

An aerial photograph taken from the window of a small aircraft, showing a wide, winding river with a light-colored, sandy or silty bed. The river flows through a vast, green, hilly landscape. The terrain is covered in dense vegetation, and the river's path is highly irregular, with many meanders and oxbow-like curves. The sky is clear and blue. The aircraft's wing and part of the fuselage are visible in the foreground, framing the view.

Stories from the ANWAR 1002 Arctic Plain
Susan Ballinger, NCWAS February 2019

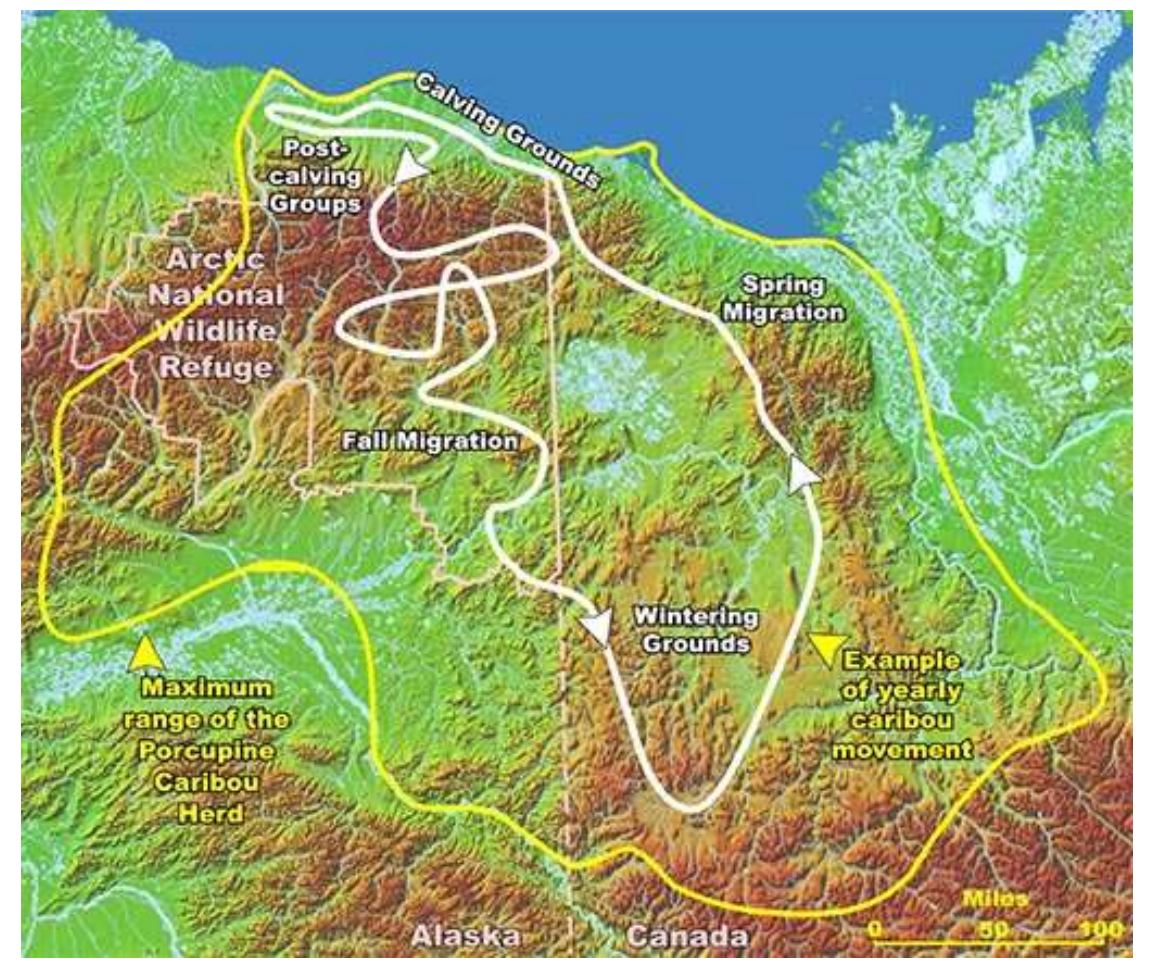
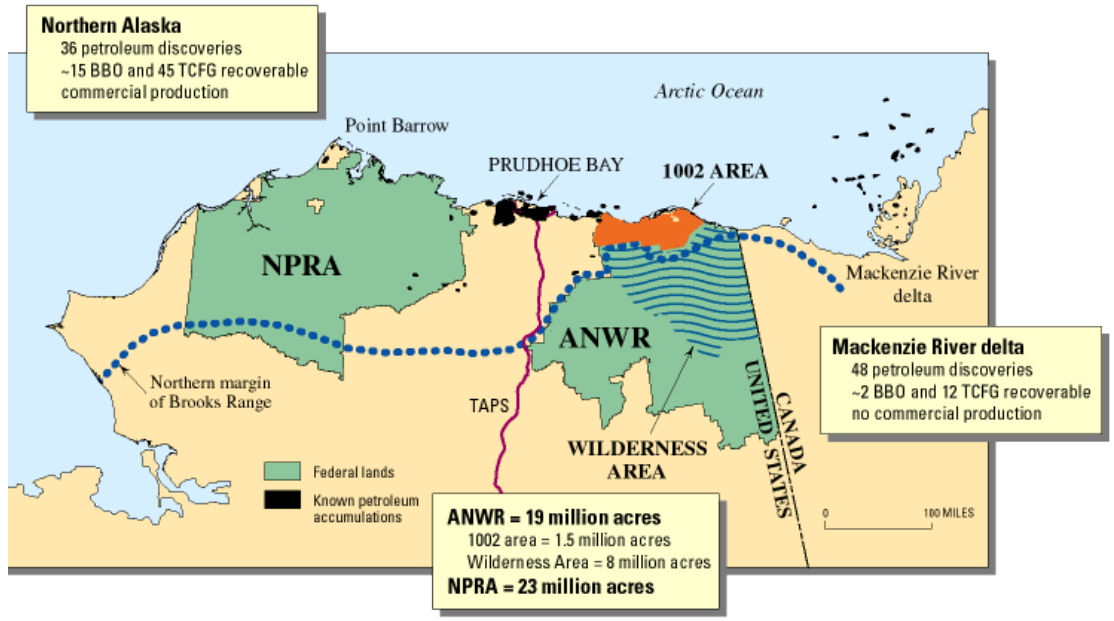


