
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 2:48 PM
To: Sean Cottle; coastalplainAR
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Oppose oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic Refuge

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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From: Jeff Walters <jeff.walters2@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 1:43 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic Refuge
To: <mnhayes@blm.gov>

Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS

I am writing to oppose oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. As someone who has visited the refuge and spent time at the Canning River delta, I know firsthand how important and vital this coastal plain is to wildlife. This area is unique because, although the "width" of the coastal plain is much greater to the west of Prudhoe Bay, the proximity of the Brooks Range to the Arctic coast makes for a much smaller and restricted coastal plain within the Refuge.

I have several concerns with the draft Environmental Impact Statement. It does not analyze how development will interfere with the original purposes of the Refuge ("to conserve animals and plants in their natural diversity, ensure a place for hunting and gathering activities, protect water quality and quantity, and fulfill international wildlife treaty obligations"), the process was rushed (released just before the government shutdown!), accelerated timelines are limiting the opportunity for public participation, and the draft's three alternatives ALL allow full oil and gas development.

The biological resources of the Arctic Refuge coastal plain are too valuable to risk the types of accidents we've seen at Prudhoe Bay and Valdez. I am also very concerned about possible negative impacts to the Native Gwich'in people who have utilized this land for untold generations.

I have many many concerns with the speeded-up EIS and leasing process. Mostly, I am concerned about possible long-term negative impacts on this valuable land for short-term gain.

Jeff Walters
Fairbanks, Alaska