



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

**[EXTERNAL] ANWR Drilling**

1 message

**Tracy Hiscock** <msbadant@gmail.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 3:33 PM

Dear BLM Administrators,

I was a resident of Alaska for 5 years. It is a spectacular and special place. I am writing in strong opposition to holding an oil and gas lease sale in the Coastal Plain area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, one of the largest intact ecosystems on earth.

As one of our last pristine wild places, the Arctic Refuge is too ecologically important to drill. It is home to endangered species like the polar bear, and other wildlife like musk oxen, Arctic foxes and wolverines. Birds from all 50 states migrate to the Arctic Refuge. It is a unique habitat that connects our entire nation.

The Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge is home to the migration of the Porcupine Caribou herd, one of the largest animal migrations in North America. The Coastal Plain is considered sacred by the indigenous Gwich'in people, who have sustained themselves and their culture on its land for centuries. Any drilling that causes the Porcupine Caribou herd to suffer would in term harm this indigenous group by directly threatening their cultural identity and food security. The United States has a trust responsibility to native peoples as sovereign nations. Under this long standing legal doctrine, the federal government has an obligation to protect tribes and their way of life. The Department of Interior, as agent of the trustee United States, has a duty to give the perspective, opinion and objectives of the Gwich'in people great weight in making this decision.

Recent scientific research concludes that Arctic oil and gas reserves must remain in the ground to avoid dangerous levels of global warming. Alaska is already warming twice as fast as the rest of the nation. It is experiencing harsh impacts- from community relocation to permafrost melt to wildfires- that will be exacerbated if more fossil fuels are extracted and burned.

Drilling for oil and gas in the Coastal Plain area of the Arctic Refuge is unnecessary at a time when we should be transitioning to a renewable energy future. The pursuit of a speculative fossil fuel source that will likely become uneconomical as the world rapidly shifts towards clean energy sources is irresponsible.

The Department must carefully collect the science and consider these issues, which clearly indicate why an oil and gas program does not belong in the Arctic National

Wildlife Refuge. I request that the Department of the Interior include a “no leasing” alternative in its environmental review.

I also wish to voice my objection to the abbreviated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process which your Department is increasingly following. A rushed timeline will not allow for the full analysis required under the law, with comprehensive public input, and which is necessary to meet the Department's legal obligations.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Tracy Hiscock  
Kanab, Utah