
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 9:04 AM
To: coastalplainAR; Sean Cottle
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Comments on BLM's Draft Environmental Statement Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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From: Judy and Frank Williams <fljlw@alaska.net>
Date: Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 11:17 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on BLM's Draft Environmental Statement Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program
To: <mnhayes@blm.gov>

I am writing to express some of my concerns with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) by the Bureau of Land Management for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I have had the privilege of visiting the refuge, and I realize what a truly national treasure it is, in its wild beauty, and its importance to many forms of life. From the way the leasing program was put into the 2017 Tax Act (adding a purpose of the refuge that is incompatible with the four established purposes of the refuge), to the rushed process of the DEIS and limited public participation, I am deeply troubled.

I have specific concerns about BLM's DEIS:

- It does not offer alternatives to the proposed leasing.
- It does not offer sufficient protection for the original purposes of the refuge, including fulfilling international wildlife treaty obligations.
- It does not offer careful consideration for the concerns of the Gwich'in Nation, their dependence on the Coastal Plain for subsistence.

- It does not provide measures to protect polar bears and their use of denning sites on the Coastal Plain.
- It does not provide adequate analyses on the effects of fossil fuel development on birds, caribou.
- It does not address clearly how much water will be required for oil and gas development.
- It does not provide accurate information on how much land be will be impacted by auxiliary aspects of a pad - pipelines, roads – more than the 2000 acres claimed.
- It does not adequately address impacts to air quality.
- It does not address the significant impacts of seismic exploration.
- It uses outdated information in some cases, and is missing information in others.

Please take the time necessary to address these and other deficiencies in the Draft Environmental Statement.

Sincerely, Judy Williams

Fairbanks, Alaska