

# Willow Project requires immediate dissolution



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The Willow Project is a multi-decade oil drilling scheme proposed by ConocoPhillips, Alaska's largest crude oil producer. Since the land suggested for the oil development is federally owned, U.S. President Joe Biden's administration was made responsible for approving or rejecting the project.

Ignoring the pleas of climate activists and indigenous communities, as well as a Change.org petition with over three million signatures voting to dissolve the project, Biden approved the Willow Project March 13.

The Willow Project is

predicted to produce 629 million barrels of oil, releasing 278 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere when burned, according to the U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management.

The release of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, is responsible for trapping heat in the atmosphere and is the main contributor to global warming. Thus, the approval of the Willow Project is going to greatly intensify the effects of climate change.

Social media is a growing method for spreading awareness and forcing government leaders to recognize the public's view. Furthermore, climate activists on TikTok have

utilized their platform in recent weeks to advocate for the #StopWillow movement, according to the BBC.

In approving the Willow Project, Biden has dismissed the public's concern surrounding the permanent damage that will be done to the Arctic landscape, which environmental campaigning network Greenpeace predicts will render climate change near irreversible.

Additionally, the Willow Project will reduce biodiversity along Alaska's North Slope in the National Petroleum Reserve, de-

stroying natural habitats and homes to animals in the area, namely caribou.

Caribou is a species of deer that the nomadic tribe Nunamiut heavily relies on as a food source. As such, not only will the Willow Project reduce Alaskan flora and fauna, but it will also push out local indigenous communities.

President of the Naqsragnuit Tribal Council Charlie Sollie Hugo sent a letter to the Bureau of Land Management requesting officials wait to approve the Willow Project until consulting his Council, stating there are

rising concerns about the potential impacts of the project on nearby indigenous communities. However, the Naqsragnuit Tribal Council was not contacted before Biden approved the Willow Project.

Biden has refused to acknowledge the devastating environmental and cultural impact of the Willow Project, dismissing the millions who have protested for the future of our planet and the preservation of Indigenous communities.

The approval of the Willow Project is a governmental failure. Throughout the 2020 presidential election and the COP27 climate summit,

Biden asserted his plan to lower the country's carbon emissions. Approving the Willow Project undermines Biden's pledge to sustainability.

I urge everyone to think critically about their trust in the government's environmental intentions following the approval of a scheme as detrimental as the Willow Project. We must hold Biden's administration accountable by continuing to speak out against the Willow Project and supporting companies such as Greenpeace that are filing lawsuits against Biden's administration for approving the oil development.

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Up to \$17 billion in revenue

629 million barrels of oil

278 million tons of CO2 into atmosphere



Graphics by Emma Lucas  
Source: Reuters