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## **Secretary Salazar Announces Reversal on Secretarial Order 3310**

*Secretary Salazar attempts to distance himself from his own "Wild Lands" policy*

### **Statement by Cindy Shogan, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:**

“Secretary Salazar took an important step forward in December 2010 when he released Secretarial Order 3310 which would protect our nation’s Wild Lands and grant the Bureau of Land Management authority to inventory lands for their wilderness characteristics. Months later, U.S. Congress defunded the order and today, Secretary Salazar is distancing himself from his own moderate policy. Secretary Salazar should defend wilderness-quality lands and work alongside conservationists to ensure that the Bureau of Land Management has the necessary resources to inventory public lands.

This policy would have significant impacts for Alaska’s Wild Lands, where much of the land under the BLM’s purview has never been inventoried. Alaska is known as our nation’s ‘last frontier’ – a state that embodies the spirit of wilderness with its many millions of acres of wilderness-quality lands. One of the most threatened areas, the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (Reserve) is the largest single unit of public lands in the nation. Encompassing 23.5 million acres, the Reserve harbors rich, vital wild lands and wildlife and is threatened by sprawling oil and gas development. While oil and gas development has a place in the Reserve, a balanced approach to management is needed – some areas are too special to drill.

It is irresponsible to leave decisions of our most valuable unprotected areas to the changing whims of politicians. We encourage the U.S. Department of Interior to stand by its original policy and ensure that lands are not only inventoried, but that they are given proper protections, as well.”

To read the memo, click [here](#).

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