



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS**1 message

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**Glenn Greenwald** <greenwald.glenn@protonmail.com>

Mon, May 21, 2018 at 9:58 AM

Reply-To: Glenn Greenwald &lt;greenwald.glenn@protonmail.com&gt;

To: Nicole Hayes &lt;mnhayes@blm.gov&gt;, "blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov" &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov&gt;

Dear Ms. Hayes,

During the past 40 years, I have worked in the private, academic, and government sectors as a fisheries biologist, wildlife biologist, ecologist, and wildlife refuge manager. Nearly half of this time was spent working for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, including a nine-year period when I managed a coastal national wildlife refuge.

Today I am contacting you in regards to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS (EIS). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) should act to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and its adjacent lands by highlighting the many adverse effects that oil and gas development would inflict upon this sensitive area. This plan is the single-most destructive attack on a wildlife refuge in modern history. The world is counting on your EIS to be prepared in a thorough and prudent science-based manner.

If oil companies are allowed to drill on the coastal plain, the environmental damage to the ANWR and adjacent areas would be irreversible. The direct and indirect effects from oil and gas production would extend far beyond the footprint of the well pads and access roads. In the EIS, BLM must consider all direct and indirect effects that the cumulative proposed action will have on wildlife, water, air, other natural resources, and native cultures; the exact-same resources that the ANWR was originally created to protect. These considerations extend well beyond the obvious polar bears, other federally-listed Arctic wildlife, caribou, and migratory birds. Further, BLM must also take into account the full impacts this plan will have on our global climate.

For all these reasons, I urge BLM to act prudently and ensure that the ANWR and adjacent areas shall exist in perpetuity as a safe haven for wildlife and native cultures. Therefore, the only acceptable alternative is to completely prohibit oil and gas development in this area.

On another note, the BLM website for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS needs a substantial amount of improvement. This website is difficult to navigate, and the included maps could be better annotated. Determining where BLM land is located on these maps is rather difficult. This website needs to be edited and improved so that the public, universities, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies can be provided with a clearer picture of any proposed project activities.

Further, I wish you good luck with managing this very-difficult and controversial project. Projects like this make me glad to be retired!

Regards,

Glenn M. Greenwald  
Wildlife Refuge Manager, Retired  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Palm Coast, FL

5/21/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - [EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS

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