

## **Mountain Top Removal Strip Mining**

A Federal study reported that mountain top removal strip mining had impacted--

***380,000 acres** of mountains between 1992 and 2002. This is over four times all of WV State Parks combined and is a loss of 76,000,000 board feet of new growth hardwood every year forever.*

*and*

***1,400,000 acres** will be impacted by mountain top removal by 2012--A swath one mile wide from New York to California. An annual loss of 280,000,000 board feet of new growth hardwood.*

Over 1000 miles of West Virginia streams have been permitted to be buried in Valley Fills. This is longer than the Ohio River.

***3,000,000 pounds of explosives** are used against West Virginia mountains every day.*

**Selenium** from the mine is blamed for deformed fish found in a lake below mountain top removal. Some fish had both eyes on the same side and others had curved spines.

All streams and lakes in WV are contaminated with **mercury** from the burning of coal.

*Of the mountains destroyed by mountain top removal less than 5% have any economic development.*

There are 100,000 less coal mining jobs than in 1950.

The late Bill Maxey, retired in protest against mountain top removal. He was the highly respected director of the West Virginia Division of Forestry. He said of mountain top removal:

*"All native plant and animals are practically eliminated....makes the landscape so unsightly that it ruins tourism....actually destroys more coal mining jobs than it creates....is analogous to serious disease, like AIDS..."*