

Secretary Deb Haaland  
US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

October 19, 2023

RE: Federally Recognized Tribal Letter and Tribal Consortium Letters in  
Support of Maintaining ANCSA D-1 Protections

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations included in the following letters support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) process to review and thoughtfully consider the impacts that lifting the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) (hereafter "D-1 protection") withdrawals will have on fish and wildlife populations and subsistence resources that support Indigenous Ways-of-Life. This letter represents 78 Tribal Governments whose ancestral homelands encompass all of BLM's planning areas. These Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations urge the Secretary to retain the D-1 protections.

CC

Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management  
Stephanne Harding, Senior Director for Lands, Council on Environmental Quality  
Robert Anderson, Principal Deputy Solicitor  
Laura Daniel Davis, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals  
Management  
Nada Culver, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Land Management  
Danna Jackson, Counselor to BLM Director  
Janea Scott, Counselor to the Secretary  
Natalie Landreth, Deputy Solicitor for Land Resources

Secretary Deb Haaland  
US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

October 19, 2023

RE: Alaska Native Tribal Support for Maintaining ANCSA D-1 Protections

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The undersigned Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) process to review and thoughtfully consider the impacts that lifting the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) (hereafter "D-1 protection") withdrawals will have on fish and wildlife populations and subsistence resources that support Indigenous Ways-of-Life. We urge BLM to maintain the D-1 protections and finalize the D-1 decision within the next two years.

Nearly 75% of all federally recognized Tribes in Alaska are impacted by the BLM's land management planning decisions. BLM-managed lands support important subsistence resources and serve as the breadbasket for thousands of Athabaskan, Aleut, Dena'ina, Inupiat, Yup'ik, and Tlingit peoples. For Alaska Native communities off the road system, over 80% of food consumed comes directly from the surrounding lands and waters. A tribal member from the village of Anvik on the lower Yukon River said it well, "We don't own the land, but we belong to the land and whatever happens to the land happens to us."

The previous administration prepared five Public Land Orders (PLOs)<sup>1</sup> without adequately consulting the federally recognized Tribes who are most impacted by the decisions. The flawed decision to advance the PLOs was also made without any consideration of how lifting the D-1 protections and allowing extractive resource development could negatively affect cultural use areas, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and food security for hundreds of communities.

Under ANCSA, the Secretary of the Interior must evaluate whether the D-1 protection should remain in place to protect the public interest.<sup>2</sup> We believe it is in the public interest to protect our Way-of-Life and retain the D-1 orders. Alaska is at the forefront of climate change and widespread impacts are already occurring including melting permafrost, coastal erosion, increasing air and water temperatures and the habitat displacement of fish and wildlife populations across subarctic and arctic environments. In this rapidly changing environment with so many future unknowns, it is in the public interest to adopt a precautionary action and

---

<sup>1</sup> Public Land Orders 7899-7903.

<sup>2</sup> 43 U.S.C. § 1616(d)(1).

prioritize the protection of the natural environment that supports our Peoples' subsistence resources over the industrial exploitation of intact lands and pristine waters.

We are grateful to the Biden Administration for your commitment to engage with affected Tribes and for creating the environmental review process to evaluate the true impacts that lifting the D 1 protections could have on our people, communities, and culture. Our Tribal leaders look forward to engaging with BLM and the Department of the Interior in the forthcoming two years. We also urge you to take action to protect our ancestral land so it can continue to support the diverse Ways-of-Life among Alaska Native peoples.

Thank you,

Gusty Ilutsik, Jr., President  
Native Village of Aleknagik

Harding Sam, First Chief  
Alatna Tribal Council

Robert Walker, First Chief  
Anvik Village

Gilbert Tocktoo, President  
Native Village of Brevig Mission

Percy Ballot, Sr. President  
Native Village of Buckland

Janet Erik, President  
Village of Chefornak

Roy Atchak, First Chief  
Chevak Traditional Council

Charlie Brown, President  
Chinik Eskimo Community

Jones Hotch Jr, Vice President  
Chilkat Indian Village

Corina Ewan, President  
Native Village of Chitina

Thomas Myomick, President  
Chuloonawick Native Village

Chief Gary Harrison  
Chickaloon Village Traditional Council

Betty Gardiner, President  
Clarks Point Village Council

Annie Pete, President  
Native Village of Eek

Robert Keith, President  
Native Village of Elim

Frank Thompson, First Chief  
Evansville Village

Robin Eleazer, President  
Gulkana Village Council

William Painter, First Chief  
Grayling IRA Tribal Council

Nancy James, First Chief  
Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal  
Government

