



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS

Public Scoping Comment Form

Fairbanks
5/29/18

Please submit your comments by **June 19, 2018** via one of the following methods:

E-mail:

blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Via webform on the project website:

<https://goo.gl/HVo5Mj>

Mail:

Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program
EIS
222 West 7th Ave., Stop #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

PLEASE PRINT

Date: 5/29/18

Name: Shannon Busby

Organization (if applicable): _____

E-mail Address: wanderingmind24@gmail.com

Street Address: 1689 Violin Circle

City/State/Zip: Fairbanks AK 99709

Public Disclosure. Before including your address, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments:

I am opposed to oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Refuge. I am very concerned about the effects drilling will have on the porcupine caribou herd. We have seen how major development has affected caribou elsewhere, and At some point we must stop and provide space for these wild animals to roam. The tundra does not heal from damage quickly - how will the species - animal & plant deal with these developments? Will invasives be much more likely to out compete native plants? How will you mitigate these invasives? As climate changes challenge the north, the native species are already taxed and invasive species have been creeping north with the warmer temperatures. What happens when the "wildlands" of the Arctic Refuge are covered in vetch and sweet clover? Will people still come from around the world to see the vast wild beauty? And what about the people that live in and around the Arctic Refuge? Are there voices being heard? Are there rights as Indigenous people

(Continue comments on the back if needed)

being respected? The Gwich'in depend on the porcupine caribou for food as well as cultural, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. The role that these creatures and this land plays on their health can not be quantified. It is not the same as going to the grocery store and buying very expensive meat shipped in. ~~This is a fact is that~~ I studied the role food plays in wellness in Utqiagvik and saw how much having oil money caused anguish and misdirection as people lost connection with their culture. So much of ^{Alaska Native} people's wellbeing is in their ties to the land - their shared subsistence activities, ~~and~~ sharing and passing on of knowledge and eating traditional foods.

I'm also concerned about the effect this drilling might have on the watershed. The ^{plants'} animals that live and move through the Arctic Refuge must have clean water. As a hunter and recreator in the Arctic Refuge I want the plants and animals I eat to be uncontaminated and the water I drink while on the land also free from chemicals and poisons associated with drilling.

I also have concerns about how this drilling will affect carbon release in the arctic. ~~People~~ People/businesses around the world are discussing buying the carbon in the ground in the arctic to keep in the ground and mitigate climate change. Yet we are going to dig up the tundra, which releases carbon, to get more fossil fuels, which is a major cause of climate change? We should spend our time and energy diversifying ~~our~~ the state's revenue instead of continuing to limp along on oil. The beauty, wildness, and adventure that bring people for tourism is a much more sustainable ~~option~~ resource.

There are so many resources in the Arctic besides oil that we must be long sighted enough to see