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**LAND AND WATER FUND**

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**BUSH-CHENEY ENERGY PLAN: BAD FOR THE INTERIOR WEST**  
*Energy Organization Examines Plan's Impact on the Region*

Energy and Land experts at the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, a non-profit environmental law and policy center based in Colorado, released a preliminary analysis of the Bush-Cheney energy plan this afternoon. The analysis reaches a number of initial conclusions, the primary of which include:

The plan

- Would needlessly open rare and special public lands to fossil-fuel recovery;
- Urges steps that could remove important air quality regulations that presently encourage utilities to clean up their power plants;
- Gives short shrift to energy efficiency and renewable resources while lavishing heavy federal subsidies on coal;
- Does nothing to address growing climate change problems;
- Thrusts the federal government into transmission line decisions contrary to state and local powers and;
- Despite its rhetorical embrace of the long-term, is incredibly short-sighted.

“At first glance, the plan places the Interior West clearly in the administration’s bulls-eye for bearing the brunt of negative impacts of this plan,” stated Bruce Driver, Executive Director. “With this plan, the West can expect worsening air quality, reduction in visibility over our national parks, and drilling in our prized elk and deer habitat--the West could become the sacrifice zone for the country with this plan.”

“The plan’s weak nod at renewables and energy efficiency demonstrate how out of touch they are with those of us who live in the West and value the landscape that surrounds us,” said Rick Gilliam, Energy Project Co-Director. “Clean energy resources like wind and solar are already finding a significant place in our energy mix here. This plan moves us backwards in time 15 years.”

The 3 page analysis is available online at [www.lawfund.org](http://www.lawfund.org), and can be obtained by calling Leslie Kaas at 303-444-1188 x216 or [leslie@lawfund.org](mailto:leslie@lawfund.org).

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