# **Tools for Rules:**

# A Better Way for Sorting Public Comment E-mail

Dr. Stuart W. Shulman







Qualitative Data Analysis Program

A Service of the University Center for Social and Urban Research



School of Information Sciences



The Sara Fine Institute

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Upcoming Event: Tools for Rules Version 2.0 (May 1, 2007 Tool Test)

**New Papers:** "Identifying and Classifying Subjective Claims," Kwon et al., "A Bootstrapping Approach for Identifying Stakeholders in Public-Comment Corpora," Arguello and Callan (dg.o 2007 papers)

**Project Highlight:** A brief 2007 update to the NSF on recent usability testing efforts and the ongoing collaboration with the US Fish & Wildlife Service to sort and analyze public comments about the polar bear listing.

**Recent Events:** QDAP and JITP hosted a NSF-funded workshop "Coding Across the Disciplines" and Neil Eisner spoke to the Pitt School of Law about eRulemaking. Dr. Shulman gave a talk at the 2007 annual meeting of ASPA (slides are available in .ppt and .pdf format).

**Research Group Papers:** You can read three research papers prepared for dg.o 2006. There are papers on collective text analysis, labeling, and near duplicate detection.

**Research Group Presentations:** Download dg.o 2006 presentations by Namhee Kwon on collective text analysis, Pucktada Treeratpituk on labeling, and Grace Hui Yang on near duplicate detection.

**White Paper Collection:** There is a collection of White Papers prepared for a May 2006 workshop at dg.o 2006 called "eRulemaking at the Crossroads."

**2006 Project Highlight:** This short paper is an annual report to the dg.o 2006 meeting on the progress made by the research group in the past year.

http://erulemaking.ucsur.pitt.edu/



# Jamie Callan, Carnegie Mellon University

- Computer Science

Eduard Hovy, USC/Information Sciences Institute

- Computer Science

David Scholsberg, Northern Arizona University

- Political Theory

Stuart Shulman, University of Pittsburgh

- Political Science

Mack C. Shelley, Iowa State University

- Political Science & Statistics

Stephen Zavestoski, University of San Francisco

- Sociology

## **National Science Foundation**

WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

science

- This research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and supplemented through an inter-agency agreement with the U.S. EPA
  - > EIA 0089892
    - \* "SGER Citizen Agenda-Setting in the Regulatory Process: Electronic Collection and Synthesis of Public Commentary"
  - > EIA 0327979, 0328175, 0328914 & 0328618
    - \* "SGER Collaborative: A Testbed for eRulemaking Data"
  - ➤ IIS 0429293, 0429102, 0429360 & 0429243
    - \* "Collaborative Research: Language Processing Technology for Electronic Rulemaking"
  - > SES 0322662
    - \* "Democracy and E-Rulemaking: Comparing Traditional vs. Electronic Comment from a Discursive Democratic Framework"
- Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the National Science Foundation

The Department of Energy needs to improve its procedures for reviewing millions of e-mails associated with the Yucca Mountain project for quality assurance problems, the Office of Inspector General said in a report released Nov. 9.

The report, Quality Assurance Weaknesses in the Review of Yucca Mountain Electronic Mail for Relevancy to the Licensing Process, says DOE should conduct a more comprehensive review of more than 10 million e-mails associated with the proposed nuclear waste repository.

"We found that the process for reviewing the archived e-mails did not fully assure that quality assurance issues were promptly identified, investigated, reported, and resolved," the report says.

## Waiting for Plan B - don't hold your breath!

Pharmaceutical News

Published: Wednesday, 9-Nov-2005



According to a <u>Food and Drug Administration</u> official, regulators may take months to review public comments on Barr Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s application to sell the Plan B "morning-after" contraceptive without a prescription.

Apparently the FDA received thousands of comments after it indefinitely postponed a ruling on Plan B in August and asked for public input.

Dr. Scott Gottlieb, FDA deputy commissioner for medical and scientific affairs, says it could take months to go through the comments.

As the deadline for submitting comments ended last week the agency was expecting as many as 10,000 submissions.

Gottlieb has disputed charges that the FDA has allowed politics to interfere with science when they delayed a ruling on Plan B following heavy lobbying by conservative groups against the over-the-counter sale of the drug.

## United States Patent and Trademark Office

An Agency Of The United States Department Of Commerce

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#### **TOP NEWS**

#### USPTO To Hold Live On-Line for Independent Inventors

Senior officials of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, as well as a representative from the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program, will be available live on-line on Thursday. November 16, from 2 to 3 pm (ET). They will be answering questions and offering tips for independent inventors. Instructions for taking part in the online will be posted on the home page of the USPTO website at 10:30 am (ET) on Wednesday. Inventors can begin logging on for the on-line at 1:30 pm.

The independent inventor on-line is part of the USPTO's continuing efforts to promote and protect America 's independent inventors. This effort includes educating inventor-entrepreneurs about the risks of working with invention development companies.

We have transcripts and frequently-asked questions and answers from previous onlines available on the Inventors Resources pages. Check them out and save time — your question may already have an answer waiting for you!

#### New USPTO Video Now Available for Viewing

"Promoting Innovation: Today's USPTO"

Come visit the United States Patent and Trademark Office without leaving your home. With its foundation in the Constitution of the United States, our patent system is as old as the country itself. As its guardian, the USPTO has undergone many changes in its storied history.



# **Duplicate Detection**

- ☐ Many public comments are form letters or edited form letters
  - > Real grassroots or "astroturf" created by interest groups

Dedicated t	to conservation and multiple (	use of public lands for recreation opportunities.	
Edited by: <u>John Stewar</u>	<u>t</u>		
Public Comment: F	Roadless Area Conservat	ion DEIS Comments	
The Forest Service is a	occepting public comments until .	July 17, 2000 on the Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impa	ict Statement.
Enter your e-mail addre	ess, name and address and send	this comment letter. (All fields required)	
	Your E-mail:		
	Name: Address:		
	City:		
	State:		
	Zip Code:		
	USDA Forest Service CAET-USFS		
	Attn: Roadless Area Conser PO Box 221090	vation Proposed Rule	
	Salt Lake City, UT 84122		
	E-mail: roadlessdeis@fs.fe		
	RE: Forest Service Roadles Impact Statement, May 2000	s Area Conservation Draft Environmental	
		Send Your Comments!	

# What if it were all paper?



- ☐ Past research focuses on the mercury dataset
  - > 530,000+ emails, all plain text
  - Many duplicative (similar & identical) comments
- ☐ If all 1.8 gigabytes were on paper (which it is)
  - > ... it would weigh 5,350 pounds (about 2.7 tons)
  - > ... it would make a stack 214 feet high





# Extreme Auto Makeover



## TAKE ACTION

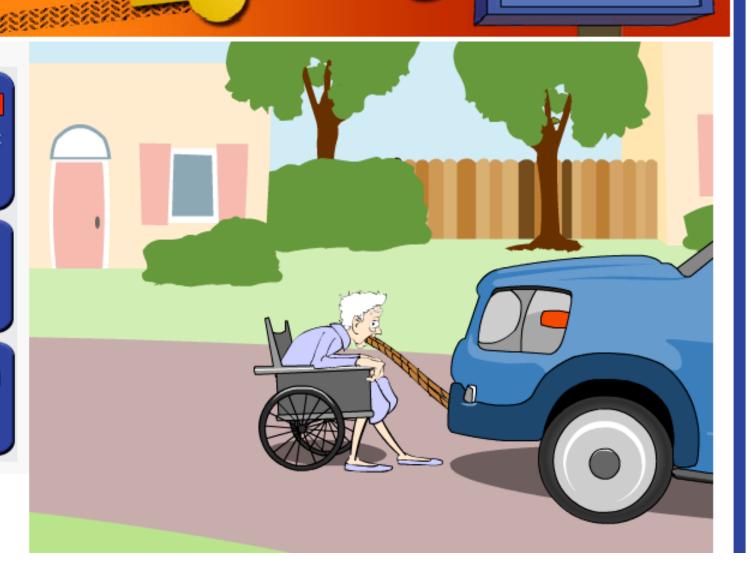
Get the auto lobbyist off the auto makeover team

## Pass It On

Tell your friends to watch our animation

## **Extreme Data**

The facts behind the animation



## Get Automaker Lobbyists off the Extreme Auto Makeover Team!

Just two weeks before gas prices hit \$3.00 per gallon, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) proposed revised fuel economy standards. Unfortunately, the plan will not help, and could actually undermine U.S. energy security. NHTSA has opened the proposal for public comment. This is your chance to tell the government that you want standards that bring us better vehicle choices, not more gas-guzzling automaker loopholes. So take action today and then tell your friends. Our goal is to submit 50,000 comments to tell the government that Americans can't wait any longer for better fuel economy—so spread the word!



greatest impact!

Please personalize your letter by adding in your own thoughts and concerns. Customized letters have the

#### Take Action on this Issue

### Send this message to:

- NHTSA Acting Administrator Ms.
   Jacqueline Glassman
- ▶ cc: Your Congressperson
- ▶ cc: Your Senators

## Send This Message

Complete the following to send this message and sign-up to receive periodic updates. If you have participated before, just type in your email address and submit the form.

Email: *	
Prefix: *	
-Select- ≥	
First Name: *	
Middle Name:	

Tell me more



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Meb-based grassroots solutions

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Personalized directories

#### HANDS-ON

Strategic & tactical support

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Annual election guides

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Our content, your site

#### OUTREACH

Messaging the masses

#### CIVICS

Personal engagement tools

## RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

The CTSG Relationship Manager (RM) is the premier Web application for managing your organization's relationship with supporters, and engaging both them and decision makers in high quality personalized communication. The system provides a 360 degree view of your interactions with your supporters—



Easy to use Relationship Manager interface

including complete activity information such as Manager interface communications sent, advocacy actions taken, donations made, new supporters recruited (through Tell-A-Friend), postcards they've sent, and events they have signed up to attend.

