
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 1:29 PM
To: coastalplainAR; Sean Cottle
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Oil development in the coastal plain of ANWR

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Nicole Hayes

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From: **michael sterling** <m.sterling50@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 12:08 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oil development in the coastal plain of ANWR
To: mnhayes@blm.gov <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Cc: ryan@northern.org <ryan@northern.org>

Dear Nicole Hayes,

I am commenting on my thoughts towards oil development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I am not in favor of development of this area for a number of reasons, first and foremost; it is a proven area of importance to the Porcupine caribou herd for their calving area and their calf development area until the young calves are able to survive within the first few months of birth. The area, I have heard, is rich in plant nutrients and essential for calf survival. If oil development occurred in the area the birthing mothers would be displaced from this plant nutrient rich area to a farther south or westerly area. Since the mountains are close to the South and more oil development is to the West the survival rate of calves would probably suffer. Displacement to other areas might bring on higher predation, less intake of necessary nutrients for the mothers and so less milk production for calves, more avoidance to man-made infrastructure which could cause even more migration at a time when the calves are newly born and weak. Avoidance of the coastal plain by the caribou might also cause them to suffer from insects as they use the windy area to escape the mosquitoes, bot flies and warble flies. To sum up my first reason; I believe the coastal plain is more important for the caribou then for the oil.

Reason number two; coastal development for oil, I believe, would interfere with the survival of polar bears. With the changing climate and the unsurity of the effects on polar bear populations I cannot think that development would help the bears survival as more bears seem to be using the land with the disappearance of the sea ice.

Another reason; native people's access to the caribou and the land if oil development turns detrimental to caribou population numbers. I know the Gwich'in peoples of Northeast Alaska and Northern Yukon depend heavily on the caribou for a food source. If caribou numbers of the Porcupine caribou herd go down, how much will that effect the hunting and gathering of a food source depended on for thousands of years by a native people of that area? Theres too much of an unknown just in that topic to warrant a disturbance of the area for oil development.

Lastly I have two reasons to disapprove of oil development of the coastal plain; the hurried nature of this topic to get it done and the idea that we should be developing more energy efficient means that are not so carbon dependent and polluting. It just seems that there's a hurry to push this development through, especially since it's been such a hot topic for decades. Why not put our energies into development of non polluting ways to make our cars go from one place to another?

To sum up; I do not favor oil development on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the reasons I have stated.

Sincerely,

Mike Sterling

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