



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

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**[EXTERNAL] oil drilling citizen comments**

1 message

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**Rebecca Canright** <rebeccagroovypeace@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 28, 2018 at 8:42 PM

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

Dear Whom it May Concern:

Hello! I am a college student and concerned citizen who wants to see our ecosystems safeguarded for future generations. I believe that the Bureau of Land Management should immediately abandon its plan to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drill for oil and gas. Therefore, there is no need to start any "scoping" process for an environmental review of the impact of leasing drilling rights to companies in the 1.6-million-acre portion of the ANWR known as the "coastal plain."

The rare, and ecologically magnificent Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was created to conserve the natural diversity of one of the most fragile and ecologically sensitive ecosystems in the world.

Opening this remarkable and delicate ecosystem to oil and gas drilling is an insult to the American people and it flies in the face of the Arctic refuge's true purpose, one of which is to preserve the incredible array of biodiversity. This landscape is also one of the few places on Earth where polar, brown (grizzly), and black bears can be found coexisting.

Proposed oil development would have serious impacts on species like the polar bear as well as caribou, musk oxen and hundreds of species of migratory birds. This area is considered the "biological heart" of the refuge, and habitat loss that occurs here will impact the entire Arctic Refuge and beyond.

Oil related activities such as seismic testing, aircraft and vehicle noise, or even the mere presence of humans nearby can drive mother polar bears away from their den and cubs. Drilling the Arctic Refuge could alter the annual path of the Porcupine caribou herd, one of the longest land mammal migrations in the world. The critical breeding grounds for migratory birds would be severely impacted, and could cause population-scale impacts for many species.

There must never be any drilling in the Arctic. Not in any part of this magnificent treasure, ever. Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I speak as an American citizen and a member of the voting public. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Canright