



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Arctic National Wildlife Refuge- drilling**

1 message

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**Stephen Sullivan** <stephen@stephensullivanandesigns.com>

Fri, Jun 1, 2018 at 8:35 PM

To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Dear BLM,

While I am currently a resident of Washington State, I have lived and vacationed in Alaska since my first job in Anchorage in 1981. My family has roots in Alaska going back to the 1950s.

In August of 2016, I had the opportunity to spend almost 2 weeks in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. My family and I traveled north on the Marsh Fork of the Canning River, with the goal of reaching the Arctic Ocean.

The vast wildness of the ANWR made an impression on me that I shall never forget. We witnessed herds of caribou, brown bear, Dahl sheep, wolves, fox, and raptors in abundance. The absence of human intrusion on this landscape is what makes it sacred: it is one of the last large examples of the earth untouched.

The contemplation of drilling, extracting, and despoiling land in such a place is a bad idea because it's highest value to our nation lies not in resource extraction, but in its very preservation in its wilderness state.

The stated mission of the BLM is:

"...it is the **mission** of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations..."

This mission statement makes it clear that the BLM is entrusted with the wise use and protection of its designated lands for Americans of the future. Long after our current dependence on fossil fuels has ended (an addiction of barely one century in the course of human existence ), future generations will inherit a degraded environment if we drill the ANWR. The animals will lose further habitat, water will be polluted, and the delicate Arctic soil structures and flora will be destroyed in the impacted area. As you know, these habitats take literally centuries to rebuild themselves due to the harsh climate of the Arctic.

By allowing drilling, you agree to dismiss the BLM's Mission Statement to "sustain the health for future generations" of the ANWR, its crown jewel.

I pray that the BLM will execute this important decision with the full weight of responsibility to its stated mission, for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for protecting what is most valuable on earth.

Sincerely,

Stephen M Sullivan  
1242 East Newton St  
Seattle, Wa 98102

Sent via phone