
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 8:07 AM
To: Sean Cottle; coastalplainAR
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Draft EIS for oil leasing on the Arctic Coastal Plain

Nicole Hayes

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From: **Beth Davidow** <bethdavidow@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 12, 2019 at 7:19 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Draft EIS for oil leasing on the Arctic Coastal Plain
To: <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Cc: <ryan@northern.org>

Dear Ms. Hayes,

I lived and worked in Alaska for a long time, both in the Interior and throughout SE. Sadly, I had to leave Alaska for family reasons but still consider it my home. Alaska is certainly the one place on Earth I feel most connected to; it's the place that fills my very spirit with the freedom, beauty, majesty, and wildness for which the state is renowned around the globe.

Traveling around Alaska and through many places around the world as a scuba diver and wildlife filmmaker, I see astonishing changes happening to our planet that make me deeply concerned about anthropogenic climate change. Ocean acidification and concomitant ocean de-oxygenation are critical issues to humankind's survival. I see these changes in the reefs I explore. I was shocked to see when driving up to and throughout Alaska last summer, the profound northwardly advance of spruce bark beetle devastation because it's now warm enough for them to thrive at northern latitudes that once were too cold during winter to permit their survival. It deeply distresses me to see friends who live in coastal Arctic Alaska regions watch, their beaches disappearing under rising seas, eroding the shores upon which their homes are built.

It angers, saddens, and scares me to see humankind continuing to spew some 40 billion tons of greenhouse gases into the air every year. We must act now, as though our house is on fire, to stop this increase in emissions. We must immediately as our only

planet faces dire consequences if we do not quickly slam on all possible brakes to slow, and stop, the emissions of CO2 and methane greenhouse gases.

We are already witnessing oil industry project site failures on the Coastal Plain because of thawing permafrost. One way, therefore, to put the brakes on is to NOT drill in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge region. Drilling, and extractive industry, only accelerates the speed at which Alaska races to an inevitable and unforgivable crash.

Permafrost is undisturbed by bacterial decomposition. But warming temperatures lead to melting permafrost and accelerated soil decomposition, resulting in greatly accelerated releases of greenhouse gasses, especially methane, which – molecule for molecule – traps more heat (up to 30% times more) than CO2. More warming leads to more emissions, which leads to more warming, leading to further emissions...a deadly feedback loop.

We must halt our suicidal path because everything – Every. Thing. – is at stake. And everyone - every nation, every state, every corporation, every person - must help stamp out the fire that is rising emissions and get us back on a safer and healthier planetary path.

It's more than the Porcupine caribou herd and the pristine beauty of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge that are at threat from climate change (changes exacerbated by oil development industries). It's more than our kids, your children, and future generations. It's the communities, the culture, and the proudly unique Alaskan ways of life and everything we know and love about this incredible place we call Alaska. It's our freedom - our freedom to subsist, both physically and spiritually, in clean air and water alongside wildlife that continues to thrive. It's my friends in the Arctic, whose ancestors shaped their way of life, who are spiritually, culturally, and physically tied to the land and its beauty and bounty that sustains them.

Deleterious effects from climate change are obvious in the Arctic region: major insurance companies recognize this to be an axiom and are backing away because they see what's happening: climate change has made this part of the world economically uncertain and unstable. Even our military recognizes that we must address climate change, which presents threats to our nation and all of its people.

To continue to develop extractive industries in new areas, areas that we know provide so much to Alaska's First People and the animals they depend on and thus exacerbate the global warming crisis would be an act against humankind and the biosphere we all depend on to survive.

It is time to step up to truly help protect our planet, the one single home humanity has. The one single sphere that sustains all of us in a web woven beyond Time. We are all tied to the rhythms of life that plants, air & ocean currents, birds and mammals, fish and humans depend upon. Climate changes are disintegrating the strands of this web. Climate changes, primarily a result of extractive fossil fuel industries, are rushing our world over the precipice of an uninhabitable level.

The only thing we must rush is the complete cessation to extract more fossil fuels; we

must rush to stop this motion to allow drilling.

It is time to say a strong, powerful, and final "NO" to oil drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge region once and for all.

For the sake of Alaska and Alaskans, human and non; for the sake of people who still come to Alaska, drawn by the mystique and wild aura of the Last Frontier; for the sake of our one and only home, planet Earth, I urge you to cease any further motions, and activities, to drill in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

Respectfully,
Beth Davidow



<https://wildearthvisions.com>