



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

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**Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Govt. : L-BLM/ANWR Coastal Plain**

1 message

**Lesli Ellis-Wouters** <lellis@blm.gov>

Wed, May 23, 2018 at 12:48 PM

To: "Hayes, Miriam (Nicole)" &lt;mnhayes@blm.gov&gt;, BLM\_AK CoastalPlain\_EIS &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

**Lesli J. Ellis-Wouters**

Communications Director

Alaska State Office

Bureau of Land Management

907-271-4418 | cell - 907-331-8763

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alden Whiteman <[alden.whiteman@fortyukon.org](mailto:alden.whiteman@fortyukon.org)>

Date: Wed, May 23, 2018 at 11:46 AM

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Govt. : L-BLM/ANWR Coastal Plain

To: <[blm\\_ak\\_coastalplain\\_eis@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov)>, <[mike.gieryic@sol.doi.gov](mailto:mike.gieryic@sol.doi.gov)>, <[lellis@blm.gov](mailto:lellis@blm.gov)>Cc: Kristi Williams <[KWilliams@hobbsstrauss.com](mailto:KWilliams@hobbsstrauss.com)>

Dear Ms. Mouritsen:

Please find attached the response from Chief Nancy James. We would like to enter this letter into the BLM-RAC regarding her position on the L-BLM (EIS) being scoped for tomorrow at Arctic Village. I am submitting this to you for Chief James.

If there are any questions I am available to assist.

Best Regards & Thank you,

Alden Whiteman

Executive Director,

Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Govt.

**GZGTG L-BLM EIS RAC-statement.pdf**

108K

## Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government

(Formerly known as the Native Village of Fort Yukon, IRA)

P.O. Box 126

Fort Yukon, AK 99740-0126

Phone: (907) 662-2581 Fax: (907) 662-2222

May 17, 2018

DOI Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS

Attn: Karen Mouritsen, BLM, Alaska State Director

222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13

Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Emailed to: [blm\\_ak\\_coastalplain\\_eis@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov), [mike.gieryic@sol.doi.gov](mailto:mike.gieryic@sol.doi.gov) and [lellis@blm.gov](mailto:lellis@blm.gov)

Dear Ms. Mouritsen:

As the First Chief of the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government (GZGTG), it is with deep concern for the Porcupine Caribou Herd and the sacred calving grounds that I submit the following statement on behalf of our Tribal Government on the pending Leasing Environmental Impact Statement (Leasing EIS) impacting the Coastal Plain of ANWR. I also serve as the Chairperson of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Government (CATG), which is located in Ft. Yukon and serves the ten Tribes within the Yukon Flats region.

The Department of Interior recently published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to notify the public of the Leasing EIS that will be prepared to implement oil and gas leasing permits within the ANWR Coastal Plain. The GZGTG was recognized as a Cooperating Agency and worked successfully with the BLM on the Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan (EIRMP), specifically regarding the Draanjik Subunit. At this time our Tribe would like to formally request to become a Cooperating Agency with BLM for the ANWR Coastal Plain Leasing EIS and be included on any and all communications on this EIS. We formally request government-to-government consultation on the issue as soon as possible.

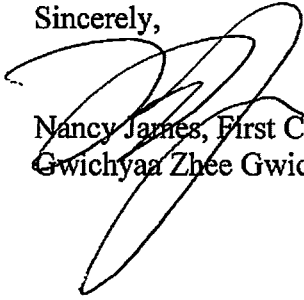
As you may know, there are a number of Tribes and clans within the Gwich'in Nation and many of us are interrelated and share traditional and customary ways, including subsistence resources. Our Tribe, is a village that serves as the hub community of the region and sustains the largest population. Many of the Gwich'in people that live here share close family ties to the people of both Arctic Village and Venetie.

We share a common lineage, but as I mentioned we also share subsistence resources. The Tribes of the Yukon Flats region depend upon the Porcupine Caribou Herd as well as other air, land, and water animals. To this day we still practice traditional and customary fishing, hunting, and gathering and trade. During times of shortage tribal members of the Yukon Flats region bartered subsistence resources with each other to ensure that everyone has enough to eat while strengthening our culture and traditional ways.

Significantly, the Gwichyaa Gwich'in have a distinct relationship with the Porcupine Caribou Herd and always maintain a special expertise and knowledge regarding the herd and other subsistence resources within the Refuge. It is critical that our traditional knowledge and the voice of our People be included in crafting the Coastal Plain EIS.

May 24. We would like to work with your agency as soon as possible to become a Cooperating Agency and we request that additional scoping meetings be planned for the communities of Ft. Yukon and Venetie.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nancy James', written over the printed name.

Nancy James, First Chief  
Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government