

ASSAULTS ON PUBLIC LANDS

Assaults on Public Lands in the National Wildlife Refuge System:

We want to alert our members to recent assaults on our National Wildlife Refuge System lands in Alaska, Nevada and Texas, including Refuges with lands designated as Wilderness. The NWR's most recently targeted are:

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Title II of H.R.1-FY 2018 Reconciliation legislation (the recent tax bill) included provisions to open the 1.5 million acre Coastal Plain of the 19 million acre ANWR to oil and gas development.

Izembek National Wildlife Refuge: Secretary Zinke approved a land transfer deal on 01-22-18 that allow a road to be built through the INWR.

Desert National Wildlife Refuge: The Department of Defense has developed an Environmental Impact Analysis on a proposed 300,000 acre withdrawal from the DNWR to add to the Nevada Test and Training Range.

Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proceeding with plans to build a border wall across the middle of the SANWR which would block movement of land animals across the area and obliterate all vegetation for up to 1.5 miles from the Rio Grande River to the proposed wall.

The details of each assault are many and varied, and ever-changing. We urge you to use your local library and computer-based resources to stay up to date with these issues. We further urge you to let your elected officials know of your concerns and suggestions for protecting wildlife resources as the decision processes evolve.