

Obama opens Alaskan reserve to oil drilling

The U.S. Department of the Interior is to hold a lease sale offering oil and gas exploration rights to 1.8m acres of land in northern Alaska, while promising to protect a major nature reserve. However, some environmentalists worry that the sale could still infringe on the sensitive wildlife habitat

National Petroleum Reserve

Area: 23.5m acres. *Currently, there are 310 oil leases covering 3 million acres*

Provides habitat for 70,000 caribou, tens of thousands of molting geese, the threatened Spectacled Eider (*right*), and nesting shorebirds and waterfowl

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Prudhoe Bay

ALASKA
(U.S.)
*Trans-Alaska
oil pipeline*

Valdez

Anchorage

400km
250 miles

CANADA



NORTHEAST PLANNING AREA

Teshkepuk Lake

NATIONAL
PETROLEUM
RESERVE

ALASKA

25km
15 miles

 **Lease tracts
for sale**
 **Leased**

**Buffer zone
around lake
exempt from
sale to protect
biologically-
rich habitat**

