10-12-2016

SLIDES: Winter, Wilderness & Climate: Threats & Solutions

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Winter, Wilderness & Climate: Threats & Solutions

Jim Ramey, The Wilderness Society
Lindsay Bourgoine, Protect Our Winters
October 2016

www.wilderness.org
How to participate in poll questions

1) text the message TWSCO to the number 22333
2) send a second text indicating your answer to the question (A, B, C...)
3) at the end of tonight’s event, send a final text with the message LEAVE so that you logout of the poll
Your poll will show here

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Open poll in your web browser
Also, Snowshoeing
The Wilderness Society's mission is to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places.
TWS’ Impact

MORE THAN 80 YEARS AS AN ORGANIZATION

Founded in 1935, The Wilderness Society has led the effort to permanently protect 109 million acres of wilderness and to ensure sound management of our shared national lands.

700,000 WILDERNESS SUPPORTERS

1.3 MILLION ACRES PERMANENTLY PROTECTED, including more than 1 million acres designated as national monuments and 275,000 acres as wilderness.

12 OFFICES AROUND THE COUNTRY

6.5 MILLION people engaged through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in 2015
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Fueling Climate Change: Our Broken Public Lands Energy Programs

Credit Robert S. Donnovan, flickr.
1. Coal
2. Oil
3. Natural Gas
4. Solar
5. Wind
6. Geothermal

Credits: Kentucky Photo File, flickr; Mason Cummings; Black Rock Solar, flickr; Credit Daniel Hoherd, flickr; U.S. Dept. of Energy.
NO EXIT:

How much land in your state is on the highway to oil & gas development?

PERCENT OF LAND OPEN TO LEASING:

A staggering 90% of public lands and minerals managed by the BLM are open to oil and gas leasing.
Natural Gas Leaks
Study finds oil and gas industry largest contributor to ‘hot spot’
Aug. 15, 2016

Air impacts from Utah projects hit BLM radar screen
Oct. 3, 2016

Ground-level ozone pollution alert issued for Denver, Front Range
Aug. 16, 2016
Coal from Public Lands

ABOUT

41% of American coal is produced on public lands.

OVER

85% of that comes from the Powder River Basin in Montana and Wyoming.

Photo: The Powder River Basin, EcoFlight

Credit: CSIRO, Wikimedia.
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Powder River Basin in 1984

Landsat 5
June 29, 1984

Credit: NASA, USGS.
Public Coal Costs Less than a Big Mac

Credit: Wikimedia.
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August marks ongoing trend of record-breaking heat for the globe

September 20, 2016 —

Credit: NOAA; Ed Hawkins
Press Release: Interior Secretary Jewell Announces Study Showing Spring Starting Earlier in National Parks

10/6/2016

Credit: Shenandoah NPS, flickr.
Climate Impacts on Winter & Outdoor Recreation
A POW OVERVIEW

130,000+ supporters globally

Chapters in:
- United States
- Canada
- Europe
- Australia

Partners:

80+ pro athletes
Our POW Alliance is continually growing

160,000+ social media community

Founded in 2007 by professional snowboarder Jeremy Jones

Jimmy Chin: 14 year Team Athlete for The North Face, photographer and documentary filmmaker
POW is the leading voice on climate change for the outdoor sports community.

We’re building a social movement for positive climate action around the globe.
Meet Jake Black
Northern Hemisphere (March-April) Snow Cover

IPCC AR4 SPM

Robinson and Frei
How is climate change impacting winter?

- Diminished snowpack
- Glacial recession
- Snow levels rising
- Shorter season
How is climate change impacting snowsports?

- Spring arrives in Lake Tahoe three weeks earlier now than it did in 1965

- Under a high emissions scenario, by 2100, Aspen’s climate will be more like Texas today

- With a temperature rise of 4C, about 40% of precipitation that currently falls as snow will fall as rain at 7,000 feet, which is the base elevation at Canyons, Park City, and Deer Valley
Why is the snowsports industry so important?

• The winter sports community generates $66 billion annually and supports 965,000 jobs

• Outdoor recreation spending generates $646 billion, supporting 6.1 million jobs

• What other industry has economic power to speak out on climate?
What is at risk?

• The downhill ski resort industry is estimated to have lost $1.07 billion in revenue

• In a high emissions scenario:
  • In the Northeast, only 4 out of 14 major ski resorts will remain profitable by 2100
  • Park City will lose all mountain snowpack by 2100 while Aspen’s snowpack will be confined to the top quarter of the mountain
Climate Solutions
Can Economies Rise as Emissions Fall? The Evidence Says Yes
Apr. 6, 2016

Energy-related CO2 emissions for first six months of 2016 are lowest since 1991
Oct. 12, 2016

Paris Climate Change Agreement Set to Take Effect After Quick Ratification Process
Oct. 5, 2016

Paris climate deal a 'turning point' in global warming fight, Obama says
Oct. 5, 2016
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A BLIND SPOT: GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM OUR PUBLIC LANDS

Public lands account for more than 1/5 of the greenhouse gas footprint in the U.S.
Federal Lifecycle CO$_2$e Compared to IPCC 2°C and 1.5°C Reduction Goals (million tons)
Press Release: Secretary Jewell Launches Comprehensive Review of Federal Coal Program
1/15/2016

Credit: EcoFlight.
UTILIZING INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION
SETTING AN ECONOMY WIDE PRICE ON CARBON
INVESTING IN A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY
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Comanche Solar Project

“more cost effective than natural gas”

Credit: communityenergysolar.com.
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100 DAYS TO CHANGE OUR WAYS!
protectourwinters.org/100days

ALSO, HAVE A PINT!

#100Days
“In such moments of vulnerability, ambivalence, and detachment from one another, we must choose: Do we get involved with saving something bigger than ourselves or do we remain silent and watch it slowly disappear?”

- Tom Bell

Credit: Wyoming Outdoor Council.
#ActOnClimate

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Credit: Mason Cummings.