



*Your Land.  
Your Voice.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 31, 2017**

Contact: Gwen Dobbs

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

**Interior's order for Refuge drilling unjustified, upsets carefully crafted Reserve plan**

WASHINGTON – Today Interior Secretary Zinke signed a [secretarial order on Alaskan energy production](#).

**Statement by Kristen Miller, Interim Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:**

“The Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a special and sensitive place and no amount of oil can justify drilling there. Interior Secretary Zinke is wrong that the Coastal Plain was set aside by Congress for its potential oil and gas resources; rather the special human and wild values of the coastal plain led Congress to reject drilling there in 1980, and many times since. Interior Secretary Zinke’s review is a waste of government resources.

With respect to the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, the Interior Department spent years working with the tribal community, local governments, the state of Alaska, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and others on the current management plan, which is only several years old and which responsibly balances oil development and protection of subsistence resources and the natural environment. Upsetting this carefully crafted plan is irresponsible, and we and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who actively supported the current management plan will not sit idly by while this administration tries to give these public lands wholesale to the oil industry.”

###



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

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