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Biden/Harris win with bold conservation and climate vision; pledge to protect Arctic wilderness

Washington — Alaska Wilderness League issues the following statement from executive director Adam Kolton on the election of Vice President Joe Biden to be the 46th President of the United States:

“Congratulations to President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris on a well-earned victory. All of us, regardless of political party, now have a stake in realizing their commitment to unify and heal America and begin focusing on solutions to collective challenges that have languished for too long.

“Exit polls showed [two-thirds of voters](#) believe that climate change is a serious problem and impacted their vote. Mr. Biden ran on a bold vision to put Americans back to work through massive investments in clean energy, prioritize a just and equitable transition for frontline communities, and confront the interconnected biodiversity, climate change and environmental justice crises.

“President-elect Biden’s plans to protect 30 percent of our nation’s lands and waters by 2030 and to end new oil and gas leasing on our public lands offer opportunities to protect some of the wildest landscapes left in our country, especially those in Alaska, where the Trump administration has sought to eviscerate decades of bipartisan conservation progress for the benefit of multinational oil, mining and logging interests. We are especially energized by the President-elect’s campaign commitment to permanently protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a promise two-thirds of Americans support including large majorities of independents, suburban women, Latinos and Black voters.

“Restoring protections for caribou calving grounds in the Arctic, salmon fisheries in Bristol Bay and centuries-old temperate rainforest in the Tongass is responsive to tribes that depend on these resources for their food security and way of life and will lead to meaningful reductions on carbon pollution for the benefit all Americans.

“Voters have given the incoming Biden administration a mandate to advance the most ambitious, pro-conservation and climate agenda of any president in American history. We must now all roll up our collective sleeves and do the hard work to organize, advocate and fight for the legacy we hope to leave future generations. The future of our planet should not be a partisan issue but one that unites Americans from all walks of life and political stripes.”

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Reference Links:

- [Biden/Harris 2020](#), The Biden Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice
- [Yale Program on Climate Change Communication](#), Estimated % of adults who oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (68%), 2020
- [Hart Research Associates / New Bridge Strategy](#) survey of 1,352 voters conducted online July 29 to August 4, 2020.
- [Climate Nexus Polling, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication](#) survey of 2,119 registered voters in the United States June 6 to June 8, 2020.
- [Center for American Progress](#), Trump's Energy Policies Put Alaska in the Climate Crosshairs, November 2019

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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