Eugene Paul, First Chief  
Holy Cross Village

Norman Burgett, First Chief  
Huslia Tribal Council

Wassily Alexie, President  
Iqumiut Traditional Council

Julia Dorris, President  
Native Village of Kalskag

Georgianna Madros, First Chief  
Native Village of Kaltag

Leo Lolnitz, First Chief  
Koyukuk Native Village

Boris Epchook, President  
Organized Village of Kwethluk

Gavin Phillip, President  
Native Village of Kwigillingok

Joseph Evon, President  
Village of Lower Kalskag

Lucy Oquilluck, President  
Native Village of Mary's Igloo

Ruthie Beaver, President  
Kasigluk Traditional Council

Lucy Pavilla, President  
Native Village of Napakiak

Gust Tunguing, President  
New Koliganek Village Council

Lucy Weedman, President  
New Stuyahok Village

George Alexie, President  
Nondalton Village Council

Vernon John, First Chief  
Nikolai Village

Gloria Patsy, First Chief  
Nulato Tribal Council

Noah Wise, President  
Native Village of Nunapitchuk

Walter Jim, Tribal Council President  
Orutsararmiut Native Council

Mike Wiehl, First Chief  
Rampart Village

Patrick McCarty, First Chief  
Native Village of Ruby

Shirley Martin, President  
Native Village of Saint Michael

Axel Jackson, President  
Native Village of Shaktoolik

Lydia Raymon-Snowball, President  
Stebbins Community Association

Thomas Abraham, First Chief  
Takotna Tribal Council

Lois Huntington, First Chief  
Tanana Village

Jeni Lee, President  
Native Village of Teller

Middy Peter, President  
Tuluksak Tribal Council

Bertha Pavian-Lockuk, President  
Traditional Village of Togiak

Susie Walter, President  
Native Village of Tununak

John W. Sharp, President  
Twin Hills Village Council

John Butler, President  
Yakutat Tlingit Tribe

Frank Katchatag, President  
Native Village of Unalakleet

Davis A. Lincoln, Vice President  
Native Village of White Mountain

Alannah Hurley, Director  
United Tribes of Bristol Bay

RaeAnn Garnett, First Chief  
Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government

Secretary Deb Haaland  
US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

October 19, 2023

**RE: Alaska Indigenous Support for Maintaining ANCSA Sect. 17(D)(1) Protections**

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The undersigned Alaska Indigenous persons, entities, and organizations support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) process to review and thoughtfully consider the impacts that lifting the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) (hereafter "D-1 protection") withdrawals will have on fish and wildlife populations and subsistence resources that support Indigenous Ways-of-Life. We urge BLM to maintain the D-1 protections and finalize the D-1 decision within the next two years.

Most Alaska Indigenous people are impacted by the BLM's land management planning decisions. BLM-managed lands support important subsistence resources and serve as the breadbasket for thousands of Athabaskan, Aleut, Dena'ina, Inupiat, Yup'ik, and Tlingit peoples. For Alaska Native communities off the road system, over 80% of food consumed comes directly from the surrounding lands and waters. A tribal member from the village of Anvik on the lower Yukon River said it well, "We don't own the land, but we belong to the land and whatever happens to the land happens to us."

The previous administration prepared five Public Land Orders (PLOs)<sup>1</sup> without engaging Indigenous people, who are most impacted by the decisions, in the decision-making process. The flawed decision to advance the PLOs was also made without any consideration of how lifting the D-1 protections and allowing extractive resource development could negatively affect cultural use areas, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and food security for hundreds of communities.

