

American citizens and their children, Alaskans and their children will benefit from NO lease sales and no testing for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Range. Why? Because maintaining the natural conditions of the Range will preserve the area known as the North American Serengeti. Birds hatching in the Range fly yearly to six of the seven continents of the earth. These birds provide a large part of the annual migration of birds, large and small, south to north and back south through continental America,

It is a critical habitat where polar bears (endangered) den. Walrus and whales using the Arctic seas adjacent to the Range will be affected by the activities to exploit any gas or oil in the Range. It is the summer birthing home for Caribou, year around home for arctic fox, moose, musk oxen, and wolves.

Maintaining this natural asset for future generations will provide dividends for Alaskans and Americans. It will provide tourism income and exciting travel far longer in time than the oil and gas being sought. It will provide a place for animals far better than a zoo and still provide a resource for subsistence living for the original Americans.

Leaving the gas and oil in the Range tundra will reduce future climate heat thereby helping to preserve a world we and our children can live in comfortably. Gas and Oil companies should be investing in sustainable non-contaminating energy sources rather than the difficult destructive search and production of gas and oil that may be in the Range.

I am opposed to the leasing of any tracts by the Bureau of Land Management in the coastal plain of the Range or any future leases of the Range.

Donna Osseward
6751 12th Ave SW

Seattle, WA 98106

Bureau of Land Management:

Please halt the sale/leasing of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Destroying the sacred land of the Gwich'in peoples and the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou is an irrevocable act that cannot be reversed. We must protect pristine environments and indigenous peoples. There are few places left on earth that we can still save.

As technologies develop, there is less demand for fossil fuels. Drilling on this land may destroy it and yet produce little profit for oil corporations.

Please act now and stop the auction of these lands.

Very truly yours,

Arlene Naganawa
7311 Bowlyn Pl S
Seattle, WA 98118
206 550 3462

To US Department of Interior:

I urge you to not approve leasing for oil and gas development on all of the tracts under consideration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This land and water resource must be left undisturbed for the fish, wildlife, and indigenous peoples who depend on it for their survival. At a time when climate change is everyone's concern, we must not ignore the science of global warming, which already has established that the Arctic is not only warming twice as fast as the rest of the United States, but that what happens in the north cannot be separated from changes farther south.

Migrating birds, already stressed by climate impacts world wide, depend on the refuge for breeding and feeding. Caribou and Polar bears face similar challenges.

Why should these animals' lives matter when people too are suffering? Because destroying their habitats, in the long run, impacts the health and survival of the human population as explained above and in many other ways that have been established scientifically. And fossil fuels need to be left in the ground.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Laura Kaye, Northfield Massachusetts

I write in opposition to oil and gas leasing on any and all tracts in the coastal plane of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. To allow seismic testing and offshore/onshore drilling violates the purpose for which a wildlife refuge is established. This area is a critical ecosystem supporting the lives of caribou, migratory (and resident) birds and the Gwich'in people.

The BLM analysis fails to properly assess impacts in several areas: changing climate, water quantity/quality and bird life. The establishment of the refuge was intended to ensure water quality and quantity necessary to conserve fish and wildlife habitat. Because the BLM EIS fails to quantify the amount of water currently available in the coastal plain, there is insufficient data to analyze the impact of oil exploration and/or drilling on quality and quantity of water. The analysis also disregards potential effects of birds, large populations of which congregate there from almost every continent. The Gwich'in people have been fighting for years to preserve their right to live according to traditional cultural practices on land they have occupied for centuries. These are the calving grounds of caribou herds, which the Gwich'in have sustainably hunted, and they have a right to food security and respect for cultural practices.

What oil or gas may lie in the coastal plane is uncertain. What IS certain is that we do not need (and for the sake of our planet should not use) the fossil fuels that might be extracted. What IS certain is that leasing these lands for oil and gas exploration defeats the purpose of declaring a refuge, which is to conserve an ecosystem capable of supporting and providing refuge for wildlife. I urge you NOT to offer these leases.

Kathleen Worley
9141 SW 23rd Dr.
Portland, OR 97219

Marion Mason

101 N. John Poindexter St.

Odon, IN 47562

956-443-6962

vt91mason@gmail.com

Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management,

I am writing to express opposition to leasing all tracts on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I primarily oppose this action as expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic.

In addition, all tracts should be excluded from oil leasing, as an original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.

We need some places untouched by man on this planet and this is our best hope to preserve wilderness and wildlife and the native people that depend on them.

Sincerely,

Marion Mason

Odon,IN

Dear folks,

I am writing to express my opposition to leasing any and all tracts on the coastal plain of Alaska for the following reasons.

Increasing the scope of oil and gas development in the Arctic will only exacerbate climate change. It also would be harmful to the Gwich'in peoples of Alaska who rely on the Coastal Plain for caribou.

Although the founding purpose of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is to ensure water quality and quantity within the refuge to protect fish, wildlife, and habitats, the BLM did no new analysis of how much water actually currently exists on the Coastal Plain. This is unacceptable.

Millions of birds rely on the Coastal Plain for migratory habitat! Birds of all species are struggling globally from loss of habitat. Development of this area would be disastrous for birds as well as polar bears and other wild life!

This wild area is one of the last pristine wildernesses on the planet. Please just leave it alone.

I urge you, for the sake of the planet and future generations, please DO NOT open ANWR to oil and gas development.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ferguson

I concur with the lawsuits currently filed against leasing of sites for oil/gas exploration and drilling/ extraction in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Specifically, the proposal is:

- 1) flawed, deficient environmental review that fails to account for greenhouse gas emissions, climate change impacts, and harm to migratory birds, caribou, and other wildlife both terrestrial and aquatic
- 2) a violation of multiple laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act.

Those laws mean the Bureau of Land Management has to minimize the damage it does to the refuge. Despite the “executive order” to proceed with this proposal, the laws cannot be “trumped”. At minimum, the Administrative Procedure Act must precede orders to ensure and prevent frivolous and faulty executive orders.

In addition, to preclude the public from formally submitting comments electronically through the Federal Register web page is blatant violation of the laws requiring public participation in actions affecting public lands. The following “pop-up” notice appears on the Federal Register web page for submitting formal comments:to this proposal:

Direct Commenting Unavailable

Submitting a formal comment directly via [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) is not available for this document. However, you can click the button below to view more information on alternate methods of comment submission. [View Additional Information](#)

This additional information instructs users to submit comments by postal mail only – not a guarantee of timely submission in the time of covid-19 and holiday seasons. This is an effort to limit public participation.\

Janet Burcham

PO 432

Ellensburg WA 98926

I am opposed to any oil leasing in the Coastal Plains of Alaska. Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada are culturally and spiritually connected to the Porcupine caribou herd, which relies on the Coastal Plain for calving and post-calving habitat. The Gwich'in consider the coastal plain as sacred, and the place where life begins. It is vital to their human rights and food security.

Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing

coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic.

An original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.

The coastal plain is habitat for millions of birds.

Please see the attached comment worksheet.