The Relationship Manager includes the capability for:

- → targeted personalized email communications,
- full data management and control, and
- sophisticated tracking and reporting.



# Recruit, Engage, Retain™

Our online communications solutions help strengthen your relationships with constituents and supporters.





More than 1.5 million advocacy emails and faxes sent to decision makers and more than \$1.1 million raised online in just under a year.



Online list membership growth of over 690%.

View Oxfam America case study



Online donation growth of 730% in one year.



Solutions

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Learn about the latest tips and

insights on how you can attract

more constituents, raise funds,

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drive action, and build lovalty

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## Solutions for building strong constituent relationships online

- Fundraising & Donations
- Event Fundraising
- Advocacy
- Ecommerce
- Web Content Management

Join us for this free event and

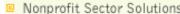
discover 15 online fundraising

Email Marketing

Educational Luncheon

techniques that work

Register now



Discover how we serve a variety of nonprofit organization types



Nonprofit Sector Solutions

Learn more

management.



Visit our Customer Center (customers only, requires login)

From Our Newsletter

Fundraising Event Registration

Sign up for our newsletter.

Five Tips for Making

More Productive

Customer Spotlight



Easter Seals manages over 100 Web sites running on Convio, delivering a consistent online experience to constituents.

Read the case study

#### Latest News

Feb 20, 2007: Walk Thru the Bible Wins National Religious Broadcasters Ministry Website of the Year Media Award

Feb 19, 2007: Convio, Inc. Closes Acquisition of GetActive Software, Inc.

Feb 8, 2007: The State of E-Philanthropy in 2007 PNN

Jan 24, 2007: Convio, Inc. Releases Nonprofit Sector's First Online Marketing (eCRM) Benchmark Report

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info@convio.com Email

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- Constituent360™
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## Convio Advocacy

Build a network of loyal activists online

Online grassroots advocacy is about more than sending an email action alert. It's about building an ongoing relationship with a loyal network of constituents ready to support the issues most important to your organization.

Convio Advocacy has the online tools you need to increase constituent participation in advocacy campaigns. It helps you gather information about constituents' interests, history of interaction with your organization and other information so you can communicate more relevant information to them.

With easy ways to create and send online notification of action alerts, Convio also helps you ensure your constituents can take action immediately. Your activist base will grow as you invite donors and other supporters to take action, and as your action network forwards information to friends and family.

#### Customizable grassroots advocacy campaigns

Whether you want to motivate constituents to act on an urgent issue, or simply inform constituents of how their legislators' votes align with your organization's goals, Convio allows you to choose exactly what information to present, and how you want to drive action. For example, you can create legislator scorecards that rate legislators only on the issues most important to your organization.

#### Convenient online action alert management

With Convio Advocacy, your organization can quickly generate email and Web site action alert notices for urgent issues. Activists can easily respond to action alerts online, or via fax or mail. Activists also can create, customize, and successfully deliver messages and petitions, as well as forward these messages to friends and family. Convio's

- Related Links
- What's new in Convio Advocacy - Vote-driven advocacy system takes online advocacy to a new level
- Developments in delivering messages to Congress
- Read Our Brochure

Discover how you can reach out to your constituents online

- Convio Internet Solutions (PDF, 942K)
- Free Guide



Mobilize activists and advance your cause — trends, best practices and case studies

- Download the online advocacy guide
- Customer Success



Chesapeake Bay Foundation quickly targeted and mobilized activists to advance their cause.

Read the case study

## Convio Advocacy

Build a network of loyal activists online

Online grassroots advocacy is about more than sending an email action alert. It's about building an ongoing relationship with a loyal network of constituents ready to support the issues most important to your organization.

## Convio Fundraising

A personal approach to online fundraising and membership



Convio Fundraising delivers the online capabilities you need to raise money and membership revenue for your organization online. More than a "donate now" button on your Web site, Convio Fundraising helps you build and foster relationships with your donors and members through online campaigns.

#### Grow your email file

With Email Marketing, you can easily grow your email address file by encouraging your constituents to reach out to new constituents. For example, include a Tell-a-Friend link in each of your emails where recipients can forward your message to friends and include their own messages to the new recipient. Or, post email greeting cards, or eCards, to your Web site that your site visitors can send to their friends and family.



The Bush administration mercury plan won't protect you. www.mercuryhurts.org

## **MERCURY HURTS!**

Toxic mercury hurts our health and quality of life. One in six American women of childbearing age has enough mercury in her blood to pose a risk to her unborn child. Airborne mercury pollution from power plant smokestacks rains down on our rivers and lakes where it accumulates in the food chain, especially in fish.

Breastfed infants and developing fetuses are exposed when their mothers consume tainted fish, which can result in lowered intelligence, learning problems, and brain damage. Anyone who eats contaminated fish is at risk, particularly children. In adults, mercury exposure can cause irreversible damage to the brain and cardiovascular system, and can reduce fertility. Learn more about mercury pollution

#### THE CULPRIT

Coal-fired power plants are the country's largest unregulated

## **Take Action NOW!**

Click here! Tell EPA that we need real protection against mercury

#### Resources

#### Links

- · Clear the Air
- National Environmental Trust
- . Clean Air Task Force

1. Look over the message below, and feel free to add your own comments. Using your own words makes the message more meaningful. Attention: Docket ID No. OAR-2002-0056 Dear EPA Administrator, Your agency, the Food & Drug Administration, and 43 states have issued What kinds of words advisories warning people, especially women add meaning? and children, to avoid or limit eating fish because of mercury contamination. Even with these warnings, the Centers For Disease Control And Prevention estimate that 1 out of 12 U.S. women of childbearing age have unsafe levels of mercury in their blood due to fish consumption. The best way to protect women and children from mercury is to eliminate it from its largest, unregulated source: power plants.

Street State Zip code Your e-mail

Sign the letter by filling in the form below. We will not share your information with anyone else.

Remember Me (only use this if you trust other users of this computer)



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#### Mercury

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#### PLEASE URGE EPA TO REDUCE MERCURY POLLUTION

February 10, 2004

The Bush Administration's weak mercury rule is open for public comments until June 29, 2004 this is your chance to help influence its development. The EPA must take your comments into consideration as they finalize the rule, and anything you write will be helpful to environmental groups who plan to take legal action against EPA over these ridiculous rules.

At the bottom of this page, we have provided some materials that you can use to write your own comments. All you have to do is send an e-mail to a-and-r-docket@epa.gov, or use this form. All fields are required (by the EPA). If you send your own e-mail, be sure to include all the information listed in the form below - the EPA will not accept your comments unless all the information in this form is provided.

Title: Public Comment on the Mercury Rule, Docket #OAR-2002-0056

Your Name:

E-Mail Address:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone:

# BushGreenwatch

TRACKING THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL MISDEEDS.



Tomorrow marks the last day for the public to comment on the highestprofile battle in years between the Bush administration and advocates of public health. The administration is under court order to finalize the firstever federal regulations to reduce poisonous emissions of mercury from power plants--the largest uncontrolled source of mercury pollution in the U.S.

The battle is marked by <u>an unprecedented public protest</u> against a Bush administration Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal that would allow power plants to emit six to seven times more mercury into America's air--and for at least a decade longer--than would be the case if the current Clean Air Act were simply implemented in good faith.

Properly implemented, the Clean Air Act would bring about a 90 percent reduction of mercury emissions over three years. But the Bush administration has stubbornly defended its plan to reduce mercury emissions by only 70 percent—and over a period of 13 years. As a result, over 600,000 citizens have submitted comments opposing the Bush plan. This is more than twice the highest number of comments EPA has ever received on a rulemaking—greater even than the outcry when the administration tried (unsuccessfully) to fend off stronger controls over arsenic in drinking water.





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12.27.06

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#### **DONATE AND HELP SAVE THE PLANET**



#### Polar Bear to be Listed as Threatened

- Press Release
- Washington Post

Your donations help us win battles like this one. Support Our Work Now!

#### Donate with Confidence

NRDC earned a 4-star rating from <u>CharityNavigator.org</u>—the highest awarded!



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**PUBLICATION** 

## TAKE ACTION

SUBSCRIBE

#### **URGENT ALERTS**

Protect marine life along the CA coast Urge the California Coastal Commission to protect whales and other marine life from harmful Navy sonar.

#### **BIOGEMS: Save Wild Places**

Click here to defend BioGems including the Patagonia Coast



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS**

NRDC Co-Sponsors Environmental Law Conference in China International Issues: In Brief

Corruption Blamed for China's Worsening

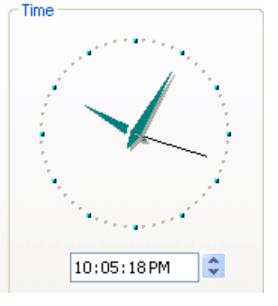
#### Date



2006



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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						





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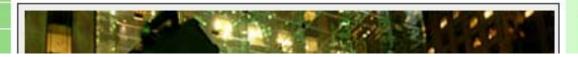
Welcome to Greenpeace USA

# Victory for Polar Bears!



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has officially listed the polar bear as a 'threatened' species due to the meltdown of its sea-ice habitat caused by global warming.

Read more



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#### GREENPEACE WORLDWIDE

Websites worldwide 🕶



Visit Greenpeace International

#### GET INVOLVED!

Receive environmental updates and discover ways to take action.



