



## Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government

(Formerly known as the Native Village of Fort Yukon, IRA)

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December 11, 2019

United States Department of the Interior  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20240

Subj.: Comments on the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation Management and Recreation Act,  
Public Law 116-9.

### COMMENTS

1. Propose the timeline be changed to reflect the exact Vietnam era dates of service.
2. Add all Alaska Native Vietnam era Veteran Allotments be held in restricted status and include all mineral rights.
3. All tribes, village and regional corporations be included of the possible veterans list so that no Veterans are left out.
4. Add that the BLM and the BIA work with all Realty Service Providers to review list and applicant status.
5. Talk to legislatures to inform them of all the concerns regarding this legislation and recommend to amend this rule to include our concerns and to open up all state and federal lands for this legislation.
6. The BLM RMP's W/D PLO. Recommend lands be avail. For Veterans that apply under this legislation and recommend that lands are made available. Also recommend that the PLO be revoked.
7. Probate Back log already exists in the State of Alaska with Native Allotments, now with this new legislation for all the deceased veterans, if allotments are approved this will add to the probate backlog. Recommend additional funding for Alaska Region Realty Service Providers.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Shirley Fields  
Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Realty Director

Cc: File