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Fast-tracked western Arctic oil project continues Trump's war on Alaska

Washington — Today the Bureau of Land Management released its [final Environmental Impact Statement](#) on the proposed Willow Master Development Plan, ConocoPhillips' massive oil development project within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska in Alaska's western Arctic. It is expected that BLM will issue its final Record of Decision in 30 days.

The [proposed Willow project](#) would be massive, including a new central processing facility, up to five drill pads with up to fifty wells on each pad, an extensive road system, 1-2 airstrips, pipelines, a gravel mine and potentially a gravel island in Harrison Bay. Willow would also be located within and next to the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area, threatening an essential cultural area and food source for North Slope communities, one of the most productive wetland complexes in the Arctic and an important calving ground for the Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd.

Statement by Kristen Miller, Conservation Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

"Since the Trump administration took office in 2017, it has been laser-focused on handing some of the largest expanses of wild lands left in North America over to the extraction industries. The rubber-stamping of ConocoPhillips' Willow proposal is just the latest example. Fast-tracking this project during a global pandemic shows a total lack of consideration for traditional knowledge or science regarding the effects of oil and gas development and climate change will have on the region. Today's FEIS fails to address serious impacts to people's health, wildlife, land and water.

"Willow is emblematic of the Trump administration's pattern of ignoring sound science and dismissing the concerns of Indigenous peoples in order to turn wild Alaska into an industrial park. This project combined with the rush to lease the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling, the pending effort to remove Roadless Rule protections from the Tongass National Forest, a recent move to greenlight the massive Pebble Mine project that would jeopardize Bristol Bay, and a soon to be finalized new management plan for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska that would open more than 80% of this wildlife reserve for oil development — this is an all-out war on Alaska.

"Alaska is home to some of America's last remaining expanses of wild lands and waters critical to wildlife as well as the cultures and traditions of Indigenous peoples. The American public won't stand to be robbed of these treasures in order to line the pockets of the wealthy fossil fuel executives and political coffers."



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Alaska Wilderness League stands with, serves and supports the many people and organizations that believe in a sustainable future for Alaska. We honor and respect the cultures of Alaska Natives whose way of life remains deeply connected to the state's land, waters, and wildlife. We believe that Alaska's long-term economic future and subsistence traditions are inexorably tied to the health and sound stewardship of its natural resources, which support hunting, fishing, tourism and unrivaled outdoor experiences that are central to Alaskans' quality of life.



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