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**[EXTERNAL] Comment regarding development of ANWR**1 message

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To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 4:31 PM

Following are my comments regarding oil production in ANWR.

1. The Arctic Wildlife Refuge is the nesting area for millions of birds and 200,000 caribou. It is truly an area of an amazing resource and subsistence value for Canadian and United States residents that live in the path of migration and have long history of sustainably harvesting this wildlife.
2. Birds from 6 continents and all 50 states within the United States nest in ANWR. There are no protections for the birds or their nesting area as the Migratory Bird Protection Act was recently been repealed by Congress.
3. The proposed drilling area is dense with wildlife. There is no optimum time of the year for construction, exploration and drilling. Spring, birds and caribou return to reproduce and rear their young, summer and fall months, the young wildlife are feeding and preparing for migration.  
  
Winter months, the overwintering wildlife are in their dens. Noise and disruption will disturb hibernation of wildlife, resulting in their awaking to no available food and disrupting the gestation pattern of pregnant females resulting in reproductive failure.
4. The proposed area of development overlaps the highest density of polar bear dens along Alaska Coastline. The San Diego performed a study which tested the hearing range for polar bears in the early 2000's. The result was that they could hear noise even below than that generated by seismic testing.
5. Caribou calve and rear their young in the coastal plain that is the targeted area for drilling. This coastal area is vital because the coastal breezes prevent the flying insects from feeding and killing on the young calves. Should all of the man-made activity cause the caribou to move elsewhere at this time of their migration, survival of the young and longterm survival of the herd will be severely impacted.
6. The wildlife is already stressed from extremely warm weather in recent years. This change in climate affects migration timing and availability of food sources. Any additional disruption or displacement will seriously reduce other wildlife populations.

6. Areas of drilling are proposed to be small pads. The huge web of connecting roads, pipelines, which results in covering a huge area of the coastal area has not been included in any presentation.

7. The vegetation site of the test well of the has yet to recover from the disturbance. Such will be the case of the pits dug for gravel to build roads and for fill at drilling and pipeline locations, again impacting denning, feeding and nesting opportunities for wildlife.

8. Location and expanse of airfields, helicopter pads, living quarters, etc. has not been identified, conveniently avoided as a matter of fact, and of course will be added to the maze of structures already proposed that will cover the 10-02 area.

9. The experts and the Alaskan legislators quote 10 years to develop the area. **TEN** years of seismic testing, noise of helicopters and other aircraft, noise from heavy equipment, noise of building all structures and, digging gravel pits, building housing and transportation routes will result in a much larger impacted area than the proposed 2,000 acre footprint. There is not any avoiding the conclusion that such continuous disruption will definitely will decimate populations of nesting birds which have lost all protective status, as well as seriously impacting the reproductive cycle and denning, feeding and development of other wildlife populations.

10. The impact of this proposed development is too vast to only find that in 10 years, marketable quantities of oil are limited, and/or that the market for oil will not even pay for the cost of the development or oil deposits are minimal.

The poor market for oil is feasible with the increase of shale-oil production domestically and the fact that most countries, including the most populous, China and India are pursuing alternate fuel and energy sources, This trend toward alternate energy will only advance and clearly reduce the future worldwide demand for oil.

What a devastatingly high price of destruction to pay for such uncertainty.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,

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