Kindly,

Camille Roberts-Krick

13438 W 165th Ave

Lowell, IN 46356

Chameleonr@comcast.net

425 615 4009

From: Eliot Headley

P.O. Box 7272

Tahoe City, CA 96145

eliOTH@cointl.org

Dear State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska office,

The following is my official comment regarding the proposed leasing of the 1002 zone of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. As a citizen who has visited the northern coastal plain of the Refuge I have numerous concerns regarding the current proposed lease sale of the tracts within the 1002 zone of the Arctic Refuge.

Let it be known that I oppose leasing to all tracts within the 1002 zone of the coastal plain of the Refuge. My reasons for opposition to this leasing are as follows:

The cultural and ecological importance of the coastal plain for the Gwich'in people is substantial. I have personally met with members of the Gwich'in Nation and their message has been and continues to be clear that any development of the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge would be a direct threat to their culture and well being. The cultural importance of the coastal plain must receive due respect from the BLM. The ecological importance of the coastal plain in regards to the Gwich'in would be directly threatened from any leasing and potential development due to the migrating calving of the Porcupine caribou herd to which the Gwich'in depend upon.

As an important ecological region for many species including many migrating birds, wolf, polar bear, and caribou, I oppose leasing to all tracts of the 1002 zone in part because I believe that many or all of these species will be directly or indirectly threatened due to actions of any potential leasing projects. The process of seismic exploration for resources as proposed for the coastal plain, in particular the creation of roads will cause habitat fragmentation for species including the wolf. The process of seismic exploration will cause ecological harm to many species in the sensitive tundra habitat that I believe to not be fully understood by any environmental impact assessment. Den sites for polar bear would be directly affected from the the creation of roads and the auditory impact of the seismic exploration process. Lastly the ecological impact from disturbance upon migrating birds from any potential project within any of the tracts of the 1002 zone of the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge will be substantial and will have deleterious rippling effects to other ecological regions due to the birds' migrating habits.

My final concern regarding the leasing of any coastal plain tract is the effect on water quality and quantity. The purpose of the Arctic National Refuge as established in ANILCA includes the need to ensure "water quality and necessary water quantity within the refuge" and I do not believe that any

environmental impact statement will regard the water quality or quantity of the Arctic Refuge with due justice.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Best Regards,

Eliot Headley

State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office

Comments on the Bureau of Land Management's call for Nominations and Comments for the Coastal Plain Alaska Oil and Gas Lease Sale opposing lease sales on the coastal plain

The Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada are culturally and spiritually connected to the Porcupine caribou herd, which relies on the Coastal Plain for calving and post-calving habitat. The Gwich'in consider the coastal plain as sacred, and the place where life begins. It is vital to their human rights and food security.

Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic.

An original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.

The coastal plain is habitat for millions of birds which come from every continent, including off the coast of Antarctica, to breed, forage, and molt. BLM is disregarding impacts to birds by planning oil leases in the Arctic Refuge.

Thank you

Lavinia Currier
PO Box A, The Plains, VA 20198
703 754 8713
assistant@roland-farm.com

As a 16 year old student, I am writing to you today opposing lease sales in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and on Indigenous land.

The Gwich'in Nation is culturally and spiritually connected to the coastal plain, which is currently being considered for oil and gas development. It is vital to the Gwich'in Nation's human rights and food security for the Bureau of Land Management to rule out expanding oil and gas extraction.

In addition, expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country.

Going through with this expansion is unconscionable, and directly opposes the purpose of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: to ensure "water quality and necessary water quantity within the refuge" to conserve fish, wildlife and habitats. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.

In conclusion, I stand with the Gwich'in protectors and urge you to rule out all lease sales on the coastal plain.

Sincerely,

Eliana Bernat

Christy O. Stebbins

55 Grizzly Mountain Rd. • Winthrop, WA 98862

caostebbins@gmail.com • 301-706-8869

15 December 2020

Dear Reader:

Alaska is between a rock and a hard place. For far too long, the state has relied on revenue from gas and oil exploration and development to pay its citizens and fund its coffers. If oil and gas leases for any tract of land in the Coastal Plain goes through, those “coffers” would become “coffins” for the multitude of creatures who rely upon “The Sacred Land Where Life Begins.” All the creatures who nest, den, calve and depend on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for their survival by all rights—moral, legal, tribal, national, international—take precedence over what is in fact a short-term fix for China’s energy needs and for Alaska’s dependence on fossil fuels for revenue. This dependence on the dinosaur age only further drives climate change that impacts the entire planet, but most severely the creatures who give birth at Ground Zero of climate change in the Coastal Plain.

The American people are the final stewards of this fragile, vulnerable, and sacrosanct place. To sell our national heritage and this treasure to oil and gas corporations and foreign countries doesn’t even serve their best interests in the long run. And in the short run, such a lease sale compromises the survival of polar bears, impacts countless thousands of migratory birds, and threatens the Porcupine Caribou Herd. The very culture and spiritual connections of the Gwich’in peoples of Alaska and Canada are tied to that herd, and the Coastal Plain is vital to their human rights and food security.

The Trump administration violated the original purpose of ANWR by tacking on via an Executive Order a provision for oil and gas lease sales. These lease sales are inimical to the stated goals for the Refuge: “For the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values,” including conserving fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity; fulfilling the international fish and wildlife treaty obligations of the United States; providing the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local residents; and ensuring water quality and necessary water quantity within the refuge. The gravel roads alone required by oil and gas infrastructure would wreak havoc enough, not to mention any potential spills, on the original goals for preserving this wild, rich, and life-giving land. And now, even before the comment period is over for these lease sales, the Trump administration is trying to proceed with the oil and gas leases themselves. This act is unconscionable, and most likely, illegal. Oil and gas exploration and development, especially in this time of climate change would severely impact and disrupt this fragile land. I oppose the leasing of any tract on the Coastal Plain.

The state of Alaska needs to wean itself from its reliance on the fossil fuel industry. This is no easy task. But it needs to do so for its own long-term survival and for the protection of the national and international wildlife treasures within its boundaries that belong to all of the American people and to the world. ANWR and its Coastal Plain needs safeguarding and protection—not plundering.

Sincerely,

Christy O. Stebbins

To the Bureau of Land Management:

As a member of the Franciscan Order and the Franciscan Action Network, I want to register a comment opposed to the leasing of the lands in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to any oil and gas companies. There are a variety of reasons. Among them are:

- The Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada are culturally and spiritually connected to the Porcupine caribou herd, which relies on the Coastal Plain for calving and post-calving habitat. The Gwich'in consider the coastal plain as sacred, and the place where life begins. It is vital to their human rights and food security.
- Since it was first federally protected by President Eisenhower in 1960, the Arctic Refuge has been one of our nation's most iconic public lands. In addition to the 200,000-count Porcupine Caribou Herd, it is home to musk oxen, wolves, polar bears, and nearly 200 species of migratory birds that eat, molt, and nest in the Refuge en route to and from six continents and all 50 states. For almost 60 years, the American people and Congress have continually reinforced the fact that the Arctic Refuge is worthy of protection. It is no place for drilling.
- Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic.
- An original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity. It is clear the water demands for such a project in its building and after its completion will be huge and tax the natural supply. (For example: There are to be at least 540 wells drilled, requiring a total of between 227 million and 1 billion gallons of water just to drill the wells. PLUS, from your own estimates, every mile of ice road requires 1 million gallons of water, each ice pad requires 500,000 gallons of water, and daily production of 50,000 barrels of oil would require 2 million gallons of water per day).
- Conducting an environmental impact statement should be a multi-year, multi-part process that offers the public ample opportunity to provide input. Instead, BLM is rushing this process and trying to accomplish it within only a single year – abbreviating comment periods and rushing analyses. Scoping for the environmental impact statement ended in June with over 680,000 people speaking up to voice their

concerns over drilling in the Refuge. The draft EIS published 12/28/18 should reflect the concerns brought up during scoping.

