



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

**[EXTERNAL] Submission on DOI scoping consultation for Arctic Refuge**

1 message

yukonhenderson@me.com &lt;yukonhenderson@me.com&gt;

Fri, Apr 20, 2018 at 10:28 AM

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

Cc: catherine.mckenna@parl.gc.ca, justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca, chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca, eactivist@cpawysyukon.org

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a twenty-five year resident of Canada's Yukon Territory I wish to add my voice to the many from this region who are gravely concerned with the pending decision to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development. Aside from the harm it may bring to the Gwich'in communities who have for centuries placed themselves along the route of the Caribou herd and whose way of life is inextricably connected to the seasonal migration, this herd is one of the last healthy barren ground caribou herds on the planet.

The loss, diminishment or damage of this source of biological and cultural wealth would be a global tragedy. Every year these caribou undergo the longest migration of any land mammal on earth, between their wintering grounds in Yukon and Northwest Territories and their calving grounds in Alaska. Porcupine caribou are borderless. Their calving grounds are on American soil but the caribou and the Gwich'in have been here since before our international boundaries were drawn. Although the Arctic Refuge is in Alaska, this is an issue that will affect Canada.

Caribou are incredibly sensitive to light and sound. Oil and gas development could lead them to abandon their calving grounds altogether. We have only to remember the horror of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the Exxon Valdez tanker accident to observe how cavalier and ineffective the Oil and Gas industry is in protecting the natural environment. This also raises the question of how serious both the Canadian and American governments are in regard to the Paris Climate Accord. Should we not be limiting our use of fossil fuels rather than drilling for new sources?

Losing this critical part of their range to development, on top of the impacts they already face from climate change, would create enormous uncertainty for these caribou.

Please re-consider this environmentally dangerous, reckless and unneeded development in one of last intact ecosystems on the planet.

Kind regards,

(write your message here. Your name and postal code will be copied from the form below.)

Kind regards,  
Scott Henderson  
Y1A 3P3

cc: Hon. Catherine McKenna  
House of Commons

cc: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

cc: Minister Chrystia Freeland

cc: Inbox EActivist Yukon