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To: PAIS_public_comments@nps.gov
cc: Carole@seaturtles.org
Subject: No more drilling at the Padre Island National Seashore!

Please bring an end to the drilling of gas wells on the Padre Island National Seashore and encourage the administration to buy out those who own the mineral rights. The tranquility of the Padre Island National Seashore will be preserved as well as the nesting site for the Kemp's ridley sea turtles. David Lien 430 E. Cheyenne Mt. Blvd., #21 Colorado Springs, CO 80906 USA dlien2@yahoo.com As an avid hunter, camper, and hiker, I spend many weekends exploring and experiencing our public lands and feel that we need more of a balance between preservation and development. In a nutshell, we need more designated Wilderness Areas and Roadless Areas to let us escape from the noise, pollution, traffic and trappings of civilization that are slowly but surely degrading our way of life.

Oil development in a wild area, no matter how sensitive, changes the very nature of it. It means it's no longer wilderness. If the drill worshipers prevail, then there will be no place on this continent where a unique and wild environment will be safe from greed and short-sightedness. When the Bush administration says it can drill in wilderness without harming it, it's like saying you can do online trading in church on your Palm Pilot without disturbing anyone. It violates the very ethic of the place.

David Allen Sibley: "The value of wilderness seems so self-evident that it is difficult to articulate a response to those who would destroy it. We preserve buildings and other objects of great beauty or historical significance. Why do we question the value of preserving an intact ecosystem? To me the proposed drilling...is comparable to cutting holes in the Sistine Chapel's ceiling."

America obtains nearly 60 percent of its oil supplies from foreign nations, but holds less than 4 percent of global oil reserves and is long past its peak as an oil producer. However, demand continues to rise, so the gap is filled with foreign supplies. Sixty-five percent of the world's known oil reserves are in the Persian Gulf; the United States has only 3 percent, but we account for 26 percent of the world demand. We cannot drill our way into energy independence.

Degrading America's wildlands heritage is not the answer to building energy security. The only lasting solutions to price and supply problems are to use oil more efficiently and accelerate the development of new engine and fuel technologies that will lower demand for oil permanently.

The U.S. is a nation of vast resources and spectacular beauty, but much of it has been or is being developed, logged, mined, drilled, and crisscrossed with roads and OHV trails. Consequently, today wildlands and wildlife are disappearing faster than ever. Wise leaders like the great conservationist Teddy Roosevelt recognized the need to set aside parts of the land to be unspoiled for future generations. It's time we started following in his footsteps.

To start making a difference for the better, visit one or all of the following sites: The Wilderness Society - www.wilderness.org; The National Parks Conservation Association - www.npca.org; Defenders of Wildlife - www.defenders.org; The Natural Resources Defense Council - www.nrdc.org; The Trust for Public Land - www.tpl.org; The Nature Conservancy - www.tnc.org; REP America - www.repamerica.org; The League of Conservation Voters - www.lcv.org.

It's time we draw a line in the sand and said enough is enough! For too long our public lands have been managed for the betterment of corporations and narrowly defined motorized recreational interests and not for the betterment of the American public. Today Americans are demanding that these lands be preserved in their natural state for the betterment of wilderness, wildlife,

and future generations. Please do all that you can to ensure that this happens and include me on your mailing list for any future public involvement in this process.