



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

---

**[EXTERNAL] Comment on EIS for ANWR, 1002 Coastal Plain**

1 message

---

**Ronnie Estelle** <restelle1796@gmail.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov  
Cc: Veronica Estelle <vbestelle@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 6:01 PM

March 13, 2019  
7:00 PM MDST

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my deep regrets that we are in the place we are with the sale of leases in the ANWR Coastal Plain to oil companies. The sale of leases in this pristine, and unique habitat is, in my personal and professional opinion, unnecessary and unconscionable. I stand firmly on the side of rejecting the "need" to sell these leases (for jobs, for money). I place the responsibility of this process and its outcome on the GOP and their Tax Act of 2017. The Tax Act of 2017 necessitated that Republicans, at the time in full control of Congress, find additional income to pay for their party's tax cuts. This is why ANWR Coastal Plain leases will be offered for sale, to pay for Republican tax cuts to the wealthy and to corporations. This is shameful on the part of our government and the people who supported this idea. I am opposed to the sale of the leases in the Coastal Plain of ANWR.

As a PhD ecologist with field experience in the Prudhoe Bay Oil Field, the Kuparuk Oil Field and the National Petroleum Reserve researching avian populations and their use of habitat, I request that population level and demographic studies be conducted on all waterfowl, shorebird, and passerine avian species on any leased and adjacent non-leased lands (for comparison throughout the study period), as well as studies on habitat use and availability by these species. I also request that population and demographic studies be conducted on predator species, particularly population studies that evaluate numbers, distribution and concentration of predators who may take avian species in leased and unleased areas, pre- and post- development. It is well documented that development leads to an increase in fox, ravens, crows, and other predators of avian species in oil fields. All studies should be conducted prior to lease, prior to development, during development and after development. Studies should be contracted by reputable consulting firms or academics with Arctic experience and who have no financial ties to the oil industry. The results of these studies, as well as the original data, should be publicly available at all times during and after the studies so that all researchers can access the data and evaluate the results.

Sincerely,  
Veronica Estelle, Ph.D.