# Endangered Biological DIVERSITY Www.biologicaldiversity.org

No. 379, December 28, 2006



W COMEBACK KID #10: BIG BEND GAMBUSIA

POLAR BEAR #1: FEDS PROPOSE ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTING

POLAR BEAR #2: FEDS CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT CAUSES GLOBAL WARMING

SEA ICE MELTING FASTER THAN PREVIOUSLY PREDICTED

WMOTH DRINKS TEARS OF SLEEPING BIRDS

W FRANKINCENSE WOODLANDS DECLINING

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Sign up for monthly updates with e-Brief Polar Bears on Thin Ice: They Need Protection Now

Americans understand that global warming isn't just a future problem. The current threat to polar bears, which find their habitat literally melting away, is a clear example of the need to face global warming today.

Dramatically rising temperatures in the Arctic are melting the sea ice where polar bears live, hunt, and breed, putting the future of this majestic predator in jeopardy. The Fish and Wildlife Service has recently proposed granting much needed protections for the polar bear by listing them as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act, but the agency wants to hear from you first.

Please send a letter today in support of strong protections for polar bears struggling to survive in a vanishing habitat, and ask the administration to take immediate action to fight global warming today.

Are you having trouble with this page? Click here.

#### Tell me more

#### Talking Points

Please take a moment to personalize your comment; why is protecting polar bears at-risk from global warming important to you?



Print this page

#### Take Action on this Issue

#### Send your message to:

 Supervisor - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Mammals Management Office

Send This Message

Complete the following to send this message. If you have participated before, just type in your email address then submit the form.

m		

First Name: \*

Last Name: \*

Address Line 1: \*

#### Read sample newsletter

## Top 5

Visit the most popular pages on our site!

- 1. Take Action
- Jobs
- 3. Latest News
- Your Donation at Work
- What's New?



#### Subject:

Strong support for listing the polar bear

#### Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

(Edit Letter Below)

I am writing to strongly support your proposal to list the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Rising global temperatures are dramatically affecting Arctic ecosystems, and the sea ice habitat of the polar bear is literally melting away. Recent evidence showing not only declining populations, but also alarming signs such as cannibalism and drowning, demonstrates how important it is that we protect this majestic animal now.

I also urge you to specifically identify greenhouse gas pollution as the underlying cause of global warming and melting sea ice. It is impossible to ensure a strong future for polar bears and many other at-risk species without facing the need to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and global warming.

Sincerely, [Your name] [Your address]



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Action Center > Alert Detail

#### Tell ExxonMobil: Protect Polar Bears, Not Profits!

Sponsor: Defenders of Wildlife



#### ExxonMobil is swimming in cash...while polar bears are drowning in the Arctic.

ExxonMobil raked in over \$35 billion in profits in 2005, and another \$8.4 billion in the first quarter of 2006. But where are Exxon's priorities?



- ExxonMobil has given its former CEO Lee Raymond a retirement package worth almost \$400 million. Yet, it still refuses to pay punitive damages for the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill that killed birds, fish, sea otters and other wildlife - some of which have vet to recover.
- ExxonMobil is the sole major oil company to remain in Arctic Power, the lobbying group whose only purpose is to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to toxic oil drilling. The Arctic Refuge is home to caribou, millions of migratory birds, and other wildlife. It is also one of the most important onshore denning habitats for America's remaining polar bears.
- In the past five years, ExxonMobil has spent nearly \$37 million on lobbyists and millions more in campaign contributions to relentlessly push its anti-wildlife agenda and fight efforts to curb global warming - the same warming that's melting sea ice and leaving walrus calves and polar bears to starve and drown.

Tell ExxonMobil's CEO to stop pushing for oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge; to withdraw its support of the pro-drilling Arctic Power

lobbying firm; and to start investing in renewable energy for the future. Let ExxonMobil know that until they mend their anti-wildlife ways, you will be boycotting their gasoline!



More about this petition »

#### Related Alerts:

Alert	Date	Actions	
Protect Wildlife in Bristol Bay from Oil Drilling	Dec 30,2006	19,592	Take Action
Thank Victoria's Secret For It's Environmental Promise	Dec 7,2006	2,676	Take Action
Tell Wal-Mart: Zero Tolerance on Child Labor	Dec 7,2006	21,354	Take Action
Tell Wells Fargo to stop funding dirty energy	Nov 22,2006	18,692	Take Action
It's Always Christmas TimeFor Visa!	Nov 17,2006	14,731	Take Action
Save America's Treasured Wild Places from Oil and Gas Rigs	Nov 13,2006	14,856	Take Action



Wildlife Action Center

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Action Center Home

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#### Featured Action

#### Help Stop the Next Wolf Massacre

The stage has been set for the largest massacre of wolves to occur in the lower 48 United States in decades. Unless we stop it, hundreds of wolves -- including mothers and pups -- could die.



Actions taken: 42,550

Actions needed:

50,000



#### Welcome to the Wildlife Action

Center. <u>Sign up</u> or log in now to view personalized actions. Your username is typically your email address.

Username

Password

remember me

Login

Forgot Password?

#### Action Alert

#### Peril for Polar Bears

Rising temperatures and industrial pollution are driving polar bears to the brink of extinction. Help save our polar bears! Send a message to support



TAKE ACTION

message to support increased protections for our vanishing polar bears.

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Ac	tion	ns take	n:		Action	ns needed:
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#### Protecting Our Refuges

#### Tell your Representative to Become a Voice for Wildlife

Your U.S.
Representative has a chance to ensure that our National Wildlife Refuges get the funding and protection they



TAKE ACTION

deserve. Tell your Representative to join the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus today!

Actions taken:	Actions needed:
24,080	40,000

#### Community Activism

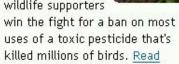
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about what you
can do to
help...Download
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today!



#### Success Story

#### A Victory for the Birds

Thousands of wildlife supporters



More

#### Action Alert

#### Bears on the Brink -- You Can Help!

America's polar bears are in trouble. Increased temperatures are depriving them of needed food and habitat, causing birth and survival rates to plummet. Climate change, combined with ongoing polluton risks and the threat of harmful oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, could spell disaster for these beloved creatures.



Help save America's polar bears. Fill out the form below to tell the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that you support their proposal for increased polar bear protections.

Please be sure to **personalize your message** to increase its effectiveness and ensure that your voice is heard.

Provide Your Info ar	nd Customize Your Message	
Your Info:	Your Message:	
	Please customize the subject line and the text of this message wit your own words.	ħ
* = Required Field	Subject: Polar Bear Protections	
* First Name:	Dear [Decision Maker],	
* Last Name:	Please personalize this message	
	As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife, an animal enthusiast and someone concerned about global climate change, I am writing	^
* Address 1:	today to voice my strong support for the proposal to list polar bears as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.	
Address 2:	As you know, at least five of the world's 19 polar bear populations are currently in decline from the complex effects of global	
* City:	warming. At this rate, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) is predicting a 30 percent reduction in polar bear numbers in the next 45 years.	
*State / Province:	In Alaska, we already see the effects of climate change, with the	
Choose a State	birth and survival rates of our polar bears plummeting as ice packs shrink and the bears' hunting opportunities become more limited.	
* ZIP / Postal Code:		
	As a global leader, the United States has an obligation to protect this majestic animal from extinction. Listing the polar bear alone	
Country:	isn't a solution. Any hopes for saving these animals should be	
United States	coupled with a reduction greenhouse gas emissions to address the root cause of global warming. In addition, essential protections	

е

#### *ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE*

finding the ways that work



There has been a murder at the Natural History

Museum!

Who did it?

Find out now.



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## Center for Biological Diversity - Biodiversity Activist Network

Dear Stuart,

The Center for Biological Diversity, Harvard's Center for Health and the Global Environment, the Buckminster Fuller Institute and Free Range Studios present a new Flash movie:



Join Robert Penguin and Sophie Minnow as they explore a death of a polar bear at the Natural History Museum, and find out about the "greatest lie ever told": that humans can live outside the web of life.



Is extinction stalking the polar bear?



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#### Help Protect the Polar Bear

The Fish and Wildlife Service has recently announced a proposal to list the polar bear as 'threatened' under the Endangered Species Act. This opens a 90-day public comment period. Afterwards, the FWS will then undergo a 12-month review of all the comments, then issue a final ruling.

This means every comment makes a huge difference. Please send in your comment using the form below, and then pass this website along to your friends and family.

#### Follow these 3 easy steps to help out.

1. Look over the message below, and feel free to add your own comments. Using your own words makes the message more meaningful.

#### Fish and Wildlife Service:

I am writing to submit my comment for the public record to list the polar bear as 'threatened' under the Endangered Species Act.

Recent science shows that polar bear populations are declining as a result of global warming.

Please list this magnificent species as 'threatened', and begin the adequate protections.

Sincerely,

Progress so far: 2,287 Public Comments Submitted

5.000



We're collecting photos of people in the forests they love so we can send the message to Congress: protect our wild places, don't sell them off. Right now there's a proposal to make up for budget shortfalls by selling off 800,000 of public lands. We need to make sure our elected officials know how important these places are to

to add your picture. click here.

Rally!





## Help Get Polar Bears on the Endangered Species List



Polar bears are at risk and global warming is to blame. As warmer temperatures cause sea ice to melt, the bears are unable to hunt and make it

safely back to shore.

Send an email to the Fish and Wildlife Service to **support their efforts** to save polar bears and their habitat.

Learn more about our <u>endangered</u> <u>species recovery efforts</u>.

#### Send a Letter

To: Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office

Subject: Help Get Polar Bears on the Endangered Species List

#### Dear [ Decision Maker ],

(edit letter below)

Thank you for proposing to list the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act . This species depends on Arctic sea ice for hunting and survival.

