

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2024 5:00:00 AM

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Comments: Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the uses of our National Forest.

I would like to express my disapproval of this coal extraction proposal. The Forest Service write-up brings up more questions than answers.

The project should be put on hold until all questions are answered and monetary guarantees are provided.

The questions should be addressed in public hearings and given much more time for proper evaluation.

Questions:

Why is most of this coal being shipped overseas, especially to China?

Is this because these corporations are getting this coal apparently for free and it is too dirty to burn in the USA?

Why is 3077 acres needed when there will be "no surface mining"?

The maps show strips of land that appear to be disturbed. Please provide more details.

How can the Forest Service justify and/or be compensated for taking 3077 out of timber production, recreation opportunities, and wildlife management for 30 years?

Will private lands be forfeited for this project?

What is the impact on stream and air quality of burning low-grade metallurgical coal? Like Caney Creek Wilderness?

Is this mining just taking advantage of free access to public lands?

There is much cleaner coal available from northern states.

What is the compensation for removing 100ft by 3-mile powerline right-of-way from available Forest resources for 30 years?

How much is the security bond for removing the power line and restoring land?

What is the compensation for removing up to 30ft by 2-mile roadway and right-of-way from Forest resources for 30 years?

How much is the security bond for removing the roadway and restoring land?

What will be the impact on local roads and communities by the amount of dump trucks? Who pays for upgrades and maintenance?

How will the Forest Service monitor and guarantee local streams and groundwater will not be contaminated with coal dust, Selenium, Mercury, acid, and site and road run-off?

Who and how will monitoring be provided for methane gas emissions at mine locations and ground storage and loading facilities?

The Forest Service claims to be short-funded in many areas of monitoring and enforcement.

This should not be a "Dig Out and Get Out" project.

There have been numerous coal, timber, processing, and other businesses that have gone out of business, leaving the government (Super Funds) to clean up the mess.

This coal company should put money up front for potential clean-ups that they can get back after restoring land and meeting environmental standards on completion.

You only have to read a few stories from rural Appalachia to understand how this could easily happen here.

Where is the ADEQ report on this proposal?

Please keep me informed about this proposal. I look forward to your response.

Thanks,

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