
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 8:37 AM
To: coastalplainAR; Sean Cottle
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Gwich'in Cartographer
Attachments: My testimony to protect the refuge.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Nicole Hayes

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

From: **Matt Gilbert** <mattgak38@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 4:11 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gwich'in Cartographer
To: <mnhayes@blm.gov>

Hello Nicole,

Below is my statement for the Alaska Coastal Plain EIS, its also attached. Please reply to know that you got this and I made the deadline, thank you.

Matt Gilbert

March 12, 2019

My written testimony:

Protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 1002 Area from any development

My name is Matt Gilbert. I'm Gwich'in Athabascan and I'm from Arctic Village, Alaska, where I am currently residing for the spring. I grew up in Arctic Village and spent my childhood hunting and fishing.

My people the Gwich'in Athabascan have been vocal, advocating and lobbying to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for 40 years and have been successful. It is very rare to find a Native American story such as ours, where we stood in the face of oil industry and corporation giants that wanted to develop the refuge and won. However, when Donald Trump became President, he quickly obliterated the protection we worked so long to achieve.

There's not much more I can say that my people have not said already. I have been advocating against developing the Refuge since I was 9 years-old when I got into Time Magazine for holding up a Protest sign.

I speak now as a 39 year-old Gwich'in Cultural Cartographer who has mapped the entire Gwich'in Region. I'm still advocating 30 years later. We Gwich'in did not physically travel to the 1002 area because it's a sacred place of creation, where animals birth. We don't dear trample a nursery. However, I have mapped trade-routes the Gwich'in had with the Inupiaq north of the Gwich'in villages, so our landuse extends north nonetheless.

It is said by many scientists that the North Pole Ice Cap will be free of ice by 2050, which will bring traffic to Alaska and spur more development, and I know the pro-development forces under president Trump see that as a good thing, but it is not. Global Warming has had a runaway effect across the world in the last decade with record high temperatures that lead to unusually huge disasters with forest fires in California, floods in Florida, and freeze ups on the east coast, as well as record rainfall all over the world.

Developing the Arctic Refuge 1002 area will further exacerbate global warming and only serve to worsen these disasters. We're living in 2019, I'm sure we've advanced far enough in technology to move us away from fossil fuel to cleaner energy. I'm hearing in the news everyday how efficient and affordable renewable energy is becoming.

Please do not develop the 1002 and begin to make things right with our global environment. I'm not an activist and I'm not involved anymore, but this is important enough for me to speak out. Thank you. Mahsi.

Matt Gilbert

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Matt Gilbert

907-987-6547 (cell)

mattgak38@gmail.com

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Matt Gilbert

The start of the Gwich'in Trade Route at Old John Lake

Old Rampart and Cadzow's Trading Post

Image Landsat

29.2 mi

Google earth