Warmer temperatures are melting sea ice earlier and faster than in the past. Consequently, the bears now have to swim farther in search of sea ice and may be drowning because of the longer distances.

Listing polar bears as threatened is one of the first crucial steps necessary to protect their habitat and ensure their survival. It also underscores the importance of taking immediate and effective action to limit global warming. What may seem like a small rise in temperatures is putting these Arctic icons in peril.

Thank you for taking action to conserve these majestic animals.

Sincerely,
[Your name]
[Your address]
Your Information

(all fields are required)





#### CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

For Immediate Release, April 9, 2007

Contact: Brendan Cummings, Center for Biological Diversity, (760) 366-2232 x 304 or (951) 768-8301 (cell)

Julia Bovey, NRDC, (202) 289-2420 or (202) 270-0768 (cell)

Jane Kochersperger, Greenpeace, (202) 319-2493 or (202) 680-3798 (cell)

#### Polar Bears Draw Record Public Response to Endangered Species Listing

More Than 500,000 Urge Feds to Pursue Protection Plan in Face of Global Warming

NEW YORK- In just 90 days, more than 500,000 Americans have urged federal officials to list polar bears as officially threatened under the Endangered Species Act due to the profound effect of global warming on the bears' habitat, according to U.S. government statistics. That figure is almost double the former record for the number of comments in an endangered-species listing case in American history.

The polar bear's sea-ice habitat is melting at a dangerous and unprecedented rate, according to internationally recognized scientists. At this rate, polar bears will not survive.

"The sense of urgency about the fate of the polar bears is like nothing we've ever seen in an endangered species listing," said Andrew Wetzler, director of the Endangered Species Project at the Natural Resources Defense Council. "The plight of these animals is critical, and so is the sense that the changes affecting them are eventually going to affect us. That's why there is such tremendous public support for getting this listing done."

In December, under pressure from a lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity, NRDC, and Greenpeace, the Bush administration proposed the listing. Today marks the end of the required 90-day comment period. The government has until early next year to decide whether to go forward with the plan.

# Proposal to list polar bears as endangered species generates heavy public comment

The Associated Press Published: April 9, 200

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3-Column Format

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: More than 500,000 people have commented on a proposal to list polar bears as "threatened" under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Monday was the deadline for the public to weigh in on whether America's polar bears, found exclusively in Alaska, merit additional protection due to global warming.

Bruce Woods, spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in

Alaska, said Monday that e-mail comments alone topped the halfmillion mark. He said it could be several days before the agency has a
tally on the number of comments but that the agency also received enough surface mail and
petitions to fill multiple boxes.



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# Responses to polar bear proposal swamp U.S. government

Last Updated: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 | 10:30 AM CT CBC News

U.S. wildlife officials say it could take weeks to sort through anywhere between 500,000 and one million responses regarding whether to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

A spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said it was surprised by the high number of e-mails and letters they received in the 90-day comment period that ended Monday. although they were expecting a strong response.

"It'll be a difficult. process, to be sure," Bruce Woods told CBC News from Anchorage, Alaska, on Tuesday.

A spokesman for activist group Greenpeace said they generated at least 500,000 responses, but



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Don't put polar bears on 'threatened' list, Nunavut tells U.S.

U.S. could designate polar bears a 'threatened' species

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## Responses to **polar bear** proposal swamp US government

CBC North, Canada - Apr 11, 2007

US wildlife officials say it could take weeks to sort through anywhere between **500000** and one million responses regarding whether to list the **polar bear** as ...

### Polar bear woes wakens US to global warming

Telegraph.co.uk, UK - Apr 10, 2007

The plight of the Alaskan **polar bear** has attracted an unprecedented response to an environmental issue by the American public. ...

## Polar bear proposal draws heavy comment

Dalles Chronicle, WA - Apr 10, 2007

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — More than **500000** people have commented on a proposal to list **polar** bears as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. ...

## Polar bear proposal generates heavy public comment

KTVA, AK - Apr 10, 2007

Conservation groups claimed Monday that their side alone provided **500000** comments. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne in December proposed listing **polar** ...

#### Polar bear proposal generates heavy comment

AZ Central.com, AZ - Apr 10, 2007

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - More than **500000** people have commented on a proposal to list **polar** bears as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. ...

### Polar bear proposal generates heavy public comment

Helena Independent Record, MT - Apr 10, 2007

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) - More than **500000** people have commented on a proposal to list **polar** bears as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. ...

#### Polar bear proposal generates comments

Juneau Empire (subscription), AK - Apr 10, 2007

ANCHORAGE - More than **500000** people have commented on a proposal to list **polar** bears as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. ...

## Polar Bears Draw Record Public Response to Endangered Species Listing

E-Wire (press release), TX - Apr 10, 2007

The **polar bear's** sea-ice habitat is melting at a dangerous and unprecedented rate, according to internationally recognized scientists....

# Duplicate - Exact

The EPA should require power plants to cut mercury pollution by 90% by 2008. These reductions are consistent with national standards for other pollutants and achievable through available pollution - control technology.

The EPA should require power plants to cut mercury pollution by 90% by 2008. These reductions are consistent with national standards for other pollutants and achievable through available pollution - control technology.

# Near Duplicate - Block Edit

The EPA should require power plants to cut mercury pollution by 90% by 2008. These reductions are consistent with national standards for other pollutants and achievable through available pollution -control technology.

I urge the EPA to require controls at all power plants to stop mercury pollution. The health of our air and water, and especially our children is by far more important than any political agenda.

The EPA should require power plants to cut mercury pollution by 90% by 2008. These reductions are consistent with national standards for other pollutants and achievable through available pollution -control technology.

# Near Duplicate - Minor Change

I am writing to urge you to take prompt action to clean up mercury and other toxic air pollution from power plants.

EPA's current proposals allow far ore mercury pollution than what the Clean Air Act allows, while at the same time fail to address over six ty other hazardous air pollutants like dioxin.

I am writing to urge you to take prompt action to clean up mercury and other toxic air pollution from the power plants. EPA's proposals permit far more mercury pollution than what the Clean Air Act allow s, while at the same time fail to address over sixty other hazardous air pollutants like dioxin.

# Minor Change + Block Edit

As someone who cares about protecting the nealth of children and our environment, I am deeply concerned about the mercury contamination of our lakes and streams. Mercury descends from polluted air into water and then works its way up the food chain. It is especially dangerous

I urge you to reconsider your agency's approach and require power plants to reduce their emissions of mercury to the greatest extent possible. his is what the federal law req uires, and also what the people and wildlife of this country deserve.

to people and wildlife that consume large

amounts of fish.

Thank you for your consideration.

As someone who cares about protecting our wildlife and wild places, I am deeply upset about the mercury contamination of our lakes and streams. Mercu ry descends from polluted air into water and then works its way up the food chain. It is especially dangerous to people and wildlife that consume large amounts of fish.

Specifically, I am concerned that EPA is proposing a cap-and-trade system to manage mercury emissions.

Under such a system, not all plants would have to reduce their harmful

missions of mercury and some could even increase! This approach =s unacceptable for dealing with such a toxic pollutant - which is precisely why the Clean Air Act does not allow it. I urge you to reconsider your approach and require power plants to reduce heir emissions of mercury to the greatest extent possible. This is what the federal law requires, and also what the people and wildlife of this country deserve.

Thank you for your consideration

# Near Duplicate - Block Reordering

Dear Environmental Protection Agency,

The EPA should require power plants to cut mercury pollution by 90% by 2008. These reductions are consistent with national standards for other pollutants and achievable through available pollution - control technology.

I urge the EPA to require controls at all power plants to stop mercury pollution. The health of our air and water, and especially our children is by far more important than any political agenda.

Dear Environmental Protection Agency,

I urge the EPA to require controls at all power plants to stop mercury pollution. The health of our air and water, and especially our children is by far more important than any political agenda.

The EPA should require power plants to cut mercury pollution by 90% by 2008. These reductions are consistent with national standards for other pollutants and achievable through available pollution -control technology.

# Near Duplicate - Key Block

The EPA should require power plants to cut mercury pollution by 90% by 2008.

American citizens need to stand up for their rights.

Which means the
freedom to pursue life, liberty, health, and happiness.

freedom to pursue life, liberty, health, and happiness.

Everybody has the right to wake up each morning and breath the freshest air that this green earth can provide us, not what some government organization says that we need to put up with because they want their standards so lax. This is a democracy, by the people, for the people, not what Bush decides because it suits his mood. It concerns me to see so many people that I care about every day trying so hard to live with the mental and neurological problems that they have acquired, or were born with due to mercury poisoning.

The EPA should require power plants to cut mercury pollution by 90% by 2008.



"Republicans for Environmental Protection represents the very best of the Republican Party. It's pragmatic. It advocates policies that are good in their own right. It represents the mainstream of Republican thought. I encourage all conservation-minded Republicans to join me in supporting REP's work."—Theodore Roosevelt IV, Lifetime Member

#### **ACTION ALERT**

Bear Listing Proposal an Opportunity to Press for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Caps Help us convince the GOP leadership that Republicans care about preserving America's natural heritage!

1	CO	ME	0.9	BE.	ME.	SS	A1	GE

#### Message Recipients:

. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

#### **Delivery Method:**

Email

Printed Letter

#### Subject:

Polar Bears Need Strong Conservation Plan

#### Editable text:

(edit or add your own text - 8055 characters left)

As a Republican who believes that conservation is conservative, I want to thank you for your proposal to list polar bears as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This proposal recognizes a real and serious threat to the polar bear population and I strongly urge you to follow through and list the polar bear as a threatened species.

