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Alaska Wilderness League applauds Biden Executive Order on climate and science

Implementation must include consultation with Indigenous communities and transitioning traditional fossil fuel communities

Washington — Today, President Biden through [executive order](#) will take action to begin the process of addressing climate change, transitioning the U.S. to a clean energy future, and making sound science once again an integral piece of policy decision-making. Today's actions include committing "to the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and oceans by 2030" and a "pause on entering into new oil and natural gas leases on public lands or offshore waters to the extent possible."

Statement by Adam Kolton, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

"President Biden's executive actions today signal a new era of bold and visionary leadership in fighting climate change, prioritizing environmental justice and tackling the extinction crisis with the full weight and all the tools of the federal government.

"Conserving 30 percent of our nation's lands and waters by 2030 holds the promise of preserving at-risk landscapes including Alaska's Tongass National Forest, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and areas in the western Arctic like Teshekpuk Lake. These are not only some of the most biologically important places left on the planet but are also central to the ways of life of tribal and Indigenous communities who have been stewards of these lands for generations.

"Halting new oil and gas leasing on public lands offers an enormous opportunity to align public lands management with climate goals. There are billions of barrels of oil and millions of acres of federal land already under lease, with decades of supply locked in. By halting new leasing and permitting, President Biden is sending a clear message that business as usual is no longer a viable path forward, nor can we continue to exploit our national treasures and put frontline communities at risk from pollution, habitat destruction and increased carbon emissions.

"Alaska, with its rapidly rising temperatures, increases in wildfires, thawing permafrost, receding glaciers, eroding coastlines and disappearing sea ice is ground zero in the climate crisis. But its vast public resources also have the potential to significantly contribute to its solution. We look forward to working with the Biden administration on implementing these executive orders in ways that prioritize Indigenous communities and leadership and the necessary investments that will foster the economic transition we need."



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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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