

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office
Attn: State Director Chad Padgett
222 West 7th Avenue, Mailstop 13
Anchorage, AK 99513
12/4/2020

State Director Padgett:

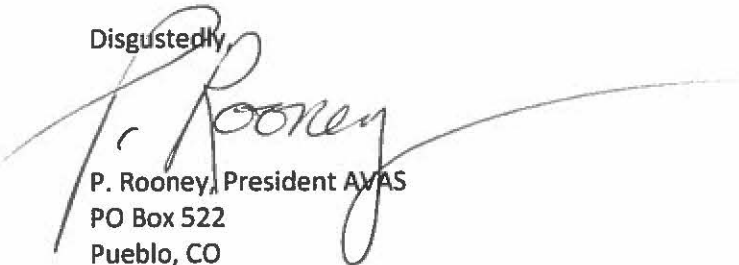
Arkansas Valley Audubon Society (AVAS), representing 500+ members in southern Colorado, *oppose leasing all tracts* on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Rushing this lease sale through at the last minute without allowing electronic submission of comments is unconscionable at best and devious at worst. If the BLM wants to permanently alter this wild landscape for people, birds, polar bears, and hundreds of thousands of caribou, this is certainly the way to do it!

The BLM has not even adequately addressed the impacts to water quality and quantity within the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge- knowing full well that these analyses should have been completed before the finalization of any leasing plan.

All tracts should be excluded from leasing to protect birds because the coastal plain is home to millions of birds that breed and nest in the region. Caribou calving, migration corridors, and fish habitat would also be adversely affected. Map 3-37 shows that leasing nearly anywhere on the coastal plain would impact polar bear critical habitat, a U.S. threatened species. Americans will not look kindly on starving polar bears and the agency that allowed it to happen.

The BLM **MUST NOT** allow leasing within the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and must never again attempt to limit input from we, the people- the owners of public lands.

Disgustedly,



P. Rooney, President AVAS
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