



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Oppose ANWR Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program1 message

Inga Olson <olsoning@yahoo.com>

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Reply-To: Inga Olson <olsoning@yahoo.com>

To: "blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov" <blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov>

Cc: "olsoning@yahoo.com" <olsoning@yahoo.com>

Coastal Plain Oil and gas Leasing Program EIS

[222 West 7th Avenue](#), Stop #13

Anchorage, Alaska 99513

I oppose efforts to lease Section 1002 on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for the purpose of oil and gas development for the following reasons:

1. I am 67, began training 6 months ago to carry 50 pounds and backpack for 11 days in the ANWR. ANWR is one of the, if not the premier, wilderness area in the world that motivates people such as me to challenge themselves in order to see life untouched, to experience the expansive vistas, and to feel the quiet and solitude of another time.

a. How will the visual, noise, and smell impact of 2 or more resource extraction development sites with all of the incumbent gravel pads, pipelines, feeder pipes, roads, stacks with flares releasing methane gas and other materials maintain the pristine nature of the coastal plain? Please assess and explain how the Achilik and Jago rivers that run to the coastal plain, that are key routes for caribou, Gwich'in subsistence hunters, and people visiting the back country will not be disturbed. Will the edible and medicinal plants in the area pick up the extracted minerals taste and smell and will the dust created from the activity settle on the surrounding plants, insects, birds, animals, tundra, rocks, water, snow, ice and rain? What will be the impacts and issues associated with these factors and how will you mitigate them?

2. My family is from North Dakota, where oil and gas development of the Bakken shale field have forever changed the landscape, the culture, and the resources of this part of the State.

a. Water, air, and soil has been contaminated in N. Dakota not only from the extracted minerals but also from chemicals used in drilling. Will this occur with the drilling on the plains? Will you use cross-directional drilling or fracking on the coastal plain and, if so, what issues will be presented and how will they be mitigated? Will any radioactive elements potentially be used?