

The findings in the DEIS for the massive proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals in Longview, Washington show that the risks of increased train and coal bunker traffic, train accidents, waterway contamination, air pollution, noise, negative impacts on tribal culture and resources, harm to priority mammal, fish, and bird species, and vehicle delays at railroad crossings cannot be fully mitigated and the environmental and human health harm could be significant. Due to these numerous and enormous risks, we ask that you choose the No-Action Alternative and reject the Millennium Bulk Terminals coal export proposal. The proposed coal export terminal is only 5 miles upstream from Crims Island which supports critical habitat for the federal threatened and state endangered Streaked Horned Lark. Purple Martin nest sites have been documented just 2 miles from the terminal site at Coal Creek Slough one of two nearby Washington State Birding Trail sites. Suitable nesting and foraging habitat for listed species such as the Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Vaux's Swift, and several waterfowl species including climate-sensitive Barrow's Goldeneye exist well within the reach of anticipated coal dust deposits. In particular, Lord Island supports significant numbers of wintering ducks and geese. The rail and vessel corridors servicing the proposed coal export terminal support habitats of critical importance to a variety of bird species. The Columbia River Estuary represents prime stopover habitat for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl within the Pacific Flyway. The western extent of the estuary is a designated Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site, 1 supporting large numbers of shorebirds during migration. Some of the largest colonies of Caspian Terns and Double-Crested Cormorants in the world nest and roost on islands within the estuary. 2 Avian species lists for the estuary top 300 species, reflecting the diverse habitats available.³ The DEIS states there will be adverse impacts to shoreline vegetation and nearshore fish, specifically forage fish species such as eulachon upon which marine birds and mammals rely. I am also concerned about potential disturbance to birds caused by vessel traffic, including the effects of wake on the birds themselves and impacts to their nesting, roosting and foraging areas. The cumulative impacts of Millennium Bulk Terminals are too great to sufficiently mitigate the risks posed to the birds and wildlife dependent upon the health of the Columbia River ecosystem. Greenhouse gas emissions from the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals would equal 27 million tons per year, making it one of the biggest GHG emitters in the state and increasing Washington's existing emission pollution by approximately 30 percent. Carbon emissions are one of the driving forces behind climate change threatening 314 North American bird species 189 of which call Washington state home for some part of their life cycle. 4 The possibility that this terminal could significantly set back Washington's progressive climate agenda is unacceptable to the people of Washington and the birds and wildlife we are charged to protect. I urge you to choose the No-Action Alternative and reject the Millennium Bulk Terminals coal export proposal. 1 Available at <http://www.whsrn.org/site-profile/columbia-river-estuary>. Accessed 1.18.2016 2 Available at <http://audubonportland.org/issues/habitat/sand-island>. Accessed 1.18.2016 3 Available at <http://www.estuarypartnership.org/learn/river-species#birds>. Accessed 1.18.2016 4 <http://climate.audubon.org/>