- Despite acknowledging that oil and gas can have impacts on caribou, BLM concludes that there will not be an impact on the subsistence resources for the Gwich'in and that the subsistence needs of the Gwich'in do not qualify for an 810 hearing under ANILCA (Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act) which is required for development that will substantially affect subsistence. Despite the fact that a significant percent of Gwich'in subsistence comes from the Porcupine Caribou Herd, which the BLM's own analysis finds leasing will affect, they then find that Gwich'in subsistence use will not be affected. This ignores the traditional knowledge and human rights of the Gwich'in.
- The BLM significantly underestimates carbon emissions that would result from drilling the Arctic Refuge.

It is a moral obligation of the nation to protect this landscape for future generations to experience, enjoy, and rely upon. The impacts of drilling in the Coastal Plain would be irreversible; this untrammeled landscape containing intact ecosystems, millennia of human tradition, and a legacy of international and inter-cultural support for continued protection, will be irrevocably transformed in ways we cannot predict.

Demand for gas, oil, natural gas and the like is down at this point. There is no need to add to the glut of those products we are already experiencing. Our resources should go to finding further alternatives to fossil fuels and the damage they produce for the earth. The government and the BLM should put its resources into finding other ways to prosper for those who might profit from this misuse of the earth.

Peace and every good!

Brother Ralph Parthie, OFm

Office of Friar Life

3140 Meramec Street

St. Louis, MO 63118-4399

314-655-0549

Nolin Ainsworth

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As a person of faith associated with the Franciscan Action Network, I oppose the leasing of lands in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas companies.

Rushing the process to sell sacred lands is an affront to people of faith. The Arctic is a unique gift from God, and an environment in crisis. The far North is warming faster than the rest of the world. Since 2000, Arctic warming is over twice the global average, according to the most recent Arctic Report Card. We know the human contribution to these climate changes is significant, and reducing our carbon footprint will help the environment recover. It's time oil companies shift to clean energy, and prevent further polluting the Arctic. As Pope Francis teaches in *Laudato Si*, steps we take today will reverberate down through the centuries: "Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us."

Comment from:

Mac Donofrio

572 Wapiti Loop

Hamilton, MT 59840

(406)241-3661

macdonofrio@gmail.com

To: Chad Padgett

State Director of BLM

Alaska State Office

222 W. 7th Ave., Mailstop 13

Anchorage, AK

99501-7504

Dear Director Padgett,

Please accept my comments on the Arctic Wildlife Refuge being proposed for oil and gas lease sales.

This comment is specifically for the Refuge tracts numbered 1 - 32

I am opposed to the sale of any oil and/or gas leases on these lands.

And I am opposed to any testing, exploration, seismic exploration, trail creation, road building, thumping, vehicle use, dozer use, drilling or mining for any oil, gas, ore, gravel, rock or water.

Leave it alone in an untrammelled state. So few places left intact. Do not let these short sighted, greedy/ corrupt/mislead people loose upon this land and adjacent coastal waters.

Please prove that you actually love your mother(Earth).

Sincerely,

Mac Donofrio

Dear friends at the Bureau of Land Management,

The Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada are culturally and spiritually connected to the Porcupine caribou herd, which relies on the Coastal Plain for calving and post-calving habitat. The Gwich'in consider the coastal plain as sacred, and the place where life begins. It is vital to their human rights and food security.

Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic.

An original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.

The coastal plain is habitat for millions of birds which come from every continent, including off the coast of Antarctica, to breed, forage, and molt. BLM is disregarding impacts to birds by planning oil leases in the Arctic Refuge.

Please reconsider your policy, and thanks for your consideration,

~Rhonda Barfield

St. Charles, Missouri

State Director, Bureau of Land Management

Alaska State Office

222 West 7th Avenue

Mailstop 13

Anchorage, AK 99513-7504

Dear Director Padgett,

I am writing in opposition to the planned oil and gas lease sale of any and all tracts on the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) coastal plain. My opposition stems from concerns over the environmental impact of extraction and the human rights of the Native community.

One purpose of the ANWR is to ensure sufficient water quality and quantity for the conservation of wildlife, fish, and habitats. As BLM has not conducted new analysis of water availability in the area, there has not been satisfactory information collected on the potential impact of extraction on water quality and quantity.

Among the wildlife populations at risk from the environmental impact of extraction is the Porcupine caribou herd, which depends upon the coastal plain for calving and post-calving habitat. Protection of this herd becomes a human rights issue due to the needs and spiritual practices of the Gwich'in people. To the Gwich'in, the Porcupine caribou herd represents food security. The herd and the coastal plain itself are sacred to the Gwich'in, with the coastal plain being called Iizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit - "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins."

In the interest of protecting the natural environment and its animal inhabitants, as well as in the interest of protecting the survival needs and religious freedom of the Gwich'in, I oppose the planned oil and gas lease sale within the ANWR coastal plain.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Kerner

1891 McKelvey Hill #202, Maryland Heights, MO 63043

314-703-4172 / jkerner1979@gmail.com

**Comment from: Gail and John Richardson, 5263 Cimmeron Drive, Bozeman, MT 59715,
406-585-7206, envirogail@q.com**

To: State Director, BLM

We are commenting on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge being proposed for oil and gas lease sales. The subject tract numbers involved are numbered 1 through 32.

We have been to the Arctic and understand what a fragile and imperiled ecosystem it is due to climate change. This magnificent area and refuge are crucial landscapes for some of our most threatened and endangered species, including the iconic polar bear. The BLM has a responsibility to protect these landscapes for future generations of both native peoples and native wildlife that depend on it for their survival. We are opposed to your plan to open the Arctic Refuge's critical coastal plain to oil and gas leases by this heavily polluting industry, also to allow destructive seismic testing. This is not based on science, only on political deference to industry. There is no demand for this oil and gas. Energy conservation can more than make up for oil and gas from the Arctic. Your plan to offer waivers of safety requirements for Arctic drilling is also irrational and not based on science. Allowing these leases now is an affront to the American people. The Arctic Refuge is part of our national and natural heritage. We the people demand its protection from the servants of industry in this backward-looking administration.

You have corrupted this process and failed to do your duty for the American people. You are wasting precious taxpayer dollars in this time of great social need. This is unconscionable. You know very well that fossil fuel production is leading our planet into a devastating future. Our biodiversity is unraveling. The U.S. military and virtually all reputable scientists have stated that climate change is a threat to our national security and to the integrity of our shared planet. Our food systems are at risk. The American public knows that climate change is real and threatening our future. One has only to look at the extreme weather events recently that are a hallmark of climate change. Do your job for the American people and just say NO to these leases. The American people have elected a new president because they are dissatisfied with the this administration's emphasis on division, chaos and the lack of any scientific underpinnings to back up their nefarious plans to keep us in the dark ages while the world moves forward. You have a chance to show some independence, to do the right thing. Just do it.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Asa Menlove and I am a resident of Boise, Idaho. I have never been to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or even Alaska, but I am writing you today to ask that you please protect in in perpetuity. The ANWR is far too special to be destroyed by oil drilling, which is why I completely oppose leasing any and all tracts on the coastal plain.

