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[EXTERNAL] Drilling in ANWR

1 message

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Millions of birds, over 200 species, migrate here from all 50 states and from six (6) continents to raise their young in the "biological heart" of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) refuge, the Coastal Plain. Disruption of critical breeding/nesting grounds would have large-scale impacts on bird populations.

Caribou undertake one the world's longest land migrations to reach the coastal plain and give birth to their young. Seismic testing, noise and human disruptions could alter the migratory path of these animals and put them at risk. Drilling would disrupt important denning habitat for polar bears and wolves.

ANWAR's coastal plain is one of the most fragile and ecologically sensitive ecosystems in the world - extremely vulnerable to human disturbance. Experts agree that oil and gas development in this area would permanently and irreversibly disrupt the ecological integrity of the refuge.

Drilling in ANWR is not economically feasible. With global inventories of oil at an all time high and the price less than \$50/barrel, there is no need to go into a high cost and environmentally fragile area. Because of the difficulties of working in such a difficult climate, any oil produced would not come on line for 8-10 years. Companies would not be willing to put money up front knowing that it will take a long time to make any money.

Industrial oil/gas fields will create a plethora of infrastructure that will destroy habitat, create a significant risk of a devastating oil spill, and further contribute to climate change, causing additional harm to the fast-warming Arctic.

The Arctic Refuge, like all 566 national wildlife refuges that make up the National Wildlife Refuge System, is public land and belongs to each and every American. Not just to Alaska, or Congress, or corporations, but to ALL of us. And, some places are so special that they must remain untouched by human greed.

Arkansas Valley Audubon Society (AVAS) representing 500+ members in southern Colorado, urges you to help protect the Refuge by opposing drilling in the Coastal Plain.

Dr. Peg Rooney, President

AVAS