

~~Represent myself + PRIS RE~~
~~Thank you to the BLM + Department of Interior for holding these hearings~~

7 permits
in County

It is often said that electricity generated with coal is the least expensive source of power. It may be that burning coal is the least expensive, **but it is not** when you take into account the cost to the environment and its contribution to climate change.

The insurance Industry is already well aware of the costs of climate change. DR EVAN MILLS, STAFF SCIENTIST with the LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY published a report on how the insurance agencies are trying to respond to climate change. I quote from his report:

~~Jeremy~~ ~~Nichols~~ Wild Earth #B #136

"There is growing acknowledgement among insurers that the impact of climate change on future insured losses is likely to be profound. The chairman of Lloyd's of London has said that climate change is the number- one issue for that massive insurance group. And Europe's largest insurer, Allianz, stated that climate change stands to increase insured losses from extreme events in an average year by 37 per cent within just a decade. Losses in a bad year could top US\$1 trillion. ...Allstate, ..., has said that climate change has prompted it to cancel or not renew policies in many Gulf Coast states, with recent hurricanes wiping out all of the profits it had garnered in 75 years of selling homeowners insurance. The company has cut the number of homeowners' policies in Florida from 1.2 million to 400,000 with an ultimate target of no more than 100,000.

WWW.CLIMATEACTIONPROGRAMME.ORG

That is just one of many industries being affected by climate change. Last week the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere rose to 407.5 ppm, the highest level measured in over 800,000 years. Coal-fired electric power plants were responsible for 25% of the CO₂ emitted by the US. <http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=77&t=11>

~~The winter of 2015-16 was the warmest on record and February and March were the warmest by far, with average global temperatures rising over 1°C.~~

On May 22, 2016, 170 countries came together and signed the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the largest group of countries to ever agree on any international issue. These countries agree with virtually all scientists that climate change is an imminent threat to life on Earth through the disruption of climate, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, more severe weather events, including protracted droughts and an extended wildfire season. To date in the US, close to 1.5 million acres have burned, while the ten-year average for this time is less than 1 million acres.

<https://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/nfn.htm>

When deciding on a fair price for coal mined on public land, we need to take into account the cost of climate change which the public is starting to experience.