The auctioning of the coastal plain will almost surely have extreme adverse effects on the porcupine caribou herd, a keystone of the ecosystem and cultural identity of the entire area. The porcupine herd gather on the coastal plain each year to raise their young, and opening the area to drilling completely jeopardizes these animals' ability to carry out their natural life cycle. Not only will this inhibit future generations of caribou from existing in the way they have forever, but it functionally erases huge elements of the Gwich'in culture. The Gwich'in people have protected and lived alongside this place since time immemorial, and any crime against the ecosystem is a crime against their way of life. The proposed drilling of the coastal plain is not only an issue of the environment, but an issue of human rights as well. In addition to adversely impacting the porcupine caribou herd and the Gwich'in way of life, the opening of the ANWR to oil and gas drilling will rapidly exacerbate the already devastating effects of climate change on arctic ecosystems. Developing an oil and gas infrastructure in such a sensitive environment will surely accelerate the warming in the arctic, which is already taking place at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS cited provides insufficient evidence to suggest that such an infrastructure could exist in the arctic without having adverse effects on the climate, and it downplays the significant climate impacts of oil and gas extraction in the arctic. Further committing to fossil fuels dependency at this point in time makes no sense environmentally or economically. As a nation and globe we are rapidly moving past the need for a fossil fuels industry, and trying to develop the coastal plain as an oil and gas infrastructure will surely be a step backwards for the climate.

As an extremely concerned citizen, steward of the environment, and ally of indigenous nations, I ask that you oppose leasing any and all tracts on the coastal plain for oil and gas development. Please choose long term environmental protection and indigenous sovereignty over short term profit for an extreme minority. The ANWR is far too special to be destroyed by the oil and gas industry.

Sincerely,

Asa Menlove

From: Larry Campbell

PO Box 204

Darby, MT 59829

lcampbell@bitterroot.net

Subject: Comments on Wildlife Refuge Oil and gas leasing tract numbers 1-32

Date: 12/16/20

Comment

Dear Chad Padgett,

Please consider my comments on the proposed oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. The subject tract numbers involved are numbered 1-32.

The action proposed by the US government that is the subject at hand has global implications. You, apparently, are the "responsible" official and have a choice to authorize this proposal or not. You will have to live with the fact that you are responsible for the Decision on the action in question. Your responsibility for this will outlive the present administration, and will, hopefully not be forgotten for a very long time. If you Decide to not authorize, good on you for slowing the demise of planet earth. If you decide to authorize it, shame on you for the death and destruction that would result. I hope it is an easy decision for you, aside from the political pressure that you are probably being subjected to.

This is no time to open up more arctic oil drilling. Climate change is a runaway global catastrophe. Aside from that environmental effect, there are quite serious local consequences like displacement and long term damage to native people and wildlife, both on land and at sea. I don't need to enumerate and describe those potential impacts as I'm sure you are aware of them even if you discount them.

You, sir, are in the catbird seat, and can do yourself, the planet and the Refuge a huge favor by defending against these lease sales.

Sincerely, Larry Campbell

Dear BLM State Director,

I am writing in opposition to the leasing of all tracts on the coastal plain.

Allowing drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic Refuge would infringe on the rights of the Gwich'in people who are spiritually connected to the coastal plain. It would interfere with the Porcupine caribou herd's habitat and calving area which the Gwich'in people rely on.

Oil leases will disrupt crucial polar bear habitat and of the millions of migratory birds that rely on this area.

Oil and gas production on the coastal plain will lead to more Arctic warming, an area that is already seeing greater warming than most other areas.

I have spent time on the coastal plain and have seen what an incredible place it is and how important it is to the wildlife there and it needs to be left in pristine condition.

There should be no oil and gas leasing allowed.

Sincerely,

Jane Gowe

5 Casa del Oro Ln

Santa Fe, New Mexico

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in protest over opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain for the sale of gas and oil leases. This rushed political push by the Trump administration scheduled for January 6th is a blatant attempt to finalize leases before President Elect Biden takes office. Concern exists that the environmental review for the leases is inaccurate and the leasing process includes troubling shortcuts. The expense of Arctic oil will be high compared to oil in the lower 48 States and, by the time the oil and gas are extracted, ten years or more, there may be little market if the movement toward renewable energy continues at its current or an accelerated pace.

There is also concern about the transparency of the leasing process. Halfway through the comment period the standard process of submitting comments, via the website Regulations.gov. where all interested could view comments, was limited to submission mail or hand delivery.

Finally, the revenue expected for the Federal Government, in tens of millions, is small compensation for breaking a national commitment to preserve the Refuge in its natural State.

Please stop the process until these concerns can be addressed.

Thank you,

Arlene Braithwaite

arlene.braithwaite@yahoo.com

I oppose the current plan for the Coastal Plain Alaska Oil and Gas Lease Sale. The extremely abbreviated time scale for this plan, including insufficient time for analysis of plans and for public comment, means that mistakes in implementation are likely. As an ecologist, I know that it is not possible to undo changes in this delicate ecosystem once development begins; therefore rushing the process is dangerous. Compliance with the Tax Act is still possible with an extended comment period.

The arctic is undergoing the fastest changes on the planet under climate change. Much of the development described in this EIS will be subject to unpredictable future environmental conditions. Water supplies, crucial to the outlined development yet already poorly defined in the plan, are likely to be unreliable. Infrastructure development and maintenance costs are likely to be similarly unpredictable. This is especially concerning because the output of the project itself will contribute further to these changes. Given the certainty of the uncertainty, the risks involved in oil and gas extraction in this environment will not be worth the possible future benefit.

Finally, the lands included in this sale are crucial to the Gwich'in peoples, who rely on it for their human rights and food security. The idea of destroying their sacred lands in order to extract fossil fuels that will accelerate climate change, in the name of the United States of America, is obscene.

Jennifer Krauel
(605) 696-0108
1035 Circle Drive
Brookings SD 57006
jennifer@krauel.com

I wanted to add my comments about the leases of the Arctic Refuge. I lived in Alaska for fifteen years and that is where my son and ex-wife now reside so this affects me on a very personal level. I worked on the North Slope doing geophysical surveys for the oil companies. I lived on a Cat train for eight weeks at a time so I know the wonder and the beauty and the fragility of the Arctic and I wanted it protected for my son and future generations. In my time living in the forty-ninth state I came to know and love quite a few of the Native peoples and I know how closely they are tied to this land. The sad thing about this land grab by our unscrupulous President and his cronies and the naysayers of the global warming debate is that the people who are most deeply affected and are the least able to recover and withstand this abuse, are the ones who have no choice in the matter and their voices are the ones least likely to be heard or listened to, yet they are the ones who have dwelt in and nurtured that ecosystem for millennia and who would know better how to respect and care for their land. Please don't allow this injustice to continue at the expense of ALL the people of these great United States.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Michael R. Sanders of

To: United States Bureau of Land Management

The Department of Interior has issued a call for nominations and comments on potential oil and gas lease sale tracts which your agency, BLM, has delineated across the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain. I submit an urgent request that you, the Bureau of Land Management, oppose the lease sales on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain.