Once the listing is finalized, the next step is to adopt a conservation plan that will give this iconic American species a fighting chance to recover.

As your proposal states, the main threat to bears is shrinking of sea ice caused by rising temperatures. If nothing is done to

Tip: Cutting-and-pasting? Save as plain text first.

Your Closing: Your Name:
Sincerely,

As a Republican who believes that conservation is conservative, I want to thank you for your proposal to list polar bears as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This proposal recognizes a real and serious threat to the polar bear population and I strongly urge you to follow through and list the polar bear as a threatened species. Once the listing is finalized, the next step is to adopt a conservation plan that will give this iconic American species a fighting chance to recover. As your proposal states, the main threat to bears is shrinking of sea ice caused by rising temperatures. If nothing is done to stem and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions tied to global warming, the chances of a polar bear recovery plan succeeding are very small. Therefore, the federal government must take concrete steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, through a national climate policy that helps Americans use energy more efficiently and diversifies our energy menu with renewable and other non-carbon energy sources. Polar bear conservation must also include steps to reduce dangers that, in combination with

As a Democrat who believes that conservation is of utmost importance, I want to thank you for your proposal to list polar bears as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This proposal recognizes a real and serious threat to the polar bear population and I strongly urge you to follow through and list the polar bear as a threatened species. Once the listing is finalized, the next step is to adopt a conservation plan that will give this iconic American species a fighting chance to recover. As your proposal states, the main threat to bears is shrinking of sea ice caused by rising temperatures. If nothing is done to stem and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions tied to global warming, the chances of a polar bear recovery plan succeeding are very small. Therefore, the federal government must take concrete steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, through a national climate policy that helps Americans use energy more efficiently and diversifies our energy menu with renewable and other non-carbon energy sources. Polar bear conservation must also include steps to reduce dangers that, in

As <mark>an American</mark> who believes that <mark>saving the earth and the wildlife on it should be at the top of every politicians agenda. I want to thank you for your proposal to list polar bears as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This proposal recognizes a real and serious threat to the polar bear population and I strongly urge you to follow through and list the polar bear as a threatened species. Once the listing is finalized, the next step is to</mark>

As a constituent who believes that conservation is a root of conservativism, and that conservation is a bipartisan issue as it effects everyone, I want to thank you for your proposal to list polar bears as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This proposal recognizes a real and serious threat to the polar bear population and strongly urge you to follow through and list the polar bear as a threatened species. Once the listing is finalized, the



# Qualitative Data Analysis Program

A Service of the University Center for Social and Urban Research

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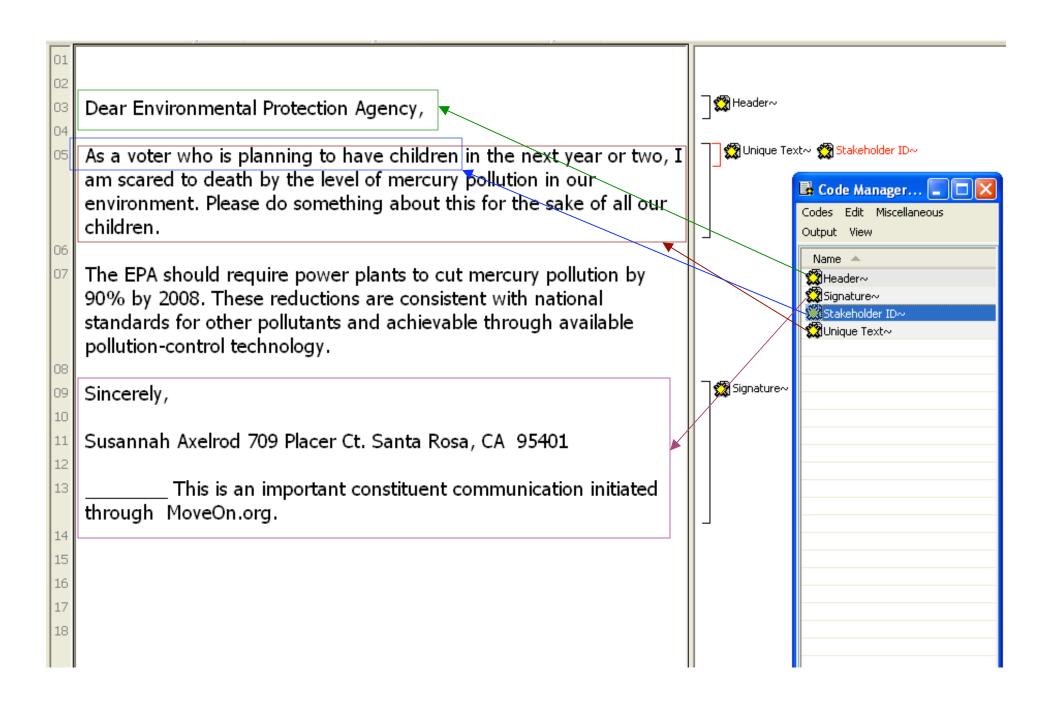
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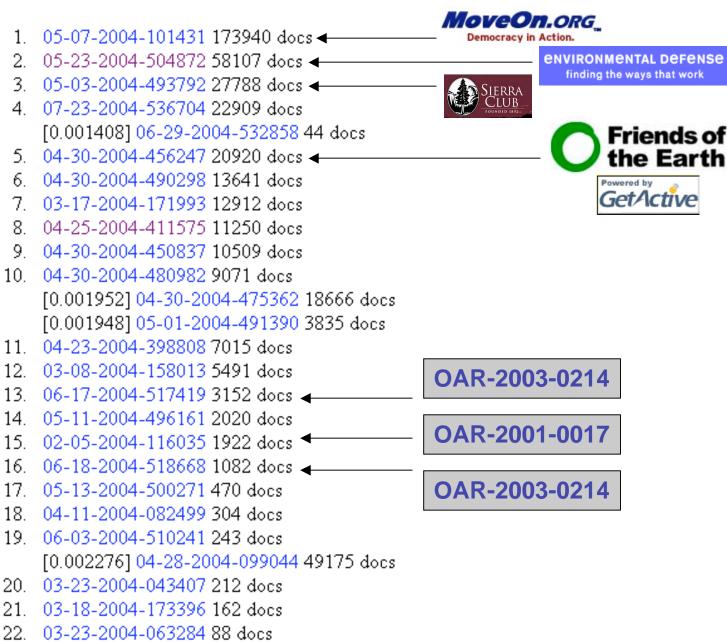
From biomedical, public health, and educational research, to the behavioral, computational, and social sciences, effective qualitative data analysis plays a critical role. Accurate and reliable coding using computers is central to the qualitative analysis process. For new and experienced researchers, learning advanced project management skills or even software basics adds hours of struggle in trial-and-error sessions.

Experienced coders can deliver the data you need in a timely and expert manner, without the struggle. For this reason, we have created the Qualitative Data Analysis Program (QDAP) as the newest program initiative at the University of Pittsburgh's University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR). Drawing on a unique blend of expertise in qualitative data analysis, ongoing collaboration with computer scientists, and several years of funded research, QDAP offers a rigorous approach to analyzing text and managing projects.





The following documents (listed by their comment ID/sequence number) each have the indicated number of near-duplicates in the comment collection. [total number of documents found with duplicates = 455401 docs]







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# **Main Opinions**

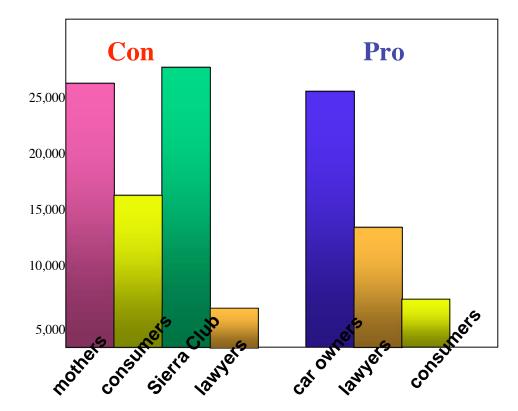
Structuring navigation for "smart" drill-downs

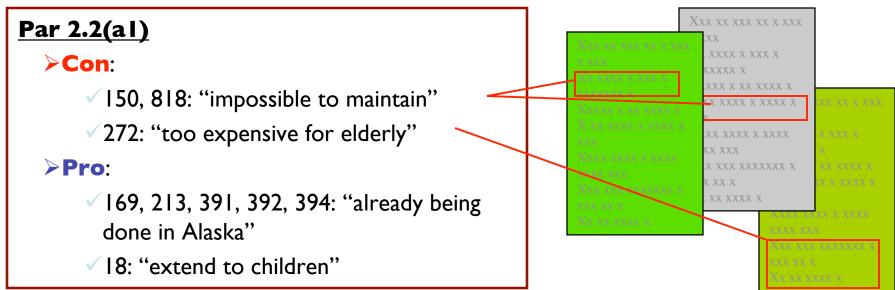
- □ pro (21,349)
  - "pollution" (11,003)
  - > "<u>efficiency</u>" (9,812)
  - "safe" or "safety" (534)
  - > ...
- ☐ guarded pro (4,661)
  - > "energy" (3,660)
  - "safe" or "safety" (1,001)
  - > ...

- □ anti (8,177)
  - "cost", "expense" (7,314)
  - "paperwork" (688)
  - > "autonomy" (175)
  - > ...
- ☐ guarded anti (758)
  - > "cost" (500)
  - > "<u>difficult</u>" (258)
  - **>** ...

