

2003 Arctic Coastal Plain/Foothills BCR Report

- Projects which took place on both the Arctic Refuge and the NPR-A during summer 2004 will be presented
- Current issues of conservation concern for the Arctic Refuge and the NPR-A will be presented

Projects conducted in 2004 near the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

- 2 BBS routes conducted along the Dalton Highway
- Research on Glaucous Gulls satellite tagged at Barrow dump by Declan Troy

Research being conducted by UAF within or close to NPR-A

- Importance of the Alaskan Beaufort Sea to King Eiders
- Breeding biology and habitat use of King Eiders on the Coastal Plain of Northern Alaska
- Using stable isotope analysis to identify molting areas of Western North American King Eiders.
- Foraging ecology of Common Ravens on Alaska's North Slope
- Physiology of post-breeding shorebirds on Alaska's North Slope

Conservation Concerns on the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

- Alpine Sat. development plan Final EIS completed Nov. 2004—Marks the first oil field development in NPR-A
- NE NPR-A Amendment, Final EIS expected Jan. 2005
- South NPR-A planning to begin in 2005
- lack of information on birds taken during spring hunts

Projects conducted in 2004 on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

- Continued a cooperative project investigating nest survival of tundra nesting birds and predator populations relative to human development at multiple sites across the North Slope (3 years of data collection)
- Worked with MBM and Manoment to develop predictive models based on habitat variables to generate abundance and distribution maps of nesting birds in the 1002 Area, field work was done at random sites to ground truth these models

Projects conducted in 2004 on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (continued)

- Conducted raptor surveys on the Hulahula River
- Completed ground surveys of breeding birds utilizing Beaufort Sea coastal islands
- Surveyed post breeding snow geese staging on the Refuge's coastal plain

Conservation Concerns on the Arctic Refuge

- potential for oil leasing in the 1002 Area likely increased as a result of the recent election
- relocating the northwestern boundary of the Refuge to the east proposed by the State could result in development in this area
- proposed offshore exploratory well in State waters just outside the Refuge boundary

Conservation Concerns on the Arctic Refuge (continued)

- potential new mainland airport for Kaktovik, the accompanying bridge would increase ATV access to mainland
- evidence of increasing coastal erosion due to lack of sea ice during the fall storm season (affecting barrier islands which are important breeding sites for common eiders)
- increasing recreational use of river corridors and barrier islands could impact breeding raptors and waterfowl