



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

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**[EXTERNAL] ANWR Coastal Plan oil and gas lease public comment**1 message

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**Rob Burrows** <rob.burrows@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 10:53 PM

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

First of all, I stand with the Gwich'in people and oppose any and all development in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I also believe this place is sacred and the Gwich'in's wishes should be respected. I request that the BLM does not grant any permission for oil and gas exploration or subsequent extractive development in this area.

I regrettably am no longer a resident of Alaska (now live in WA state), but distance does change that I would be affected by the proposed leases and likely development. The ANWR is a NATIONAL TREASURE and while I am extremely sympathetic to local interests (who have conflicting wishes about this course of action), this is public land that belongs to all of us in the United States of America.

I do understand the stage of the NEPA process you are in and that you are looking for substantive comment for the EIS. These are my comments:

1. Thoroughly evaluate a stand alone No Action alternative. Do not use simply as a comparison with the action alternatives.
2. In evaluating the impacts of exploration include alternatives that compare ground based vs. aerial exploration.
3. In crafting alternatives include one that provides development-free areas in areas that are calving grounds for caribou.
4. Evaluate an alternative that includes development-free areas along river corridors that are frequently used by boaters (e.g. pack rafts, kayaks).
5. The plan should incorporate an adaptive management framework that is firmly supported by rigorous science. There should be clear indicators and standards that would guide where and when the impacts are too great on caribou, migratory birds, other important species, water quality, permafrost, coastal resources (if applicable), aesthetics, and recreational experience and whatever else is deemed important.
6. The EIS should evaluate those resources listed above and include evaluation of impacts to both ground and surface water quality.
7. Given the new DOI rules for EIS timelines and page limits I look forward to seeing how you are going to pull this one off. Good luck!