The Arctic Refuge coastal plain is one of the last remaining areas in Alaska's Arctic that exists as it has since time immemorial. is an incredibly vast expanse of ecologically rich and life-giving land is Iizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit to the Gwich'in Nation, or "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins" – the birthing grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd. It is critical habitat where polar bears den and migratory birds nest.

The time has come in human history that the use of fossil fuels is diminishing due to it's severe damage to the environment. Climate change realities have awakened us to redirect energy resources to cleaner, more sustainable technologies. Oil and gas needs will soon be obsolete as it is known today. I urge you to leave the "oil in the ground" and support regenerative programs that nurture our nation's precious natural resources as efficiently as possible.

As a citizen of the United States fo America I urge you to please not give the Department of Interior permission to lease oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain.

From: Kate McClain

phone: 707-839-0313 email: Katemcclain1@gmail.com

1786 Timothy Rd. McKinleyville, CA 95519

I am writing in response to the call for comments on potential oil and gas lease sale tracts which Bureau of Land Management delineated across the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain to express my strong opposition to leasing any and all tracts on the Arctic Refuge coastal plain. This land is the birthing grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd; it is essential habitat for polar bears to den; it is critical habitat for migratory birds from every continent to breed, forage, and molt. This vast expanse of ecologically rich and life-giving land is one of the last remaining areas in Alaska's Arctic that exists as it has since time immemorial.

Not only that, but expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in the Arctic which is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The Environmental Impact Statement for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic.

Conducting an environmental impact statement should be a multi-year, multi-part process that offers the public ample opportunity to provide input. Instead, BLM is rushing this process and trying to accomplish it within only a single year – abbreviating comment periods and rushing analyses. 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.

With the insufficient Environmental Impact Statements in the planning phase, the obviously serious climate impacts, and clearly deadly impacts on caribou, polar bears, and migratory birds inherent in permitting lease sales on the coastal plain, tracts within the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge must not be offered for lease in the upcoming Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Lease Sale.

Sincerely,

Susan McGinn

310 Montague Road

Amherst MA 01002

(413)230-6503

soosmcg@gmail.com

We want to express our opposition to leasing all tracts on the coastal plain. The human rights of Arctic Indigenous peoples, insufficient Environmental Impact Statements in the planning phase, climate impacts, and impacts on caribou, polar bears, and migratory birds are all reasons for that opposition.

The Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada are culturally and spiritually connected to the Porcupine caribou herd, which relies on the Coastal Plain for calving and post-calving habitat. The Gwich'in consider the coastal plain as sacred, and the place where life begins. It is vital to their human rights and food security.

Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic.

An original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.

The coastal plain is habitat for millions of birds which come from every continent, including off the coast of Antarctica, to breed, forage, and molt. BLM is disregarding impacts to birds by planning oil leases in the Arctic Refuge.

Thank you for taking into account our opposition to the leasing all tracts in the coastal plains in the Arctic circle.

Sincerely, Chris and David Thomas 1303 Hudson St Texarkana, TX 75503

BLM Director:

I am very much opposed to the oil and gas lease sale scheduled for the Coastal Plain in the Arctic Refuge.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is just that -- a refuge. A refuge is intended for wildlife habitat to ensure the survival of wildlife species. It also serves as a protection against climate change, the most dire challenge we face on Earth.

This land is also not ours to destroy. We stole it from the Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada, who are culturally and spiritually connected to the Porcupine caribou herd, which relies on the Coastal Plain for calving and post-calving habitat. The Gwich'in consider the coastal plain as sacred, and the place where life begins. It is vital to their human rights and food security. We have no right to destroy this land for oil and gas exploration and extraction.

Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic. We must do everything in our power to preserve pristine wilderness and natural areas which act as carbon sinks.

The BLM must do a better job in analyzing impacts to water quantity of these proposed leases. An original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.

The coastal plain is habitat for millions of birds which come from every continent, including off the coast of Antarctica, to breed, forage, and molt. BLM is disregarding impacts to birds by planning oil leases in the Arctic Refuge. Wildlife have priority on BLM lands by their very existence as a refuge.

Thank you,

Judith Eddy

14 Albany Road

West Stockbridge, MA 01266

413-652-5387

judy@judyeddy.com

To Whom it May Concern

State Director BLM

Alaska State Office

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the current WH administration's demands to allow oil & gas drilling, leases and any testing developments in ANWR. Both the swiftness and hastiness of this push to open up ANWR in the 11th hour to the type of long ranging effects on the landscape, wildlife and Gwich'in people has no place.

It is also concerning that proper protocol and important time for public comment has been shortened in order to force through development that has had so much opposition and public concern over the years. The negative effects such development would have on migratory caribou and birds, the Gwich'in people and their way of life and many other species of mammals would be profound. This is especially true when in conjunction with the growing effects of climate change that are affecting ANWR.

Please reconsider the administration's request to open up ANWR to development and instead work to conserve and protect the Artic National Wildlife Refuge, the wildlife that lives there and the wishes of the Gwich'in people.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Danielia Lemaich

3006 South 750 West

Victor, ID 83455

208-352-5500.

ddanielia.mt@gmail.com

Dear Madam/Sir,

I oppose drilling, seismic blasting or other activities related to oil drilling and natural gas exploration in the Arctic National Refuge and offshore areas. I believe that the inherent value of this land is in leaving it in its natural state. Caribou herds use the area for calving. Polar bears rely on the area as a place to den and to rest and feed while waiting for the winter ice sheets. There are also many animals offshore who live and depend on a clean and protected environment.

Because we are seeking to end the use of fossil fuels and move to renewable fuels we should not be destroying this area to produce products that will be outmoded by the time these potential oil and gas fields are brought into production.

Regards,

Drew Martin

1015 North M Street

Lake Worth, Florida 33460

Dear BLM,

I wish to comment against the proposed extensive leasing along the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Caribou have a limited range on Earth. It is ill-advised, and likely illegal, to disrupt the migration of one of the world's larger herds.

The Gwich'in peoples rely on the Porcupine herd, and consider the coastal plain sacred. Many Americans, and apparently American laws, consider their rights to go to church services even more important than public health, as demonstrated even by a recent Supreme Court decision that congregation size must not be limited at such services. Should we not be required to refrain from negatively impacting sacred public lands that are sacred to another religion of the Americas? Are only Christians protected by our laws? Is oil and gas extraction more important than public health? The human rights protests of 2019 should remind the BLM to pay attention to the rights of non-dominant cultures, and consider that they may be more important than whatever the goals of the energy companies are.

Many nations and even states have plans to discontinue the sale of gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles within ten to twenty years. These include most European nations, India, Japan, Taiwan, Canada and California. It is time to stop exploring for oil and gas. The demand for oil and gas is decreasing. Climate change is real, and serious for all life on Earth. The EIS does not seriously consider the implications of the proposed leasings' contributions to climate change.