Under ANCSA, the Secretary of the Interior must evaluate whether the D-1 protection should remain in place to protect the public interest.<sup>2</sup> We believe it is in the public interest to protect our Way-of-Life and retain the D-1 orders. Alaska is at the forefront of climate change and widespread impacts are already occurring including melting permafrost, coastal and river erosion, increasing air and water temperatures and the habitat displacement of fish and wildlife populations across subarctic and arctic environments. In this rapidly changing environment with so many future unknowns, it is in the public interest to adopt a precautionary action and prioritize the protection of the natural environment that supports our subsistence resources over the industrial exploitation of intact lands and pristine waters.

We are grateful to the Biden Administration for your commitment to engage with affected Indigenous peoples while undertaking the environmental review process to evaluate the true impacts that lifting the D- 1 protections could have on us, our communities, and culture. We also urge you to take action to protect our ancestral land so it can continue to support the diverse Ways-of-Life among our People.

Thank you,

Doug Katchatag, President  
Norton Bay Intertribal Watershed Council  
(8 Federally Recognized Tribes in Norton Bay Watershed)

Eugene Paul, Chairman  
Bering Sea-Interior Tribal Commission  
(38 Federally Recognized Tribes in Kawarek, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Association of Village Council Presidents Regions along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and Bering Sea)

Sophie Swope, Director  
Mother Kuskokwim Tribal Coalition  
(5 Federally Recognized Tribes in the Kuskokwim River Watershed)



**Native Village of Chitina**  
**aka Chitina Traditional Indian Village Council**  
**PO Box 31, Chitina, Alaska 99566**  
**(P) 907-823-2215 (F) 907-823-2285**  
**Email: [ctivc@outlook.com](mailto:ctivc@outlook.com)**

---

April 21, 2023

Secretary Haaland  
US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Alaska Native Tribal Support for Maintaining ANCSA D-1 Protections

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The undersigned Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) process to review and thoughtfully consider the impacts that lifting the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) (hereafter "D-1 protection") withdrawals will have on fish and wildlife populations and subsistence resources that support Indigenous Ways-of-Life. We urge BLM to maintain the D-1 protections and finalize the D-1 decision within the next two years.

Nearly 75% of all federally recognized Tribes in Alaska are impacted by the BLM's land management planning decisions. BLM-managed lands support important subsistence resources and serve as the breadbasket for thousands of Athabaskan, Aleut, Dena'ina, Inupiat, Yup'ik, and Tlingit peoples. For Alaska Native communities off the road system, over 80% of food consumed comes directly from the surrounding lands and waters. A tribal member from the village of Anvik on the lower Yukon River said it well, "We don't own the land, but we belong to the land and whatever happens to the land happens to us."

The previous administration prepared five Public Land Orders (PLOs)<sup>1</sup> without adequately consulting the federally recognized Tribes who are most impacted by the decisions. The flawed decision to advance the PLOs was also made without any consideration of how lifting the D-1 protections and allowing extractive resource development could negatively affect cultural use areas, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and food security for hundreds of communities.

Under ANCSA, the Secretary of the Interior must evaluate whether the D-1 protection should remain in place to protect the public interest.<sup>2</sup> We believe it is in the public interest to protect our Way-of-Life. Alaska is at the forefront of climate change and widespread impacts are already occurring including melting permafrost, coastal erosion, increasing air and water temperatures and the habitat displacement of fish and wildlife populations across subarctic and arctic environments. In this rapidly changing environment with so many future unknowns, it is



in the public interest to adopt a precautionary action and prioritize the protection of the natural environment that supports our Peoples' subsistence resources over the industrial exploitation of intact lands and pristine waters.

We are grateful to the Biden Administration for your commitment to engage with affected Tribes and for creating the environmental review process to evaluate the true impacts that lifting the D1 protections could have on our people, communities, and culture. Our Tribal leaders look forward to engaging with BLM and the Department of the Interior in the forthcoming two years. We also urge you to take action to protect our ancestral land so it can continue to support the diverse Ways-of-Life among Alaska Native peoples.

