FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2015
Contact: Corey Himrod
Tel: 202-544-5205 or Email: corey@alaskawild.org

Shell Shocked: Shell announces an end to its Arctic adventure

WASHINGTON – Shell Oil Company has announced that after seven years and $7 billion in investment, its Arctic drilling campaign has come up dry. The current open-water season for drilling into the hydrocarbon zone that began on July 15 ends today.

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

"It's been a long road to get here but today's announcement by Shell is a welcome exclamation point on what has been a risky and unnecessary push for Arctic oil. Millions of Americans, from the northernmost villages in Alaska all the way to Florida, have spoken out time and again that the Arctic is no place for oil drilling. This victory is a fitting end to a drilling effort that will forever be known for Shell's repeated missteps and blunders.

Moving to develop this oil, the production of which would still be decades away, would be feeding our addiction to fossil fuels at a time when we should be focused on developing and moving clean, cheap and efficient forms of renewable energy into the mainstream. With this announcement, President Obama should seize on this historic opportunity to look forward and protect the Arctic for our children and our climate future.

The Arctic is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the planet, a frightening thought when you realize we seem to be setting new temperature records every year. As sea ice continues to decline and Arctic waters are quickly becoming more acidic, one powerful way we can slow the effects of climate change is to limit the amount of fossil fuels we are burning, and an effective way to do that is by not opening up new areas – like the Arctic – to intensive drilling. Today is a historic step toward achieving that goal."

# # #

www.AlaskaWild.org

122 C St NW, Ste 240, Washington, DC 20001 ✳ Tel: 202-544-5205 ✳ Fax: 202-544-5197