
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 11:14 AM
To: coastalplainAR; Sean Cottle
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Project

Nicole Hayes

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

From: **Peter Landres** <peter.landres@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Feb 11, 2019 at 9:17 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Project
To: <mnhayes@blm.gov>

Dear Nicole, I'm writing to provide my comments on the scoping and NEPA analysis on the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Project. I have considerable experience in this type of analysis, having worked for the USDA Forest Service for over 25 years and in my work capacity have consulted with the BLM, FWS, and NPS in Alaska. I've also spent every summer for the past 15 years on personal trips throughout northern Alaska, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I am strongly opposed to any oil and gas leasing in the Coastal Plain (1002 Area) and anywhere else in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I have read the draft EIS and in my opinion, it is inadequate because it fails to adequately and fully assess numerous factors, including 1) long term impacts to polar bears denning grounds, feeding and nesting of spectacled eiders, and feeding and haul-out sites for ice (bearded, ribbon, ringed, and spotted) seals; 2) short and long term impacts to Gwich'in culture; 3) long term impacts to the Porcupine caribou calving grounds and population trends; 4) long term impacts of air and water pollution from dust, oil spills, and gravel mining on the soils, plants, animals, and Gwich'in culture; 5) long term impacts of regional climate disruption on soils, plants, animals, and Gwich'in culture from the CO2 and methane emissions from the construction and extraction of this oil and gas; 6) impacts of the CO2 and methane emissions on the warming of permafrost and subsequent CO2 and methane emissions from decomposing organic material in the soil; 7) direct and indirect impacts to the area's "wilderness character"; and finally 8) impacts of this oil and gas leasing on the intangible symbolic values of this area to our nation's heritage, and the intangible as well as tangible values that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (including the 1002 Area) was established to protect.

Every single one of these potential impacts is significant in and of themselves, and the collective impact is completely unacceptable.

For all these reasons, I urge the BLM to adopt the no-action alternative and prohibit any and all exploration, drilling, and any and all other activities associated with oil and gas leasing.

Thank you for considering my comments

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