All of the proposed leasing tracts on the coastal plain provide habitat for polar bears, including critical denning habitat. These should not be disturbed.

Water volume and quantity, and habitats they are intertwined with, are protected by the wildlife refuge's enabling legislation. Any leasing must ensure that leasing and extraction will not impact those water attributes. The EIS does not appear to fully address this issue.

Millions of birds breed and forage within the tracts proposed for leasing, migrating from across the globe. Millions. Serious study and consideration should be given to these birds, and a decision made for their preservation. The EIS does not accomplish this.

Beyond all the reasons above, there has never been, and never will be, a reasonable time to drill in such a fragile and wildlife-filled region as this far north coastal plain. The risks to such a biologically rich place are too great, and the extreme climate and conditions exacerbate the risks. Please do not lease these parcels.

Mary Moran

1991 Highland Dr

Moab, UT 84532

marymoran3333@gmail.com

I strongly oppose leasing all tracts on the coastal plain.

Drilling in the Arctic Refuge will harm critical habitat for polar bears and migratory birds, contribute to global warming, and violate the rights of the Gwich'in Nation.

Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic.

An original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.

These sales are a transparent last-minute land-grab by current gas and oil interest populating the Department of Interior. These sales are shameful, selfish, and contrary to the wishes of the American people. In April 2019, a Yale University survey found that two out of three voters (67%) oppose oil drilling in the ANWR.

DO. NOT. SELL. LEASING. TRACTS.

Sincerely,

Erin Kilpatrick

390 NW 17th ST

Bend, OR 97703

206-721-2495

el_kilpatrick@yahoo.com

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose the leasing of all tracts on the coastal plain for oil and gas lease sales. Their negative impacts on the human rights of Arctic Indigenous peoples, as well as the environment and wildlife are much greater than the economic benefits. The short-term profits do not substantiate the many long-term consequences.

Also, there were insufficient Environmental Impact Statements in the planning phase. As a director at a watershed nonprofit in Colorado, I know the importance of sufficient environmental reviews for such projects. Working in a fragile alpine environment, I am also familiar with delicate landscapes that are easier to damage long-term. The Arctic Refuge is such a special location that needs protecting.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments but especially those of the local Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada.

Sincerely,

Tanya Ishikawa

**Communications Director, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership
Ridgway, Colorado**

Over the past 40 years that I've been going to Alaska, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has been a place to visit for its wildlife, beauty, pristine quality and remoteness. And for the same reason, to continue to protect it from development. I have visited the North Slope and Prudhoe Bay, I've seen the impacts of oil and gas development - access roads, infrastructure, impacts on the environment.... Considering the decline of fossil fuels in the past several years, along with investors pulling funding and oil companies consolidating, it is not reasonable to lease and develop both of the resources in decline - oil and undeveloped land.

Here are some reasons other than the above to NOT lease the 30+ tracks being considered;

- The Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada are culturally and spiritually connected to the Porcupine caribou herd, which relies on the Coastal Plain for calving and post-calving habitat. The Gwich'in consider the coastal plain as sacred, and the place where life begins. It is vital to their human rights and food security.
- Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic.
- An original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.
- The coastal plain is habitat for millions of birds which come from every continent, including off the coast of Antarctica, to breed, forage, and molt. BLM is disregarding impacts to birds by planning oil leases in the Arctic Refuge.

Sincerely,

Tim Thomas 658 E. 5th Avenue, Durango, CO 81301 USA (970)259-7179 thomas_t61@hotmail.com

To whom it may concern:

As an Alaska resident and United States citizen, I find it very troubling that our last bits of true wilderness are being reduced to a commodity sold to the highest bidder. This sacred frontier's value goes far beyond dollar bills.

The Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada are culturally and spiritually connected to the Porcupine caribou herd, which relies on the Coastal Plain for calving and post-calving habitat. The Gwich'in consider the coastal plain as sacred, and the place where life begins. It is vital to their human rights and food security. Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic. An original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity. The coastal plain is habitat for millions of birds which come from every continent, including off the coast of Antarctica, to breed, forage, and molt. BLM is disregarding impacts to birds by planning oil leases in the Arctic Refuge.

I hope you take this into consideration before taking further steps towards destroying this sacred land.

Sincerely,

Jeri Reid

(814)505-5219

PO Box 16256

Two rivers, AK 99716

Jab8590@gmail.com

To Whom it may concern,

I totally oppose opening any part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to Andy leasing or drilling for oil. Such drilling will endanger habitat for important species. There is enough oil and gas extraction in the world and not enough protection for sensitive bird and animal life. In addition the area is sacred to the indigenous people. How would we feel if the government proposed drilling in houses of worship and other sites connected with our religion.

This is a typical Trump philosophy decision; promote business at the expense of all other considerations. This philosophy does not contribute to actions that promote the over all well being of the nation and the world.

It is time to focus on benefits to all not just business interests.

Thank you for you attention to this letter.

Sincerely yours

Sarah Burr Arnold

PO Box 352

Trout Lake, Washington 98650

Dear Alaska BLM Director,

The Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a sacred place to the Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada. Culturally and Spiritually they are connected to the Porcupine Caribou Herd which relies on the coastal plain for calving and post-calving habitat. It is vital to the human rights and food security of the Gwich'in.

The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the arctic which is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The BLM did no new analysis of the impact on insuring the necessary water quality and quantity for conserving the fish, wildlife, and habitats which the refuge was created to protect.

Millions of birds from every continent rely on the coastal plain to breed, forage, and molt. BLM is disregarding the impacts to birds by planning oil leases in the Arctic Refuge.

Please do not let these leases go forward. Oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge will cause unacceptable harm to this rich ecological region.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Carol Kuelper

Dear Officials:

I am writing as a concerned citizen. I oppose leasing ALL tracts on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development. The Arctic is already warming at twice the rate of the continental US, and is already threatening to contribute untold vast quantities of carbon dioxide into our overheating atmosphere. Even before exploitation by the highest bidder, Arctic ice is melting at ever-increasing rates, further exacerbating sea level rise around the globe. Are we to entrust random developers with such precious resources as these, at such a time as this, when history tells us that even a plan too big to fail, not only can fail but will fail? We have only to look at Deepwater Horizon and the Exxon Valdez to acknowledge that.

And WHY are we rushing to do this NOW? Why are we doing this in the middle of a pandemic, at a time when the only conceivable motivation for doing so is to make the already fraught work of a new administration virtually impossible? Why are we doing this in a Wildlife Refuge? Is the chance to make a quick buck worth destroying all that?

I may be merely a concerned citizen, but in my opinion, and in the considered judgment of climate scientists around the world this plan is only courting disaster.

We only have one chance to get this right, and that is by protecting what is ours to protect. I urge you to give these facts the weight they deserve as you make your deliberations. The whole world is watching.

