



*Your Land.
Your Voice.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2022

Contact: Corey Himrod

Tel: 202-266-0426 | Email: corey@alaskawild.org

Biden administration to reverse Trump management plan in Western Arctic

Washington — Today in a release the U.S. Bureau of Land Management announced “it has selected Alternative A (the ‘No Action’ alternative) from the 2020 Integrated Activity Plan Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) as its ‘preferred alternative’ for further consideration. If confirmed in a new record of decision (ROD), this preferred alternative would revert management of the NPR-A to the [2013 IAP](#), while including certain more protective lease stipulations and operating procedures for threatened and endangered species from the [2020 IAP](#). This decision reflects the Biden-Harris administration’s priority of reviewing existing oil and gas programs to ensure balance on America’s public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.”

The National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska — or Reserve — is the largest single-unit of public lands in the nation, spanning nearly 23 million acres across Alaska’s western North Slope. The Reserve includes some of our nation’s most vital natural resources — millions of acres of wilderness-quality lands with critical habitat for migratory birds, brown bears, caribou, threatened polar bears, walrus, endangered beluga whales and more. The Alaska Native communities that live in and around the Reserve have maintained a subsistence lifestyle for thousands of years based on its living resources.

Statement by Kristen Miller, Acting Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

“Under the previous administration, BLM’s expedited planning process violated bedrock environmental laws put in place to provide important protections for the Western Arctic. It faced clear public opposition and threatened local communities with the diminishment of traditional hunting areas, wildlife displacement, and worsening air quality from oil and gas development. Returning to the 2013 management plan is the right move and will restore protections to the Reserve’s critical Special Areas, in particular Teshekpuk Lake. Now, especially as it prepares to take public comment on its ‘America the Beautiful’ initiative, we hope the administration recognizes the potential for America’s largest single piece of public land to provide landscape-level protection of ecosystems and sustain healthy and diverse wildlife and habitat for the future.”

###

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

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