

Sochi 2014:

The new punching bag for
environmental horror stories related to
international sporting events

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Goals

- Develop a narrative about a complex environmental issue
- Evaluate the hidden costs of hosting the Olympics
- Evaluate Russia's environmental assessment process
- Find someone to blame!

Sochi/Krasnaya Polyana



Sochi



Sochi/Krasnaya Polyana

- “It would be hard to find a place in Russia with no snow in the wintertime but that’s just what Putin did,” –Boris Nemstov
- Sea Level
- 30 miles and 7,000 vertical feet
- Roza Khutor
- Krasnaya Polyana

Krasnaya Polyana



Getting There



Getting There

- Adler/Alpika
- SK MOST
- Highway and rail project



Sensitive Areas

- Sochi National Park: 198,000 hectares
- Mzymta River
- 300 endemic plant species
- 160 endangered plant species
- Animal migration

Problems



Problems

- The most destructive project of the games
- River damage
- Migration routes cut off
- Development: 52,000 hectares



Why?

- Selection process
- Cooperation with NGOs
- Holes in assessment process
 - Federal Agencies
 - Environmental Management Systems
 - Public Participation
 - Comparison
 - I-70 in Colorado

Finger pointing

- EIA Process
- Federal Agencies
- Gazprom
 - An Olympics with no snow is better than Europe with no gas
- IOC

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