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[EXTERNAL] Blm arctic refuge comments

1 message

Luci Beach <lucibeach@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 10:47 PM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Rape rob and pillage appears to be the order of the day. Like the border wall the destruction of the arctic refuge coastal plain is now the sacrificial virgin for the kneeling sycophants and greed and power driven whore mongers. Gwich'in elders long ago warned us these days were coming.

Beware that the destruction of the sacred place where life begins is utterly wrong. The concern for providing fuel to other countries seems to be the need of filthy rich multinational corporate concerns not the first people of Alaska. I dedicate my concerns to the memory of those who have gone beyond and worked to protect the Arctic Refuge Jonathon Solomon, Gwich'in leader, Lenny Kohm, The Last Great Wilderness, Sharon Thompson Lord Kaktovik activist, and most especially my mother Maggie Beach, my great grandmother Marcus and my great uncle Chief Moses and our ancestors who migrated with the Porcupine Caribou Herd from time immemorial. I was instructed to do this in a good way my words may be harsh I feel circumstances require such words. May the Creator have mercy on your souls.

Luci Beach

In addition I will be submitting Peter Mather's photograph of a Caribou cow and calf on the coastal plain calving grounds.

2 attachments**History_of_International_Actions.docx**

18K

**IPCC TCC 1988 letters.pdf**

215K

History of Actions Towards Protection of the International Values of Northeast Alaska and Northwest Canada

- 1952 George Collins and Lowell Sumner complete a document entitled: *A Proposed Arctic Wilderness International Park: A Preliminary Report Concerning its Values*.
- 1960 The Arctic National Wildlife Range is established in northeastern Alaska to “*preserve unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values*”
- 1970 The Arctic International Wildlife Range Society meets in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory to discuss efforts to establish an international conservation area.
- 1970 The Arctic Gas Consortium is formed to build a natural gas pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to the MacKenzie River crossing the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Range and adjacent lands in Canada.
- 1977 Justice Thomas Berger completes his exhaustive Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry Report which recommends no authorization of the Arctic Gas Pipeline until land claims of aboriginal peoples of northwestern Canada are settled. The Berger Report also recommended establishment of conservation areas in Canada adjacent to the Arctic Refuge.
- 1979 The governments of the United States and Canada initiate negotiations for an international treaty for the conservation of trans boundary migratory caribou herds.
- 1980 President Carter signs the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act which adds over 9 million acres of land to the Arctic Refuge, and creates the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge (8.6 million acres), the bringing nearly all of the range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd in the US under refuge protection. Eight million acres in the Arctic Refuge are designated as Wilderness.
- 1984 The Inuvialuit people and the Government of Canada finalize a land claims agreement which includes establishment of the Northern Yukon National Park which was later re-named Ivaavik National Park and borders the Arctic Refuge. This agreement also established a Special Conservation Area in the northern Yukon that is adjacent to Ivaavik NP.
- 1987 The Agreement Between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on the Conservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd is signed.
- 1995 Vuntut National Park and Old Crow Flats Special Management Area are established in Canada adjacent to the Arctic Refuge as a result of Final Land Claims Agreement between the Vuntut Gwich’in First Nations and the Government of Canada.
- 1998 Tr’ondek Hwech’in First Nation settles land claims with the Government of Canada and Yukon Territory, resulting in the establishment of Tombstone Territorial Park in the upper Ogilvie River basin, protecting key winter habitat of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.
- 1999 Ni’iinlī Njik (Fishing Branch) Territorial Park (7,000 sq Km) is established as part of the Vuntut Gwich’in First Nations land claims settlement, in the upper Porcupine River region of Yukon Territory to protect chum salmon spawning areas, grizzly bear concentrations and habitat of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

INTERNATIONAL PORCUPINE CARIBOU COMMISSION
P.O. Box 200908
Anchorage AK 99520

COMMENTS ON DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN
ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these issues that are so crucial to the future of our people.