Thank you,

*Corina Ewan*

Corina Ewan, President



**Chevak Traditional Council**

**P.O. Box 140**

**Chevak, Alaska 99563**

(907) 858-7428 fax (907) 858-7812

[chevaktc@gmail.com](mailto:chevaktc@gmail.com)

May 1, 2023

Secretary Haaland  
US Department of  
the Interior 1849 C  
Street NW  
Washington, DC  
20240

**RE: Alaska Native Tribal Support for Maintaining ANCSA D-1 Protections**

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The undersigned Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) process to review and thoughtfully consider the impacts that lifting the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) (hereafter "D-1 protection") withdrawals will have on fish and wildlife populations and subsistence resources that support Indigenous Ways-of-Life. We urge BLM to maintain the D-1 protections and finalize the D-1 decision within the next two years.

Most Alaska Indigenous people are impacted by the BLM's land management planning decisions. BLM-managed lands support important subsistence resources and serve as the breadbasket for thousands of Athabaskan, Aleut, Dena'ina, Inupiat, Yup'ik, and Tlingit peoples. For Alaska Native communities off the road system, over 80% of food consumed comes directly from the surrounding lands and waters. A tribal member from the village of Anvik on the lower Yukon River said it well, "We don't own the land, but we belong to the land and whatever happens to the land happens to us."

The previous administration prepared five Public Land Orders (PLOs)<sup>1</sup> without adequately consulting the federally recognized Tribes who are most impacted by the decisions. The flawed decision to advance the PLOs was also made without any consideration of how lifting the D-1 protections and allowing extractive resource development could negatively affect cultural use areas, fish and wildlife habitat,

subsistence resources, hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and food security for hundreds of communities.

Under ANCSA, the Secretary of the Interior must evaluate whether the D-1 protection should remain in place to protect the public interest.<sup>2</sup> We believe it is in the public interest to protect our Way-of-Life by retaining the public land orders. Alaska is at the forefront of climate change and widespread impacts are already occurring including melting permafrost, coastal and riverbank erosion, increasing air and water temperatures and the habitat displacement of fish and wildlife populations across subarctic and arctic environments. In this rapidly changing environment with so many future unknowns, it is in the public interest to adopt a precautionary action and prioritize the protection of the natural environment that supports our subsistence resources over the industrial exploitation of intact lands and pristine waters.

We are grateful to the Biden Administration for your commitment to engage with affected Tribes on the D- 1 lands review. The federal environmental review process needs to thoroughly evaluate the vast impacts posed on us, our communities and cultures that would occur if the D-1 protections were lifted. We urge you to take action to protect ancestral lands and resources that support the diverse Ways of Life among Alaska Native Peoples.

Sincerely,



Roy Atchak  
1st Chief,  
Chevak Native Village,

list of tribes signed on:

Eugene Paul, First Chief, Holy Cross Tribe  
Robert Walker, First Chief, Anvik Tribe  
Vernon John, First Chief, Nikolai Tribe  
Leo Lolnitz, First Chief, Koyukuk Tribe  
Nancy James, First Chief, Gwichya Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government  
Norman Burgett, First Chief, Huslia Tribe  
Frank Thompson, First Chief, Evansville Tribe

# **GULKANA VILLAGE COUNCIL**

**EILEEN L. EWAN**  
PRESIDENT

**NICHOLAS JACKSON**  
VICE PRESIDENT

---

PO Box 254 \* Gakona, AK 99586 \* Phone: 907-822-3746 \* Fax: 907-822-3976 \* Email:  
Admin@GulkanaCouncil

---

Secretary Haaland  
US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Alaska Native Tribal Support for Maintaining ANCSA D-1 Protections

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The undersigned Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) process to review and thoughtfully consider the impacts that lifting the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) (hereafter "D-1 protection") withdrawals will have on fish and wildlife populations and subsistence resources that support Indigenous Ways-of-Life. We urge BLM to maintain the D-1 protections and finalize the D-1 decision within the next two years.

Nearly 75% of all federally recognized Tribes in Alaska are impacted by the BLM's land management planning decisions. BLM-managed lands support important subsistence resources and serve as the breadbasket for thousands of Athabaskan, Aleut, Dena'ina, Inupiat, Yup'ik, and Tlingit peoples. For Alaska Native communities off the road system, over 80% of food consumed comes directly from the surrounding lands and waters. A tribal member from the village of Anvik on the lower Yukon River said it well, "We don't own the land, but we belong to the land and whatever happens to the land happens to us."