# **Display Ideas**

- ☐ Grouped by opinion and writer type
- ☐ Grouped by topic and cross-correlated







# Proposed Rule To List the Polar Bear (Ursus maritimus) as Threatened Throughout Its Range

RIN: 1018.AV19 Docket ID: FWS-2007-0008 Agency: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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**Top 5 Group Percents:** 

Rank	Cluster ID	Label	Percent	Count
1	0	NRDC Members	44.4251 %	242690
2	1	NRDC Members	17.5017 %	95610
3	2	Defenders of Wildlife	11.8911 %	64960
4	3	Environmental Defense	6.3831 %	34870
5	4	fws_200704030000_0000885	4.1130 %	22469

# Percent of comments that are exact dups (groups > 5)

81.857621409874 %

## Percent of modified form letters

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# Number of singletons

# Email addresses that appear in > (1,2,..N) comments

Email appears this many times total	count
1	261371
2	80592
3	24604
4	6782
5	2607
6	997
7	316
8	92
9	25
10	6
11	6
12	6
13	2
14	2
16	2
19	1
22	2
24	1
71	1
163	1

## [Suppress Viewed Messages]

## Message Groups

Groups 1 - 100 of 3862 [next] [last]

**NRDC Members** 

(242690 comments)

NRDC Members

(95610 comments)

**Defenders of Wildlife** 

(64960 comments)

**Environmental Defense** 

(34870 comments)

Save Our Environment

(22469 comments)

**Earthjustice** 

(20687 comments)

Supporter of Defenders of Wildlife

(13275 comments)

Greenpeace

(12283 comments)

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(8718 comments)

**Environmental Action** 

(6729 comments)

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[first] [prev]
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  (1 comments)
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  (1 comments)
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  (1 comments)
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  (1 comments)
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  (1 comments)
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# The Biggest NRDC Sub-Groups

				[first] [prev] [next] [la	ist] [Double Click Rows for De	atails
	size	subject	sender	delivered	relayer	
1	213195	Protect polar bears and their critical habitat	aggregated	-	rr	
2	50	Protect polar bears and their critical habitat	aggregated	-	unknown	
3	42	Protect polar bears and their critical habitat	aggregated	-	unknown	
4	24	Protect polar bears and their critical habitat	aggregated	-	unknown	4
5	22	Polar bear endangered due to loss of habitat	aggregated	-	ctsg	
6	19	Protect polar bears and their critical habitat	aggregated	-	unknown	
7	19	Protect polar bears and their critical habitat	aggregated	-	unknown	
8	16	Protect polar bears and their critical habitat	aggregated	-	unknown	
9	16	Protect polar bears and their critical habitat	aggregated	-	unknown	
10	15	Protect polar bears and their critical habitat	aggregated	-	unknown	
11	14	Protect polar bears and their critical habitat	aggregated	-	unknown	¥
12	14	Protect polar bears and their critical habitat	aggregated	-	unknown	*

MESSAGE fws\_200702080000\_0001730 [SHOW DIFF with SEED DOCUMENT in NEW WINDOW] [SAVE] [ ADD BOOKMARK ]

I strongly support your proposal to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The scientific evidence that polar bears are threatened with extinction from global warming is overwhelming. Polar bears are completely dependent on Arctic sea ice to survive, but 80 percent of that ice could be gone in 20 years and all of it by 2040. Polar bears are already suffering the effects: birth rates are falling, fewer cubs are surviving, and more bears are drowning. I am therefore very concerned that your proposal fails to identify global warming pollution as the cause of rising Arctic temperatures and vanishing sea ice. Our government's refusal to curb global warming pollution is a primary cause of the polar bear's melting habitat and terrible plight. It must be addressed. And while your proposal discusses the kind of habitat that is essential for the polar bear's survival, it does not designate any of it as " critical habitat" that could help the bear recover. Please act swiftly to finalize the listing of the polar bear and designate its critical habitat. We must act immediately if we are to save this magnificent Arctic creature from extinction.

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Biggest NRDC Sub-Group





				[first] [prev] [nex	t] [last] [ Double Click Ro	ws for Details	1
	size	subject	sender	delivered	relayer	Bookmar	1
1	213195	Protect polar bears and their critical h	aggregated	-	rr	-	1
2	50	Protect polar bears and their critical h	aggregated	-	unknown	-	ı
3	42	Protect polar bears and their critical h	aggregated	-	unknown	-	ı
4	24	Protect polar bears and their critical $\mbox{\bf r}$	aggregated	-	unknown	-	ı
5	22	Polar bear endangered due to loss of	aggregated	-	ctsg	-	
6	19	Protect polar bears and their critical $\mbox{\bf r}$	aggregated	-	unknown	-	ř

MESSAGE fws 200702140000 0007754 [SHOW DIFF with SEED DOCUMENT in NEW WINDOW] [SAVE] [ ADD BOOKMARK ]

We strongly support your proposal to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act . The scientific evidence that polar bears are threatened with extinction from global warming is overwhelming . Polar bears are completely dependent on Arctic sea ice to survive , but 80 percent of that ice could be gone in 20 years and all of it by 2040 . Polar bears are already suffering the effects : birth rates are falling , fewer cubs are surviving , and more bears are drowning . We are therefore very concerned that your proposal fails to identify global warming pollution as the cause of rising Arctic temperatures and vanishing sea ice . Our government's refusal to curb global warming pollution is a primary cause of the polar bear's melting habitat and terrible plight . It must be addressed . And while your proposal discusses the kind of habitat that is essential for the polar bear's survival , it does not designate any of it as " critical habitat " that could help the bear recover . Please act swiftly to finalize the listing of the polar bear and designate its critical habitat . We must act immediately if we are to save this magnificent Arctic creature from extinction .

# The 3<sup>rd</sup> Biggest NRDC Sub-Group with Deleted Text Shown



	size	subject	sender
1	213195	Protect polar bears and their critical h	aggregated
2	50	Protect polar bears and their critical $\mbox{\bf r}$	aggregated
3	42	Protect polar bears and their critical h	aggregated
4	24	Protect polar bears and their critical h	aggregated
5	22	Polar bear endangered due to loss of	aggregated
6	19	Protect polar bears and their critical $\mbox{\bf r}$	aggregated

I am therefore very concerned that your proposal fails to identify global warming pollution as the cause of rising Arctic temperatures and vanishing sea ice . Our government's refusal to curb global warming pollution is a primary cause of the polar bear's melting habitat and terrible plight . It must be addressed . And while your proposal discusses the kind of habitat that is essential for the polar bear's survival , it does not designate any of it as " critical habitat " that could help the bear recover .

http://erulemaking.cs.cmu.edu - Mozilla Firefox

MESSAGE fws\_200702140000\_0003776 [SHOW DIFF with SEED DOCUMENT in NEW WINDOW] [SAVE] [ ADD BOOKMARK ]

Done

I strongly support your proposal to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The scientific evidence that polar bears are threatened with extinction from global warming is overwhelming. Polar bears are completely dependent on Arctic sea ice to survive, but 80 percent of that ice could be gone in 20 years and all of it by 2040. Polar bears are already suffering the effects: birth rates are falling, fewer cubs are surviving, and more bears are drowning. Please act swiftly to finalize the listing of the polar bear and designate its critical habitat. We must act immediately if we are to save this magnificent Arctic creature from extinction.

# The 5<sup>th</sup> Biggest NRDC Sub-Group

				[first] [prev] [nex	kt] [last] [ Double Click Ro	ws for Details
	size	subject	sender	delivered	relayer	Bookmar
1	213195	Protect polar bears and their critical h	aggregated	-	rr	-
2	50	Protect polar bears and their critical h	aggregated	-	unknown	-
3	42	Protect polar bears and their critical h	aggregated	-	unknown	-
4	24	Protect polar bears and their critical h	aggregated	-	unknown	-
5	22	Polar bear endangered due to loss of	aggregated	-	ctsg	
6	19	Protect polar bears and their critical h	aggregated	-	unknown	- +

MESSAGE fws\_200704040000\_0005429 [SHOW DIFF with SEED DOCUMENT in NEW WINDOW] [SAVE] [ ADD BOOKMARK ]

I'm writing to strongly support your proposal to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act . The scientific evidence that polar bears are threatened with extinction from global warming is simply overwhelming . Polar bears cannot survive without Arctic sea ice, but 80 percent of that ice could be gone in 20 years — and all of it by 2040 . Polar bears are already suffering the effects: birth rates are falling, fewer cubs are surviving and more bears are drowning. I am therefore very concerned that your proposal fails to identify global warming pollution as the cause of rising Arctic temperatures and vanishing sea ice. Our government's refusal to curb global warming pollution is a primary cause of the polar bear's melting habitat endangered status. This root cause of the problem simply MUST be addressed. And while your proposal discusses the kind of habitat that is essential for the polar bear's survival, it does not designate any of it as " critical habitat." that could help the bear recover. Please act swiftly to finalize the listing of the polar bear and designate its critical habitat. We must act immediately if we are to save this magnificent Arctic creature from extinction.

