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**Arctic Refuge lease sale to be noticed one day after the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment**

Washington — Today, the Trump administration announced it will be issuing a Notice of Sale for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program on Monday, December 7. This announcement comes less than three weeks after the administration issued its call for nominations, and just days after Bank of America joined Wells Fargo, Citi, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan Chase in saying no to financing Arctic oil development — all six of the largest U.S. banks in addition to several large international banks now have policies in place against funding the destruction of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

**Statement by Adam Kolton, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:**

“President Trump’s electoral fate has been sealed and his days in office are numbered, making an Arctic Refuge lease sale yet another dangerous political favor that lacks broad public support or legal credibility. The fact that the sale will be officially noticed on December 7, one day after we celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Arctic Refuge by Republican President Dwight Eisenhower, symbolizes the degree to which the President has taken a wrecking ball to decades of bipartisan conservation support.

“President-elect Biden ran on and was elected on the most aggressive pro-climate platform of any successful candidate in history and he made protecting the Arctic Refuge a day one priority. We will need him to use all the tools at his disposal to stop the industrialization of this iconic national treasure.

“Arctic Refuge drilling makes zero sense in today’s reality of high oil market volatility and with every major U.S. bank and many international banks unwilling to invest in risky, expensive Arctic oil projects. The administration is simply rushing to sell off one of the wildest places left on earth for pennies on the dollar before President-elect Biden takes office in January.

“The Interior Department’s Arctic Refuge leasing process has been flawed from the outset, ignoring science and Indigenous voices throughout and failing at every turn to sufficiently analyze the impacts drilling will have on our climate, our air and water quality, the health of wildlife or the future of local Indigenous communities.

“The American public categorically opposes Arctic Refuge drilling, and voters, including large majorities of Republicans and Independents, have overwhelmingly supported banking policies that reject funding for Arctic oil and gas. Any oil company bidding on this sale will face not only economic challenges, but enormous reputational and legal risks as well.”

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

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*Alaska Wilderness League stands with, serves and supports the many people and organizations that believe in a sustainable future for Alaska. We honor and respect the cultures of Alaska Natives whose way of life remains deeply connected to the state's land, waters, and wildlife. We believe that Alaska's long-term economic future and subsistence traditions are inexorably tied to the health and sound stewardship of its natural resources, which support hunting, fishing, tourism and unrivaled outdoor experiences that are central to Alaskans' quality of life.*



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