



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Scoping Letter

1 message

Dave Shreffler <lostmntnloft@olympus.net>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Sun, Jun 3, 2018 at 4:23 PM

Karen Mouritsen, Acting State Director

3 June, 2018

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska

[222 W 7th Avenue #13](#)[Anchorage, AK 99513](#)

Ms. Mouritsen,

Thank you for taking time to consider these comments on the proposed lease and drilling program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I am a restoration ecologist and photographer. I strongly oppose efforts to develop an oil and gas program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I have stood on the Arctic Plain 7 times. I have walked through the 1002 Area. An exhibit of my arctic photos has appeared in the Senate Rotunda.

For decades, and through both Democratic and Republican Administrations, our government has chosen NOT to develop the 1002 Area. Millions of us know and have commented to Interior Secretary Zinke that this is a complex, healthy ecosystem that cannot be replaced or restored. It is important to thousands of people who have lived sustainably as part of the Arctic landscape for centuries and this land belongs to the American public.

The first choice, the only responsible choice in an Environmental Impact Statement, is to continue NOT developing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It is fully eligible for Wilderness designation and that option should be **completely** considered and evaluated in an EIS.

The Trump administration has indicated their intent to expedite the review process and hold lease sales in 2019. This rushed timeline is completely unacceptable, as it will not allow for the needed analysis required under the law and which is necessary to meet the Department's obligations to responsibly steward one of the crown jewels of the nation's National Wildlife Refuge System.

I am confident that an honest, thorough, science-based analysis will clearly indicate why an oil and gas program does not belong in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Most Sincerely,

Dave Shreffler**Sequim, Washington**

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