

Dear Director Stone-Manning,

Included here are comments on the Bureau of Land Management, proposed Conservation and Landscape Health rule-making process. The rule-making concepts pose significant implications for vast regions across Alaska where citizens of many federally-recognized tribes rely on wild foods across ancestral lands.

The fundamental intent of the rule-making is to maintain the health of intact landscapes on BLM lands. As you may know, large areas of BLM lands in Alaska are in a natural state but large wildland fires in recent years have disrupted the forests and climate change projections indicate this will continue into the future. The proposal rule is focused on multiple approaches to emphasize the conservation of land resources. These resources preserve natural landscapes that would support wild food subsistence economies among rural Alaska Native villages.

As a federally recognized Tribe, we support the adoption of Conservation as a category of land-use that maintains intact landscapes. We also strongly agree that Indigenous Knowledge be included in BLM planning and decision-making in consultation with Tribes thru co-management agreements. Co-management can help BLM resources staff and leadership in staying current on conditions of BLM lands by working with Tribes in environmental monitoring, habitat restoration and environmental justice issues that are in the proposed rule. We strongly support BLM in identifying lands important to Tribes as Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns, but under a different name that emphasizes cultural values of descendent communities of Alaska Native peoples.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment. For further information, you can contact us at . . .

Sincerely,

