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NE NPR-A Amendment Planning Team  
Bureau of Land Management (930)  
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August 5, 2004

To Whom it may concern,

001  
Alter-  
natives

I understand that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proceeding with a proposal to reduce the Teshekpuk Lake Surface Protection Area of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. As a member of National Audubon, Sierra Foothills Audubon in California, and as an avid outdoor enthusiast I am incensed by the BLM's failure to recognize the devastating impact an acreage reduction would have on two of our country's most important and precious resources: our indigenous peoples and wildlife.

002  
Plan-  
ning

After looking over the BLM draft plan it would appear that the present management team has become the lap dogs of the Bush Administration. It is no secret that the President and his cabinet only care about satisfying the special interests of corporate energy barons. The BLM is supposed to manage public land for multiple use, but instead has been instructed to make gas and oil production its number one priority and Interior Secretary Gale Norton has said that the BLM can no longer designate wilderness or study areas in Alaska. I know that the Bush Administration thinks nothing of replacing experts whose findings do not support the President's dismal "energy at any cost" policy. I would not be surprised if officials at the BLM are being coerced into going ahead with expansion of Teshekpuk to satisfy the powers that be.

3

Teshekpuk is not the only area under siege. Fish, wildlife and ranchers are being sacrificed in the Rocky Mountain West as well, all in the name of profit.

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Once again our nation's treasures are being sacrificed for the almighty dollar under the guise of reduced dependence on foreign oil. The United States continues to consume petroleum at an alarming rate while dismissing the most basic conservation measures.

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Can the BLM guarantee the estimated production if Teshekpuk is expanded? Can they guarantee that caribou, brant and yellow-billed loon, to name a few, will not lose critical habitat or be adversely affected by the human presence? Can they guarantee there will be no problems associated with oil drilling, such as leaks, spills? If the BLM answers "no" to any of the se points then Teshekpuk should be left as is.

6

I implore the management team to reconsider the draft plan and leave present parameters in place. Our wildlife and native peoples are but a few of this country's jewels and should not be sacrificed to the greed of a "consume at any cost" society. Energy conservation and decreased dependence on nonrenewable energy resources is the key, not expansion of oil and gas development.

Sincerely,

Christiane Raymond

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