



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Susan Guers comments**

1 message

**Sue Guers** <sueguers@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 7:18 PM

To: "blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov" &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov&gt;

Dear BLM,

I am writing to provide public comment on the potential for oil and gas development on the Arctic Coastal Plain within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. I am completely opposed to any development of any kind, including exploration and drilling, within this region. I am a 13-year resident of the state of Alaska, and have worked professionally and recreated within this region for large amounts of time. As a result, I've come to recognize both the ecological and cultural significance of this place to Alaska and the world.

This area has the greatest wildlife diversity of any protected area in the circumpolar north, including 180 bird species (most of which are migrants), 45 mammal species and 35 fish species. Some of these species are threatened or endangered. Further, the Porcupine Caribou Herd, a Species with one of the longest land migrations, provides 60-70% of all food in Gwich'in Villages. This herd relies on the 1002 area of the Refuge for critical calving grounds and bug relief. Additionally, this area also provides polar bear denning sites, which has become even more important now that sea ice is gone or thinning.

Drilling in this region would threaten International agreements between the US and Canada. Further, drilling and development of this region is NOT compatible with the intent and/or purpose of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Adherence with other Federal Laws also needs to occur, including: ANILCA, the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water and Air Acts, the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to name a few.

Climate change impacts, as well as the 2,000 acre development limit will also need to be addressed. Cumulative effects must also be documented and analyzed. I want to see the results from these analyses.

This area has been protected for many reasons—these reasons have not gone away. Oil is a finite resource and not worth the price of losing this region and all it has to offer.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Susan Guers