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To "Sarah_Bucklin@blm.gov" <Sarah_Bucklin@blm.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject West Antelope II FEIS Comments

History: ↵ This message has been forwarded.

HI Sarah--A quick comment on the West Antelope II FEIS.

With all due appreciation for all the work you've put into the FEIS, I have to object in the strongest possible terms to the following:

- Failure to respond to my comments and all the scientific papers I submitted. The purpose of an EIS is to use the best science available. The papers I sent in are some of the best science we have-and they should have been summarized and cited in the Final EIS and my comments responded to.
- Failure to conduct additional surveys for the Ute Ladies Tresses. The surveys that have been conducted were limited in time and scope. This is not adequate when we know these flowers can lie dormant for many years.
- Failure to make the FEIS readable and to highlight the environmental consequences--rather than to bury them as you have done. As BLM employees, your job is to clearly identify the laws that need to be complied with and then to clearly identify how that is happening and what the environmental consequences are. Your job is not to pave the way for the coal companies to destroy the land, heat up the planet and consume our coal unnecessarily.
- Failure to carefully consider the potential of Concentrating Solar Power and national transmission to provide significant power to the country.
- Failure to clearly identify **all** the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of this decision as well as to identify the resources that will be irretrievably lost (coal, species, water table etc.)
- Failure to recognize that once the coal is taken out of the ground the resulting CO2 will do titanic damage to our planet.

I've included a December 2008 Nature article entitled "Carbon is Forever." It summarizes the scientific studies on the extremely long time (e.g. thousands of years) that CO2 stays in the atmosphere warming the planet and disrupting the climate. Once again, these impacts should be carefully, clearly and thoroughly discussed in the FEIS.

Thanks as always. Leslie

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