

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

**As of:** 5/5/15 12:23 PM  
**Received:** May 02, 2015  
**Status:** Posted  
**Posted:** May 05, 2015  
**Tracking No.** 1jz-8imj-s7eb  
**Comments Due:** May 08, 2015  
**Submission Type:** Web

**Docket:** ONRR-2012-0004

Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform RIN 1012-AA13

**Comment On:** ONRR-2012-0004-0024

Consolidated Federal Oil and Gas and Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Reform

**Document:** ONRR-2012-0004-0195

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## General Comment

Coal is harmful to wildlife every step of the way. In the West, coal mining could push some wildlife populations towards extinction. Massive strip mines destroy habitat and leave behind toxic pollutants that animals can ingest. Uncovered trains spew toxic coal dust that poisons streams and wildlife habitat. And the burning of coal is the single largest contributor to climate change, which threatens the entire planet.

The coal industry is working hard to increase their overseas export business. After coal is exported, toxic mercury pollution from burning the coal overseas rides the jet-stream across the Pacific and falls down on to northwest waterways with the rainpoisoning U.S. wildlife once again.

Perversely, coal companies are being subsidized even as they threaten our land and climate. They sell coal to a shell company and then again to overseas markets for an enormous profit. Coal companies have exploited a federal loophole to effectively dodge

millions of dollars in royalty payments due to U.S. citizens.

Such a dirty business shouldnt be subsidized by U.S. taxpayers.

Fortunately, the DOI is considering new rules to close these unfair loopholes. The DOI has the authority to stop subsidizing destructive coal mining.

The protection of our wildlife, vital habitat areas and climate should come first.

Please end subsidies to coal companies and protect wildlife habitat from pollution and destruction. Please stop subsidizing the expansion of coal mines across the West and close the royalty loopholes.

Thank you for your consideration on these matters.