



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Yukon Bird Club submission to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program**

1 message

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**Malkolm Boothroyd** <malkolmboothroyd@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 4:17 PM

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

Cc: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca, catherine.mckenna@parl.gc.ca, chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Hayes,

Please see the Yukon Bird Club's open letter to Bureau of Land Management's scoping period in advance of its EIS on proposed oil and gas leasing on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Thank you,

Malkolm Boothroyd

On behalf of the Yukon Bird Club

**Yukon Bird Club Arctic Refuge letter.pdf**

84K

Nicole Hayes  
Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS  
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513



**Re: Birds and the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS.**

Dear Ms Hayes,

The Yukon Bird Club represents Yukoners who share a passion for birds and their conservation. Every spring and fall dozens of Arctic-nesting birds migrate through the Yukon, many on their way to the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Migratory birds link the Arctic Refuge to far-away places, and the impacts of oil and gas activities in the heart of this ecosystem could be felt not only in the Yukon, but across the globe. One of the Refuge's most famous long-distance migrators is the Arctic Tern, which breeds in the Arctic and winters in the Antarctic.

Over 200 species of birds can be found in the Arctic Refuge. Most of these species nest within the Refuge's borders, including the endangered Spectacled Eider along the north coast. Other Arctic Refuge breeding birds include the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope and Short-eared Owl: species listed under Canada's Species at Risk Act.

There are numerous ways that oil and gas activities on the Coastal Plain may negatively impact breeding birds. The EIS should assess how noise pollution from oil and gas-related activities may interfere with courtship and territorial vocalizations. The EIS should address how foods and other attractants associated with anthropogenic activities may increase the densities of predators and opportunists such as Arctic foxes, which in turn may elevate the risk of depredation of bird nests and chicks. The EIS should study how oil and gas-related activities may dissuade birds from foraging or nesting in certain habitats, increase the stress levels experienced by birds, and disturb incubation behaviours. The EIS should also consider how oil and gas activities within the breeding grounds of migratory bird species may exacerbate the cumulative impacts of disturbances already experienced along migratory routes and in winter habitats. The EIS should evaluate these and other ways that oil and gas activities may adversely impact birds, and consult experts - including Canadian scientists - on Arctic bird ecology on the full range of potential impacts.

The Bureau of Land Management should consider the impacts of the proposed oil and gas leasing program on bird species that overwinter in and/or migrate through the Yukon and Canada, in addition to obligations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

The Yukon Bird Club is deeply concerned about the proposed oil and gas leasing program for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. The Yukon Bird Club urges you to conduct the most

comprehensive of environmental reviews on the proposed oil and gas activities, and consider the transboundary effects such activities may have.

Thank you,

The Yukon Bird Club  
Shyloh van Delft, President  
Whitehorse, YT

And:

Tracy Allard, Whitehorse, Yukon  
C. Boles, Whitehorse, YT  
Malkolm Boothroyd, Whitehorse, YT  
Linda Cameron, Whitehorse, YT  
Michelle Christensen, Whitehorse, YT  
Deanna Conlon, Carcross, YT  
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