

# Protecting Our Environment

## Video Raises Awareness of Arctic Refuge

(NAPSA)—Defenders of Wildlife, one of the nation's leading conservation groups, has kicked off an innovative, Internet-based campaign featuring a computer animation to raise public awareness about new threats to the nation's last arctic wilderness refuge.

"The video—starring a polar bear, her cub and an oil driller—illustrates in a light-hearted way the real danger posed by oil exploration to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, one of the crown jewels of America's natural treasures," Defenders of Wildlife President Rodger Schlickeisen says.

Narrated by actor Ed Asner, the video is displayed on Defenders' new Web site, [www.SaveArcticRefuge.org](http://www.SaveArcticRefuge.org), along with a petition urging President Bush and Congress not to allow oil drilling in the refuge.

With a click of a mouse, computer users can watch the video. The animation presents the story of a polar bear sleeping peacefully by her cub when they are awakened by an oil man. He eventually drives the animals from their home by exploring for oil and then drilling a well. At the end, the silhouette of a monstrous oil rig is pounding away, and an oily set of polar bear tracks lead away from the frozen landscape.

The video concludes by urging viewers to sign the Defenders' petition against oil drilling in the refuge. "Oil and wildlife don't mix," Asner says on the video.

Schlickeisen says Defenders hopes viewers will e-mail the video to their friends to spread the word about the threat to the Arc-



tic National Wildlife Refuge.

"We hope that in this humorous way, we can send a very serious message to President Bush and Congress," Schlickeisen says. "Oil drilling would spoil the refuge, and we would lose our last sanctuary of Arctic wildlife—all for a six-month supply of oil that wouldn't be available for 10 years or more.

"Big Oil is lobbying Congress to drill in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is America's greatest wildlife sanctuary. Called 'America's Serengeti,' it's home to polar bears, muskoxen, wolves, millions of migratory birds, caribou and hundreds of other species. The industrial disturbances from oil drilling would be immense and spills inevitable," Schlickeisen says. "Our petition is a way for citizens to make their voices heard on this important issue."

The Washington, D.C.-based Defenders of Wildlife is a leading nonprofit conservation organization recognized as one of the nation's most progressive advocates for wildlife and its habitat. With more than 425,000 members and supporters, Defenders of Wildlife ([www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)) is an effective leader on endangered