



*Your Land.  
Your Voice.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 22, 2015**

Contact: Corey Himrod

Tel: 202-544-5205 or Email: [corey@alaskawild.org](mailto:corey@alaskawild.org)

**ConocoPhillips receives approval to drill first federal production well in National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska**

The Bureau of Land Management today approved ConocoPhillips' drilling permit for the proposed Greater Mooses Tooth Unit (GMT1) oil and gas development project, opening the way for the first production of oil from federal lands in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (Reserve), and the first major development since the new 2012 Integrated Activity Plan was put in place in February 2013.

**Statement by Leah Donahey, Senior Campaign Director, Alaska Wilderness League:**

"Greater Mooses Tooth will set the precedent for all future development in the Reserve. This project will take place just a short distance away from the Teshekpuk Lake and Colville River Special Areas, and its impacts will be felt throughout the entire Reserve and surrounding communities. Moving forward, the need to mitigate the inevitable consequences of drilling in a world-class landscape like the Reserve must be addressed.

Greater Mooses Tooth 1 is located in the wildlife-rich northeastern corner of the Reserve near the Colville River Delta, the largest and most productive river delta in northern Alaska, and Teshekpuk Lake, one of the most productive wetland complexes in the Arctic and vital nesting habitat for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds. Because of its importance as habitat for caribou, grizzly bears, nearly every species of fish inhabiting Arctic waters and more, it is crucial that BLM protect the region's wildlife and their habitat. Lands that support caribou calving and insect relief and bird nesting and molting must, in accordance with the 2012 Reserve Integrated Activity Plan, continue to be protected from leasing and new infrastructure not related to subsistence. The objectives of the 2012 Plan must be maintained and the values of the Reserve's Special Areas protected."

###



[www.AlaskaWild.org](http://www.AlaskaWild.org)

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