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ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE * DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE * NATIVE MOVEMENT *
NORTHERN ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER * NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY *
SOVEREIGN IÑUPIAT FOR A LIVING ARCTIC * THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY * TRUSTEES FOR
ALASKA

**Groups condemn continued attack on Arctic Alaska as BLM releases Record of Decision
on Willow Project**

Today's Record of Decision on the proposed Willow project marks the final step in a review process defined by consistent dismissal of public input and sloppy and rushed approval of ConocoPhillips' sprawling infrastructure plan.

On the heels of a wildfire season exacerbated by climate change that engulfed much of the Western United States in flames, and as the Arctic continues to experience warming at nearly three times the rest of the planet, there remains little doubt of the need to limit fossil fuel expansion. We condemn the Bureau of Land Management's continued catering to corporate interests over the health and safety of communities already bearing the burden of the industry's impacts. This decision threatens the future of Arctic peoples' food sovereignty and access to clean water, as well as the ecological integrity of sensitive lands and waters which provide habitat for caribou, polar bears, migratory birds, and other wildlife. The fact that BLM deferred approving the entire project now only highlights the lack of information about the project proposal and the piecemeal approach the agency has taken to downplay its significant impacts.

The agency's haphazard analysis of the project, lack of meaningful alternatives, and systematic silencing of marginalized voices should raise red flags for anyone invested in public process and responsible and just management decisions. We will continue to hold the administration accountable for the harm done in its rush to sell off northern Alaska to outside interests.

For more background, see this [joint press release from August 14](#).

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