

## Draft Testimony Comment: Diana Madson

- My name is Diana Madson and I am the executive director of the Mountain Pact. I work closely with mountain communities with outdoor recreation-based economies throughout the American West. Together we applaud the Interior Department for launching the PEIS and request you incorporate the climate impacts of coal into the scoping plan.
- Positioned in rural mountain areas and often surrounded by federal land, our communities are experiencing first hand the effects of climate change. From reduced snowpack and protracted droughts to increased flood risk and more severe wildfires, our communities and outdoor recreation economies are bearing the growing financial costs of warming temperatures and more extreme weather events.
- In the face of climate change, it is time to modernize the federal coal program to accurately account for its <sup>contribution to climate change.</sup> ~~costs to communities, taxpayers and the environment while supporting a transition to a more sustainable and resilient economy.~~
- The costs of responding ~~to~~ and adapting to a changing climate are rising, but at the same time coal companies are able to pay well below market rate for coal extracted from taxpayer-owned lands - depriving many western states and taxpayers across the country their fair share of the revenues that should be going to schools, roads and other priorities.
- Coal production is on the decline in the U.S., and it is time to catalyze a transition toward more sustainable economies. We need to empower our economy to invest in a new path of cleaner renewable energy. I thank the Obama Administration for making \$75 million available in grants for economic and workforce development in communities hit by the coal downturn. This will help to catalyze a transition to a more diverse economy.
- In short, I urge the Interior Department to:
  1. Update the royalty rate for fossil fuels extracted on public lands to ensure that American taxpayers receive their fair share, and invest a portion of new revenues into local climate resilience projects.
  2. Help diversify rural economies and create new jobs through investments in technology, infrastructure and the outdoor recreation economy.
  3. Tighten the bonding requirements for coal to help ensure that companies have to restore the landscapes after production is over.

Thank you

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