

## **ANCSA 17(d)(1) Withdrawals Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

On December 15, 2023, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released a draft 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 developed, but never finalized, five Public Land Orders to revoke longstanding protections on these D-1 lands, including over 1.2 million acres of land in the Bay planning area (see map on page 2). The BLM's analysis will inform the Secretary of Interior's decision whether to continue or end these D-1 protections. When making this decision, the Secretary must consider whether opening lands to development is consistent with the "public interest," including factors such as subsistence hunting and fishing, habitat connectivity, and protection of cultural resources.

The current comment period is an opportunity to inform the BLM's analysis of the potential impacts of revoking D-1 protections and voice your views on the importance of maintaining these protections. Together with public meetings on the Draft EIS, the BLM will also be holding subsistence hearings, as required under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Section 810. During the ANILCA Section 810 subsistence hearings, the BLM will be seeking input on how revoking D-1 protections may impact subsistence uses and ways of life.

Helpful themes to consider addressing in comments or testimony include:

- How subsistence resources utilize and depend on large, intact landscapes (i.e., caribou range, moose habitat, bird migratory corridors, salmon spawning and rearing habitat)
- How industrial development can fragment habitat, displace subsistence resources, and decrease subsistence user access
- How D-1 lands protect cultural resources and support subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering opportunities
- How D-1 lands are important to help support communities in navigating the effects of climate change

### **Make Your Voice Heard**

There are several ways to participate in the current comment period to voice your support for maintaining D-1 protections. The deadline to submit comments is **Wednesday, February 14, 2024**.

- **Online:** Submit a comment on the BLM's website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2018002/595/8020037/comment>
- **Mail** comments to:  
BLM, Alaska State Office  
Attn: ANCSA 17(d)(1) Withdrawals EIS  
222 West 7th Avenue, #13  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513
- **Public hearings:** Participate in a public meeting and subsistence hearing to provide testimony
  - **Wednesday, February 7, 2024**, Naknek Village Council, Dolly's Hall, 5:30 to 7:30pm
  - **Thursday, February 8, 2024**, Dillingham Senior Center, 5:30 to 7:30pm
- **Telephone:** Call the comment hotline, (907) 921-5905

## ANCSA 17(d)(1) Withdrawals within EIS in Bristol Bay

