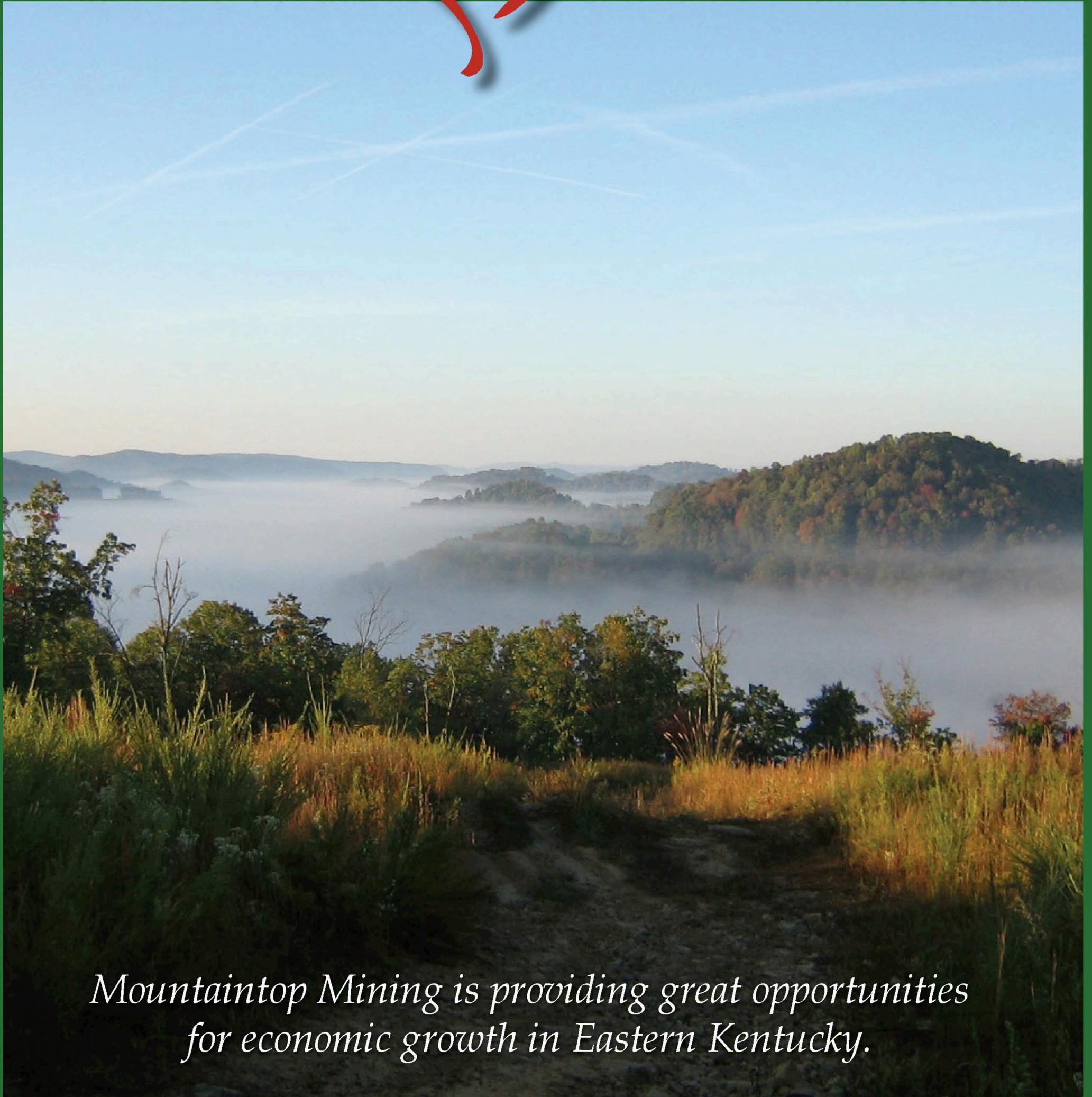


Eastern Kentucky

We Love Our Mountains!



*Mountaintop Mining is providing great opportunities
for economic growth in Eastern Kentucky.*

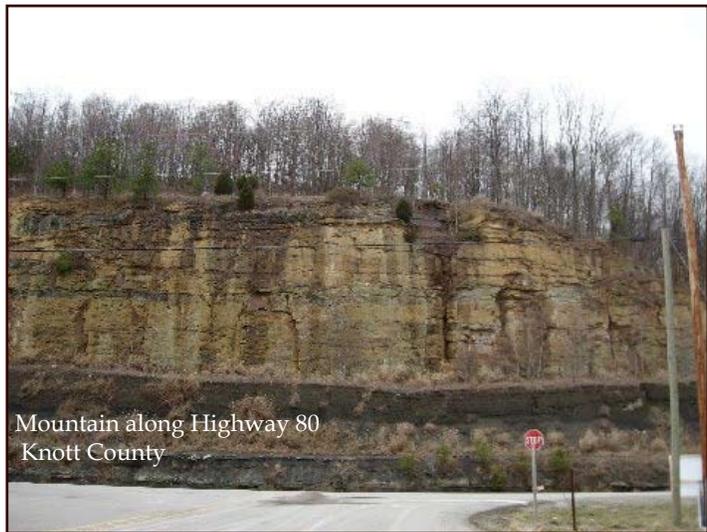
Ever tried to climb an east Kentucky mountain?

