



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Comment: EIS for the Coastal Plain - Alaska

1 message

litenupp@gmail.com <litenupp@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 4, 2018 at 4:31 PM

Reply-To: litenupp@gmail.com

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Dear BLM Alaska State Office:

Alaska's 19.3 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge represents the last frontier in wild, backcountry lands and waters. The refuge feeds our dreams of the wild, offering sportsmen the opportunity to hunt and fish vast tracts of wild country on a scale incomparable to anything found in the lower 48. Here, sportsmen can travel 100-plus miles without seeing sign of another person.

The backcountry hunting and fishing opportunity that this area provides - and the intact fish and wildlife habitat that sustains it - deserve a careful and thorough science-based review, not a rushed decision-making process based on politics. We ask that this analysis include:

- A full scientific analysis of impacts on wildlife, habitat and water resources for all phases of development including infrastructure development, exploratory drilling and seismic studies, drilling and development and active impacts during production and mineral recovery and transportation.
- A thorough scientific analysis on impacts to habitat and migration patterns for the Porcupine Caribou herd, which relies on the Coastal Plain for calving and post-calving grounds as well as the 200+ species of migratory birds that call the Refuge home.
- Consideration of impacts to an otherwise uninterrupted landscape that currently supports unparalleled opportunities to experience the solitude and solace of an untrammelled frontier.
- Impacts of mineral exploration and development on traditional cultures, subsistence and food security.

Please give the last frontier and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge the thorough environmental and economic analysis it deserves - an analysis that will undoubtedly show the need to conserve these irreplaceable public lands.

Sincerely,

Mark Scofield
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