



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Public comment period**1 message

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**Stephanie Pieper** <sepieper@yahoo.com>  
Reply-To: Stephanie Pieper <sepieper@yahoo.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Thu, May 10, 2018 at 9:12 PM

Dear Ms Hayes,

I do not think the Arctic Refuge is a place for oil and gas activities. Such activities should not be allowed on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge.

The Coastal Plain is the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge and provides important habitat for polar bears, caribou, muskoxen, and hundreds of species of migratory birds. Oil and gas would harm important onshore denning habitat and would also further exacerbate climate change, which is already causing temperatures in the Arctic to rise at twice the rate of the rest of the country.

Oil and gas activities are completely at odds with the protection of the wildlife and other values in the Refuge, and with the urgent need to address climate change. The Administration is putting politics above protection of one of our most treasured public lands. Rushing into leasing is not what the Refuge deserves or what the law requires. The administration needs to comply with all the important legal protections that are in place to protect caribou, water, subsistence, and other sensitive resources of the Coastal Plain. Interior needs to consider the impacts from all stages of oil and gas, including seismic activities, leasing, exploration drilling, and development, as well as any related infrastructure or other activities. The environmental impacts from oil and gas will extend well beyond the footprint of any actual developments and will harm the wildlife, water, subsistence, and other values the Arctic Refuge was set aside to protect.

Thank you for addressing public concerns.