Unless you are a mountain goat, you will find it next to impossible. Mountaintop mining has opened up our mountains and given both humans and animals a place to live and flourish. These areas of level land are helping to create a sustainable economy in a part of the state that desperately needs it!

Heard the claim that "mountaintop mining is flattening Appalachia"?

The fact is only a small portion (7%) of the mountaintop coal fields are minable. The remaining 93% remains as it was originally.

Unlike other parts of the state and the United States, the law requires the reclaimed mine land be "put back" in such a way to make it "better" than what it was before! Don't you wish the rest of Kentucky had this kind of law?



The average family in the Appalachian mountains of east Kentucky lives below the poverty level. They now have an opportunity to do something about it and people from outside the area and even outside the state want to stop it. Why?

East Kentucky is developing their lands in partnership with agencies such as Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, state and federal regulatory agencies, mining companies and other environmental organizations. Are other regions of Kentucky doing this? Maybe some of the "mountain lovers" should be focusing more on what is happening in their own backyards.



There is no denying it. Construction sites are not pretty.



Louisville, Kentucky



Bowling Green, Kentucky



Martin County, Kentucky

It is what one does afterwards with the land that tells the story.



BEFORE



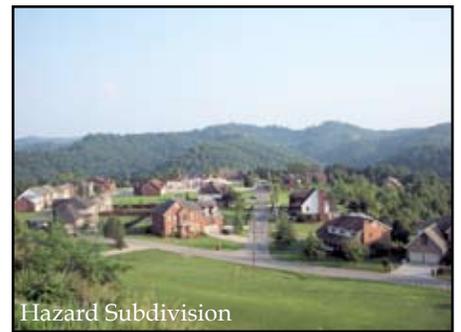
AFTER



Pastureland in Wolfe County



Wildlife Area
Breathitt County



Hazard Subdivision



Sykes Building Industrial Park
Perry County



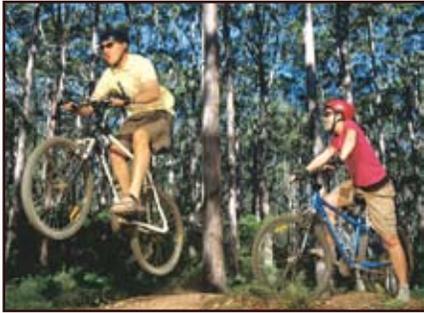
Big Sandy Regional Airport
Martin County



Stone Crest Golf Course
Floyd County

There is no denying it, mountaintop mining has provided HUGE opportunities in east Kentucky for Adventure Tourism.

Roads previously used to extract coal and timber from the area are now being used by ATV, dirt bikers, hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders. Over 30,000 visitors come to Harlan County to ride ATV's on Black Mountain which has had a very positive economic impact on the area.



The Knott County ATV Training Center (one of only five training centers in the U.S.) is located in Sutton Memorial Park, a 600-acre reclaimed coal property. Sutton Memorial Park serves as the trailhead for ATV's, horseback riding and elk viewing.



Knott County's second annual Fall Trail Ride attracted 3,000 people and 1,500 from as far away as Texas, Florida and Utah. The trails are being developed on 43,000 acres of partially reclaimed coal land through a partnership with Western Pocahontas Land Company and the Knott County Fiscal Court. The economic impact for just this 3-day event was over \$400,000. Trails are open year round. The potential is huge.

Opportunities in both Adventure Tourism and Recreation



A biologist for Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources points out the site where a herd of nearly 300 elk were sighted.



Record sized elk are being harvested in eastern KY due to ample food supply on reclaimed lands.

Hunting has become an important economic component in eastern Kentucky with the increased number of wildlife. Elk hunters alone spent over \$200,000 during the 2006 hunt.



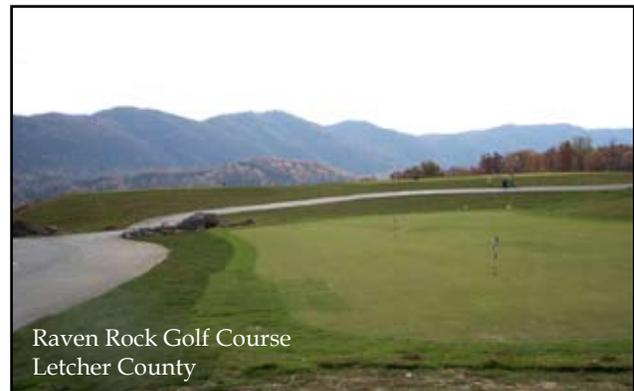
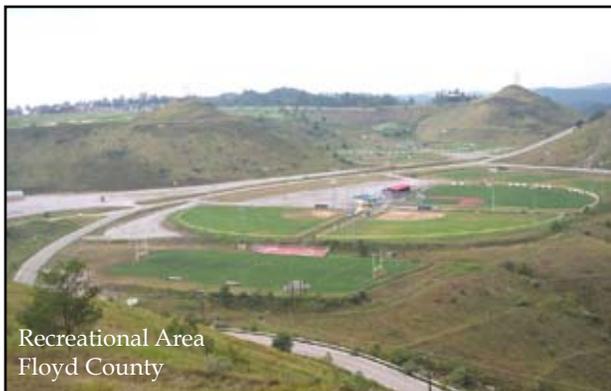
Photo Courtesy of KDFWR



A man made re-circulating white water attraction has been developed at Wisp near McHenry Maryland on reclaimed coal land.



