
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 8:02 AM
To: coastalplainAR; Sean Cottle
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] 83 FR58785 Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Announcement of Public Subsistence-Related Hearings.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: **Dale Nyberg** <nyberg.ad@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 10, 2019 at 9:11 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 83 FR58785 Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Announcement of Public Subsistence-Related Hearings.
To: <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Cc: <ryan@northern.org>

Dear Ms. Hayes,

My name is Dale Nyberg, and I am a resident of Fairbanks. I write to you in regards of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program that is currently open to public comment.

I am opposed to drilling on the coastal plains of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for many reasons. First and foremost, I am disappointed that the draft of the Environmental Impact Statement was not translated into Gwich'in, or any other languages native to Alaska. The people who will be most affected by the proposed drilling are the Gwich'in people, therefore, all members of the Gwich'in communities in ANWR should have access to the Impact Statement, including those that only read/speak in Gwich'in.

Additionally, the Gwich'in peoples have been living within the area of ANWR for **thousands and thousands and thousands of years**. The Gwich'in people should have a say in what happens to the land they have inhabited for that long. Furthermore, the Gwich'in people have historically depended on the Porcupine Caribou herd for subsistence, and still do. The potential impacts coastal drilling would have on the Porcupine Caribou herd could be detrimental.

We cannot look to Prudhoe bay to find answers about the potential coastal drilling in ANWR – the areas are very different in character. The coastal plain in ANWR, as you know, is much smaller in area, a slice between the ocean and

colossal mountains. These caribou have nowhere else to go where the same food resources are available. Without these resources, calf mortality increases and female health decreases. This would be a terrible scenario for the herd and for the Gwich'in people.

Another fact to consider is that the population of Southern Beaufort Sea polar bears has declined by approximately 50% in the last 30 years. This is an unprecedented decline, and rather than exacerbating this decline with coastal drilling, we, as Alaskans, should be working to maintain these dwindling populations.

Lastly, but definitely not in the least, we need to think about climate change. As an Alaskan, I experience the realities of climate change **every single day**. We are on the forefront of climate change. If the BLM allows coastal drilling in ANWR, I believe the future will look back with disappointment – this is our chance to change, to look toward the future, to begin allocating our time and resources toward alternative, renewable, and sustainable forms of energy. Coastal drilling in ANWR is neither alternative, renewable, nor sustainable, but it is **unacceptable**.

Thank you for your time,

Dale Nyberg
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