



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] ANWR

1 message

Lillian Crites-Flesher <lillipottery@yahoo.com>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Thu, May 31, 2018 at 10:55 PM

I'm grateful for people before my time who had the foresight to protect places like Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and Denali National Parks. The high visitor use counts in these parks show just how important large parcels of undeveloped lands are to ensure the protection of ecosystems and to provide solace for people. Obviously, if you read any scientific literature, the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the key calving ground for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, a myriad of nesting birds, and much more. It is important to the indigenous people who depend on this herd as well.

I feel strongly that we need to think beyond our lifetime about protecting places of such significance in perpetuity. We already have the National Petroleum Reserve and a lot of state land available for new oil development. New offshore leases have also been made available and new oil fields have recently been found where there already is infrastructure. We won't be done using petroleum products anytime soon, but we need to at least be making our way toward alternative energy solutions that lessen the impacts of climate change. I am saddened that the option to allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has been quietly slipped in the recent tax bill. It was the only way this travesty could have happened because a majority of Americans are opposed to developing this unique, priceless Arctic gem.

Lilli Crites-Flesher