
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 8:47 AM
To: coastalplainAR; Sean Cottle
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Comment- Coastal Plain Draft EIS Volume 1

Nicole Hayes

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

From: **Alexandra Cunningham** <cunningham.alm@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 9:00 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment- Coastal Plain Draft EIS Volume 1
To: mnhayes@blm.gov <mnhayes@blm.gov>

Hello Ms. Hayes,

I had trouble submitting a comment online regarding the Coastal Plain Draft EIS and was directed to email you instead. You will find my comment below. Thank you for your time!

As an Alaskan, I am acutely aware of climate change and anthropogenic global warming. It is apparent in tree mortality from the spruce bark beetle (who now survives due to milder winters), to the rapid melt of glacial ice, to the conversion of forest to grassland (from the combination of bark beetle and wildfire), to paralytic shellfish poisoning, mass die-off of seabirds, coastal erosion, and more. But this is not just a landscape problem. It is also a human problem. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is just that- a Refuge. It is the home of the Gwich'in people since time immemorial. It is a place of incredible biodiversity and age-old migration corridors. It is, in my opinion, what makes our state so special. As one of the last great wildernesses, it would be a crime to jeopardize the Arctic Refuge any further. Climate change has already wreaked havoc on the Arctic. We have an opportunity, through the practice of restraint, to protect and steward this land. For its intrinsic value and the value it holds for all of human kind. Any other option is another step toward the destruction of wilderness and of humanity itself.

-Allie Cunningham, Soldotna, AK