



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

---

**[EXTERNAL] Arctic National Wildlife Refuge LEIS Scoping comments**1 message

---

Laurie Terwilliger &lt;ltpf1@yahoo.com&gt;

Wed, Jun 6, 2018 at 9:46 AM

To: "blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov" &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov&gt;

To Whom it May Concern,

Please consider the following comments relating to the Scoping Process for intent to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development:

- 1) The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is part of our National Public Land Heritage belonging to *all* Americans regardless of the state in which they reside. Therefore, additional public meetings should be held in each state that has shown interest in this issue. This is a *national* issue not a state issue.
- 2) The mission of a National Wildlife Refuge System is "to administer a national network of lands and waters *for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.* (my italics).

Included in **The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997** are the findings:

Sec. 2(2): The System (*the National Wildlife Refuge System*), was created to conserve fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats and this conservation mission been facilitated by providing Americans opportunities to participate in compatible wildlife-dependent recreation, including fishing and hunting, on System lands and to better appreciate the value of and need for fish and wildlife conservation.

Sec. 2(3): The System serves a pivotal role in the conservation of migratory birds, anadromous and interjurisdictional fish, marine mammals, endangered and threatened species, and the habitats on which these species depend.

Sec. 2(4): The System assists in the fulfillment of important international treaty obligations of the United States with regard to fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats.

Considering the above findings, private oil and gas development on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is in direct opposition to the mission of a National Wildlife Refuge which is conservation of wildlife, plants and their habitats, public recreational use and enjoyment, and honoring international treaties. The latter includes our obligation to abide by the *Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on the Conservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd*. This agreement specifically recognizes that "the Porcupine Caribou Herd should be conserved". Additionally, any actions that would adversely affect the long-term health of the herd requires involvement of both parties to the agreement; in this case, Canada.

- 3) Opening national public lands for oil development is in direct opposition to global climate change goals and our nation's security in dealing with the effects of climate change. The scoping process should include a clear, scientific, evidenced-based review which will include the effects of oil development upon greenhouse gas emissions and their contribution to climate change; the impacts of increased use of fossil fuels upon Arctic warming trends and how these trends will affect wildlife, plants, and their habitats; the economic

impact to the renewable energy sector and future jobs in the renewable energy market which is the viable alternative to fossil fuel use; and the social and economic impacts incurred by cities and villages in and outside of Alaska to deal with extreme coastal weather events and flooding caused by climate change.

4) The destruction of a unique, biologically diverse, and intact wilderness ecosystem that has had overwhelming public support for the last three decades, sets a precedent for future private resource extraction on other public lands owned by all Americans. This is not an "Alaskan" issue. The scoping process should explore the effect of this "cost" on future generations of Americans and our remaining public lands. For example, do we have examples of a pristine arctic wilderness with large migrating herds of caribou in other states?

5) Due to the enormous complexities of the proposed leasing and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the public comment period should be extended to accommodate public meetings in additional states and allow for additional comments.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Laurie Terwilliger

5 Gould Road

Warner, NH 03278