



AWA and the Grassy Mtn Coal Public Hearings

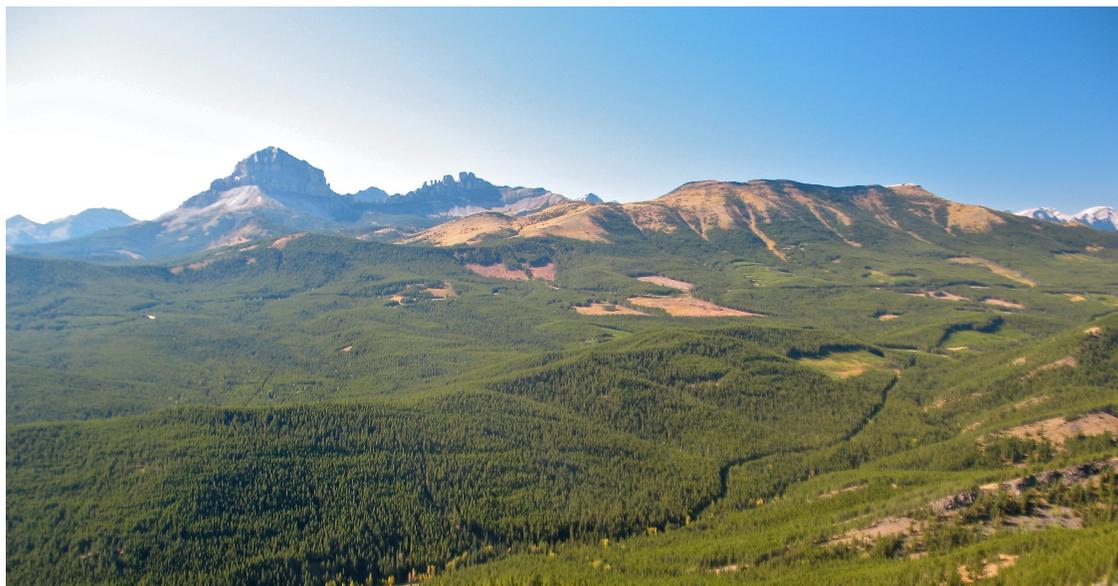


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Dear AWA Supporter,

Today, on behalf of the Coalition of Alberta Wilderness Association and Grassy Mountain Group, the law firm of Ackroyd LLP submitted the written evidence the Coalition will present to the Joint Review Panel public hearings into the Grassy Mountain Coal Project.

Benga Mining Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Riversdale Resources, is behind this project. Riversdale is owned by the private Australian miner Hancock Prospecting. Gina Rinehart, Australia's richest person, owns the controlling interest (76.55%) in Hancock Prospecting. Today, Forbes claims that Rinehart's net worth is \$16.4 billion (US).

Neither Benga nor Riversdale have any experience in coal mining in North

America.

This project is a major threat to the ecological integrity of the Crowsnest Pass.

Proposed to be located seven kilometres north of Blairmore, this open-pit coal mine, if approved, is designed to produce a maximum of 4.5 million tonnes of metallurgical coal per year. Sprawling over more than 60 square kilometres of one or more Environmentally Significant Areas, the company intends to mine coal there for more than 20 years.

AWA has objected to Grassy Mountain and other proposed projects in the Oldman and Crowsnest Pass areas since Grassy Mountain's initial exploration and drilling program began in 2013. Thanks largely to the fact this project must be approved by the federal government, AWA was granted the right to participate fully at the upcoming public hearings on this proposal. Full participation means AWA is able to submit written and oral submissions, cross-examine the corporation and its experts about the project, and submit a final argument to the three-member panel.

Through Ackroyd LLP, who will be representing the Coalition in these hearings, we retained experts to examine many of the impacts this project will have on the environment and the people who live in the Crowsnest. The written evidence of our experts was submitted today. Today's submission to the Joint Review Panel outlined the issues their written evidence and their subsequent testimony will address. Those issues are:

- Land use, Access, and Residential Impacts;
- Property devaluation;
- Wildlife, biodiversity, and habitats impact assessment;
- Noise and air pollution impacts;
- Socio-economic effects; and
- Coal quality;
- Water impacts, including ground water and surface water impacts,

inflow needs assessment and water chemistry, impacts on aquatic resources including Westslope Cutthroat Trout, and climate change.

The hearings commence on October 27, 2020 and, due to COVID-19, will be conducted entirely online, using electronic means.

The public will be able to watch the hearings via YouTube and AWA will pass on those details to you once they are available.

The quality of the written evidence our experts have submitted is impressive and I am optimistic that the Joint Review Panel will deny Benga's applications for this project.

- Ian Urquhart, Conservation Director



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