



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

## [EXTERNAL] Opposition to drilling in the Arctic Refuge

2 messages

**Diane Preston** <dianep@mosquitonet.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 8:54 PM

As a lifelong Alaskan (now 69), I am very opposed to any attempt to drill in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for many reasons.

First off, this process is proceeding without the time and care it needs to understand the effect such development would have on the land, the Gwich'in people, the abundant in numbers and species of wildlife that use this area, and the earth's environment. I request that there be time for a full review of all the numerous impacts that would happen. There needs to be more opportunity for people throughout Alaska and the rest of the US to testify about this as this is National land that belongs to all the people of the US. Information needs to be translated into the Native languages of the people whose lives will be directly impacted as well as other major Alaskan Native languages. People in the "lower 48," the majority of whom are opposed to drilling, need to have an opportunity for input.

The idea that the oil and gas development would be limited to 2000 acres is not accurate. In fact, it is a fantasy at best and a lie at worst. There needs to be a realistic assessment of the impact that includes how much land would be impacted by all the roads, facilities and pipelines, as well as how much land will be impacted by the seismic survey work. This needs to be documented and published so the American people can understand what reality is.

There is no need to rush to develop this land. The US and the world has more than enough fossil fuel for many years to come. To the contrary, if we continue to burn fossil fuel at the current rate, we will end up with an uninhabitable planet. BLM needs to assess what the burning of the estimated fossil fuel in this area would cost the world in terms of CO2 and climate disruption.

**Diane Preston** <dianep@mosquitonet.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 9:36 PM

oops, accidentally sent too soon at 7:54 pm. Here are the rest of my comments.

As a lifelong Alaskan (now 69), I am very opposed to any attempt to drill in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for many reasons.

First off, this process is proceeding without the time and care it needs to understand the effect such development would have on the land, the Gwich'in people, the abundant in numbers and species of wildlife that use this area, and the earth's environment. I request that there be time for a full review of all the numerous impacts that would happen. There needs to be more opportunity for people throughout Alaska and the rest of the US to testify about this as this is National land that belongs to all the people of the US. Information needs to be translated into the Native languages of the people whose lives will be directly impacted as well as other major Alaskan Native languages. People in the "lower 48," the majority of whom are opposed to drilling, need to have an opportunity for input. BLM needs to extend the comment period beyond June 19, 2018.

The idea that the oil and gas development would be limited to 2000 acres is not accurate. In fact, it is a fantasy at best and a lie at worst. There needs to be a realistic assessment of the impact that includes how

much land would be impacted by all the roads, facilities and pipelines, as well as how much land will be impacted by the seismic survey work. This needs to be documented and published so the American people can understand what the reality is.

There is no need to rush to develop this land, the oil and gas is not going away. The US and the world has more than enough fossil fuel reserves and other identified areas to drill for many years to come and we must leave much of the already proven reserves in the ground if we are going to avoid climate catastrophe and continue to have a livable planet. BLM needs to assess what the burning of the estimated fossil fuel in this area would cost the world in terms of CO2 and climate disruption. In addition, there must be assessment of how any additional contribution to climate disruption from this drilling will affect the already expensive costs to Alaskan communities of villages washing into the sea, infrastructure crumbling as permafrost melts and other impacts, including health impacts.

There are hundreds of species that inhabit this area, mammals, birds, insects and fish. In addition, marine animals frequent the area off this 1002 plain. There must be research on what the impact of drilling will be on each of these many species and also an assessment of the impact of possible oil spills in this fragile environment.

Also needed in any assessment is a realistic look at the economics of this proposed venture. Fossil fuel use will be greatly reduced in the future and renewables will be much more important. The estimates of the finances involved do not appear to be realistic.

Although it is hard to quantify, there must be some estimation of the value to the US and to the world of this wilderness. Tourism is a major industry in Alaska and people do not come here to see oil rigs. They come here to see scenery and to experience the idea of wilderness. This is an important sacred value to all, not just the Alaskan Native peoples.

Thank you,  
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