



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Comment on proposed AK Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing EIS**1 message

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**Mark Oswood** <moswood@nwi.net>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 5:21 PM

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary of the Interior

Dear Mr. Secretary:

By way of introduction, I'm a retired professor (biology). One of my research sites was in the Arctic Foothills Tundra of Alaska, just south of the Arctic Coastal Tundra, and just west of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This region is a seasonal oasis. In the summer, myriad birds and mammals migrate there, raising young. Most of these animals migrate out before winter, replenishing the flyways of the Americas and the ocean paths of the Pacific. In winter, the land is frozen, remote, and largely inaccessible. An industrial failure in winter has the potential to be catastrophic. Oil and gas development can do nothing but harm to this landscape.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is of planetary importance. It is our responsibility, as a nation, to protect this place. Generations to come will either applaud or condemn us. This choice is now upon us.

Mark W. Oswood  
emeritus professor