



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

1 message

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**Lisa Downey** <lisadowneynew@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 13, 2018 at 10:51 AM

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

Dear Ms. Hayes,

I am opposed to any and all oil and gas drilling activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including on the Coastal Plain.

The Arctic Refuge is among our nation's last great wild places and the Coastal Plain is key to the ecological integrity of the entire Refuge. The Coastal Plain provides denning habitat for threatened polar bears and the calving ground for the Porcupine Caribou Herd. The Porcupine Caribou Herd sustains the Gwich'in and other indigenous people. Drilling not only threatens the caribou, it threatens the existence of an entire human culture that has thrived in the Arctic for thousands of years.

Leasing the Coastal Plain for oil and gas drilling would be the most destructive action taken regarding the wilderness, wildlife, and subsistence resources of a national wildlife refuge in modern history. If that weren't enough, oil and gas development will exacerbate climate change. We are already seeing the effects of climate change in the Arctic - temperatures in the Arctic are rising dramatically, causing the permafrost to melt, coastlines to disappear, and threatening the very survival of polar bears and other species.

In this EIS, the BLM must consider the impacts that oil and gas development on the Coastal Plain will have on the climate and it must comply with all the legal protections that are in place to protect caribou, water, subsistence, and other sensitive resources of the Coastal Plain. In addition, the BLM must consider the impacts that drilling and development, not just leasing, will have on the Coastal Plain and the Refuge more broadly.

Once again, I am opposed to any and all oil and gas activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It is not worth the equivalent of one year's worth of gasoline to disrupt or destroy this pristine wilderness forever. This is a national treasure, and should remain so for future generations.

Respectfully,  
Lisa Downey