The previous administration prepared five Public Land Orders (PLOs) without adequately consulting the federally recognized Tribes who are most impacted by the decisions. The flawed decision to advance the PLOs was also made without any consideration of how lifting the D-1 protections and allowing extractive resource development could negatively affect cultural use areas, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and food security for hundreds of communities.

Under ANCSA, the Secretary of the Interior must evaluate whether the D-1 protection should remain in place to protect the public interest. We believe it is in the public interest to protect our Way-of-Life. Alaska is at the forefront of climate change and widespread impacts are already occurring including melting permafrost, coastal erosion, increasing air and water temperatures and the habitat displacement of fish and wildlife populations across subarctic and arctic environments. In this rapidly changing environment with so many future unknowns, it is in the public interest to adopt a precautionary action and prioritize the protection of the natural environment that supports our Peoples' subsistence resources over the industrial exploitation of intact lands and pristine waters.

We are grateful to the Biden Administration for your commitment to engage with affected Tribes and for creating the environmental review process to evaluate the true impacts that lifting the D-1 protections could have on our people, communities, and culture. Our Tribal leaders look forward to engaging with BLM and the Department of the Interior in the forthcoming two years. We also urge you to take action

to protect our ancestral land so it can continue to support the diverse Ways-of-Life among Alaska Native peoples.

Thank you,

*Roberta Eleazer*

Gulkana Village Council  
P.O. Box 254  
Gakona, AK 99586

Gulkana Village Council  
Council President Eileen Ewan  
Council Vice-President Nick Jackson  
Council Member Teri Nutter  
Council Member Brenda Tyone  
Council Member John L. Dye  
Council Member Felicia Ewan  
Council Member Francis Jackson  
Tribal Administrator Roberta Eleazer



## **Iqumiut Traditional Council**

09 Ayak Road

P.O. Box 09

Russian Mission, AK 99657-0009

Phone: (907) 584-5511 Fax: (907) 584-5593

Email: [iqumiut71@yahoo.com](mailto:iqumiut71@yahoo.com)

---

May 1, 2023

Secretary Haaland  
US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

**RE: Alaska Native Tribal Support for Maintaining ANCSA D-1 Protections**

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The undersigned Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) process to review and thoughtfully consider the impacts that lifting the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) (hereafter "D-1 protection") withdrawals will have on fish and wildlife populations and subsistence resources that support Indigenous Ways-of-Life. We urge BLM to maintain the D-1 protections and finalize the D-1 decision within the next two years.

Most Alaska Indigenous people are impacted by the BLM's land management planning decisions. BLM-managed lands support important subsistence resources and serve as the breadbasket for thousands of Athabaskan, Aleut, Dena'ina, Inupiat, Yup'ik, and Tlingit peoples. For Alaska Native communities off the road system, over 80% of food consumed comes directly from the surrounding lands and waters. A tribal member from the village of Anvik on the lower Yukon River said it well, "We don't own the land, but we belong to the land and whatever happens to the land happens to us."

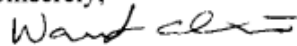
The previous administration prepared five Public Land Orders (PLOs)<sup>1</sup> without adequately consulting the federally recognized Tribes who are most impacted by the decisions. The flawed decision to advance the PLOs was also made without any consideration of how lifting the D-1 protections and allowing extractive resource development could negatively affect cultural use areas, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and food security for hundreds of communities.

Under ANCSA, the Secretary of the Interior must evaluate whether the D-1 protection should remain in place to protect the public interest.<sup>2</sup> We believe it is in the public interest to protect our Way-of-Life by retaining the public land orders. Alaska is at the forefront of climate change and widespread impacts are already occurring including melting permafrost, coastal and riverbank erosion, increasing air and water temperatures and the habitat displacement of fish and wildlife populations across subarctic and arctic environments. In this rapidly changing environment with so many future unknowns, it is in the public interest to adopt a precautionary action and

prioritize the protection of the natural environment that supports our subsistence resources over the industrial exploitation of intact lands and pristine waters.

