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World Renowned Ski Mountaineer Kit DesLauriers Joins Alaska Wilderness League's Board of Directors

Washington, D.C. – Alaska Wilderness League today announced Kit DesLauriers, premiere ski mountaineer and The North Face athlete, has joined the organization's board of directors, effective immediately. Kit is widely recognized for her outdoors expertise and leadership. She is the freeskiing world tour women's champion and the first person in the world to have skied off the top of the "Seven Summits" – the highest mountain on each of the seven continents. In 2015, Kit was recognized as a National Geographic Adventurer of the Year for her merging of science and adventure in the American Arctic.

Kit considers her experience skiing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as among the favorites in her lifetime. Kit was the first person to descend some of the highest peaks in Alaska's Brooks Range and traveled to the Arctic Refuge on an expedition for The North Face earlier this year, where she saw first-hand what is at stake with potential impacts of drilling. In 2010, Kit led a team The North Face athletes to explore the Arctic Refuge for her first time. The team climbed and skied three of the American Arctic's five highest peaks; they then traveled over land and across the Arctic Refuge's wild coastal plain. Within the next four years, Kit made three more expeditions back to the Arctic Refuge, including one sponsored by National Geographic with the goal to prove a new method of aerial scientific measurement that would allow for accurate, immediate and inexpensive topographical mapping including peak heights and glacial recession.

"I've made five trips deep into the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge over the past nine years and have fallen in love with this pristine wild landscape, even when it's covered in snow," **said Kit DesLauriers**. "It's time for me to take the next step of supporting wilderness in the Arctic Refuge by volunteering as a board member for the only national environmental group focused solely on protecting wild Alaska and representing that voice in Washington, D.C."

"Kit has been galvanizing athletes, leading expeditions to the remote Arctic Refuge wilderness, and speaking out in venues large and small across the country," **said Betsy Loyless, Alaska Wilderness League's board chair**. "As a board member, Kit will continue to play an invaluable role as an ambassador for this iconic wilderness, advocating before policy-makers, in the media and within the outdoor recreation community. As an athlete, we look forward to working with her to help connect other adventurers to the cause. And as a mother of two girls, we believe she will connect with parents who care about the kind of planet they leave their children."



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“Kit’s leadership in the outdoors and as a climate advocate is renowned,” explained **Eric Raymond, Senior Advocacy and Brand Manager at The North Face**. “Her spirit of exploration and her dedication to protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge embodies the type of thoughtful environmental stewardship we’ve been championing for decades. We’re proud to support her in this important role with the Alaska Wilderness League. It comes at a very important time, as the Arctic Wildlife Refuge faces the greatest threat to protections in years.”

“Kit is not only a world class athlete but an extraordinary advocate for our cherished public lands. We are thrilled to have someone of her stature on our board,” said **Adam Kolton, executive director at Alaska Wilderness League**. “She has conquered the world’s highest peaks, so we know Kit will be undeterred in the face of mounting threats to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other threatened Alaska lands and waters.”

About the Alaska Wilderness League

Alaska Wilderness League was founded in 1993 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation to further the protect of public lands and waters in Alaska. The League is the only Washington, D.C.-based environmental group devoted full-time to galvanizing support to secure vital policies that protect and defend America’s last great wild public lands and waters.

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