



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Yukon Conservation Society Comment on Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program

1 message

Julia Duchesne <outreach@yukonconservation.org>

Thu, Jun 14, 2018 at 12:51 PM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov

Cc: feedback@ios.doi.gov, Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca, Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca, Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Hayes,

Please find attached a letter from the Yukon Conservation Society containing comments on the scope of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing EIS.

Sincerely,

Yukon Conservation Society

302 Hawkins St., Whitehorse YT Y1A 1X6

867-668-5678

www.yukonconservation.org



Yukon Conservation Society - Coastal Plain EIS Scoping Letter - June 14 2018.pdf

341K



June 14, 2018

Nicole Hayes
Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

By Email:	Nicole Hayes	blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov
CC:	Secretary Ryan Zinke (DOI)	feedback@ios.doi.gov
	The Hon. Justin Trudeau	Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca
	The Hon. Catherine McKenna	Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca
	The Hon. Chrystia Freeland	Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Hayes,

The Yukon Conservation Society (YCS) is a grassroots environmental non-profit organization, established in 1968. Through a broad program of conservation education, input into public policy, and participating in project review processes, we strive to ensure that the Yukon's ecosystems are managed wisely, and that development is informed by environmental considerations.

YCS has worked hard for 50 years to ensure that the Canadian range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd is a safe place for them. In Alaska, the American range of the herd benefits from the protection afforded them from outstanding parks and reserves.

By far the most important part of their range is a relatively modest sliver of coastal plain, in Alaska, where females in the herd give birth within a few days, in a location that is uniquely secure from predators. Your department is proposing to open this irreplaceable calving area, the 1002 lands of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, for oil development.

Across North America, caribou are struggling to survive because of human development and human-driven climate change. The Porcupine Caribou Herd has demonstrated resilience in the face of such challenges. The Porcupine Caribou Herd is one of the last healthy barren ground caribou herds left in Canada. Oil and gas activities in the heart of their calving grounds could put the herd at unprecedented risk.

Canada and the United States proudly signed an Agreement governing how the two countries would manage the Porcupine Caribou Herd (<http://www.treaty-accord.gc.ca/text-texte.aspx?id=100687>). Central to the Agreement is a shared commitment to avoid or minimize activities that are disruptive to the herd. Canada and America agreed to consult each other on matters that could affect the herd on each side of our border: "Where an activity in one country is determined to be likely to cause significant long-term adverse impact on the Porcupine Caribou Herd or its habitat, the other Party

Yukon Conservation Society



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will be notified and given an opportunity to consult prior to final decision". YCS asks therefore that your consultations extend into Canada.

Canadian, Yukon, and Indigenous governments are united in their resolve to conserve the herd and its habitat. YCS urges you to respect the terms of the Agreement and to consult with Canada and the Gwich'in before committing the American side of the range to oil field development.

Yours truly,

Mike Walton, PhD
Executive Director