



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Stop global warming/stop all potential drilling

1 message

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 To: BLM_AK_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Wed, Jun 13, 2018 at 6:29 PM

Dear BLM Coastal Plain,

As GSC Executive Director Bernadette Demientieff said:

Let me be clear. The Gwich'in, and all who stand with us, will fight to protect this sacred space. We will fight in every hall, every hearing, every election, every courtroom and every place of power; we will fight every step of the way.

Drilling in the Arctic Refuge will slice through the heart of these sacred lands, the heart of my people. The push to drill in the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge is a direct threat to my people. It is an attack on our culture and way of life.

The Definition of "wilderness" according to the 1964 U.S. "Wilderness Act," Public Law 88-577 is as follows:

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

P.L. 115-97 is not a done deal. It was conceived in the dark, out of reach of democracy, and imposed on the country. It betrays the letter and intent of pre-existing laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA] and The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act [ANCILA] among relevant others, as well as international agreements.

Refuge lands surrounding the coastal plain have already been designated as "wilderness." Putting oil and gas works in the midst of this vast, sacred, wild lifescape would interrupt the fierce grace of the Refuge. Interrupting this space would disrupt the land, harm or even extinguish its buff-breasted sandpipers, snow geese and caribou, slice the heart of Gwich'in People, and stop the hearts of millions of others.

NEPA says this scoping process and coastal plain EIS must be based on "a systematic, interdisciplinary approach" with the aim of considering all "environmental amenities and values..." This includes spiritual values, matters of our hearts.

I know that the corporate-industrial mind—the mind that says "energy dominance" and "dollars"—scoffs at anything gentle, at mercy, at the blood of beating hearts. Scoff it may. Gentleness and mercy—the wildness inside us—can be surprising. We have the rule of law and we have the power in us to do right.

Onward together! BLM Coastal Plain we must stop the fossil fuel industry from devastating this sacred wilderness

and stop this antique, out of date source of fuel due to its harmful side effects...Look to the win/win attributes of renewable energy!

Suzanne Rich

6/14/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - [EXTERNAL] Stop global warming/stop all potential drilling

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