

Hello. My name is John Bradley of Montana Wildlife Federation. A lot of people have claimed third, fourth, fifth generation. I'm not. I'm native to Montana, but I got here as quick as I could. And I came to Montana for its wildland, its wild rivers, its abundant wildlife, and mining-related activities cause direct wildlife mortality while disturbing mountains and displacing wildlife. Coal mining impacts the habitats of wildlife by polluting water sources and air with sulfide dioxide, nitrous oxide, and toxic trace metals such as lead. Carbon pollution from burning of fossil fuel clearly presents impacts to wildlife. Montanans are already experiencing destructive storms and floods, severe droughts, extreme wildfires and decreased snow pack as a result of burning fossil fuel. These events are projected to get even more intense if we continue to allow coal to be subsidized at taxpayer expense. Public lands provide a place for everyone regardless of wealth and status to go to hunt, hike, fish and recreate. Every responsible outdoorsman knows to leave public land better than they found it. Hunters, anglers and backpackers clean up after themselves, and so should mining companies. The current public land for coal mines is causing real problems for public lands, water, and wildlife. In Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming, the public lands coal mining has stripped 450 square miles, but only 46 square miles have met the final reclamation requirements. Having such reforms will help pay for the reclamation that should already be happening. Better public lands mean better hunting, fishing, and recreating opportunities, and this will help fulfill the BLM's multiuse sustained deal mandate. Public lands sustain an outdoor recreation industry that contributes \$6.4 billion into the Montana state economy and provides jobs to thousands of Montanans. Montana Wildlife Federation believes that updating the royalty payment system is the best way to minimize further destruction of wildlife habitat and ensure the coal companies pay their fair share for mining our land. Thank you.