



November 18, 2013

Cottonwood Environmental Law Center is strongly opposed to the construction of any new coal export facility—at the proposed Longview, Washington terminal, or anywhere else on the West Coast.

The EIS must be programmatic in nature and analyze not only the impacts of the export facility, but also the impacts of the increased rail traffic, the construction of the Tongue River Railroad, the opening of new mines and other coal export facilities. These are cumulative impacts that must be addressed in one comprehensive EIS. The export facility, proposed Tongue River Railroad, and Otter Creek Coal mines are interrelated actions that all depend on each other to move forward. Thus, the impacts of each need to be considered in one programmatic EIS.

The Otter Creek coal mines will pollute Montana's air and water. It will have negative effects on wildlife. The Tongue River railroad will take fourth generation ranch property by eminent domain. The increased train traffic means there is an increased risk of derailments. Coal dust from the train cars will pollute our waterways. The noise will negatively impact communities and first responders will experience increased wait-times to get to emergencies. Overpasses and underpasses will need to be built by communities that cannot afford them.

The EIS must consider what happens to the coal once it is shipped overseas. Burning the coal will have serious consequences for the earth's atmosphere. The EIS must address climate change.

We urge you to consider these impacts in the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you,

John Meyer
Executive Director