# 5th Largest NRDC Sub-Group Disaggregated





		[first] [prev] [next] [la	ast] [ Click Here for Aggre	gated Informatio
	subject	sender	delivered	relayer
1	I support endangered listing of the pc	April Warwick awarwick@ak.net	2007-04-09	ctsg
2	Polar bear endangered due to loss of	April Rivkin Ameslake@centurytel.n€	2007-04-07	ctsg
3	Protect the polar bear and its shrinkir	April Cornelius a.cornelius 1@comca	2007-04-06	ctsg
4	I support endangered listing of the pc	Inge Lewis inge4art@the-beach.net	2007-04-05	ctsg
5	Polar bear endangered due to loss of	Lisa Jensen ljensenadobera@earthli	2007-04-05	ctsg
6	Protect the polar bear and its shrinkir	Linda Schrader lindaj@uci.net	2007-04-05	ctsg

MESSAGE fws\_200704090000\_0002480 [SHOW DIFF with SEED DOCUMENT in NEW WINDOW] [SAVE] [ ADD BOOKMARK ]

I'm writing to strongly support your proposal to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The scientific evidence that polar bears are threatened with extinction from global warming is simply overwhelming. Polar bears cannot survive without Arctic sea ice, but 80 percent of that ice could be gone in 20 years—and all of it by 2040. Polar bears are already suffering the effects: birth rates are falling, fewer cubs are surviving and more bears are drowning. I am therefore very concerned that your proposal fails to identify global warming pollution as the cause of rising Arctic temperatures and vanishing sea ice. Our government's refusal to curb global warming pollution is a primary cause of the polar bear's melting habitat endangered status. This root cause of the problem simply MUST be addressed. And while your proposal discusses the kind of habitat that is essential for the polar bear's survival, it does not designate any of it as " critical habitat" that could help the bear recover. Please act swiftly to finalize the listing of the polar bear and designate its critical habitat. We must act immediately if we are to save this magnificent Arctic creature from extinction.

# The Biggest Defenders of Wildlife Sub-Groups

			[first] [prev	/] [next] [last] [ Doub	le Click Rows for Details
	size	subject	sender	delivered	relayer
1	29232	Polar Bear Protections	aggregated	-	unknown
2	28275	Polar Bear Protections	aggregated	-	unknown
3	2702	Polar Bear Protections	aggregated	-	unknown
4	128	Polar Bear Protections	aggregated	-	unknown
5	88	Polar Bear Protections	aggregated	-	unknown
6	73	Polar Bear Protections	aggregated	-	unknown

MESSAGE fws\_200703130000\_0000186 [SHOW DIFF with SEED DOCUMENT in NEW WINDOW] [SAVE] [ ADD BOOKMARK ]

Dear Supervisor , As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife , an animal enthusiast and someone concerned about global climate change , I am writing today to voice my strong support for the proposal to list polar bears as "Threatened "under the Endangered Species Act . As you know , at least five of the world's 19 polar bear populations are currently in decline from the complex effects of global warming . At this rate , the World Conservation Union IUCN is predicting a 30 percent reduction in polar bear numbers in the next 45 years . In Alaska , we already see the effects of climate change , with the birth and survival rates of our polar bears plummeting as ice packs shrink and the bears' hunting opportunities become more limited . As a global leader , the United States has an obligation to protect this majestic animal from extinction . Listing the polar bear alone isn't a solution . Any hopes for saving these animals should be coupled with a reduction greenhouse gas emissions to address the root cause of global warming . In addition , essential protections against harmful oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other crucial habitat areas must be provided to ensure the survival of polar bears . Thank you for considering my comments .

# The 2nd Biggest Defenders Sub-Group

				[first] [pre	/] [next] [last] [ Double C	lick Rows for Details
	size	subject	sender	delivered	relayer	Bookmar
1	29232	Polar Bear Protections	aggregated	-	unknown	-
2	28275	Polar Bear Protections	aggregated	-	unknown	-
3	2702	Polar Bear Protections	aggregated	-	unknown	-
4	128	Polar Bear Protections	aggregated	-	unknown	-
5	88	Polar Bear Protections	aggregated	-	unknown	
6	73	Polar Bear Protections	aggregated	-	unknown	-

MESSAGE fws\_200701110000\_0001900 [SHOW DIFF with SEED DOCUMENT in NEW WINDOW] [SAVE] [ ADD BOOKMARK ]

As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife, an animal enthusiast and someone concerned about global climate change, I am writing today to voice my strong support for the proposal to list polar bears as "Threatened "under the Endangered Species Act. As you know, at least five of the world's 19 polar bear populations are currently in decline from the complex effects of global warming. At this rate, the World Conservation Union IUCN is predicting a 30 percent reduction in polar bear numbers in the next 45 years. In Alaska, we already see the effects of climate change, with the birth and survival rates of our polar bears plummeting as ice packs shrink and the bears' hunting opportunities become more limited. As a global leader, the United States has an obligation to protect this majestic animal from extinction. Listing the polar bear alone isn't a solution. Any hopes for saving these animals should be coupled with a reduction greenhouse gas emissions to address the root cause of global warming. In addition, essential protections against harmful oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Bristol Bay and other crucial habitat areas must be provided to ensure the survival of polar bears. Thank you for considering my comments.

# The smallest NRDC sub-groups

[first] [prev] [next] [last] [ Double Click Rows for Deta							
٤	size s	ubject	sender	delivered	relayer	Bookmarks	
27331 <sup>1</sup>	1 P	Protect polar bears and their critical habitat	mdja17@yahoo.com	2007-02-16	unknown	-	
27332 1	1 A	Attn: Polar bear finding	lustaddlunacy@aol.com	2007-01-26	aol	-	
27333 <sup>1</sup>	1 A	Attn: Polar bear finding	chowell@nationalallergy.c	2007-01-26	nationalallergy	-	
27334	1 F	Polar Bear Protections	Christopher Disario defen	2007-04-05	unknown	-	
27335 <sup>1</sup>	1 P	Polar Bear Protections	Thomas Moran defenders	2007-01-18	unknown	-	
27336 <sup>1</sup>	1 A	Attn: Polar Bear Finding	ken sandusky NationalWil	2007-03-10	unknown	-	

MESSAGE fws\_200702180000\_0005717 [SHOW DIFF with SEED DOCUMENT IN NEW WINDOW] [SAVE] [ ADD BOOKMARK ]

I am a teacher, and formerly a math teacher, so I would like to approach this subject a sif I were teaching math to my fifth graders, in the New York public school system, if I may. Polar bears are "completely dependent on Arctic sea ice to survive." According to reports, "80 percent of that ice could be gone in 20 years and all of it by 2040". I ask you children and Dr. Meehan and President Bush , how old are you now? Being that our president was born in July of 1946, that would make him? That is correct... 60 years old. In 20 years when 80 percent of that ice is gone, how old will you be Dr. Meehan? How old will your children be? How old will be 80 years old in 2026, when only a small portion of arctic will be 80 years old in 2026, when only a small portion of arctic will be gone in a swell? Yes. That is exactly what it means. And in 2040, when all of the ice is gone, how old will you be Dr. Meehan, how old will your children be? How old will the president be, if he is blessed with a life of longevity? That is correct. In the year 2040, if he is alive, the president will be 94 years old. Can we deduce from this, children and Dr. Meehan and Mr. President, that in less than the remainder of one person's lifetime, the survival of the polar bears will go from being threatened to being without hope? As "birth rates fall, fewer cubs survive and more bears drown," can we expect to see the eradication of this majestic animal before you fifth graders reach your 40th birthdays? Indeed it is so. I hope I have accurately dealt with the truths of this frightening matter. Thirty years ago, global warming was a thing in the distant future, a threat not to worry about in the present. After seeing recent documentaries such as Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," it is obvious that 40 years in the future kind of like that statistic about the polar bear will sneak up on us before we realize what has happened. We cannot play God anymore. Polar bears are drowning. The sadness that that engenders in people is tremendous. Thank you f

## MESSAGE fws\_200702180000\_0005717 [SHOW DIFF with SEED DOCUMENT in NEW WINDOW] [SAVE] [ ADD BOOKMARK ]

I am a teacher, and formerly a math teacher, so I would like to approach this subject as if I were teaching math to my fifth graders, in the New York public school system, if I may. Polar bears are " completely dependent on Arctic sea ice to survive." According to reports, " 80 percent of that ice could be gone in 20 years and all of it by 2040 ". I ask you children and Dr. Meehan and President Bush, how old are you now?? Being that our president was born in July of 1946, that would make him?? That is correct . . . 60 years old . In 20 years when 80 percent of that ice is gone , how old will you be Dr . Meehan ? ? How old will your children be ? How old will the president be ? ? That is correct . He will be 80 years old in 2026, when only a small portion of arctic ice will remain. If polar bears depend on that ice, does that mean only a small portion of polar bears will remain as well? ? Yes . That is exactly what it means . And in 2040, when all of the ice is gone, how old will you be Dr. Meehan, how old will your children be? How old will the president be, if he is blessed with a life of longevity?? That is correct. In the year 2040, if he is alive , the president will be 94 years old . Can we deduce from this , children and Dr . Meehan and Mr . President , that in less than the remainder of one person's lifetime, the survival of the polar bears will go from being threatened to being without hope? As " birth rates fall, fewer cubs survive and more bears drown, " can we expect to see the eradication of this majestic animal before you fifth graders reach your 40th birthdays? Indeed it is so . I hope I have accurately dealt with the truths of this frightening matter. Thirty years ago, global warming was a thing in the distant future, a threat not to worry about in the present. After seeing recent documentaries such as Al Gore's " An Inconvenient Truth , " it is obvious that 40 years in the future kind of like that statistic about the polar bear will sneak up on us before we realize what has happened. We cannot play God anymore. Polar bears are drowning. The sadness that that engenders in people is tremendous. Thank you for your time and concern...

