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The Millennium Terminal would result in 44 million tons of coal per year hauled through the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area in open coal cars. Think of the 18 trains, each with 120 uncovered cars spewing more than 10,000 pounds of coal and coal dust on the ground and in the Columbia River as they travel through the Gorge. Why not keep fossil fuel in the ground? Our challenge as humans is to save ourselves from an earth that if pushed too far has the power to literally cast us off. We are making our world uninhabitable due to the myriad effects of climate change and global warming. If you consider the coal dust and diesel emissions that are generated by transporting 44 million tons of coal a year, this project would be one of the biggest greenhouse gas emitters in the state of Washington. It would be a giant step backwards from recent clean energy policies passed in Washington.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement should address more closely the practical impacts for people who live in the communities in the Columbia River Gorge. It is well documented that coal discharge from existing coal trains is contaminating the air, land, and water in the National Scenic Area. In some locations coal accumulates in layers several inches deep along the banks of the Columbia River. The DEIS fails to adequately consider the impacts of coal train traffic and the associated coal dust on the scenic, natural, cultural and recreation resources of the National Scenic Area. We have spent millions of dollars recovering salmon in the Columbia River and protecting tribal harvest. This project will reduce access to the river for tribal fishers because of the sheer increase in the volume of train traffic, in addition to harming salmon habitat.

Trains from the coal mines to the terminal will go through other communities besides the ones in Washington. Those communities too will face delays, traffic problems, and pollution issues. Yet those problems are not identified in the EIS. Along the entire route there are many serious impacts to our health and the environment that are not tolerable and should, on that basis alone, support the rejection of this terminal.



Hosseel Lake State Park, WA  
Earthday 2014

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Horse Thief Lake  
Earth day 2016  
State Park, WA

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