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[EXTERNAL] Scoping comments on Arctic Coastal Plain draft EIS1 message

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To: "blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov" <blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov>

I submit this note in opposition to any oil/gas/mineral exploration extraction in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. I have had the privilege of visiting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge including the coastal plain and have seen firsthand the beauty, uniqueness, and fragility of the coastal plain.

The Arctic NWR is a unique national natural treasure that should not be exploited for short term economic or energy gains. The coastal plain is regarded by many as America's Serengeti, reminiscent of the African Serengeti, each of which are unique large scale areas where large herds of mammals congregate as part of their natural life-cycle.

In scoping the EIS for the coastal plain, the following should be taken into consideration:

- 1) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, one of the world's leading conservation organizations in April 2015 completed a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that concluded that the resources of the coastal plain are so unique that they warrant designation of the area as Wilderness. That plan is available at <https://www.fws.gov/home/arctic-ccp/>
- 2) The coastal plain is a fragile ecosystem and any disturbance that occurs due to oil and gas and or any other development will last many many years. There really is no such thing as short term impacts in this fragile environment.
- 3) Impacts of oil and gas or any other development in the coastal plain would extend well beyond the footprint of the actual development. Disruption of wildlife migration routes, caribou calving, etc would affect large geographic areas.
- 4) Any gains in energy supplies brought about by oil and gas development in the coastal plain would be short term and would be relatively meaningless to the American public as a whole over the longterm.
- 5) Protection/conservation of the coastal plain in its natural state would provide lasting benefits to natural resources valued by the American people in perpetuity.
- 6) There is no other Coastal Plain – if this one is degraded, there is not another similar area to absorb the negative impacts.
- 7) Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain resources should be managed in a manner that supports natural resource conservation efforts of our conservation partners in Canada.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments for the draft EIS.

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