



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Scoping Comments-COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM EIS**1 message

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**Susan Saul** <susan103saul@gmail.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 10:16 PM

I want to express my great opposition to any effort to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain to oil and gas leasing and development. You are charged to create an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for oil and gas leasing in the refuge's biological heart, it's coastal plain. Because oil and gas drilling will despoil one of the last great ecosystems on Earth -- often called the "American Serengeti" for it's great caribou migrations -- I request that the following issues be addressed in the EIS:

() The impact oil and gas drilling will have on our climate: Air temperatures on the Arctic NWR have already increased by several degrees and are projected to warm 6° F by 2040, shrinking habitat and food sources. Burning the Arctic Refuge's oil and gas reserves would exacerbate risks to polar bears and other species already struggling with melting sea ice. The EIS should study how oil and gas drilling will impact our climate both on the Arctic NWR and globally.

() The impact that oil and gas drilling will have on fish and wildlife of the Arctic NWR: The EIS should study the impacts oil and gas will have on the hundreds of species that exist at the refuge. Between Arctic NWR and the adjacent Arctic Ocean, there are 700 kinds of plants, 200 species of birds, 47 mammal species and 42 fish species. No other protected area in the entire circumpolar north has such abundant and diverse wildlife; oil and gas exploration and drilling impacts must be evaluated to understand how this delicate ecosystem will be affected.

() The impact that oil and gas drilling will have on Wilderness. With two adjacent Canadian National Parks, the Arctic NWR ecosystem is the largest and wildest protected landscape in North America, affording unparalleled opportunities for those seeking the solace of undisturbed areas and vicariously enjoyed by many who may never personally experience it. Further, President Obama transmitted a Wilderness recommendation to Congress to designate the entire refuge as Wilderness. The EIS should evaluate how oil and gas development will impact Wilderness character and the ability for future generations to experience Wilderness areas and proposed Wilderness in the Refuge.

() The impact that oil and gas drilling will have on the Gwich'in custom and culture. The Arctic NWR is the homeland for the Gwich'in people who have depended on caribou for their subsistence for thousands of years. Oil and gas drilling in the Arctic NWR will impact their way of life and threaten their very existence. The EIS must fully evaluate and reveal how oil and gas drilling will impact the way of life for the Gwich'in people.

I strongly believe that there are places in our nation that are too important to exploit for short term financial gain. The EIS must address the concerns listed above to reveal in a transparent way the full effects of drilling for oil and gas in this ecologically vital place.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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