



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain Oil & Gas Leasing1 message

Ronald Yarnell <ronaldyarnell@icloud.com>

Thu, Apr 26, 2018 at 11:25 PM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

To Whom it may concern,

I have been leading wilderness trips across the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge since 1976. I have led hundreds of people from all over the world across the coastal plain all the way to the Arctic Ocean. There is nowhere else in Alaska where you can do this. Everywhere else the coastal plain is far too wide.

The coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge is a very special place. There is nowhere else in Alaska, or North America, for that matter like it.

The coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge is the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge. This is where the Porcupine Caribou Herd calves. This is where the muskox live. This is one of the places the polar bear den, & with global warming, where they now have to spend the summer.

There is absolute no reason why we need to open up the coastal plain to oil exploration. There are plenty of places in the National Petroleum Reserve that we can develop for oil. Recent finds there have exceeded expectations. There is more than enough oil to help put more oil in the Alaska pipeline & to help the state of Alaska fund their government.

Whatever oil may be found in the Arctic Refuge will not solve our budgetary problems. In fact we need to reduce our use of petroleum products and this is one of the best places to start to do that. Why should we sacrifice our most pristine wilderness for more oil that is warming our planet?

The Arctic Refuge belongs to all Americans, not just Alaskan politicians, and not just Alaskans.

This is the only area on Alaska's vast north slope presently protected.

Alternative areas are available for development.

Insufficient consideration was given to the overwhelming public support for protection of this area.

Recent management plans for the Arctic Refuge recommend wilderness protection for the coastal plain. How can Congress now propose opening up this area when they just finished these plans.

This proposed leasing goes against the values for which the Arctic Refuge was set aside. The budget bill that proposes leasing here goes against what the people have expressed they want for the coastal plain.

More time is needed for the public to adequately be consulted. The comment period should be extend at least an additional three months. This is the beginning of the busy Alaska summer season. Many people are out in the field & will not be able to comment on this proposal until after September.

Exploration within the 1002 area will seriously affect my business and my means of livelihood. I have been making a living guiding trips across the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge for 41 years now. This development will stop me from guiding clients out across the coastal plain from the mountains to the Arctic Ocean.

Keep oil out of the Arctic Refuge. This is the only place on Alaska's vast north slope where we have a chance of protecting the coastal plain from the mountains to the Arctic Ocean.

Sincerely, Ronald A. Yarnell