
[EXTERNAL] I request that BLM designate a new Nuiqsut Subsistence Use Special Area and that BLM manage this area through co-management and Tribally-led stewardship

From Rebecca Noblin <rebecca@everyactioncustom.com>

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To BLM_NPRA_SpecialAreas <BLM_NPRA_SpecialAreas@blm.gov>

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Dear Bureau of Land Management (NPR-A, Special Areas),

Thank you for seeking nominations for new Special Areas in the Western Arctic. The Western Arctic has nurtured traditional cultures for thousands of years, and BLM has a duty to ensure that oil and gas development does not pose a threat to these cultures.

I therefore request that BLM designate a new Nuiqsut Subsistence Use Special Area, which would include the area the village relies on most for all of its subsistence uses and which also overlaps with the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd's migration routes and wintering grounds.

I also request that BLM manage this area through co-management and Tribally-led stewardship. This process would provide Tribes a meaningful role in the decisionmaking for their lands and help reverse a legacy of colonially imposed management that has had harmful impacts to Alaska Native people. The people who have been stewarding the lands from time immemorial are best positioned to steward the lands into the future.

Management of these lands must prioritize Iñupiat subsistence, culture, and tradition. Industry's use of the existing road should be prohibited during periods of high subsistence or caribou use, to ensure the safety and success of local hunters and the health of the Teshekpuk herd. To help stem the ever-expansive web of development around Nuiqsut, additional permanent roads should not be built.

BLM must also provide stronger protections for clean air and the prevention of contamination of traditional foods.

The Western Arctic can no longer be treated as a sacrifice zone for oil and gas development. Please protect Indigenous ways of life and the lands, waters, and air that sustain them.

Sincerely,

Ms. Rebecca Noblin

2900 Wiley Post Ave Anchorage, AK 99517-2403

rebecca@nativemovement.org