

JOSHUA MANTELL: My name is Joshua Mantell. I'm the Carbon Management Campaign Manager for the Wilderness Society. Thank you to Director Kornze, the Department of Interior, the Bureau of Land Management, for the opportunity to speak here today about the Federal Coal Program and the need for reform. The Federal Coal Program is broken. That's not just me saying that. That's what reports from the Government Accountability Office, the Department of the Interior, Inspector General and numerous other advisors have said over the last 30 years. You have listened and we thank you for hearing those calls. The question now is what do we do about this. There are a multitude of issues that stretch back long before this administration that need to be resolved. Number one, we are currently leasing coal at the behest of companies and the coal industry. We need federal land managers and experts to be in charge of where, when and how we lease coal. Two, federal taxpayers are not receiving their fair share for the use of their land and resources. Right now coal companies are paying effective royalty rate of 4.9 percent according to one study, and 90 percent of coal leases have a single bidder since 1990. We need to raise the royalty rate for surface mined coal, and raise the minimum bid so that we are receiving what is due. Three, the impacts of coal on the land, water, local communities and our climate are not being accounted for at any point during the leasing process. These impacts should be accounted for and mitigated before a lease is approved. And four, there is a terrible record of reclaiming old mines. We should not be leasing to companies that have a poor track record of cleaning up land. This is why a comprehensive look of the entire coal program is so important. We cannot fix these problems without a clear review. We know the problems exist and that work needs to be done to find solutions. But the fact is that the current coal program is costing taxpayers, hurting our share of lands and damaging our climate. These lands and the resources underneath belong to all of us. We all deserve a say in how these resources are managed. It's also incumbent on us to remember that these shared resources don't just affect our lands. They affect our health, our budget and our shared planet. What worked for the Federal Coal Program in 1984 after the last review, which was before I was born, by the way, not to mention 1920 when the Act was passed, does not necessarily work in 2016. We have some new technologies, like renewable energy, that is getting cheaper and more prevalent every day. We understand so much more about climate change and we know we have to do something about it now. And Americans are valuing our shared

lands for so much more, with the Department of Interior reporting contributed \$45 million in economic output for recreation and conservation just last year. These are the values that should drive our public lands decision. Thank you again for your important work on this issue and I thank you for your time.