exploration trails
- Exploration and delineation wells
- Water reservoir excavations, Water withdrawal sites
- Ice roads
- Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain (1002 Area)
- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge