

# NO COAL EXPORTS

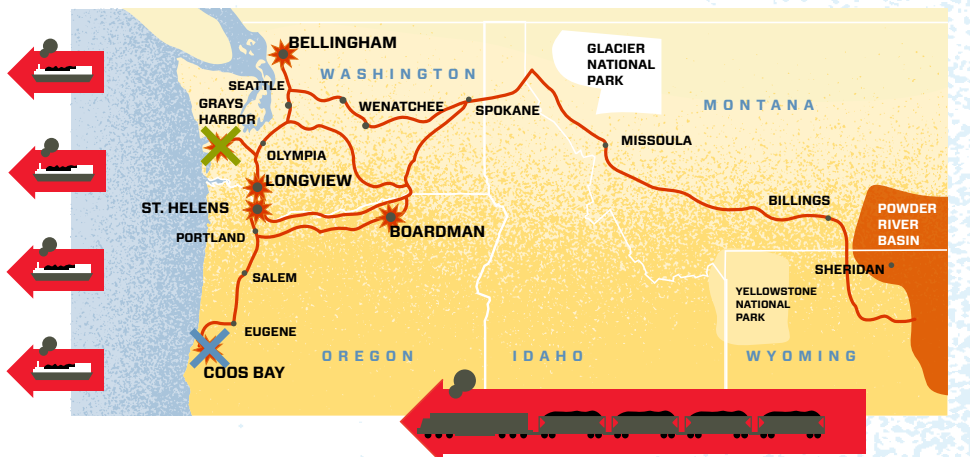
## We can do better.

**Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel, by far.**

Americans have turned to cleaner energy. Now the coal companies have a new plan to turn a profit: strip-mine coal in Montana and Wyoming, transport it on long and heavy coal trains through Northwest cities and towns, ship it on barges on the Columbia River and massive cargo ships through Puget Sound and off the West Coast and sell it to Asia.

Shipping up to 136 million metric tons of coal a year through West Coast communities would release toxic coal dust and diesel exhaust along the rail-lines, clog our railroads, ports, and highways, risk our families' health, impact our economy and local businesses, pollute our air and water, and stoke the climate crisis. We would pay the costs and suffer loss. The coal companies and their investors get the profits.

**Citizens are standing up against these dirty plans and looking to a better, cleaner future for our children and communities.**



**"Anyone who claims that this massive coal project is about jobs had better learn to subtract. We're weighing jobs based on the one-time exploitation of a fossil fuel versus livelihoods based on a sustainable resource. We have a moral obligation to reject this proposal."**

— Pete Knutson, fisherman, owner of Loki Fish and Commissioner on the Puget Sound Salmon Commission, 12/13/12

**POWER PAST COAL** communities against coal export

[powerpastcoal.org](http://powerpastcoal.org) | [facebook.com/powerpastcoal](https://facebook.com/powerpastcoal)



> the mines\*

> the trains\*

> the terminals

> the barges and cargo ships

## Moving and storing coal is dirty, dangerous and disruptive

- The Powder River Basin is the largest potential source of US coal. At the expense of taxpayers, coal companies get dirt cheap coal from our public lands.
- Strip-mining is a mostly mechanized method of digging the coal, polluting water, destroying valuable rangeland and habitat, and impacting the long-range productivity of fragile farms.
- Coal mining causes health problems and significant air pollution in the coal fields and local communities.
- New and expanded mines would put more communities at risk.
- Coal trains are the heaviest, longest and loudest trains on the rails.
- Diesel exhaust would dramatically increase cancer, asthma and other ailments.
- One terminal exporting 48 million tons could mean up to 18 coal trains a day. Some communities could see as many as 60 mile+ long coal trains every day with all terminals built.
- Burlington Northern Sante Fe (BNSF) railroad studies estimate up to 500 lbs of coal can be lost from each rail car en route. Coal dust would pollute our air and water.
- Transporting coal through neighborhoods with higher percentages of people of color and lower-income households would exacerbate inequalities.
- Increased coal train traffic would mean delays at rail crossings, more congestion, limit access to neighborhoods, schools and businesses, and slow emergency responders' time.
- Passenger rail and other freight commodities needing our region's railways would be impacted.
- Needed upgrades would in large part be funded through public tax dollars.
- If built, the terminals in WA and OR would mean up to 136 million metric tons of coal through West Coast ports each year. The largest proposal, at Cherry Point in WA, would ship 48 million metric tons/year.
- The terminals would have acres of uncovered coal piles up to 85 feet high —releasing coal dust onto surrounding businesses, homes, farms, fields, wetlands and waters.
- To build the terminals, the companies would degrade wetlands, impacting marine ecosystems on which herring, salmon, orcas and fish depend.
- The terminals would directly degrade or destroy sacred tribal ground.
- Every year at least 2,500 of some of the world's biggest cargo ships would navigate our waterways and coasts including the Columbia River and the already-crowded Straits of Juan de Fuca and Georgia. This would mean ongoing threats to local communities, fishing grounds, wetlands, waterways and wildlife. Just one accident would be devastating.
- While in port, these ships burn tons of diesel fuel adding to air and greenhouse gas pollution and health impacts to nearby communities. The ships would likely discharge ballast from foreign waters.
- Two of the proposals call for barging coal down the Columbia River — nearly doubling barge traffic on the River — and transloading the coal to ships.

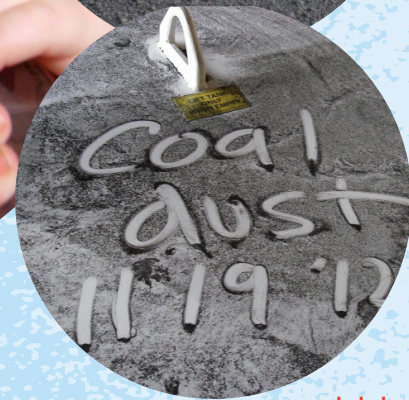
*\*photos courtesy of Paul K. Anderson*

*+photos courtesy of Sierra Club*

*++photo courtesy of Tony Eveland*

*+++ photo courtesy of Russ Maddox*





## > the power plants<sup>+</sup>

- Coal is the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel. Coal power plants emit at least 1.6 tons of climate changing gases for every ton of coal burned. A single large plant can emit upwards of 10 million tons of climate pollution a year. It makes no sense to encourage more coal burning abroad while we are cutting coal use in the U.S.
- By encouraging rapid expansion of new coal plants, coal export would lock the world into emission levels that essentially guarantee catastrophic climate impacts.
- Mercury and other pollutants from coal-burning power plants travel from Asia to the West Coast of North America where they poison our air, water, fish and food supply.
- Disposal sites for coal ash release toxic contaminants such as lead, boron, selenium, cadmium, thallium and other pollutants into the surrounding air and water.

# We need to power past coal

The Powder River Basin in Wyoming and Montana is one of the largest coal reserves in the world and also one of the cheapest sources of coal as the leases to private companies are subsidized by US taxpayers. By exporting coal from the Powder River Basin, coal companies would provide our global competitors with a cheap, dirty fuel.

Coal companies are seeking permits to build at least five coal export terminals in Washington and Oregon. The companies, partners and investors include:

- **Peabody Energy**, the world's largest private-sector coal company
- **Arch Coal**, the 2nd largest coal company in the U.S.
- Australian-based **Ambre Energy**
- **Millenium Bulk Logistics** (a subsidiary of Ambre Energy)

- **Cloud Peak Energy**
- **BNSF & Union Pacific railroads**
- **SSA Marine**
- **Goldman Sachs**
- **Kinder Morgan**

If they build all the terminals, up to 136 million metric tons of coal would travel through Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon every year. The current proposals are at:

- **Cherry Point**, north of Bellingham, WA – 48 million metric tons of coal/year
- **Longview**, WA – 44 million metric tons/year
- **Port of Morrow**, OR – up to 8 million metric tons/year
- **St. Helens**, OR – up to 27 million metric tons/year

Shelved proposals are at

- **Coos Bay**, OR – 8 million metric tons/year





# What you can do to help our communities power past coal

**“Not only would a massive increase in coal train traffic negatively impact our business; but would also support an energy past that is not sensitive to the pollution and climate realities of the present and future.”**

—Gary Shaver, President, solar panel manufacturer Silicon Energy, Marysville, WA

- 1. Pick up the phone or write a letter:** Contact your elected officials, including members of Congress, governor, state legislators, mayor and city and county council members, and let them know that you want to see their leadership in opposing coal export off the West Coast.
- 2. Get engaged online:** connect with us on Facebook.com/powerpastcoal and on Twitter @powerpastcoal to keep spreading the word on social media.
- 3. Visit PowerPastCoal.org:** to learn more, find out about events and other actions and get in touch about getting more materials like yard signs, buttons, flyers and petitions to distribute in your community.
- 4. Pass it on:** Give this flyer to a neighbor, friend or family member to educate more folks in your community.



**“Every aspect of coal usage from the mining, burning to waste is damaging to human health.”**

— Dr. Georgia Milan, Florence, MT physician, 3/2/13.

**POWER PAST COAL is an ever-growing alliance of health, environmental, businesses, clean-energy, faith and community groups working to stop coal export off the West Coast.**

Already over 55 cities, counties and port, close to 600 health professional, 220 faith leaders, 500 local businesses (many from smaller rail-line communities), and over 160 elected officials have either come out in opposition or have raised concerns about issue. There are over 100 organizations that are part of the coalition.

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