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[EXTERNAL] Arctic wildlife refuge1 message

kim leatham <leatham007@icloud.com>

Fri, Jun 1, 2018 at 9:26 PM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

As an explorer of Alaska's wild lands and arctic, as well as a BLM employee, back in the 1970's, I was witness to the studies and work to classify the lands, under the ANCA. Who did the land belong to? What was the native claim and what was BLM, forest service, wilderness, refuge, or private. It was a wild time of pipeline building, homesteading and divvying up the land.

What has become apparent in the ensuing decades is how important intact ecosystems are to many species of animals and how fragile the arctic environment is. I spent 3 weeks in the fall of 1990 on the Noatak River, witnessing the changing of seasons and the massive caribou migration.

Please realize that these lands in the arctic have been protected after decades of input and work for a very stark reason. There is no recovery or turning back once they are exploited and species dwindled to extinction or rarity.

We do not have a justifiable reason to drill for oil in the arctic. Don't be shortsighted and sell out our natural resources for the profits of faceless, soul-less oil companies. Our national security and economy do not need this. Preserve the pristine for the future. Use science to make a sound decision and don't open up the arctic to development exploitation.

Sincerely,

Kim Leatham
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Sent from right here