Canning
River

Hula
River

Aichikik
River

Arctic Village









Exploring the
Arctic Plain-
1002 Area,
Hula Hula River
early July 2014



ANWR 1002 Area: 1.5 million acre coastal plain –habitat for the Porcupine Herd of Barren Ground Caribou
May to mid-June: calving **Late June- July:** Post-calving feeding on nutritious plants –
grasses, sedges, wildflowers, berries, leaves and twigs of willow & birch, and lichen.



wolf



wolverine

Wolf, brown bear, wolverine, & golden eagle prey on caribou young.

Wolf, brown bear, and humans prey On caribou adults



brown bear

Mosquitoes are micro-predators on caribou, interfere with feeding. Caribou seek refuge on snow/ice patches, windy spots, move into lakes, and bunch into dense groups.



The Porcupine Caribou herd relies on the Arctic Plain for nutritious summer forage, mid-May to mid-August







Ground squirrels eat leaves, flowers, roots, and seeds.
Prey for fox, bear, wolves, wolverine, gry-falcon, rough-legged hawks, golden eagles, jaegers, snowy owls, glaucous gulls.





ptarmigan scat



lemming scat



18 species of willows on North Slope.
willow buds, leaves, & twigs are food for
ground squirrels, ptarmigan, songbirds, voles, lemmings, musk ox,
moose.

Bistorta plumosa



Arnica sp.



Lupinus arcticus



Myosotis asiatica & *Potentilla sp.*



Flies are the main pollinators (70% of flower visitors) in the Arctic.
Also, bumblebees, moths, & mosquitoes.
Flowering plants & seeds are food for ground squirrels, voles,
lemmings



Dryas

- long-lived (100+ yrs) dwarf shrub
- taproot to 2 meters
- flower buds made in fall; bloom just after snowmelt
- main food for collared lemmings





Lousewort-bumblebee co-evolution



Vaccinium vitis-idaea



Rubus chamaemorus



Rhododendron tomentosum



Silene acaulis

Salix reticulata



Sedge "cottongrass" *Eriophorum scheuchzeri*



At the mouth
of the Hula
Hula River
polar bears
coming
ashore in
Mid-July – a
troubling sign
of reduced
pack ice on
the Beaufort
Sea

Wilderness adventure brings joy!



As Arctic travelers, we return home with renewed focus on advocacy to protect the Arctic Plain





“If we allow ourselves to be discouraged, we lose our power and momentum. That’s what I would say to you of these difficult times. If you are going to that place of intent to preserve the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or the wild lands in Utah, you have to know how to dance.” -Mardy Murie



Fuel barrel left behind after 1980s seismic testing

Following in the footsteps of Mardy Murie, please join us in speaking out to protect the important 1002 Arctic Plain