



Coastal_Plain_Seismic_EA, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastal_plain_seismic_ea@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Comments on ANWR seismic plan

1 message

Julia York <juliamyork@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 16, 2018 at 7:43 AM

To: blm_ak_coastal_plain_seismic_ea@blm.gov

Hello,

I am a biologist and Alaskan resident. Please see below for my comments on the proposal by SAExplorations to conduct 3-D seismic mapping of the 1002 area.

1) Six inches of snow is sufficient to protect the tundra from a single passage of vehicles, but no more. Repeated passage of vehicles over the same site with insufficient snow has been shown to permanently damage the tundra in the North Slope and alter the flow of water, permanently damaging the hydrology of the entire refuge. Proposal should scientifically demonstrate the depth of snow appropriate for repeated passage that will not cause permanent tundra damage and changes to hydrology.

2) Grooming for airstrips causes permanent damage to the tundra. Grooming should be allowed on lakes or river ice only.

3) SAExploration promises to clean any and all fuel and oil spills, as well as remove all remnants of waste to Deadhorse. This needs to be verified and the company needs to be fined by BLM in case of any unremoved spills or waste.

4) Nonspecific citing of the decibel levels and duration of the seismic emissions is unacceptable. SAExplorations owes the American people specific information on what sounds will be transmitted and for how long. Otherwise proper evaluation of their effect on wildlife is impossible. Proposal should be resubmitted with this information and a new comment period should begin.

5) Sending seismic waves through water less than 10 feet deep is unacceptable. These waves would be transmitted through the water and damage any organism living in the water. This section should be amended to remove the exception for water less than 10 feet deep.

6) Seismic sites should avoid burrows of mammals such as Arctic ground squirrels and marmots, in addition to polar bears.

7) Biologists hired for wildlife issues must be paid by BLM or another entity, not SAExplorations. Allowing SAE to hire a biologist presents a conflict of interest. If possible, multiple biologists with different areas of expertise should be consulted including botanists and wildlife biologists.

8) SAE needs to estimate the time to recovery of all tundra damage that occurs and publically release this information after the exploration occurs.

Thank you for you time.

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