Sincerely,

Millie LaFontaine
131 N. State St. #8
Concord, NH 03301
603-491-6428

Miles Knotek

41955 Seward Hwy

Moose Pass, AK 99631

Dear Director Padgett,

As a lifelong Alaskan I would like to voice my opposition for the lease sale of all tracts (Tracts 1-32) inside the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. To open up this land for fossil fuel extraction ignores the wishes up the indigenous people who rely on this land for subsistence and spiritual connection. Climate change is an undeniable fact, and continuing to extract more fossil fuels is not what we need. While the short-term boom and influx of cash may be appealing, the detrimental long term affects vastly out way any potential economic benefit. From the destruction of wildlife habitat, to releasing more carbon, to ignoring indigenous perspectives, drilling in all tracts of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the wrong choice.

I implore you to halt the sales of lease tracts. Not only for those people and animals that call the refuge home, but for all of us across the world. Keeping this ecosystem intact is vital for our global climate, vital for the people today, and vital for people tomorrow.

Thank you,

-Miles Knotek

Kayla Rowe
6460 Limestone Circle
Anchorage, AK
99507

Dear Director Padgett,

As a lifelong Alaskan I would like to voice my opposition for the lease sale of all tracts (Tracts 1-32) inside the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. To open up this land for fossil fuel extraction ignores the wishes up the indigenous people who rely on this land for subsistence and spiritual connection. Climate change is an undeniable fact, and continuing to extract more fossil fuels is not what we need. While the short-term boom and influx of cash may be appealing, the detrimental long term affects vastly out way any potential economic benefit. From the destruction of wildlife habitat, to releasing more carbon, to ignoring indigenous perspectives, drilling in all tracts of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the wrong choice.

I implore you to halt the sales of lease tracts. Not only for those people and animals that call the refuge home, but for all of us across the world. Keeping this ecosystem intact is vital for our global climate, vital for the people today, and vital for people tomorrow.

Thank you,
-Kayla Rowe

December 2, 2020

I am submitting my comment in regards to the lease tracts considered for the upcoming Coastal Plain of Alaska Oil and Gas Lease Sale. As an environmental scientist who has conducted ecological research in the western portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, I strongly oppose the leasing of all tracts on the coastal plain. Conducting a legitimate environmental impact statement should be a multi-year, thorough process that allows ample opportunity for public participation and input. The hasty process the BLM conducted is not adequate.

Climatic warming is amplified in high-latitude regions, with the Arctic undergoing warming at twice the level relative to other areas of the globe. Expanding oil and gas development in the coastal plain, and the Arctic in general, will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges. The Coastal Plain EIS for oil and gas leasing does not fully consider the magnitude of climate impacts from extraction in the Arctic. Further, an original purpose 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 ecosystem function. Water on the Coastal Plain is scarce -- there are few open lakes and rivers compared to the Western Arctic. Drilling wells requires immense amounts of water, yet the BLM performed no new analysis of water availability and quality in the Coastal Plain EIS and thus has not sufficiently analyzed potential impacts from further oil and gas development.

Additionally, the Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada are culturally connected and dependent on the Porcupine caribou herd. The Coastal Plain is vital habitat for Porcupine caribou calving. Maintaining the integrity and health of this environment is vital to the human rights and food security of the Gwich'in.

The Gwich'in people are united in their opposition to oil and gas development in the coastal plain.

This vast expanse of ecologically rich land deserves protection -- for Indigenous sovereignty, ecological wellness, and respect for the land. Again, I strongly oppose lease sales of all proposed tracts on the coastal plain.

Sincerely,

Johanne Albrigtsen

(303) 928 0872

2860 LaGrange Circle Boulder, CO 80305

johanne.albrigtsen@gmail.com

December 4, 2020

**State Director Bureau of Land Management Alaska State Office 222 West 7th Avenue Mailstop 13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7504**

Re: Arctic Refuge Public Comment

Dear Responsible,

I wish to express my strong opposition to leasing all tracts on the coastal plain.

Others will surely call out issues of concern, like the human rights of Arctic Indigenous peoples; insufficient Environmental Impact Statements in the planning phase; climate impacts; impacts on caribou, polar bears, and migratory birds; and more. But I want to focus on energy.

The vast majority of energy experts tell us that we are nearing a global inflection point as we transition from fossil fuels to renewable/sustainable energy sources. So it just doesn't make sense to destroy the ANWR, at what is sure to be enormous cost, just to further fill the pockets of the international energy companies, at a time when we should be promoting other sources.

Let's spend our time and money on solar, wind, and all-of-the-above.

Let's spend our time and money on energy conservation in vehicles, industries, and homes.

And let's leave ANWR as it is. We don't need the energy, and the direct and indirect costs are far, far too high.

Thank you.

Tim

Schaldach

Tim Schaldach 970-238-0950 tim@goschaldach.com 20 Bacus Avenue Durango, CO 81301

To: State Director, Bureau of Land Management

December 9, 2020

I am responding to the Call for Nominations and Comments for the Coastal Plain Alaska Oil and Gas Lease Sale.

I oppose the Coastal Plain Alaska Oil and Gas Lease Sale, especially because of the insufficient Environmental Impact Statements in the planning phase, and impact on the human rights of Arctic Indigenous peoples, climate, and wildlife such including caribou, polar bears, and migratory birds.

To be more specific on these issues:

Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic.

An original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.

The coastal plain is habitat for millions of birds which come from every continent, including off the coast of Antarctica, to breed, forage, and molt. BLM is disregarding impacts to birds by planning oil leases in the Arctic Refuge.

The Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada are culturally and spiritually connected to the Porcupine caribou herd, which relies on the Coastal Plain for calving and post-calving habitat. The Gwich'in consider the coastal plain as sacred, and the place where life begins. It is vital to their human rights and food security.

For all these reasons, I am opposed to the Coastal Plain Alaska Oil and Gas Lease Sale.

Thank you,

Maida Tilchen

301 Lowell Street #12

Somerville MA 02145

maidatil@hotmail.com

12/06/2020

To whom it may concern,

I oppose oil and gas leasing on all tracts on the coastal plain in ANWR for the reasons specified below:

The Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada are culturally and spiritually connected to the Porcupine caribou herd, which relies on the Coastal Plain for calving and post-calving habitat. The Gwich'in consider the coastal plain as sacred, and the place where life begins. It is vital to their human rights and food security.

Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic.

An original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.

The coastal plain is habitat for millions of birds which come from every continent, including off the coast of Antarctica, to breed, forage, and molt. BLM is disregarding impacts to birds by planning oil leases in the Arctic Refuge.

Regards,

James Sorum

5436 67th Avenue NE

Churchs Ferry, North Dakota 58325

jwsorum@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

I oppose oil and gas leasing on all tracts on the coastal plain in ANWR for the reasons specified below:

The Gwich'in peoples of Alaska and Canada are culturally and spiritually connected to the Porcupine caribou herd, which relies on the Coastal Plain for calving and post-calving habitat. The Gwich'in consider the coastal plain as sacred, and the place where life begins. It is vital to their human rights and food security.

Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate adaptation and mitigation challenges in an Arctic that is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the country. The EIS for oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain downplays unacceptable climate impacts of extraction in the Arctic.

An original purpose 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. The BLM did no new analysis of how much water is actually available on the Coastal Plain in the coastal plain EIS and therefore does an insufficient job of analyzing impact to that water quantity.

The coastal plain is habitat for millions of birds which come from every continent, including off the coast of Antarctica, to breed, forage, and molt. BLM is disregarding impacts to birds by planning oil leases in the Arctic Refuge.

