



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Public Comment for the Record - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge1 message

deanna steege <steeged@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 7, 2018 at 7:26 AM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Hello,

I am writing to underscore the importance of NOT turning the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge into an oil field, as proposed the Trump Administration.

The coastal plain is the most important onshore denning habitat for the threatened polar bears in the US, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS designated the majority of the area (approximately 77 percent) as critical denning habitat for this imperiled species in 2010. Southern Beaufort Sea polar bears, the population found most often on the Coastal Plain, already number as few as 900 individuals. The Coastal Plain is increasingly important denning habitat for this vulnerable species due to the climate-driven loss of seasonal sea ice. Drilling activities could cause significant habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation of critical polar bear habitat. In addition, drilling activities could frighten mother bears from their dens, leaving cubs to perish and further contributing to species decline.

I respectfully ask that your agency consider the long-term repercussions for implementing this short-term and greedy plan that only serves to prop up a dying industry.

Sincerely,
Deanna Steege
Waverly, IA