Snow tubing attraction is in the developmental stages in eastern Kentucky using the latest technology enabling the attraction to be open for a five month season. The attraction will be developed on reclaimed coal land.



The recreational complex in Floyd Co., the sportsplex in Knott Co., the expo center in Pike Co., elk viewing stations in Breathitt and Knott Co., vineyards in Letcher Co., and golf courses in Letcher, Floyd and Martin Co. were all developed on reclaimed coal land.

Reclaimed Coal Sites have become havens for animals/wildlife.

Through a partnership with Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, biologists, private landowners and the coal companies, the reclamation of coal sites into open grasslands and prairies has allowed many species that have lost their homes in other parts of the state to thrive in eastern Kentucky!

These species include both deer and elk and other game species such as black bear, eastern wild turkey, ruffed grouse, gray squirrel, raccoon, rabbit and bobwhite quail.



A few of the non-game species include resident and migratory songbirds, bats, raptors, numerous small and mid-sized mammals and imperiled aquatic species. Furbearers include coyote, red fox, gray fox, bobcat, beaver, river otter, muskrat, weasel and mink.



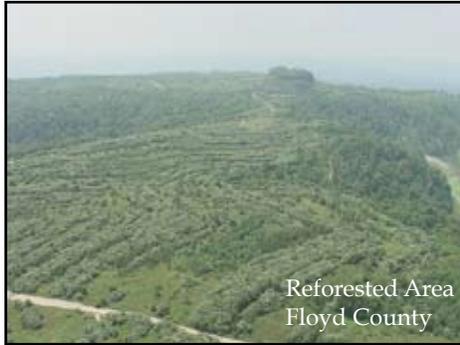
Reclaimed Coal Sites have become havens for animals/wildlife.

Hunting, fishing, boating and wildlife watching brings in nearly \$4.8 billion into the Commonwealth - accounting for more than half of the State's \$9 billion tourism industry and creating over 60,000 jobs for Kentuckians.

East Kentucky is capitalizing on this! Unlike other parts of the state, east Kentucky is developing their land to attract more animals and help them thrive!



Since 1990, through proper land management, the deer population in east Kentucky has nearly doubled.



Reforested Area
Floyd County



From 1997-2002, approximately 1,550 elk were trucked in from Kansas, Utah, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon and Arizona to 16 counties in the eastern coalfields of Kentucky where they have flourished.

There are now nearly 7,000 elk in Eastern Kentucky which are attracting both tourists and hunters to the area. This has created new jobs including guide service; firearms, equipment and supplies; lodging needs; taxidermy service, and elk viewing tours. This would not have been possible without excellent resource management and the cooperation of the land owners.



**BIRDWATCHERS LOVE WHAT WE ARE
DOING TO OUR MOUNTAINS!
AND SO DO THE BIRDS!**

A few of the bird species which are increasing in number include:

- Grasshopper Sparrow
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Northern Harrier
- Bobolink
- Indigo Buntings
- Yellow-Billed Cuckoos
- Golden-Winged Warbler
- Blue-Winged Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- Prairie Warbler
- Hooded Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- American Redstart
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Blue-Winged Teal



Coal Saves Us Money!

- There are 58 major coal-burning electric generating plants in Kentucky.
- Nearly all (92%) of Kentucky's electricity is generated from coal.
- Cheap Electricity - At 5-1/2 cents per kilowatt-hour, Kentucky is one of the lowest in the nation.



Coal Makes Us Money!

- Kentucky exports 79.5% of its coal which brings in over \$4.3 billion dollars a year.
- Coal paid \$221.4 million in severance taxes in 2006-07.
 - Severance Tax is a tax imposed by a state for the extraction of natural resources such as oil, gas, timber, coal or other minerals.
 - Severance tax has funded fire departments, senior citizen centers, library renovation, community parks, water district projects, animal shelters, schools, etc. in both eastern and western Kentucky.

Coal Has Opened Up New Opportunities!

All surface-mined land today is reclaimed equal to or better than it was prior to mining. Kentucky mining companies have received a total of 27 awards in the past sixteen years including five national reclamation awards for outstanding achievement in surface mining.

Surface mining has provided land for airports, golf courses, wildlife viewing areas, campgrounds, ball fields, vineyards, subdivisions, etc.

Through improved reclamation practices, the American Chestnut is making a comeback on reclaimed lands. So are deer, elk, bear, songbirds, etc.



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

