

Date submitted (UTC): 1/13/2016 9:01:20 PM
First name: Stuart
Last name: Scott
Organization: United Planet Faith & Science Initiative
Title: Director of Strategic Planning
Official Representative/Member Indicator:
Address1: 2801-N2 La-I Road
Address2:
City: Honolulu
State: HI
Province/Region:
Zip/Postal Code: 96816
Country: United States
Email: stuart.scott@upfsi.org
Phone: 808-392-5188
Comments:
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to ask you to reject the rule change that would allow a public trust, the forests you manage, to be massively violated by bulldozing forest habitat for the construction of roads, so that more of the forest can be bulldozed for coal mining, so that other public trusts, namely the atmospheric commons and the climate of the US, can be violated by the burning of the estimated 170 million tons of coal.

Our American forests are already gravely threatened by the impacts of climate change, with millions of acres dying from bark beetle infestation, as well as millions more from the increase frequency and intensity of forest fires that are the direct result of hotter temperatures, both the mean and extreme temperatures, that have resulted from previous burning of coal and other fossil fuels. Your mandate should be to preserve remaining forests, not submit them to ongoing exploitation and destruction.

American scientists are among the huge consensus that says we must stop burning coal as quickly as possible, and phase out all other fossil fuel burning rapidly to avoid catastrophic and irreversible climate damage. This says nothing of the destruction of public health through the conventional air pollution that coal results in.

We simply must stop making decisions where profit is the only standard of valuation of the results of those decisions. In this case the profit motive produces clear long term destruction of the well-being of Americans and our ecosystems.

Please do not allow the proposed rule change to permit destruction of these public trusts.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Scott