



## **First Alaska Wilderness League Activation Council of Love Is King Leaders heading to Capitol Hill to defend the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

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The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the finest examples of wilderness remaining anywhere in the world. Places like Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon define what it means to be American. The Arctic Refuge is one of these places. To that end, members of Congress must join Indigenous leaders and a majority of Americans who support protecting this national treasure.

**Alaska Wilderness League** in alliance with **Love is King** is proud to announce the historic launching of the **Alaska Wilderness League Activation Council**. This marks a unique partnership between a BIPOC organization and a traditional conservation group to unite and cultivate BIPOC leaders to activate their leadership and build advocacy around protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

“We are combining our human capital to defend the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from destructive oil and gas development,” said Chad Brown, found of Love Is King. “We’re learning from and following the leadership of the Gwich’in, who have lived in this place since time began.” Alaska is home to Native Tribes who have, for millennia, relied on Alaska’s lands and waters for their way of life. Alaska is home to an irreplaceable diversity of peoples, wildlife, and ecosystems.

This partnership is uniquely positioned to engage, enlighten and activate Congress to take action to restore long-standing bipartisan protections that have protected the Arctic Refuge from oil and gas development for decades. The Council will help establish dialogue channels and launch conversations with decision makers that have not traditionally been a part of the efforts to protect the Arctic Refuge. Our purpose is to continue to protect and strengthen our current environmental laws, preventing legislative attempts to undermine our environmental progress.

**Hit the Hill!** This partnership focuses on bringing Love Is King ROAM leaders, all of whom have had the opportunity to spend time in the Arctic Refuge, to Washington DC where they can share their story and experience with decision makers on Capitol Hill. We will have meetings with U.S. House and Senate lawmakers, and other key committees and groups critical to protecting the Arctic. The team will be joined by senior staff from Alaska Wilderness League who will help navigate the Hill, and cover and nuanced questions that might come up, all to ensure that ROAM participants’ stories have maximum impact. The lawmakers with whom we will meet are poised to take greater actions to advance protections for the Arctic.

**Activation Council Training Sessions will include:**

**History of the Arctic Refuge**

**Legislative Synopsis**

**Lobbyist Training**

**Identifying Decision Makers**

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