



LaMarr, Sarah <slamarr@blm.gov>

Fwd: [EXTERNAL] for Steve Berendzen - concern about drilling

1 message

Jones, Nichelle (Shelly) <njones@blm.gov>

Tue, Sep 11, 2018 at 3:24 PM

To: Donna Wixon <dwixon@blm.gov>, "LaMarr, Sarah" <slamarr@blm.gov>, Stacey Fritz <sfritz@blm.gov>, Joseph Keeney <jkeeney@blm.gov>

FYI

Shelly Jones
Acting Manager
Arctic District Office
[222 University Avenue](#)
[Fairbanks, AK 99709](#)

(907) 474-2310 (w)
(907) 460-0086 (c)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Berendzen, Steve** <steve_berendzen@fws.gov>

Date: Tue, Sep 11, 2018 at 3:22 PM

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] for Steve Berendzen - concern about drilling

To: Nicole Hayes <mnhayes@blm.gov>, "Nichelle (Shelly) Jones" <njones@blm.gov>

FYI - comments we received on our Refuge email with my acknowledgement. Please add to your comments for your planning purposes as needed.

Steve Berendzen
Refuge Manager, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
907-456-0253

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Berendzen, Steve** <steve_berendzen@fws.gov>

Date: Tue, Sep 11, 2018 at 3:15 PM

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] for Steve Berendzen - concern about drilling

To: tinarieman@gmail.com

Tina, thank you for your interest in Arctic Refuge, and thank you for the comments. We'll forward them to BLM who is accepting comments at this time.

Steve Berendzen
Refuge Manager, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
907-456-0253

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From: **fair arctic refuge, FW7** <arctic_refuge@fws.gov>

Date: Sun, Sep 9, 2018 at 10:30 PM

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] for Steve Berendzen - concern about drilling

To: Steve Berendzen <steve_berendzen@fws.gov>

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Fairbanks, Alaska
<http://arctic.fws.gov/>

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From: **Tina Rieman** <Tina, >

Date: Fri, Sep 7, 2018 at 4:29 AM

Subject: [EXTERNAL] for Steve Berendzen - concern about drilling

To: arctic_refuge@fws.gov

Dear Steve,

I'm writing with my concern about drilling in the Arctic.

As you know, the Gwich'in people of the area are primarily subsistence hunters and gatherers. The Porcupine Caribou Herd is particularly important to them, as these animals are central to their history, culture and diet.

The Gwich'in are deeply concerned about proposed oil drilling on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, as this is the birthing grounds for the herd. Their annual migration is the longest of any land animal on earth, and the coast provides a unique set of qualities that makes it perfect for their calves to thrive in their first few weeks of life.

Given their connection to the caribou, they see proposed drilling on the birthing grounds as an assault on their human and cultural rights. "We call that area 'the sacred place where life began'", says Gwich'in leader Sarah James. They fear a great disruption of their lives and culture should the birthing grounds—and the caribou—be disturbed.

We can also think of this area as one of the last unspoiled places on earth, and thus worthy of protection for that reason as well. And as Alaska and other parts of our world experience climate change, it also makes sense to develop energy sources not related to fossil fuels.

I urge you to do what you can to halt the current rush to auction off leases, and instead give this land back to those – human and non – who have lived with and respected it for thousands of years.

Sincerely,

Tina Rieman

(Concerned US Citizen. A visitor to Alaska this summer. Resident of Indiana.)