

Resolution #8
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

OPPOSE DEVELOPMENT OF OREGON COASTAL LNG IMPORT/EXPORT FACILITIES

Submitted by: the Mazamas

BACKGROUND: The proposed Palomar Pipeline, which would require 42 miles of clear cut destruction across the Oregon Cascade Mountains and through Mount Hood National Forest, has raised concerns from a broad range of citizens and landowners. This pipeline, originating at Bradwood Landing on the Columbia River, has been temporarily suspended due to financial woes of its principal investor; however Northwest Natural Gas has indicated to its shareholders that the proposal is still viable and will be a reality in the near future. Two other proposals, one for a terminal at Warrenton on the Columbia River, and another for the proposed Ruby pipeline to a terminal at Jordan Cove in Coos Bay, are rapidly moving forward..

It should be noted that California and Washington State have turned down LNG terminals because of the prospect of great environmental damage to their rivers and bays. The tankers which transport the LNG are some of the largest in the world and the terminals require extensive dredging and destruction to estuaries and fish habitat.

The original proposals set forth by investors promoted the project facilities for LNG import. Now, gas speculators have finally admitted they want to export LNG to foreign countries for a higher price than could be obtained from the domestic market in the USA. This would raise the price of natural gas for American consumers. Since the United States possesses a great deal of known natural gas reserves, this tempting business proposition has always been suspected as a secondary motive for LNG facilities. But it comes at a huge environmental cost caused by the extraction methods known as hydraulic fracking, construction of pipeline corridors through sensitive environmental habitats, and significant greenhouse gas emissions from global transport.

The bid for LNG import/export terminals and related pipelines comes at a time of high unemployment in coastal communities hungry for jobs at any cost. However, the short term gain is not worth the long term environmental damage and safety hazards.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs strongly opposes the development of LNG import/export facilities, and their related pipelines, on the Oregon Coast and the lower Columbia River.

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