

OTHER USES OF RECLAIMED LANDS



Jeff Conley with Western Pocahontas Land Company talks with representatives from Snow Magic from New Jersey and Perfect North from Lawrenceburg Indiana about a potential site for a snow tubing attraction on reclaimed lands.



There are 100's of miles of logging & old coal roads in Eastern Kentucky that are now being used for both horseback riding and ATV's.

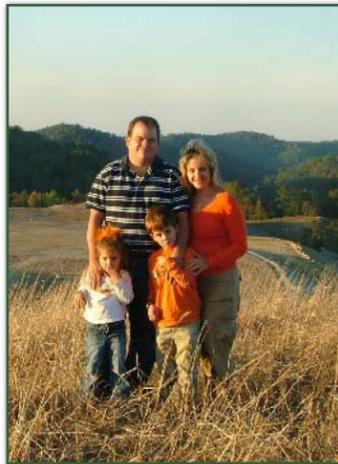
The site of the annual Knott County Trail Ride is located on reclaimed coal property. Last year's ride attracted over 3,000 riders and 1,500 horses from as far away as Texas.



Charles Logsdon, biologist for KY Department of Fish and Wildlife points out the site where a herd of nearly 300 elk were sighted in Knott County



Old logging and coal roads make excellent trails for both ATV's and dirtbikes.



(Left) This family traveled from Virginia to a reclaimed strip mine in Knott County on a Saturday, came back the next day and brought friends the following week just to see the elk. They loved it!



(Right) The children's favorite part . . . They couldn't wait to get back to school on Monday and show their friends the elk "poop" they found.



The ATV Safety Training Center (one of only five in the U.S.) is located on reclaimed coal land and serves as the trailhead to hundreds of miles of trails.



Strip Malls are also being built on reclaimed coal land.

CONCEPT FOR ELK AND LAND RECLAMATION INTERPRETIVE CENTER



NEAR THE BORDER OF KNOTT AND PERRY COUNTY KENTUCKY



BEFORE



AFTER

Pennsylvania has approximately 500 elk and most are located within close proximity to Benezette, a small rural community with a population of less than 300 people & yet it attracts over 75,000 visitors each year to view elk!



Through a partnership with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pennsylvania is capitalizing on this by building a multi-million dollar, 7,000 sq. ft. elk interpretive center which they anticipate will attract 160,000 visitors and result in a \$18.6 million dollar economic impact on the region by 2012.

Kentucky has over 6,000 elk within a 13-county area in Southeast Kentucky – That is OVER 10 times more elk than Pennsylvania!

Kentucky has more elk than any other state east of the Rocky Mountains! In fact, in southeast Kentucky there are nearly three times more elk than all the other eastern states COMBINED!

If Kentucky were to build a similar facility to what is being built in Pennsylvania and tie it in with elk tours, they could conceivably attract over 160,000 visitors by the second year of operation if properly marketed.



Interpretive Center Concept Idea

STRATEGIC LOCATION

Kentucky has 47 million people within a half day's drive and 163 million (nearly 4 times more than Pennsylvania) within a day's drive.

There is a site in Knott County* right next to Hwy 80 in the center of the 16-county elk restoration area and in close proximity to the Perry County line which would be an excellent site for the elk interpretive center.

The proposed site is strategically located between three state parks (Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Buckhorn State Resort Park and Pine Mountain State Resort Park) all of which offer elk tours every Spring and Fall. "Saddle Up Elk Tours" conducts elk tours on horseback at this site.

*Knott County has declared themselves the "Elk Capital of the East". They have one of only two established publicly accessible elk viewing sites within the 16-county elk restoration area in eastern Kentucky. Jenny Wiley State Park in the adjacent county is now using the Knott County viewing area for all their elk tours.

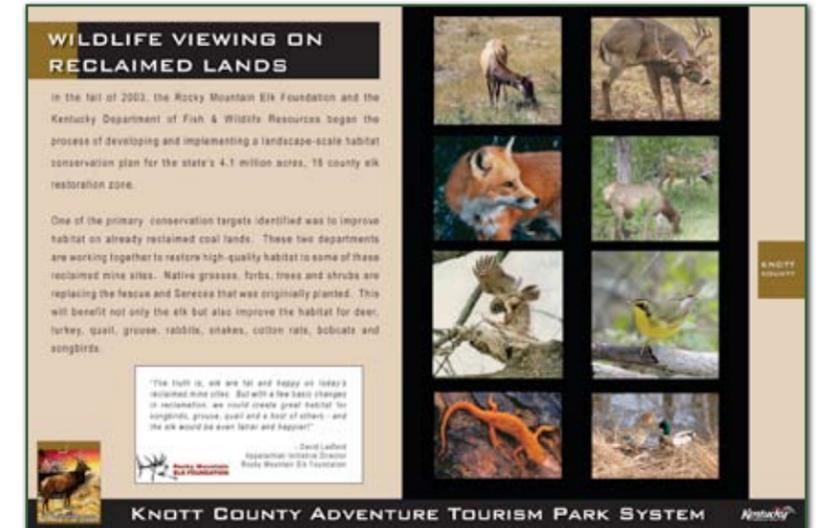


INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Developing an interpretive center that tells the history of the restoration of elk in eastern Kentucky is only part of the story. It is also the story of reclaimed coal lands that have created areas conducive to the growth of the herd and other wildlife such as bear, deer, quail. And allowed for the return of the natural grasses and habitats that have not been found in the area for years.

Reclaimed land has caused the elk to flourish and create new opportunities for eastern Kentucky to open up areas once too steep & mountainous to allow development.

The Center could be one of the first of its kind to actually provide the public a venue to hear the other side of the story on mountain top removal from the people who live there and the opportunities it has opened for East Kentucky.



Example of a Wayside Exhibit

