
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2019 7:33 PM
To: coastalplainAR; Sean Cottle
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Public Comments on EIS for the Arctic Refuge

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From: Princess Lucaj <princesslucaj@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jan 27, 2019 at 3:21 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comments on EIS for the Arctic Refuge
To: <mnhayes@blm.gov>

Dear BLM Staff,

I am a resident of Fairbanks, Alaska and a Gwich'in tribal member. I am writing to fervently oppose any exploration, seismic activities, leasing and opening of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The draft EIS is egregiously deficient in numerous ways. The rushed process fails to allow for adequate review. It fails to adequately analyze and account for impacts to human rights and subsistence, water quality, caribou and polar bears and their habitat, oil spills, and climate change. The very process in which this legislation was tied into the Tax Bill did not give due diligence to a democratic process of notifying the American public and allowing for debate.

It must be clearly stated that we are facing this issue at a time when we must be working towards transitioning off fossil fuels in order to maintain a world that is able to host human life on this planet. Also, the fate of our Gwich'in communities is tied to the Porcupine Caribou Herd who's calving grounds are located on the Coastal Plain. The cautionary principle states that first we shall do no harm. There is absolutely no way to ensure that there will not be damage done to the ecosystems of Alaska's Arctic should an oil spill, or other disruption to this area occur.

- One of the specific purposes of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as established in ANILCA is to ensure "water quality and necessary water quantity within the refuge" to conserve fish, wildlife and habitats. This DEIS must demonstrate adherence and that the lease sale will not negatively impact water quality and quantity.

- Water on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge is particularly scarce. There are few open lakes and rivers compared to the Western Arctic and especially in winter when the surface is frozen [there is very little free water available](#). The BLM does no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.
- The DEIS offers insufficient mitigation of the impacts to Porcupine Caribou Herd. Even the most restrictive alternative only halts “major construction activities”—but not drilling—for a single month of the year when caribou are calving ([Vol 1](#), 2-13). This is gravely troublesome.

I can only hope that the powers that be start to once again uphold the will of the American people on the matter of drilling in the Refuge and that there is evidence enough provided (legally or otherwise) that will put an end to opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil development.

Mahsi' choo!
Princess Lucaj
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