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**Alaska Wilderness League applauds renewed U.S.-Canada commitment to protect the Arctic Refuge**

Washington — Yesterday, Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Joe Biden engaged in virtual bilateral and expanded meetings, during which they agreed to engage in cooperative action toward protecting the Porcupine caribou herd and the herd’s calving grounds on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

You can read the [joint statement here](#).

Find the 1987 Canada-United States [agreement on porcupine caribou herd conservation here](#).

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

“Yesterday, President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau reaffirmed the longstanding and shared commitment of the United States and Canada to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the birthing grounds and nursery of the Porcupine caribou herd, which crosses our shared border in the longest land migration on the planet. This is a welcome change from the last four years when the U.S. administration recklessly pursued drilling in the Arctic Refuge at all costs and without any regard to the 1987 treaty our two nations signed committing to protection of the herd. It was also gratifying to see the President and Prime Minister Trudeau acknowledge the importance of these lands to Indigenous Alaska Native and First Nations peoples, and their way of life and food security.

“Taken together, the Vuntut and adjacent Ivvavik national parks in Canada and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska represent one of the largest, intact protected areas on Earth. The shared stewardship of these cherished landscapes is vital confronting the climate and biodiversity crises and advancing the cause of environmental justice and Indigenous rights.”

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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.*



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

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