

Website Comment **059528**

059528

From: ChristineBucklin

Affiliation:

Address: P.O. Box 92068
Pasadena, California, 91109

Comment: July 13, 2004

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Office
Att'n: Northeast NPR-A Planning Team
222 West Seventh Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Dear Planning Team,

1

Please accept these comments on the proposed amendment to the oil and gas leasing plan for the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve Environmental Impact Statement. I am especially concerned about the impact the Bureau of Land Management's proposal would have on the area around Teshekpuk Lake, one of the most unique and important wetlands in the entire Arctic.

2

I urge you to adopt Alternative A, the "No Action" alternative, because it would maintain protection for the entire Teshekpuk Lake Surface Protection Area. This extraordinary ecosystem provides critical habitat for molting geese and nesting habitat for Steller's eiders, northern pintails, yellow-billed loons and other species. It also supports a vitally important caribou herd that Alaska natives depend on for their subsistence.

3

Eighty-seven percent of the northeastern reserve is already open to oil and gas companies for leasing. In the five years since the original 1998 northeast plan, additional information and analyses have been accumulated that point toward significant impacts on fish and wildlife if more of this sensitive area is opened. It would be a huge mistake to risk the internationally significant ecological resources of Teshekpuk Lake for a short-term supply of energy, especially when we know that the United States cannot drill its way to energy independence.

4

Again, I urge you to choose Alternative A, the "No Action" alternative, to protect the reserve's irreplaceable wildlife, wilderness and subsistence values for future generations.

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Basic

I would like to add that scientists have foretold that any oil obtained from this area will only provide a small 6 month supply. If this area is destroyed for such a small amount of oil, Americans will be shamed and embarrassed in the world yet again by the decisions of our government. We need to force industry to find alternative options before they have destroyed all the beautiful and ecologically necessary lands of our country. The only way this can be done is by saying NO to drilling in Alaska. I have flown over the oil fields of upper AK and they are a secretive ugly wasteland, a shame on the American people. Please don't let this happen again. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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Website Comment **059528**

059528 (Cont'd)

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Attached: None