



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Public Comment AK Coastal Plain

1 message

Susan Ballinger <skylinebal@gmail.com>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 12:50 PM

I am writing to submit comment as part of the scoping process for the Bureau of Land Management's Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of most unspoiled places left in the US and it deserves to be left this way.

I've personally visited the Arctic Refuge twice, and have a 3rd trip booked (Supporting a local Fairbanks company and bush plane business each time). I have watched wolverine, grizzly bears, and over 60 species of nesting birds during my travels.

For nearly sixty years, the Arctic Refuge has been protected by a bipartisan coalition of elected officials who understood that it is meant to be cherished and preserved. Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower set the precedent in 1960 when he established the Refuge, and since then leaders in both parties have fought for protection. Earlier this decade, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service conducted a rigorous assessment that resulted in a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain. Among other recommendations, the Plan called for the Coastal Plain to be officially designated as wilderness. The Arctic Refuge's status has been expanded or affirmed every decade since its inception – but now, it faces a truly existential threat.

Proponents of drilling in Congress had to attach it to an unrelated must-pass massive rewriting of the U.S. tax code. They had to make sure it avoided normal rules for passage and debate. They had to lie and mislead about its economic and environmental impact. They had to hold votes at 2 AM on legislation that no one had even seen.

The American public overwhelmingly opposes drilling. The development of oil and gas in the refuge has been strongly opposed by the American public decades. We Americans value our public lands and want the Coastal Plain protected for future generations and for the wildlife that depend upon it.

I firmly oppose any development of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge

Sincerely,

Susan Ballinger
2009 Skyline Drive
Wenatchee, WA 98801
509.669.7820
skylinebal@gmail.com