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[EXTERNAL] Scoping comments on proposed leasing the 1002 area ANWR1 message

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

I have resided in Anchorage since 1972. My initial job in Alaska was the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation lead the Wild River Studies required by ANCSA. As part of that responsibility, I examined the Killik/Colville rivers for potential addition to the national wild river systems and my team examined the Ivishak River. When I returned to BLM in 1974, I actively participated in oil and gas development permitting on the North Slope since. My BLM experiences as the DSD Resources Alaska State Office ranged from being a team member in the EIS evaluating the proposed gas pipeline system across what is now the 1002 area; the BLM officer working with the USGS on the close out of the USGS exploration drilling in NPRA; BLM lead for the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline System EIS from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez, Authorized Officer for TAPS. I also was DNR Director of Ming and Water Management when the USFWS filed water right applications for most of the lakes in the 1002 area. After retirement from BLM and the Alaska DNR, I was selected as a third party consultant to federal leasees and BLM for a substantial proportion of the EAs for winter exploration on federal leases in NPRA.

Oil gas development has and is an active multiple use activity on the NPRA, Native Lands, and State lands in the Coastal Plain and the area north of the Brooks Range since the early 1940s. Foremost, Scoping should consider the direction by Congress and President Carter when the ANILCA 1002 area of ANWR was established.

In addition, Scoping should rigorously examine the predicted and actual environmental and economic consequences of:

1. Exploration, development, and operation of the South Barrow Gas Field.
2. US Navy and more recent USGS exploration/cleanup in the Naval Petroleum Reserve (now the National Petroleum Reserve, Alaska).
3. The effectiveness of the mitigation measures and other permit requirements in several BLM NPRA leasing EISs and the many subsequent winter drilling permit EAs.
4. Former and current activities in the Prudhoe Bay and adjacent fields and the current effectiveness of mitigation measures, including those for wetlands, caribou, polar bear, marine mammals associated with water transport of exploration and development in coastal waters adjoining the North Slope, and subsistence activities associated therewith.
5. The expected and actual effects of the Mooses Tooth complex identified in the EIS and subsequent development permits.
6. The cumulative effects of exploration and potential development of oil and gas economic resources in the 1002 area that uses North Slope current, effective mitigation measures and permit requirements protecting endangered species, wetlands, caribou and migratory birds.
7. The opportunity to tier off the recent Pt. Thompson EIS and development/operational permits pursuant to NEPA.