
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 8:06 AM
To: Sean Cottle; coastalplainAR
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing EIS

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From: **Connie Zachel** <cozachob@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 12, 2019 at 9:27 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing EIS
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I had the good fortune to study muskoxen in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge in the '80's. These little known but awesome mammals were re-introduced to the Refuge in hopes of re-establishing healthy populations in an area where they had been exterminated. Muskoxen have dispersed widely across the Arctic Slope, but there is no current data because of no current comprehensive studies on their status. This EIS report presents virtually no consideration of the impacts on muskoxen. This is a large mammal with year around presence on the coastal plain, and an animal that could be greatly impacted by oil leasing and development. Muskoxen calve in early spring during winter conditions. Successful calving requires maximum conservation of energy by pregnant muskoxen ([i.e. no](#) disturbance) during the winter. Seismic activity would be very disruptive. More information from the "1002 report" (April 1987) and subsequent publications by P.E. Reynolds should be incorporated into the EIS. More study should be done on muskoxen on the coastal plain so we have current information on their status. Muskoxen have used most of the proposed lease area since they were re-introduced.

Having done research in both the Arctic Wildlife Refuge and in the Prudhoe Bay region, I have no doubts that the Arctic Refuge will irrevocably lose its wilderness value if any oil development is allowed. While in the Refuge, if I spied an anomaly on the landscape it was a wolf, a snowy owl, a bear, a muskox, a wolverine. Around the oil fields of Prudhoe, an anomaly on the landscape frequently turned out to be some sort of human litter. It would be a sad day if the Arctic Wildlife Refuge became another oil development.

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