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Photography and Wildlife Tracking

September 14, 2018

To: State of Washington Department of Ecology

Re: PacWest Silicon Smelter EIS Scoping Public Comment

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed coal powered silicon smelter planned for construction close to Newport Washington. I am a resident of Okanogan County and my work brings me to northeastern Washington and the Idaho Panhandle often. I am intimately familiar with this landscape and community. Please find below specific reasons for my opposition to this smelter.

- **The Kalispell Tribe**, who would be neighbors of the Smelter, and on whose traditional territory it would be built, **officially oppose it**. You can read an articulate summary of their reasoning in an article written by their Tribal Council here: http://www.bonnercountydailybee.com/letters_to_the_editor/20171128/kalispell_tribe_opposing_silicon_smelter. Without the consent of the indigenous peoples of this place, the construction of this plant is unethical for a state interested in maintaining respectful relations with the original peoples of this place.
- **This plant is bad for the planet because of its negative impact on managing climate change:** The *coal powered* smelter would produce *320,000 tons Greenhouse Gas* annually. This is unacceptable in a state who is aiming at reducing our carbon footprint.
- **This plant is bad for the inland rainforest.** The Selkirk Mountains are home to one of the most unique forest ecosystems on the planet. Sulfur dioxide and Nitrogen Oxide produced causes acid rain which prevailing winds will carry into the inland rainforest and beyond.
- **This plant will be bad for endangered mountain caribou:** Air pollutants are predicted to have negative impacts on lichens in the adjacent mountains, the primary source of food for endangered mountain caribou.
- **This plant will be bad for Human Health.** Increases in air pollution from the smelter would likely lead to asthma, heart disease and other human health issues in residential areas adjacent to it and downwind.

Thank you very much for considering these comments

David Moskowitz