

**From:** [Skibo, Bobbie Jo](#)  
**To:** [Garnett.raeann@gmail.com](mailto:Garnett.raeann@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [sarahjamesav@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahjamesav@hotmail.com); [Matthew Newman](#); [Charlene Stern](#); [Tonya Garnett](#); [Rob Rosenfeld](#); [Boario, Sara D](#); [Cohn, Steven M](#); [Sweet, Serena E](#); [Kuhns, Stephanie L](#); [Lor, Socheata](#); [Leonetti, Crystal](#); [Loya, Wendy M](#)  
**Subject:** Coastal Plain SEIS Letter from BLM/FWS: Indigenous Knowledge  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 14, 2023 5:37:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [BLM0037935 Gwich in Response Re Indigenous knowledge inclusion to SEIS Garnett.pdf](#)

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Greetings Chief Garnett (Native Village of Venetie Village Council),  
On behalf of *Sara Boario, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Regional Director, Region 7, and Steve Cohn, Bureau of Land Management - Alaska State Director*, please find the attached letter that has been sent directly to you via mail. We wanted to share via email, as well, to ensure that you received it in a timely manner. Please feel free to reach out to me and the Coastal Plain SEIS Project Management Team with any follow up questions or comments.

Respectfully,  
Bobbie Jo Skibo

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Bobbie Jo Skibo, MS (she/her)  
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US Fish and Wildlife Service  
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# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

1<sup>st</sup> Chief RaeAnn Garnett  
Native Village of Venetie  
P.O. Box 81080  
Venetie, Alaska 99781

VIA EMAIL: [Garnett.raeann@gmail.com](mailto:Garnett.raeann@gmail.com)

Dear Chief Garnett:

We are reaching out to follow up with you and your representatives on the inclusion of Gwich'in Indigenous knowledge (IK) into the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

We acknowledge that cancelling federal participation in the workshop held in Fairbanks, February 27<sup>th</sup>-March 3<sup>rd</sup> was met with frustration and feelings of disrespect to the elders and knowledge bearers who were in attendance. At that time, we became aware that other Indigenous knowledge bearers did not feel they had an equitable opportunity to participate in the process, and that there were several barriers preventing their attendance. For these reasons, we asked our staff to step back and re-evaluate a path forward.

We understand that the workshop in Fairbanks was accomplished in our absence. While we regret missing it, we are hopeful that you will be willing to share valuable IK gained. Additionally, IK that you shared during the prior EIS process has not been lost and will be incorporated into the SEIS process. Our intent is to build and expand upon the existing IK.

We are committed to ensuring that all of the cooperating agencies receive the same opportunities to participate while receiving the appropriate information and updates throughout the remainder of the SEIS process. We seek your suggestions on how we can better improve our communications with you and meet in a way that ensures that everyone has equitable access to the process and opportunities to participate.

Thank you again for your patience and continued engagement as we work to improve our processes and our relationship.

We look forward to coordinating with you on appropriate and equitable methods for gathering and use of Indigenous and local knowledge, as well as your thoughts on how to navigate a best path forward through the remainder of the NEPA process.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Cohn  
State Director  
Bureau of Land Management



Sara D. Boario  
Regional Director  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Identical letters sent to:

1st Chief Galen Gilbert - Arctic Village Council, [Galengilbert257@gmail.com](mailto:Galengilbert257@gmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> Chief Paul Tritt - Venetie Village Council, [Timmy\\_070@hotmail.com](mailto:Timmy_070@hotmail.com)

cc:

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