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[EXTERNAL] Comments for Scope of ANWR Leasing1 message

Karen Boyer <klboyer.71@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 23, 2018 at 10:27 AM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

I believe that a comprehensive study must be done prior to any leasing of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. If we proceed forward, it needs to be done having weighed all possible impacts. As such, a "No Leasing Alternative" should be included. We all need to be reminded of what the current status is in order to see whether the benefits outweigh the costs.

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service website, "The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans." How will exploratory efforts and drilling affect the fish, wildlife, plant resources and their habitats in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge? All of these aspects need to be included. If one species is affected, how will that affect the ecosystem as a whole?

Native peoples' experiences need to be considered as well. How will these changes impact their abilities to hunt and gather the resources that they need to sustain their livelihoods? Are their voices being heard as a part of this process? As vital stakeholders, they need a seat at the table.

Thank you for including these comments,

*~Kären Marroquin
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