(1.) Before commenting on the report itself we must address the issue of Native Allotments. Of 173 applications only 4 have been settled. This is a violation of our peoples rights and should be corrected as a first priority. It is outrageous that you can spend millions for studies, develop and implement plans, and even permit development to occur while our people have waited 20 or 30 years for title to their lands. Many of our old people have died before getting their land and many others will too. We strongly advise you to redirect some of your funding to the appropriate agency to accomplish this, and we will oppose any additional funding for the FWS while this issue remains unresolved.

(2.) This report is very prejudicial against the legal rights and way of life of subsistence people in our area. We don't say that this prejudice against our people is done on purpose, but if you look at this report carefully you will see it everywhere.

When the Arctic Range was originally established, one of the purposes was for recreation. When the d-2 bill was introduced this was still one of the main reasons proposed for ANWR (and Kenai Refuge also). Congress changed that. They took recreation out as one of the purposes of ANWR and put in instead the need to provide for subsistence uses. We know because we asked Congress to make the change. Once they understood the issue they agreed without a single objection.

The problem is that everywhere you look in this report subsistence is treated like any other use. Although you list the purposes of the Refuge in the book, including subsistence, almost everywhere else it sounds like subsistence, sport hunting, sport and commercial fishing and recreation will be treated all the same, or even worse. You don't even consider subsistence one of the "significant issues" raised by the public (p.xii). In the charts on "Evaluation of alternatives" (p.393-4), and socioeconomic impacts (p.387-8) you pretend like your responsibility is only to allow our people to go hunting or fishing, not to protect subsistence. The right to go hunting is not

Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.

201 First Ave.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 452-8251

April 19, 1988

Arctic Refuge Planning Team
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Planning Team Members:

The Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. would like to take the opportunity to comment on the draft ANWR "Comprehensive" Conservation Plan at this time. The Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. is a Native, nonprofit service organization serving 43 villages in the Alaskan Interior. Several of our villages use the Refuge land and resources as an integral part of their subsistence economies.

We object to the term "comprehensive" as part of the plan's title, because 1.5 million refuge acres on the Coastal Plain are left out of the plan. In this respect, the plan fails to take into account the synergistic effects of various development scenarios in the 1002 area as would be appropriate for a plan of this type. The 1002 report is largely a political document that certainly does not take our villages' subsistence concerns into account. While the report details possible effects on Kaktovik's subsistence economy, the document merely states that the economies of our villages would likely be affected, period, no further investigation and discussion of the matter. In short, the ANWR conservation plan should look at all potential significant activities that affect the refuge as the National Environmental Policy Act requires.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. supports the position taken by the International Porcupine Caribou Commission:

- a) The entire additions to the ANWR should be classified as Wilderness except for heavy subsistence use areas. These are 1) around Old John Lake; 2) Junction River from Siphon Lake to its confluence with the E. Fork; 3) East Fork Chandalar River from about Red Sheep Creek down; and 4) the lower Wind River. This would be consistent with the purposes for which the refuge was established and would be the least costly management scheme.
- b) The Native Allotment applications in the Refuge must be settled.

- c) The plan should include a training program and a goal of filling the management jobs for the Refuge with local people.
- d) The plan fails to recognize the potential for adverse impacts on subsistence in several scenarios. Subsistence is treated equal to or less than other uses in the plan when the Refuge purposes establish protection of subsistence uses as a priority.

We do not feel that the Preferred Alternative A is the best management scenario from the economic perspective of our villages or of the United States Government. It is not the most consistent alternative with the purposes for which the Refuge was established. The Tanana Chiefs Conference urges the planning team to reconsider a modification of Alternative G as the preferred alternative.

Sincerely,

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.

[Signature]
Mitch Demientieff
President

Enc.

cc: The Honorable Don Young
The Honorable Ted Stevens
The Honorable Frank Murkowski
Senator John Binkley
Representative Kay Wallis