

**SUBMITTED VIA ONLINE PORTAL**

**DATE**

BLM Alaska State Office  
ATTN: PLO EIS  
222 W. 7th Ave, Stop #13  
Anchorage, AK 99513

**Re: Comments on draft EIS regarding ANCSA Section 17(d)(1) withdrawals, DOI-BLM-AK-0000-2022-0003-EIS**

Dear State Director Cohn,

On behalf of [Name Advisory Council], please accept the following comments regarding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) draft Environmental Impact Statement that considers the impacts of opening Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 17(d)(1) lands (D-1 lands). We urge BLM to retain the D-1 protections to safeguard the fish and wildlife habitat and large intact landscapes that support subsistence resources and opportunities.

On August 16, 2022, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) initiated a process to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider the effects of opening 28 million acres of protected D-1 lands to extractive industrial development. The previous administration prepared, but never finalized orders to lift the D-1 protections for specific lands within Bristol Bay, Bering Sea Western Interior, East Alaska, Kobuk Seward and the Ring of Fire regions. The flawed decision to advance these orders was made without consideration of how lifting D-1 protections could negatively affect cultural use areas, fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence resources, hunting, fishing, gathering rights, and the food security of communities and subsistence users in our region.

Subsistence users in the [NAME REGION] will be highly impacted by BLM's decision on whether to maintain the D-1 protections. D-1 lands support large contiguous landscapes and the fish and wildlife habitat needed for species migration and adaptation to our rapidly changing environment. Communities that depend on caribou, salmon, moose and other subsistence resources are already encountering reductions in populations. In some regions, subsistence harvesters are being asked to harvest less to preserve species. As environmental changes continue to increase pressure on resources, we believe it is in the public interest to protect intact lands and pristine waters as a precautionary and preventative approach to resource decline.

We urge BLM to maintain the D-1 protections to support subsistence resources, subsistence opportunities and our communities. The Council would like to thank you in advance for taking our views into consideration.

Sincerely,