We are grateful to the Biden Administration for your commitment to engage with affected Tribes on the D-1 lands review. The federal environmental review process needs to thoroughly evaluate the vast impacts posed on us, our communities and cultures that would occur if the D-1 protections were lifted. We urge you to take action to protect ancestral lands and resources that support the diverse Ways of Life among Alaska Native Peoples.

Sincerely,



Wassily Alexie, Iqugmiut Traditional Council President

---

<sup>1</sup> Public Land Orders 7899-7903.

<sup>2</sup> 43 U.S.C. § 1616(d)(1).



**Mary's Igloo Traditional Council**

P.O. Box 546 Teller, AK 99778

Ph. (907) 642-3731 Email: [cablowaluk@kawerak.org](mailto:cablowaluk@kawerak.org) Fax# (907) 642-2189

Secretary Haaland  
US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

**RE: Alaska Native Tribal Support for Maintaining ANCSA D-1 Protections**

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The undersigned Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) process to review and thoughtfully consider the impacts that lifting the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) (hereafter "D-1 protection") withdrawals will have on fish and wildlife populations and subsistence resources that support Indigenous Ways-of-Life. We urge BLM to maintain the D-1 protections and finalize the D-1 decision within the next two years.

Nearly 75% of all federally recognized Tribes in Alaska are impacted by the BLM's land management planning decisions. BLM-managed lands support important subsistence resources and serve as the breadbasket for thousands of Athabaskan, Aleut, Dena'ina, Inupiat, Yup'ik, and Tlingit peoples. For Alaska Native communities off the road system, over 80% of food consumed comes directly from the surrounding lands and waters. A tribal member from the village of Anvik on the lower Yukon River said it well, "We don't own the land, but we belong to the land and whatever happens to the land happens to us."

The previous administration prepared five Public Land Orders (PLOs)<sup>1</sup> without adequately consulting the federally recognized Tribes who are most impacted by the decisions. The flawed decision to advance the PLOs was also made without any consideration of how lifting the D-1 protections and allowing extractive resource development could negatively affect cultural use areas, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and food security for hundreds of communities.

Under ANCSA, the Secretary of the Interior must evaluate whether the D-1 protection should remain in place to protect the public interest.<sup>2</sup> We believe it is in the public interest to protect our Way-of-Life. Alaska is at the forefront of climate change and widespread impacts are already occurring including melting permafrost, coastal erosion, increasing air and water temperatures and the habitat displacement of fish and wildlife populations across subarctic and arctic environments. In this rapidly changing environment with so many future unknowns, it is in the public interest to adopt a precautionary action and prioritize the protection of the natural





**Mary's Igloo Traditional Council**

P.O. Box 546 Teller, AK 99778

Ph. (907) 642-3731 Email: [cahlowaluk@kawcrak.org](mailto:cahlowaluk@kawcrak.org) Fax# (907) 642-2189

environment that supports our Peoples' subsistence resources over the industrial exploitation of intact lands and pristine waters.

We are grateful to the Biden Administration for your commitment to engage with affected Tribes and for creating the environmental review process to evaluate the true impacts that lifting the D-1 protections could have on our people, communities, and culture. Our Tribal leaders look forward to engaging with BLM and the Department of the Interior in the forthcoming two years. We also urge you to take action to protect our ancestral land so it can continue to support the diverse Ways-of-Life among Alaska Native peoples.

Thank you,

Lucy Oquilluk, President

The Native Village of Mary's Igloo/ Mary's Igloo Traditional Council



March 28, 2023

Secretary Haaland  
US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Alaska Native Tribal Support for Maintaining ANCSA D-1 Protections

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The undersigned Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) process to review and thoughtfully consider the impacts that lifting the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) (hereafter "D-1 protection") withdrawals will have on fish and wildlife populations and subsistence resources that support Indigenous Ways-of-Life. We urge BLM to maintain the D-1 protections and finalize the D-1 decision within the next two years.

Nearly 75% of all federally recognized Tribes in Alaska are impacted by the BLM's land management planning decisions. BLM-managed lands support important subsistence resources and serve as the breadbasket for thousands of Athabaskan, Aleut, Dena'ina, Inupiat, Yup'ik, and Tlingit peoples. For Alaska Native communities off the road system, over 80% of food consumed comes directly from the surrounding lands and waters. A tribal member from the village of Anvik on the lower Yukon River said it well, "We don't own the land, but we belong to the land and whatever happens to the land happens to us."

