

Mountaintop mining has opened up the mountains and given both humans and animals a place to live and flourish.

All surface-mined land today is reclaimed equal to or better than it was prior to mining and has provided land for airports, golf courses, shopping malls, ball fields, vineyards, subdivisions, hospitals and more! These areas of level land are helping to create a sustainable and more diverse economy in a part of the state that desperately needs it.



Raven Rock Golf Course, Letcher County



Recreational Area, Floyd County



Big Sandy Regional Airport, Martin County



Cattle Farm in Chavies, Perry County



Subdivision, Hazard, Kentucky

The trails created from removing coal and timber from these areas are ideal for ATV, horseback riding, mountain biking and other recreational activities



Hare Scramble, Knott County



Birding & Wildlife Viewing, Eastern Kentucky



Horseback Trail Riding, Eastern Kentucky

COAL FACTS

Did you know?

- Kentucky ranks third nationally in coal production behind Wyoming and West Virginia.

- In addition to the normal business taxes, coal pays \$230 million (2006) in coal severance taxes, which funds fire departments, schools, water district projects, parks, libraries, etc. in both eastern and western Kentucky.

- Kentucky exports 80% of its coal, bringing over \$4.3 billion into Kentucky. Around 85 cents on each dollar stays in Kentucky - wages, benefits, operating expenses, royalties and taxes.

- Coal provides 92% of Kentucky's electricity.

- Kentuckians enjoy cheap electricity - 4th lowest in the United States.

- Only 6.8% of Appalachia has been or will be affected by mountaintop mining.

- There is no level land outside the flood plain in Appalachia that has not been created by man. It's the landowners who want level land.

- In east Kentucky, reclaimed land is more valuable than non-mined land.

- The wildlife viewing areas and open plains one sees today are all reclaimed coal areas.

- Landowners must agree for their land to be mined and must agree on the post-mining land use.

- Coal can be burned cleanly using clean coal technology.

Kentucky has received 25 national reclamation awards from OSM* since 1986.



NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Reclaimed coal lands have provided new opportunities in the Appalachia mountains of eastern Kentucky including hundreds of miles of trails for ATVs, horseback riding, hiking, biking and more wildlife and hunting opportunities.



Elk Are Back in Kentucky!

Through a partnership between the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, coal companies and large property owners, elk have been reintroduced to Kentucky.

There are now over 7,000 Rocky Mountain elk roaming free in the eastern Kentucky coalfields.



Come visit eastern Kentucky and view the elk, take a guided wildlife tour through reclaimed coal lands or participate in one of the many adventure tourism activities going on in the mountains of eastern Kentucky.

This brochure and companion DVD are brought to you by:



For more information about these great agencies, visit their websites at:

www.fw.ky.gov
www.friendsofcoalky.com
www.rmef.org

www.trailsrus.com/elk

KENTUCKY

Elk Tours and More!



on Reclaimed Coal Lands

HISTORY OF ELK IN KENTUCKY

In the winter of 1997, after a 150 year absence, Kentucky began restoring elk to 16 counties in the eastern coalfields of Kentucky through a partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources & the Kentucky coal industry.

From 1997 – 2002, approximately 1,550 elk were trucked in from Kansas, Utah, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon and Arizona.

Today, through proper management, Southeastern Kentucky is now home to over 7,000 free-ranging elk, **the largest herd east of the Rocky Mountains.** With mild winters, ample food and no predators, the herd will soon reach its goal of 10,000.



In 2001, hunting was resumed on a quota basis to help manage the herd which has resulted in a tremendous increase in awareness of elk. In 2006, over 26,000 people across the U.S. entered the Kentucky Elk Lottery. In 2007, that number grew to over 30,000 with over 300 elk tags being issued.

Kentucky now offers both hunting and viewing opportunities that no living Kentuckian has ever had before!



ELK TOURS & VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES

There are two public elk viewing areas and three state parks offering elk tours.

Public Elk Viewing Areas

- Knott County “Elk Capital East of the Mississippi” offers public elk viewing along Elk View Drive, just past Sutton Memorial Park near Hwy 1098 on reclaimed coal lands once mined by Miller Bros Coal.

- Breathitt County has an excellent elk viewing station also located just off Hwy 1098 10 miles east of Hwy 15 on mined land reclaimed by ICG-Hazard, LLC.



Elk Tours

- Jenny Wiley State Resort Park (800) 325-0142
- Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park (800) 325-0058
- Pine Mountain State Resort Park (800) 325-1712

For a unique experience in elk viewing:

