



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] BLM EIS: Oil and Gas Drilling on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge1 message

Luann McVey <luannmcvey@icloud.com>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Thu, May 31, 2018 at 2:50 PM

Dear EIS staff,

I am very concerned about the possibility of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. The refuge is one of the last remaining wild and untouched places in the United States, and is an incredibly important habitat for wildlife.

The 19-million acre Arctic Refuge is America's largest wildlife refuge, providing critical denning habitat for endangered polar bears. The Refuge is the calving ground of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, which contains nearly 200,000 animals. These caribou are an essential part of the Gwich'in people's way of life and merit full protection in the EIS.

Oil and gas drilling would have devastating impacts on this pristine and fragile ecosystem, caused by the massive infrastructure needed to extract and transport oil. Drilling the Arctic would fragment vital habitat and chronic spills of oil and other toxic substances onto the fragile tundra would forever scar this now pristine landscape and disrupt its wildlife.

I strongly urge the Bureau of Land Management to drop the prospect of drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The area should be protected because of its precious wildlife habitat values alone and for the appreciation and enjoyment of future generations.

Thank you for considering my response to the EIS.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey, retired Alaskan teacher

1507 Second Street

Douglas, Alaska 99824