



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Comments for Leasing of Lands in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**1 message

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**Susan Elliott** <Elliott.Susan.H@gmail.com>

Tue, May 1, 2018 at 3:52 PM

To: "blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov" &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

Dear Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program,

I would like to submit a comment in regards to oil and gas drilling in Alaska's Arctic Refuge. I strongly oppose opening this valuable region to oil and gas exploration. There is no area like it in ecological character anywhere else in our country and it should be protected. I have plans on visiting the region to float several of the rivers such as the upper Sheenjek, or the Ivishak. As the only part of Alaska's north slope that has historically been protected from this type of development, this region should remain untouched by development that could disrupt the fragile balance and important ecosystem services the region provides. There are also other lands that are already slated for development that are still awaiting leases, such as in the National Petroleum Reserve adjacent to the refuge.

I believe that inadequate consideration has been given to the overwhelming public support for protection of this area as wilderness. The values of the Arctic Refuge should be upheld and the proposed leasing goes against these values or follow the recommendations of the management plans for the Arctic Refuge.

The Arctic Refuge is a place that belongs to all Americans, not private companies. We should keep this places protected and not open it up to oil and gas that will only exacerbate global climate change.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Susan Elliott  
55 NE Farragut St, Ste 3  
Portland OR 97211