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[EXTERNAL] coastal plain eis comment

1 message

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The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the last great wildernesses on the planet. The species of large animals that live there need large undisturbed landscapes in order to survive and reproduce in the harsh arctic environment. These animals, such as caribou are declining across their range as a result of heavy impact from extractive industries, like those proposed in the Coastal Plain.

The tundra ecosystem is also very sensitive to disturbance, especially given that climate change, caused by burning fossil fuels, is already stressing the ecosystem.

My major concern for the proposed drilling are that the coastal plane in ANWR is that this area will be irreparably harmed for many of the wildlife species that live there, for many one of their last strongholds. Caribou are declining throughout much of their range in the northern hemisphere. If they are to survive into a warmer future they need undisturbed areas like the Coastal Plain. Polar bears are another example of a species that is struggling across their range and need places like the Coastal Plain to help them adapt to a changing world.

Given the irreplaceable nature of the Coastal Plain area that is being proposed for drilling, and the fact that very few areas of the planet remain untrammled by humans, an alternative that should receive top consideration is not drilling on the Coastal plane and allowing the area to remain as wilderness. The national petroleum, located not far, should be the focus of oil exploration in region if we consider it necessary to the greater good of the country and the Coastal Plane in ANWR should be left alone. The continued success of our society and country will not be determined by the number of natural areas and wildernesses that we exploit, but by the area of the planet that we are willing to preserve as we chart out course into the future. Do not drill in the Coastal Plain.

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