Thanks you,

**Jeffrey Sorum
719 North 25th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203**

There are several issues that must be addressed before a decision to take up drilling in the Arctic. First: This area was initially federally protected by President Eisenhower back in 1960. Protection means that there must be no construction, mining, and the like that would alter the area in any way. Second: The Arctic Refuge has been one of our nation's most valuable public lands. In addition to the 200,000-count Porcupine Caribou Herd, it is home to musk oxen, wolves, polar bears, and nearly 200 species of migratory birds that eat, molt, and nest in the Refuge when moving to and from six continents and all 50 states. Third: There is the increased risk of oil spills. This is a far too critical and fragile area for even a single spill to occur much less multiple spills. Fourth: Seismic techniques used to explore for oil under the ocean floor will harm fish and marine mammals. Also the delicate ecosystems of the tundra due to drilling will stay ravaged for generations, and again the refuge was originally granted protection from this kind of abuse back in 1960. Fifth: The machinery and equipment that workers use for drilling oil release an array of harmful air pollutants increasing methane, particulate matter, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen oxides. These gases result in higher levels of the greenhouse gas production which has negative impacts on the planet. My college Chemistry degree background allows me to understand and confirm these adverse impacts. Global warming is certainly having an increased impact on the planet, including rapid melting of the polar icecaps and general planet warming and more severe storms. The time to act was decades ago, so it is even more critical to address now. Sixth: For the last 60 years, the American people and Congress have continually reinforced the fact that the Arctic Refuge needs protection, not development. It is no place for drilling, mining, or any other kind of construction, whether underground or above. Please remove tracts 1-32 identified in the call for nominations, from consideration for leasing. Thanks.

Dwane "Kermit" Williams

55785 Lost Rider Loop

Bend, OR 97707

541-593-1970

I am writing to express my opposition to the recent announcement of lease sales in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

My opposition is based on making a move away from fossil fuel use in our society and working towards an investment in renewable energy.

I'm not too sure there has been enough of environmental impact research in this delicate area of our state either. Migratory birds eating losses, mammals of this region trying to adjust to warmer weather and enormous changes in climate are worrisome already, before adding the burden of oil drilling to the mix.

I'm also aware of the impact this may have on our indigenous Alaskans for a subsistence lifestyle. This is their food supply and way of life that's at stake.

There's just too much at risk for selling leases in this ecosystem. More studies are needed before this is allowed to take place. Please pass on my letter to the Bureau of Land Management in opposition to this lease sale taking place.

Thank you for your time.

Carol Meyer

PO Box 342

Ester, AK 99725

907-347-4486

To: Chad Padgett
State Director of BLM
Alaska State Office'222 W. 7th Ave
Mailstop 13
Anchorage, AK 99501-7504

Dear Director Padgett,

Please accept my comments on the Arctic Wildlife Refuge being proposed for oil and gas lease sales. This comment is specifically for the Refuge tracts numbered 1 – 32.

I would first like to mention the implications of a rumor about the submission of public comments. Many of us heard that comments had to be delivered to your office. Some variations of the rumor say that this requirement was changed because of its questionable legality. Regardless of whether or not all or part of the rumor is true, the fact that so many people believed it shows that you have a problem with public trust. It wouldn't surprise people to hear you had gone to such an extreme in order to suppress public input, particularly input opposed to your proposal.

I am one of many Americans, for whom you manage the refuge, who oppose the proposal. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a very special place deserving of protection from oil &/or gas leasing; exploration, including seismic exploration; the creation of trails and roads; vehicle use; and drilling or mining for oil, gas, ore, rock, or water.

A responsible and unbiased review of science on climate change and what it is doing to places like ANWR can lead to only one conclusion: leave ANWR be! Do not exploit and plunder its riches. Keep it true to its name—a refuge for wildlife, such as polar bears, grizzly bears, black bears, moose, caribou, wolves, eagles, lynx, wolverine, marten, beaver and migratory birds. These animals rely on the refuge and would be harmed by the activities in your proposal.

Sincerely,
Michelle Long
1701 Middle Burnt Fork Rd.
Stevensville, MT 59870

State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
222 West 7th Avenue, Mailstop 13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7504

To Whom it May Concern,

When I tell people I am from Alaska they think cold, tundra, wide open spaces, and lot of wildlife. I have had the privilege of growing up in Alaska among those animals, exploring wide open spaces with them. My friends can tell you I am very proud to be Alaskan, that I can talk for hours about this state I call home. One friend told me the first real conversation we had was me telling her about Alaska for two hours and she was shocked that I had that much to talk about.

Our untouched wild spaces are what make us so special. They are part of what mitigates climate change around the world. There are refuges that protect species of plants and animals already under threat from a changing climate. The Arctic Wildlife Refuge is just one of these amazing places and now is in need of defending. Some say we should develop this area as if extracting the oil and gas out of the ground as if that is beneficial for anyone.

A whole ecosystem will be harmed and will never come back the same. This would be a travesty and a huge loss for Alaska, the U.S. and the world. Wild places deserve to be protected just for their own sake, but we gain so much as well.

Conservation will protect us all mentally and physically. All it takes is for us to say no to unsustainable development and prioritize the future over short term gains.

Sincerely,
Alisa Aist

Dear United States Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management,

I am writing to express opposition to leasing *all tracts* on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain to fossil fuel companies. Expanding oil and gas development in the Arctic will further exacerbate climate change. The Arctic is already warming at twice the rate of the rest of the world. According to Inuit hunters that live in the arctic the animals' seasons are changing, freeze up comes later, the break up come earlier, and its becoming harder and harder to subsist off the land. We need to listen to the people that live and have lived there for thousands of years before deciding what happens to one of the last wild places in the world. That conversation has not been discussed enough with the communities that have the most at stake. Rather it has been a few individuals that have monopolized the systems and governments making decisions without consulting the people. Although talks of opening the 1002 in the refuge have been going on for decades, there is still so much work to be done to find a third way in which the people of Kaktovik (the village within the refuge's boundaries) and Alaska don't have to make that impossible choice between their livelihood or giving up the land they feel is most sacred.

In addition, it doesn't make any sense to extract fossil fuels in one of the most pristine environments in the world when the oil industry is a dying industry. Green manufacturing and energy development are the future not only for our climate but also our economy. On April 20, 2020, nine months previous to writing this comment, crude oil prices slumped into the negative for the first time in history, falling to -\$37.63 meanwhile Tesla stock is soaring. In addition, the evidence of how much oil is in the refuge is not meaningful enough to destroy the ecosystem. There is significantly more oil that is much easier to extract in states like Texas, Louisiana, and even California that we don't need to extract oil in the arctic. The other thing that is so problematic with this whole thing is that you are illegally rushing the lease sales during America's worst public health crisis in history when people are extremely stressed, worried, or ill. The conversation about the refuge is very important and nuanced and essentially over the holiday in a pandemic you have given Americans 30 days to write comments via mail. People have lives to live. The basic decency should be given to at least allow a proper environmental review and time for people to participate before the land is auctioned off. There's so much more to say of why I oppose the lease sales, but for now I appreciate your time and understanding and hope you will reconsider the sale of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge especially now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Nicole Gormley