The previous administration prepared five Public Land Orders (PLOs) <sup>1</sup> without adequately consulting the federally recognized Tribes who are most impacted by the decisions. The flawed decision to advance the PLOs was also made without any consideration of how lifting the D-1 protections and allowing extractive resource development could negatively affect cultural use areas, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and food security for hundreds of communities.

Under ANCSA, the Secretary of the Interior must evaluate whether the D-1 protection should remain in place to protect the public interest. <sup>2</sup> We believe it is in the public interest to protect our Way-of-Life. Alaska is at the forefront of climate change and widespread impacts are already occurring including melting permafrost, coastal erosion, increasing air and water temperatures and the habitat displacement of fish and wildlife populations across subarctic and arctic environments. In this rapidly changing environment with so many future unknowns, it is in the public interest to adopt a



ORUTSARARMIUT NATIVE COUNCIL

117 Alex Hately

Box 927, Bethel, AK 99559

(907)543-2608 PHONE; (907)543-2639 FAX

precautionary action and prioritize the protection of the natural environment that supports our Peoples' subsistence resources over the industrial exploitation of intact lands and pristine waters.

We are grateful to the Biden Administration for your commitment to engage with affected Tribes and for creating the environmental review process to evaluate the true impacts that lifting the D- 1 protections could have on our people, communities, and culture. Our Tribal leaders look forward to engaging with BLM and the Department of the Interior in the forthcoming two years. We also urge you to take action to protect our ancestral land so it can continue to support the diverse Ways-of-Life among Alaska Native peoples.

1 Public Land Orders 7899-7903.  
2 43 U.S.C. § 1616(d)(1).

Thank you,

Mr. Walter Jim  
Orutsararmiut Native Council  
Tribal Council President



**Native Village of St. Michael**

Box 59050 - St. Michael, Alaska 99659  
907) 923-2304/2405 Fax: (907) 923-2406

June 15, 2023

Secretary Haaland

US Department of the Interior 1849 C Street  
NW Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The undersigned Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) process to review and thoughtfully consider the impacts that lifting the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) (hereafter "D-1 protection") withdrawals will have on fish and wildlife populations and subsistence resources that support Indigenous Ways-of-Life. We urge BLM to maintain the D-1 protections and finalize the D-1 decision within the next two years.

Most Alaska Indigenous people are impacted by the BLM's land management planning decisions. BLM-managed lands support important subsistence resources and serve as the breadbasket for thousands of Athabaskan, Aleut, Dena'ina, Inupiat, Yup'ik, and Tlingit peoples. For Alaska Native communities off the road system, over 80% of food consumed comes directly from the surrounding lands and waters. A tribal member from the village of Anvik on the lower Yukon River said it well, "We don't own the land, but we belong to the land and whatever happens to the land happens to us."

The previous administration prepared five Public Land Orders (PLOs)<sup>1</sup> without adequately consulting the federally recognized Tribes who are most impacted by the decisions. The flawed decision to advance the PLOs was also made without any consideration of how lifting the D-1 protections and allowing extractive resource development could negatively affect cultural use areas, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and food security for hundreds of communities.

Under ANCSA, the Secretary of the Interior must evaluate whether the D-1 protection should remain in place to protect the public interest.<sup>2</sup> We believe it is in the public interest to protect our Way-of-Life by retaining the public land orders. Alaska is at the forefront of climate change and widespread impacts are already occurring including melting permafrost, coastal and riverbank erosion, increasing air and water temperatures and the habitat displacement of fish and wildlife populations across subarctic and arctic environments. In this rapidly changing environment with so many future unknowns, it is in the public interest to adopt a precautionary

action and prioritize the protection of the natural environment that supports our subsistence resources over the industrial exploitation of intact lands and pristine waters.

