

While the task ahead remains formidable, the structure of cooperation established by the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement provides an essential framework through which the goals of restoring and enhancing the quality of Great Lakes waters can be achieved. The Great Lakes experience demonstrates both the challenges and the possibilities for resolution of common environmental problems.

Other Environmental Issues

Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), which borders on Canada, is home to important populations of migratory wildlife, notably the Porcupine Caribou Herd. The way of life of Canadian native peoples in the Yukon and Northwest Territories depends on this herd. Canada is thus concerned at the renewed expression of interest by the new US Administration and elements in Congress in opening ANWR to oil and gas exploration and development. Such activity in the Refuge, the main calving ground for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, could inflict serious damage on the populations of caribou and other species. Accordingly, Canada believes that ANWR should be designated as wilderness, in order to give it maximum protection.

The United States has recognized the need to work with Canada to protect wildlife in this area. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 commits the United States to consult Canada on hydrocarbon exploration or development in ANWR which could affect shared wildlife. The 1987 Canada-USA Agreement for the Conservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd sets out principles for the joint management of the herd for the benefit of all its users. Canada has protected its portion of the caribou calving grounds by creating the three million acre North Yukon National Park; indeed, Canada has proposed that it and ANWR be twinned. By ensuring that ANWR is not opened to development, the United States will continue to give its share of the caribou's range the protection it needs.

Global Concerns

Beyond the North American horizon, issues have arisen of real and growing concern to the international community as a whole. Among them are the inter-linked issues of stratospheric ozone depletion, global climate change, the destruction of the tropical rain forest, and the declining reservoirs of biological diversity as plant and animal species disappear. These matters are well beyond the capacity of any