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**From:** Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 11:43 AM  
**To:** coastalplainAR; Sean Cottle  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Lorraine Netro comments on the Arctic Refuge and DEIS  
**Attachments:** My Comments EIS Statement.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Nicole Hayes**

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Malkolm Boothroyd** <[mboothroyd@cpawsyukon.org](mailto:mboothroyd@cpawsyukon.org)>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 11, 2019 at 10:35 AM  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Lorraine Netro comments on the Arctic Refuge and DEIS  
**To:** <[mnhayes@blm.gov](mailto:mnhayes@blm.gov)>

Dear Ms. Hayes,

Please see the attached letter on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Draft EIS, submitted on behalf of Vuntut Gwitchin elder and Arctic Refuge advocate, Lorraine Netro.

Thank you,  
Malkolm Boothroyd

**Malkolm Boothroyd**  
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## Comments for the Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain

### Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska

My name is Lorraine Netro, I am Vuntut Gwitchin from Old Crow, Yukon. I was born and raised in Old Crow, my late mother Mary Netro raised me and my five sisters mostly out on the land by herself as a single parent, she was both a hunter and a trapper. Caribou have always been a part of our life, our diet and a symbol of the prosperity of our life in our homelands. Old Crow is my home.

I am writing to express my opposition to any oil and gas activities on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The U.S. Government's Draft Environmental Impact Statement fails to address the environmental and cultural damage that could be caused by oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge. The U.S. Government does not consider any Gwich'in communities within Canada when determining who could be "appreciable affected" by changes to the Porcupine Caribou herd. The U.S. Government states that the Porcupine Caribou herd would experience no major impacts from oil drilling, but provides little evidence to back up this claim. The U.S. Government almost completely ignores the transboundary impacts that oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Refuge would have on Canada.

Over the past thirty five years, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Sacred Lands, which is the Calving Grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd have been under threat from Oil and Gas development. We the Gwitchin people in the Gwich'in Nation, have always stood in solidarity and unity for protection of this Sacred Lands from any kind of resource development. We have made serious efforts and taken considerable time to educate the decision makers and all people so that we can protect our Sacred Lands for all time. The voices of the Gwitchin people have been heard throughout the United States, Canada and beyond including the offices in Congress, Senate and the United Nations.

Any resource development, will forever change, impact and effect the landscape of our Sacred lands for our people, the animals and the waters. Gwich'in people are spiritually connected to our lands, animals and waters, for our health and wellbeing in all areas of our life. The Porcupine Caribou is our main source of food. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the biological heart for all that lives, two hundred species of birds migrate there every spring from all over the world, it is a safe space for denning of the Polar Bear and the sacred space where the Porcupine Caribou give birth to their young since time immemorial and so many others.

I am truly concerned, we know only too well the destruction that comes with resource development, building of roads with tonnes of heavy machinery, airports and air traffic, water use, hundreds of people living in trailers with garbage, sewage and water use, the noise from everyone and everything will invade this sacred space in this pristine wilderness and disturb and invade the lives of the animals. You will tear up the lands, you will destroy and pollute the lakes and rivers, you will invade and tear up the nesting and denning areas for the animals, most of all, you will destroy the Sacred lands that our ancestors have protected for animals that are in their sacred time of giving birth.

We, the Gwitchin people, live in the Arctic. We are ground zero for Climate Change, our experts are our hunters, trappers and elders who have witnessed the changes in our homelands for so many years. Climate Change is Real, our communities and our people live with the serious impacts and effects of climate change, we experience all effects first hand. Food Insecurity is a real concern. Melting of the permafrost is real.

Animal behavior and migratory routes are changing, foreign species are coming north with warming of the climate. Willow growth is rampant on all traditional trails. Waters in our lakes and rivers are warmer than usual which impacts the fish and salmon. Resource development in the Arctic, in the north, will never be safe with the impacts of Climate Change. Oil and Gas structures will not be safe on eroding permafrost lands.

These issues need to be addressed, our concerns and our voices for the protection of our homelands need to be taken into consideration in all your decision making processes. Your statement that the Porcupine Caribou would experience no major impacts from oil drilling is so wrong, the Herd will be seriously impacted and affected. You also need to understand to the deepest core of your being that the lives of the Gwitchin people will be forever impacted and affected by your decision. We are the voice for our small children, our grandchildren and all those yet unborn, seven generations from now. While you try to ignore our Canadian Gwitchin Voices, we, along with our families, relatives, friends in Alaska stand in unity for the protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for all time.

For the record, I am Lorraine Netro, Vuntut Gwitchin, from Old Crow, Yukon Canada