We are grateful to the Biden Administration for your commitment to engage with affected Tribes on the D-1 lands review. The federal environmental review process needs to thoroughly evaluate the vast impacts posed on us, our communities and cultures that would occur if the D-1 protections were lifted. We urge you to take action to protect ancestral lands and resources that support the diverse Ways of Life among Alaska Native Peoples.

Sincerely,



Shirley Martin, Tribal President

Eugene Paul, First Chief, Holy Cross Tribe

Robert Walker, First Chief, Anvik Tribe

Vernon John, First Chief, Nicolai Tribe

Leo Lolnitz, First Chief, Koyukuk Tribe

Nancy James, First Chief, Gwichya Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government

Norman Burgett, First Chief, Tanana Tribe

Frank Thompson, First Chief, Evansville Tribe

Frank Katchatag, President, Native Village of Unalakleet

Richard Slats, Vice President, Chevak Traditional Council

Roseann Garnett, First Chief, Village of Venetie

Mike Weihl, First Chief, Rampart Village

Patrick McCarty, First Chief, Ruby Tribal Council

Takotna Tribal Council

P.O. Box 7529

Takotna, AK 99675

Ph. (907)298-2212 \* Fax (907)298-2314

[takotnatribalcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:takotnatribalcouncil@gmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> Chief – Thomas Abraham \* Tribal Administrator – Lynn Goods

---

April 20, 2023

Secretary Haaland

US Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240

**RE: Alaska Native Tribal Support for Maintaining ANCSA D-1 Protections**

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The undersigned Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) process to review and thoughtfully consider the impacts that lifting the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17 (d)(1) (hereafter "D-1 protection) withdrawals will have on fish and wildlife populations and subsistence resources that support Indigenous Way-of-Life. We urge BLM to maintain the D-1 protections and finalize the D-1 decision within the next two years.

Most Alaska Indigenous people are impacted by the BLM's land management planning decisions. BLM-managed lands support important subsistence resources and serve as the breadbasket for thousands of Athabaskan, Aleut, Dena'ina, Inupiat, Yup'ik, and Tlingit peoples. For Alaska Naive communities off the road system, over 80% of food consumed comes directly from the surrounding lands and waters. A tribal member from the village of Anvik on the Lower Yukon River said it well, "We don't own the land, but we belong to the land and whatever happens to the land happens to us."

The previous administration prepared five Public Land Orders (PLOs) without adequately consulting the federally recognized Tribes who are most impacted by the decisions. The flawed decision to advance the PLOs was also made without any consideration of how lifting the D-1 protections and allowing extractive resource development could negatively affect cultural use areas, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and food security for hundreds of communities.

Under ANCSA, the Secretary of the Interior must evaluate whether the D-1 protection should remain in place to protect the public interest. We believe it is in the public interest to protect our Way-Of-Life by retaining the public land orders. Alaska is at the forefront of climate change and widespread impacts are already occurring including melting permafrost, coastal and riverbank erosion, increasing air and water temperatures and the habitat displacement of fish and wildlife populations across subarctic and arctic environments. In this rapidly changing environment with so many future unknowns, it is in the public

interest to adopt a precautionary action and prioritize the protection of the natural environment that supports our subsistence resources over the industrial exploitation of intact lands and pristine waters.

We are grateful to the Biden Administration for your commitment to engage with affected Tribes on the D-1 lands review. The federal environmental review process needs to thoroughly evaluate the vast impacts posed on us, our communities and cultures that would occur if the D-1 protections were lifted. We urge you to take action to protect ancestral lands and resources that support the diverse Ways of Life among Alaska Native Peoples.

Sincerely:

*Thomas S. Abraham*

---

1<sup>st</sup> Chief – Thomas Abraham

(List of Signing Tribe's Leader & Title)

Eugene Paul, First Chief, Holy Cross Tribe

Robert Walker, First Chief, Anvik Tribe

Vernon John, First Chief, Nikolai Tribe

Leo Lolnitz, First Chief, Koyukuk Tribe

Nancy James, First Chief, Gwichya Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government

Norman Burgett, First Chief, Huslia Tribe

Frank Thompson, First Chief, Evansville Tribe

Thomas Abraham, First Chief, Takotna Tribe

---

1 Public Land Orders 7899-7903.

2 43 U.S.C 1616(d)(1).