ks779600@yahoo.com

12/13/2004 06:02 PM
PST

To: pais_public_comments@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Stop the drilling on Padre Island National Seashore

Dear Padre Island Natl Seashore,

The National Park Service should not permit BNP Petroleum to drill for natural gas on Padre Island National Seashore. According to the environmental assessment for the Dunn-Peach Wells 2-6, the environmentally preferred alternative is Alternative A, no action. As an American, and a user of our national park system, I strongly support this alternative. However, I would prefer that there was a third alternative; one that proposes the acquisition of the mineral rights beneath the site. A federal buyout of the mineral rights would be consistent with Alternative A and with the original intent of the park. So much of the Gulf Coast already produces oil and gas or is developed for real estate. Padre should be the one place where Americans can experience the wildness of the Gulf Coast without industrial development.

Padre Island National Seashore is the longest stretch of undeveloped barrier island in the world and fills 800,000 visitors per year with awe and pleasure. Americans love to visit the national seashore to fish or to just be in nature. Only 3 percent of Texas is public recreation land and Padre is a major portion of that area. Further, if the drilling access roads through the dunes were decommissioned, Padre Island National Seashore would constitute a 108,000 acre roadless area. This place is too important to allow drilling for an amount of natural gas that won't put a dent in America's energy needs. It's simply not worth it. Instead of drilling our national parks, America should be supporting an energy policy that encourages renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Ellerbrock
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