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Comments:

Subject: Do not approve coal mining in our forests - preserve our trees

Forest Service Representatives,

A bit over a year ago the reality of global warming finally sunk in. It isn't just that its a fact, or that I've ever denied the science, I just didn't realize the urgency of the matter to all life on Earth. Since that time I have committed myself, someone educated as a designer, to do all I could to have a personal impact on reducing CO2 and educating the public to do what each one of us can do. Must do. This matter is of the greatest urgency to all of humanity. More important than any issue we've ever faced before. More important than any World War or hunger or terrorism. It will have the most dire consequences if we continue down the path of unsustainable energy. This includes coal. This includes coal in the biggest way as one of the most polluting of energies we have on the planet.

To even consider furthering production - no, *increasing production* - of coal is unconscionable. But to do so at the destruction of thousands of acres of forest compounds this great wrong against humanity and all life on the planet at a time when WE ALL KNOW what this will do to increase CO2 production in the environment, both adding to CO2 directly through coal production and removing one of the biggest sinks we have to alleviate the increase? trees.

You, our Forest Service, are the people we all look to for protection of our forests. The people who we believe are at the top of the list of those who care most for our natural environment. Trees, plants, animals, water. This would be a wrong decision. Not just for the forests. But for everyone. A disrespect of the gravest sort to the blessing of life we all share on this amazing planet in this rare of all solar systems. Please take this responsibility and hold it close. Please do not approve this measure and instead look to sustainable sources of energy and how you might use our public lands to help solve this very grave problem facing our planet. We are all counting on you.

With Hope,
Amanda Robertson