Saddle Up Elk Tours

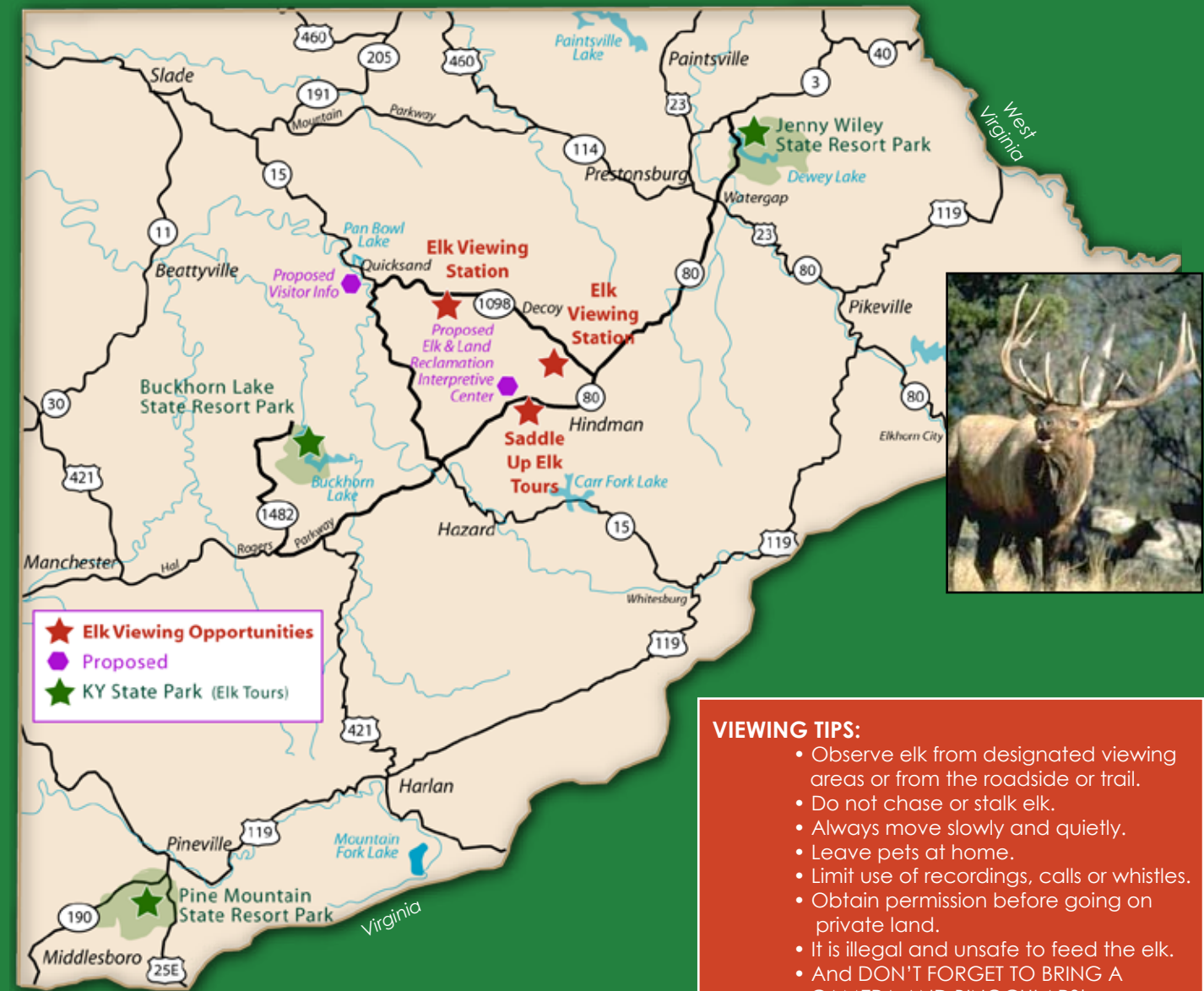
(606) 642-3656
They provide horses for guided tours on reclaimed mine site owned by Kentucky River Properties LLC.



LOVE, ELK STYLE

Fall is mating season for elk. Bulls spar for their own harem of cows by announcing their presence with a bugle. The “bugle” is an unforgettable sound that begins with a bellow, advances to a squealing whistle and ends with a series of grunts. The cows don’t seem to mind the noise at all.

In the spring, bulls shed their antlers and the cycle begins again. Growing as much as an inch a day, even the largest rack of antlers will be back to full growth by the fall mating season. The ladies are always impressed!



VIEWING TIPS:

- Observe elk from designated viewing areas or from the roadside or trail.
- Do not chase or stalk elk.
- Always move slowly and quietly.
- Leave pets at home.
- Limit use of recordings, calls or whistles.
- Obtain permission before going on private land.
- It is illegal and unsafe to feed the elk.
- And **DON'T FORGET TO BRING A CAMERA AND BINOCULARS!**

BEST TIME TO VIEW ELK

Elk can be viewed year-round but tend to be more visible in early Spring and Fall. They also tend to be more visible in the first hours of daylight and dusk.

RECLAIMED COAL LANDS HAVE BECOME A HAVEN FOR THE ELK AND OTHER WILDLIFE

In the fall of 2003, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources began the process of developing and implementing a landscape habitat conservation plan for the state's 4.1 million acre 16-county elk restoration area. They partnered with biologists, private landowners and the coal companies in the reclamation of coal sites into open grassland and prairies, replacing fescue and Serecea with native grasses, forbs, trees and shrubs that are better food sources.

This conservation effort and others they have developed as part of the plan have allowed many species that have lost their homes in other parts of the state to thrive in eastern Kentucky.



A few of the species you might see include: deer, elk, black bear, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, gray squirrel, raccoon, rabbit, and bobwhite quail. Also bats, raptors, numerous small and mid-sized mammals, imperiled aquatic species, coyote, red fox, gray fox, bobcat, beaver, river otter, muskrat, weasel and mink.

Some of the bird species one might find include: eagles, grasshopper sparrow, bob-o-link, indigo bunting, yellow-billed cuckoo, golden-winged warbler, hooded warbler, American redstart, rose-breasted grosbeak, Henslow's sparrow, northern harrier, palm, prairie & Blackburnian warblers and blue-winged teal.

