
[EXTERNAL] RFI: Special Areas in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska

From Garrett Butler <garrettisgod@everyactioncustom.com>

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To BLM_NPRA_SpecialAreas <BLM_NPRA_SpecialAreas@blm.gov>

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Dear Bureau of Land Management,

Thank you for the significant progress you and the Biden-Harris Administration have taken on climate change and protecting America's Western Arctic. It is critical that the Biden-Harris administration continues its fight to protect the lands and natural resources that support the subsistence lifestyles of Alaska Native communities.

The existing five Special Areas offer crucial protections for unique and important wildlife habitats like wetlands, grasslands, and sheltered coastlines; serve as enormous carbon sinks, stabilizing planetary temperatures; and preserve sacred cultural lands and traditional hunting and fishing grounds for subsistence hunters. These areas and the rich landscapes of the Western Arctic are home to essential wildlife that are vital to the subsistence lifestyle of 40 Alaska Native communities. With rapid changes due to climate change and continued threats from oil and gas development, establishing stronger protections for vulnerable areas in the Western Arctic is critical. The administration should build on the recent protections for more than 13 million acres in the Western Arctic by considering the best available science to expand existing Special Areas and establish new ones.

As a member of the League of Conservation Voters, I urge you to continue to take strong action to protect some of our nation's wildest places. Please protect America's Arctic.

Sincerely,
Mr. Garrett Butler
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