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[EXTERNAL] ANWR EIS1 message

Peter Arneil <parneil@me.com>

Sun, Jun 3, 2018 at 9:12 AM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

I am writing to voice my opposition to any type of oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

We have seen industrial intrusion throughout the world, starting where it is cheapest and easiest. While the result of this development has made our world what it is today, with an unprecedented living standard for most peoples, it has also brought devastation to the most intensively used land on which it operates. The oil industry is one of the most intensive land-use industries, and their record of devastation is well documented. The fragile ecosystem of ANWR cannot withstand the rigors of industry, let alone the catastrophic result of an oil spill.

Allowing high-risk development in high-functioning ecosystems ignores the value of those areas. The value of our planet's ability to process our societal waste streams is inestimable...and it has become clear that the cleaning ability has been overwhelmed. We must slow our production of waste and preserve what natural capabilities still exist. The Arctic is both fragile and vitally important, so its exposure to risk should be ZERO.

The drive for development has many excuses, but the face behind the masks of reasons is but one: money. The drive for preservation has just one face: survival of our species. Let's not make the mistake of trying to equate lifestyle and life. At this point, we need to choose life first. And we can start by preserving our most sensitive lands. ANWR is one of those.

The science is there to support the above statements. Use the science. Turn back those who profit individually at society's expense.

Sincerely, Peter Arneil
Bellingham, WA