



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS**1 message

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**Nick Clarke** <njc123@aol.com>

Fri, Jun 15, 2018 at 3:39 PM

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

Dear Secretary Zinke,

As someone who has been very fortunate to have visited the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge six times, I know first hand that it is a national treasure and irreplaceable. I strongly oppose your efforts to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration and development. This unspoiled wilderness should be permanently preserved. Regardless of how development occurs within the coastal plain it is certain that the wilderness will be destroyed forever.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the last ecologically intact wilderness ecosystems on earth and it needs to be protected for future generations. The Refuge is home to many of our country's polar bear denning sites, the Porcupine caribou herd's calving ground, and it is essential to the culture of the Gwich'in people.

I urge you to please protect our public land heritage and reverse your plans to sacrifice the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for unnecessary and short sighted fossil fuel development.

Thank you,

Nick Clarke

Montana