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

From robert rosenblum <civiciinput@newmode.org>

Date Sun 8/4/2024 6:38 PM

To BLM_NPRA_SpecialAreas <BLM_NPRA_SpecialAreas@blm.gov>

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear President Biden, Secretary Haaland and Director Stone-Manning,

Thank you for recently acting to protect 13 million acres in the Western Arctic. Please build upon this momentum by identifying new and expanded "Special Areas" for protection in this irreplaceable landscape.

The Western Arctic is home to essential wildlife that are critical to the more than 40 Alaska Native communities in the region who live a subsistence lifestyle in harmony with America's largest caribou herd. I urge you to seize this opportunity to finalize and strengthen these protections, as well as expand the "Special Areas" designation to other deserving landscapes in the Western Arctic.

For example, the lands in and around the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and Colville River Special Area are key caribou habitat and a critical subsistence hunting and gathering area for the village of Nuiqsut, the closest community to existing oil and gas development.

We hope you will build on your conservation legacy by further protecting the Western Arctic. New and expanded protections for "Special Areas" will ensure that the diversity of wildlife and Alaska Native communities in the Western Arctic can thrive for generations to come.

Thank you.

robert rosenblum
rdosenblum@gmail.com 92123