



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Refuge Planning - Scoping Notice for Exploration Activities on Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain

1 message

Miriam (Nicole) Hayes <mnhayes@blm.gov>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov

Fri, Jun 15, 2018 at 8:26 AM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stephanie Brady <stephanie_brady@fws.gov>
Date: June 15, 2018 at 11:22:46 AM EDT
To: "Hayes, Miriam (Nicole)" <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Refuge Planning - Scoping Notice for Exploration Activities on Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain

Hi there Nicole, we have a refugees email box and this came in - can you please add him to your mailing distribution list? thanks. stephanie

stephanie_brady@fws.gov | Branch Chief, Conservation Planning and Policy |
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | National Wildlife Refuge System | Alaska |
907.306.7448
<https://sites.google.com/a/fws.gov/alaska-region-office-of-conservation-planning-policy/home> (DOI employees)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Refuges, FW7 <ak_refuges@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 15, 2018 at 5:54 AM
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Refuge Planning - Scoping Notice for Exploration Activities on Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain
To: Stephanie Brady <stephanie_brady@fws.gov>

Recommendation on who I should forward this to?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Greg Warren** <NSTrail@comcast.net>
Date: Thu, May 31, 2018 at 7:13 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Refuge Planning - Scoping Notice for Exploration Activities on Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain
To: ak_refuges@fws.gov
Cc: NSTrail@comcast.net

Please add me to any NEPA scoping notice for oil and gas exploration activities on the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain. This request is in response to information in the following Public Lands News notice. The surface resources are managed by the USFWS and the agency must be the Lead Agency to address NEPA processes for any proposal.
Thank you, Greg Warren

As BLM slowly grinds out environmental documentation to back oil and gas leasing in the coastal plan of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), it is considering a plan to allow seismic testing in much of the plain before leasing.

The bureau is considering an exploration plan submitted by SAEExploration, Inc. to study the 1.5 million-acres coastal plain. However, the law authorizing leasing limits the lease footprint to 2,000 acres.

The SAE plan calls for the use of 3-D seismic exploration. The company says in its proposal, "SAE would support two (2) crews each winter season for two (2) winter seasons to complete the acquisition of the seismic program. This plan of operations will cover the winter seasons of 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, starting approximately December 1st each winter season and ending on May 31st, or tundra closure."

The company said it would attempt to protect the environment. "We are unified in a commitment to environmental excellence and continuous improvement," says the proposal. "We will constantly assess our impact on the environment, and will apply what we have learned over the past several years to each new project."

Thus far, according to the *Washington Post*, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has problems with the application, replying to SAE that the plan is not adequate because of "a lack of applicable details for proper agency review," according to the Post.

Environmentalists object to the proposal, arguing that 2-D exploration in 1984 and 1985 has left still visible scars on the coastal plain.

Said Adam Kolton, executive director of the Alaska Wilderness League, "This is the polar opposite of what was promised by drilling proponents. Instead of a small footprint and a careful process, they want to deploy a small army of industrial vehicles and equipment with a mandate to crisscross every square inch of the Refuge's biological heart."

The exploration proposal surfaced May 31 the day after Assistant Secretary of Interior for Lands and Minerals Joe Balash attended a public scoping meeting on ANWR leasing in Anchorage.

ANWR is of course managed by FWS, but BLM is administering oil and gas lease sales.