

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/25/2019 6:42:29 PM

First name: William

Last name: Coates

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Forest Management comment, specifically FW-STND-TMBR-02 and FW-STND-TMBR-04:

The current state of forest overgrowth brings severe wildfires, and those would best be addressed by large-scale thinning and firebreak clearing. Existing utility corridors could be widened for this purpose. The cost of lumber is less than the labor cost in a home, but it is substantial, and there's no point in letting it burn. We have learned enough about fire behavior and average weather conditions to map out paths where firebreaks would be most useful. Logging roads in a large-scale (over 40 acres) cut can be done as gentle terraces to minimize erosion, slash can be shredded and left on the roads to aid revegetation. If those impinge on the tourists' view, it is for the purpose of reducing unsightly forest fire damage and the resulting erosion into watershed areas. Closing those roads to vehicular use afterwards might be hard to enforce. Unfortunately, a number of organizations file lawsuits to halt, or study to death, any forest management that has significant benefits. I have little use for the Environmental Defense Fund, Wildearth Guardians, and the Sierra Club any more.

There are a number of local leave-it-in-the-ground groups who base their demands on the fantasy of anthropogenic climate change, and others who decry the use of local water for fracking, and others who focus on the supposed danger of drilling through strata that contain uranium, and some who whine about air pollution from drilling rigs and trucks, and some who claim special privilege for growing organic food. Those who use electricity and gas, but refuse to permit the use of local resources, really don't have a leg to stand on.

There has been a barrage of attacks against the Trump administration for replacing Obama's Clean Power Plan (CPP) with the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule. But even the ACE rule failed to attack the real problem - the scientifically flawed idea that CO<sub>2</sub> is a dangerous pollutant that must be controlled.

First, we should re-examine the Endangerment Finding [the EPA's 2009 finding that CO<sub>2</sub> and other 'greenhouse gases' (GHG) endanger the health and welfare of Americans]." ACE is dangerous because it cements for a second time, this time by a Republican, supposedly skeptical administration, the idea that carbon dioxide is a pollutant that needs to be regulated.

This was based on defective computer models tying CO<sub>2</sub> to climate changes and making claims that are not borne out by observations. This was done prior to the discovery that CO<sub>2</sub> is greening the planet by letting plants grow in lower moisture conditions. Plant stomata lose moisture when opened to satisfy their CO<sub>2</sub> needs. When CO<sub>2</sub> levels are higher, they are less open and can conserve moisture. CO<sub>2</sub> is an essential plant nutrient. If you worry about a warmer, drier future, this will help with it.