



Public Notice

The Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge is extending the deadline for public comments on a tentative annual funding agreement with the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) to 60 days. The comment period will now close on April 13, 2004.

The extension is based on: 1) public comments requesting the comment period be extended, and 2) a court ordered shutdown of Department of the Interior websites and e-mail.

The Service's ability to provide information and receive comments via the internet was terminated on March 15, 2004 by order of a United States District Court judge in the case *Cobell v. Norton*. This case involves the U. S. Department of the Interior's management of Individual Indian Trust data. Internet service was restored nine days later. However, internet service could be discontinued again if the court is not satisfied with steps taken by the Department to protect this data.

Copies of the tentative annual funding agreement may be obtained by contacting the refuge office. The public is encouraged to submit comments (via e-mail, mail or FAX) to the address below.

Refuge Manager, Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, 101 12th Avenue, Room 264, Box 14, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Phone: (907) 456-0440. FAX: (907) 456-0447.