



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain drilling ANWR**

1 message

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**Pat and Greg Hayward** <wyohay@gmail.com>

Wed, May 30, 2018 at 8:37 PM

To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

I would like to register my opposition to oil/gas exploration and/or drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), particularly in the coastal plain at the north edges. My first objection is that this land was set aside as a refuge and should remain such. Numerous other productive sites are available in the state, so there is no need to change the status of this incredibly fragile and unique environment. Calving and summer grounds for the Porcupine caribou herd are one particularly important resource that can not risk disturbance. The Gwich'in people rely on these caribou for sustenance and for cultural continuity. The involved tundra provides nesting grounds for countless waterfowl, shorebirds, and other avian species to whom water quality and undoubtedly solitude are important. With climate change, the northern coast may become a refuge for polar bears displaced from non-existent ice packs. Again, conflicts with man could prove detrimental for a stressed species. Water quality could also prove vital for many other marine mammals of the polar seas. Alaska already suffers greater impacts from global warming--resulting primarily from our society's reliance and consumption of fossil fuels. What a cruel irony to destroy more habitat in pursuit of those very fuels. We need to be focusing on renewable resources, not exploiting more pristine lands and cultures for more of those toxic fuels. Enough!! If we conserve these lands today, the option to exploit them in the future is always available if desperation forces our hand. For now, however, these lands must be preserved as they are.

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