

Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining

Mountaintop removal coal mining destroys ecosystems. It transforms some of the most diverse forests in the world into biological wastelands. Mountains are lost forever, drinking water is polluted, and the health and safety of families in the Appalachian area is sacrificed.

First forests are clear cut, taking away all wild life and vegetation that gets in the way, Bear, deer, wild flowers and plants are just some of the casualties. Next hundreds of pounds of explosives are used to blow up the sides of the mountain completely destroying it. Explosions can cause damage to neighboring home foundations and flying debris endanger residents and homes.

After the mountain is clear cut and it's sides blown up a big machine called a dragline comes on to the mountain and digs into it to find coal. These machines are used to reduce the amount of workers it takes to dig up the coal. In the end the coal companies do this to maximize profits, their main reason for blowing up mountains. Once the coal is found more machines come in to dig out the coal. In the process the machines fill in the adjacent valleys and streams with the former mountaintop contaminating the water. Further contamination comes when the coal that is dug out of the mountains gets washed. The resulting coal sludge gets into streams and rivers or is horded in big pools. These big pools have been know to leak, flood or spillover into neighborhoods and water supplies.

