



"Tracy Callow"
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To: <PAIS_public_comments@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: PAIS buyout

12/14/2004 07:25 PM
CST
Please respond to
"Tracy Callow"

<?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smarttags" />

**Tracy Callow<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns =
"urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />**

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December 14, 2004

As a fellow American who both loves and was raised near Padre Island National Seashore, I am writing to ask you to help protect this great national park.

I am pleading with you to support a federal buyout of the mineral rights below Padre Island as an alternative to drilling. A buyout would eliminate the need to allow access to privately owned mineral leases and would be consistent with the National Park Service environmentally preferred alternative. A buyout would also meet all 6 of the national environmental policy goals and be consistent with the original intent of the park. Since there are only two alternatives listed in the Environmental Assessment, the National Park Service should choose Alternative A, as it is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Currently, most of the Texas coast is currently being used to produce oil and gas. Considering that only 3 percent of Texas is public recreation land, Padre Island National Seashore should be the one area of the coast that offers the experience of coastal wilderness free of industrial development.

The drilling plan will take at least eight months of up to 20 trucks per day traveling up and down the beach until completion. Much of the year, the beach will be dominated by trucks. This beach is for Americans to enjoy as a National Park. I was astonished to learn that park visitors and endangered sea turtles will have to share the beach with 18-wheeler trucks. The proceeds from drilling will go largely to investors overseas, yet tourism dollars from a preserved beach would easily pay for the buyout in only a few years.

A federal buyout is a win-win solution to the national seashore, its visitors, the local economy, and the Texas school fund. This buyout would give the money to the school fund upfront rather than the incremental payments dependent on gas drilling. The damage exacted upon our seashore is NOT worth only one day worth of fuel for the country, which is the sum of what is available there. This selfishness has the potential to ruin our natural resource, thus tourism as well. Living the majority of my life in South Texas, I have witnessed first hand what impact drilling has on an area with the unavoidable spills, leakage and traffic. The Padre Island National Seashore cannot afford this impact.

Please do the right thing for our families, future, and a fading national treasure and support the buyout option. Thank you for your valuable time.

Sincerely,

Tracy Callow