## MESSAGE fws\_200704050000\_0032067 [SHOW DIFF with SEED DOCUMENT in NEW WINDOW] [SAVE] [ ADD BOOKMARK ]

Dear Supervisor, Global warming is now not just a theory, it is a reality. And a very sad reality for the fates of polar bears living in Alaska. With habitat slowly, but surely melting, these arctic creatures are constantly with a lack of food and this is causing many to starve and die out. These animals' futures need to be secured, and it is up to the United States to serve as an example. Polar bears need to be given increased protection. They are everyday becoming more threatened and without our help, could become extinct. Not only do they need extra protection in the wild, but the United States as a country needs to tighten the belt on green house gas emission. I don't know actually statistics, but I do know that the United States puts out a gross of the greenhouse gas in the entire world. We are supposed to be the titans and the leaders of this world? We need to make a stand against injustice for our animals. They are forever our brethren and need our help now most. Please consider this

## MESSAGE fws\_200703130000\_0001717 [SHOW DIFF with SEED DOCUMENT in NEW WINDOW] [SAVE] [ ADD BOOKMARK ]

We must find alternatives to feul our economy immediatly . The balence has tipped , and we are on a slippery slope . If you pad your pockets at the expense of our childrens futures there is no future. Let us not be remembered as ignorant of the effects of billions on the woirld's systems. This is a larger topic than just the bewars and fish . It is 2007 and we are relying on centuries old technology and finite resources to conduct our daily routines. Have we not risen to the level of controling our destinies? Will we not take it upon ourselves noe to fix these problems that are so obvios to so many of us? Please do the will of the people-Make transition alternative feuls a national project of urgancy.



## eRulemaking Search Engine: FWS-2007-0008

Comments recevied Jan 11th, 2007 to Apr 9th, 2007

oppose listing

Search

#### Searched for: oppose listing

Results 1 - 50 of 10000 matches

#### 1. fws 200702120000 0002037

(fws\_200702120000\_0002037)

lifguardct@aol.com 02-08-2007 80 oppose listing the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Supervisor - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Mammals Management Office 1011 East Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99503 Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: oppose listing

(Score: -5.91177)

#### 2. fws 200704060000 0015923

(fws 200704060000 0015923)

...comments on polar bear listing Anchorage, AK 99503 RE: Comments in Opposition to the Proposed Rule to List the Polar Bear as a Threatened Species, January 9, 2007 Federal Register Notice, 1064-1099 Dear Sir or Madam, or Madam ... the proposed rule to list ... resources opposed listing of the polar... of listing as Threatened would... is concerned that a listing will instead be...

(Score: -5.924)

#### 3. fws 200704050000 0018102

(fws\_200704050000\_0018102)

...-05-2007 1625 Listing From the desk of:Judge Jay R. Miller 1056 Anthony Road - Common Fence Point Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871 210-410-9000 March 29, 2007 Rosa H. Meehan, PhD Supervisor, Marine Mammals Management U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Region 7, Alaska 1011 East Tudor Road, MS-341 Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (email: Polar\_Bear\_Finding@fws.gov) RE: ESA Listing of Polar Bears Dear Dr. Meehan: ... for Biological Diversity list the Polar Bear as... only organizations, that could oppose the petition, are likely... benefits, to those who oppose this listing, and take the appropriate... its habitats. Please list the Polar Bear as...

(Score: -5.9723)

#### 4. fws 200704050000 0010490

(fws 200704050000 0010490)

...supporter of Defenders of Wildlife BEG you listing ... about desperate plight of bears OPPOSE THIS ? ? Whose perspective could be so twisted that they would find ANYTHING to oppose ? Surely their motives must be questioned , ...



# **eRulemaking Search Engine: FWS-2007-0008**

Comments recevied Jan 11th, 2007 to Apr 9th, 2007

fws\_200704050000\_0031498 unknown carbonates@yahoo.com 04-05-2007 1359 Attn: Polar bear finding

Anchorage, AK 99503 Dear Dr. Meehan,

Sincerely, Tony Troutman 4573 Carpinteria Ave Carpinteria, CA 93013



# eRulemaking Search Engine: FWS-2007-0008

Comments recevied Jan 11th, 2007 to Feb 22nd, 2007

Al Gore

Search

Searched for: **Al Gore** Results **1** - **50** of **80** matches

## 1. fws 200702150600 0014984

(fws\_200702150600\_0014984)

vcowles@crosslink.net 02-13-2007 592 Strong support for listing the polar bear Supervisor - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Mammals Management Office 1011 East Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99503 Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." Therefore, I please, melting sea ice,
(Score: -7.83736)

## 2. fws\_200702140000\_0000876

(fws 200702140000 0000876)

vcowles@crosslink.net 02-13-2007 592 Strong support for listing the polar bear Supervisor - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Mammals Management Office 1011 East Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99503 Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." Therefore, I please, melting sea ice,
(Score: -7.83736)

## 3. fws\_200701300000\_0000310

(fws 200701300000 0000310)

...finding Supervisor Rosa Meehan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Mammals Management Office 1011 East Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99503 Dear Supervisor Meehan, Al Gore's Stop Global Warming, but nobody want's to help plant pine or other shrubs. Cannot...

(Score: -7.84403)

```
Collapse Expand all help!
■ person (1155)
     a person (1/5 new)
     a person trained by the climate project in global warming and giving presentations (2/2 new)
     an individual that (1/1 new)
    -a person who is concerned about global climate change (1/1 new)
     an animal advocate and someone concerned the loss of habitat for arctic and anarctic wildlife (1/1
     new)
    only one person(1)
    -a real living caring person with a family (1/1 new)
    the most educated person (1/1 new)
    -a person who s very concerned about global climate change (1/1 new)

    adult (22)

        conservative (1)
       -a true conservative(1)
       oldster (1)
       -a senior citizen without any children(1)
       policy maker (1)
       -a policy maker(1)
     □ professional (19)
          -a forestry professional(1)
        educator (15)

    an environmental engineer and educator(2)

             -educator(1)
             -a volunteer educator at the milwaukee county zoo and someone (1/1 new)
             -an educator(1)
             professor (2)
             -a professor of zoology(1)
            -a professor of cultural geography and also of environmental science(1)
           i teacher (8)
               —a teacher (1/4 new)
                -a teacher of science to 3rd and 4th grades(1)
                -a teacher of 25 years(1)
                schoolteacher (1)
                -a school teacher (1/1 new)
                science teacher (1)
```

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    scientist (38)

    -a scientist (3/4 new)
    -an american citizen and scientist(1)
     -a veterinarian and scientist(1)

    biologist (30)

       – a biologist (3/12 new)

 a conservation biologist(2)

 a retired wildlife biologist(2)

      -a professional wildlfe biologist with more than 50 years of experience (2/2 new)
      ⊢a marine biologist(2)
      ⊢a biologist with a private consulting company in san luis obispo(2)
      -a profeesional biologist(1)
      ⊢a wildlife biologist(1)
      ⊢a former usfws field biologist(1)
        ecologist (4)
      ⊢a restoration ecologist(1)

    a professional wildlife ecologist(1)

      -an ecologist (1/1 new)

 a professional ecologist(1)

      naturalist (1)
      a professional naturalist(1)
     physicist (1)
    -an applied physicist studying optical radiation transfer (1/1 new)
   research worker (1)
   a former usda forest service researcher(1)
  someone (144)

    someone concerned about global climate change (33/63 new)

 -someone (4/61 new)
 -someone deeply concerned about global climate change (4/4 new)
 -someone who (3/3 new)
 -someone very concerned about global climate change (1/2 new)

    -someone extremely concerned about global climate change(1)

 -someone concerned about climate change(1)
 -someone profoundly concerned about global climate change (1/1 new)
 -someone who is concerned about global climate change(1)
 -someone scared and concerned about global warming (1/1 new)
 -someone concerned about animals(1)
```



fws\_200701190000\_0005139 unknown Richard Jackson defenders@mail.defenders.org 01-19-2007 1139 Polar Bear Protections

Jan 19, 2007
Fish & Wildlife Service Marine Mammals Mgmt Office Supervisor 1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503
Dear Supervisor,

As a scientist with a focus on wildlife ecology, and someone concerned about global climate change, I am writing today to voice my strong support for the proposal to list polar bears as "Threatened "under the Endangered Species Act. Five of the world's 19 polar bear populations are currently in decline from the complex effects of global warming. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) is predicting a 30 percent reduction in polar bear numbers in the next 45 years. In Alaska, the detrimental effects of declining birth and survival rates of our polar bears are being observed as as ice packs shrink and the bears' hunting opportunities become more limited. As a global leader, the United States has an obligation to protect this majestic animal from extinction. Listing the polar bear alone isn't a solution. Also, there should be coupled with a reduction greenhouse gas emissions to address the root cause of global warming. In addition, essential protections against harmful oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Bristol Bay and other crucial habitat areas must be provided to ensure the survival of polar bears.

Sincerely, Richard Jackson 1014 Bennett Way Newmarket, NH 03857-2354

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message_id	exact_count	first_view	last_view
+		+	+
fws_200702140000_0006938	] 2	2007-03-22 16:45:13	2007-03-23 19:37:32
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fws_200702140000_0002603	] 2	2007-03-23 19:36:40	2007-03-29 13:22:42
fws_200702140000_0005879	] 2	2007-03-23 19:36:54	2007-03-23 19:38:11
fws_200702140000_0010889	] 2	2007-03-23 19:37:21	2007-03-23 19:37:21
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fws_200702140000_0013420	] 2	2007-03-26 15:32:41	2007-03-26 15:32:46
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fws 200703230000 0015650	14	2007-04-12 15:48:33	2007-04-12 15:54:28
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Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designating the Northern Rocky Mountain Population of Gray Wolf as a Distinct Population Segment and Removing This Distinct Population Segment From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife

> RIN: 1018.AU53 50 CFR Part 17 Agency: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Rule-Writer's Workbench

- Comments received Jan 19th, 2007 to May 8th, 2007 (105,933 comments total)
  - Duplicate and Near-Duplicate Detection [statistics]
  - Full-text Search

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# Thank-you!

# Dr. Stuart W. Shulman

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412.624.3776 (voice)







School of Information Sciences