



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Statement about coastal plain

1 message

Michael Smith <mssq@comcast.net>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Mon, Apr 30, 2018 at 4:37 PM

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to support preservation as is of the coastal plain of ANWR. I have backpacked here twice, having walked nearly one hundred miles in two river drainages, the Kongakut and the Aichilik.

Put bluntly, ANWR is the most beautiful place I have ever been, and I have been fortunate enough to have visited all continents and much of the wilderness in North America. I have long said we should leave this area alone as America's Serengeti, where one can go for days without seeing signs of other human beings, where the rivers run free and without trash, the tundra comes alive every spring with practically every square inch supporting growth. The proposed leasing violates the values for which ANWR was set aside. It will hurt the Porcupine Caribou herd's calving grounds. If we must have oil, there are other places to find it. If we must have oil, let us make far more fuel efficient vehicles, where the technology currently exists. This oil won't balance our budget, and it will harm the ecosystem in extraction, and it will aggravate global climate change in its combustion..

I can't put a price tag on the value of large, unspoiled wilderness ecosystems, which America is one of the few countries to have. Exploiting the mineral resources of this area will permanently damage the biological ones.

I ask that you leave ANWR's coastal plain alone. Let those whose lives have yet to begin have the chance to see it the way I have.

Sincerely yours,
Michael S. Smith
Eugene, OR