

Dear Sirs

In regards to the proposed Tongue River Railroad, the plan and its alternatives are at best a unnecessary and ill conceived idea.

First and foremost is the fact that there is no need whatsoever of railroad, it would not be a common carrier and merely a Coal transportation device. There are present no mines at Otter Creek, therefore there is no need for the railroad.

I can hear the proponents cry but we need the railroad to transport the coal! the jobs the tax revenue! ect. ect.

The trouble the jobs would be temporary at best, and the company that will the railroad is California based. They would go to China. and the coal industry is dying and thank god for that!

The whole scenario of the coal companies is to sell all powder river basin coal to Asia primarily to China, develop the west coast ports and the railroads,

(2)

The trouble with this is this

I don't know about anyone else but I am tired enriching the chinese at ~~any~~ expense i.e. the little people

According to the coal industries own experts if this all falls into place 500 million tons of coal a year would be exported to china, this would result in 2% of their energy needs, my personal opinion is this they just going to half to adjust

Also last week china announced last week that by 2015 they will be producing 30% of their energy needs from non fossil fuels i.e. green energy, wind, solar, ect.

hence no need for the coal. also no need for the Tongye River rail road.

I am also not in favor of further enriching billionaires in the US they too will just have to adjust.

The railroad would ~~add~~ only further add to a rapidly declining global environment, in addition to putting a severe strain on wildlife habitat, water and air quality

major health hazards to people and the economic bottom line of hundreds of ranches and farms in the Tongue river valley area

As an example Sage grouse, a very likely candidate for listing as an endangered species. Sage Grouse can tolerate the noise from trains during thier mating season, for up to 4 miles away from the railroad the hens can't hear the the cock birds booming therefore no sage grouse chicks and within 3-5 years no sage grouse and the uplands of the Tongue river valley are quality grouse habitat.

Heres another example of the billionaires greed! Tongue River Road would need to be paved, only the railroad wants Montana taxpayers to pay for it. Strange because the State got \$85 million for Otter Creek Coal and thier estimates for the cost of paving the road \$92 million this figure is laughable to say the least. I asked a member of S.T.B. if any engineers had been here to look at the ground, "yes they have

Studied the topographical maps.
please stop insulting my intelligence.

If coal is so important to our energy needs why are we sending it to China? can anyone explain this to me please?

Also 2 days ago B.N.S.F. announced that they were cancelling their plans to add an additional 250 miles of railroad from Wyoming's Powder River Coal mines ~~needed~~ east.

There has been much talk of mitigation efforts, you cannot mitigate this colossal mess.

You cannot mitigate Peace of mind which is priceless!

What will history think of small conciet?

No damn Rail Road
Thank you.

Sincerely

Blair
Siefert