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

From Martha Carrington <myyogananda@everyactioncustom.com>

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To BLM_NPRA_SpecialAreas <BLM_NPRA_SpecialAreas@blm.gov>

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Dear Alaska State Director Steve Cohn,

In keeping with the mandate in the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act to identify and protect special areas in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, the Bureau of Land Management rule released in April provides an important opportunity to protect significant resource values of the Western Arctic.

This process is essential to protecting the values of the Reserve that are at greatest near-term risk, especially the unprotected area between the southeastern portion of the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and the northern portion of the Colville River Special Area.

These values include crucial migration pathways, habitat, and calving grounds for caribou and vital subsistence activities and ways of life for Indigenous communities.

I strongly encourage the BLM to protect this region by initiating a process to identify areas deserving of Special Area designation. I urge you to expand the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area to connect with the Colville River Special Area to protect:

- The full extent of the migration corridors, calving grounds and habitat of the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd;
- Important range and habitat of the Central Arctic Herd; the full extent of the calving grounds of the Western Arctic Herd;
- A vital subsistence area for communities whose way of life is inextricably connected to this land;
- Unmatched habitat and nesting grounds for numerous migratory birds;
- Polar bear denning habitat; and
- Important fish habitat.

Please fulfill the Congressional mandate to provide maximum protection for the Western Arctic's significant resource values.

Sincerely,
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