



## **SENSITIVE TRIBAL AREAS AGREEMENT**

The Iñupiat people of Wainwright maintain a deep connection to the land that has been used by our ancestors for thousands of years. This relationship to the land has a critical importance to the survival of our Native culture.

The Village of Wainwright is surrounded by 175,000 acres of private land deeded to Olgoonik Corporation through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Visitors must seek permission from the Olgoonik Corporation to enter Tribal land.

The Wainwright Traditional Use Area occupies about 19,000 square miles and encompasses the lands used by the people of Wainwright for traditional subsistence activities. Nearly 90 percent of Village residents fish, hunt and gather much of their food, maintaining the subsistence way of life that reaches back for thousands of years.

The Village of Wainwright, working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Nature Conservancy, has developed the Wainwright Traditional Use Area Conservation Plan (TUACP). An important goal of the plan is to help organizations working in the region to understand the importance of our traditional use areas.

Following are points of information based on the plan's Guiding Principles:

- The Village of Wainwright is a federally recognized Tribe and exercises its inherent right to negotiate with local, state, and federal agencies on a government-to-government relationship.
- Visitors should recognize and respect the importance of subsistence, and how it is tied to the health, culture, society, and economies of Arctic communities.
- Visitors should understand and respect the history of stewardship and self-governance of North Slope land, water, plants, and animals by Native Peoples.
- Management of Arctic resources shall sustain diverse and abundant wildlife and ecosystems in perpetuity, while providing for cultural, social and economic development that supports a healthy, secure and sustainable quality of life.



- The Iñupiat peoples living in the Arctic hold extensive traditional knowledge about the environment.
- Whether it is oil development or hard rock mineral development, the Iñupiat people of Wainwright will review all proposals in a timely manner to analyze, comment and submit recommendations.
- Data will be collected using valid methods and ethical guidelines created and agreed upon by the TUACP committee. This is to ensure accuracy and authenticity of the information gathered.
- As traditional use areas are documented on the maps, the original Inupiat place name should be used before the English name that was given by the westerners that did not speak or understand the Iñupiaq language. For the benefit of agencies and developers, English names should be placed in parenthesis.
- Within the thousands of miles of the traditional use area, there are areas that should be designated as special areas. Such areas may include old burial sites, caribou migration corridors, traditional hunting camp sites, food gathering sites, cultural ceremonial sites, fish-bearing lakes, fishing sites, polar bear and brown bear den areas, and marine mammal and migratory bird areas.
- In the case of a special traditional use area including a heavily used caribou migration route in the path of the pipeline, the use of underground pipes should be considered for the width of the migration path.

**I have read the Sensitive Tribal Areas Agreement and agree to abide by the principles set forward.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_