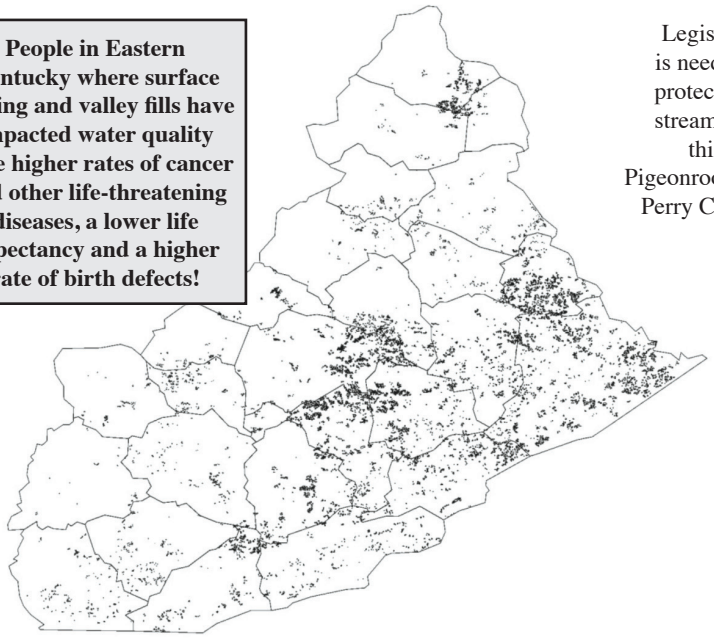
Support The Stream Saver Bill – House Bill 231

Kentucky's waterways are one of our most important and valued natural resources

Why Do We Allow Our Headwater Streams to be Buried and Permanently Destroyed?

We all know the value of water: economically for tourism, industrial and agricultural use; socially for recreation and enjoyment; personally for drinking water and domestic use. But valley fills associated with mountaintop removal coal mining have already buried — under thousands of tons of toxic mining wastes — and permanently destroyed more than 1,400 miles of Kentucky's headwater streams.

People in Eastern Kentucky where surface mining and valley fills have impacted water quality have higher rates of cancer and other life-threatening diseases, a lower life expectancy and a higher rate of birth defects!



Legislation is needed to protect vital streams like this one, Pigeonroost, in Perry County

Headwater streams are essential to the quality of our waterways for hundreds of miles downstream, and to our quality of life. The damage from valley fills is irreversible, and the cost to Kentuckians immeasurable.

Some Consequences of Burying Headwater Streams

(based on the results from the Federal Environmental Impact Study on Mountaintop Removal and other scientific studies)

- **increased flooding, upstream and down**
- **increased water treatment costs**
- **loss of recreational use**
- **increased sedimentation and erosion**
- **altered stream chemistry and temperature**
- **loss of nutrient sources essential for downstream water quality and aquatic life**

"Reclamation" involves turning a vibrant stream into a sterile rock-lined drainage ditch such as this one at the head of Island Creek in Pike County.

House Bill 231 would make sure this doesn't happen any longer. The Stream Saver Bill would protect our waterways by prohibiting the dumping of mine wastes into any "intermittent, perennial, or ephemeral stream or other water of the Commonwealth." Mine wastes would be placed back on the mine site as part of the reclamation process already specified in state and federal law — rather than dumped over the side of the hill into valleys and streams and communities below.

Stop Burying Kentucky Streams

Put the Well-Being of Kentucky Citizens and Communities First!

Kentuckians For The Commonealth • P.O. Box 1450 • London, Ky. 40743 • 606-878-2161 • www.kftc.org

The Destruction of Kentucky's Headwater Streams by Valley Fills

"Although state and federal regulatory requirements to protect water quality exist, impacts to streams due to surface mining are still common and widespread. Surface mining impacts streams both chemically and physically by increasing dissolved solids (e.g., sulfate, calcium carbonate) and sediment loading, and by removing the riparian (trees and bushes along the side of the stream) forest vegetation." — Kentucky Division of Water, 2004

Hollows, or valleys, such as Puncheon Creek in .[illegible] with mine wastes from mountaintop removal operations above. This creek that once [illegible] wastes. In the process, all [illegible] on Puncheon Creek.

To control runoff, [illegible] with rock to lessen erosion, [illegible] of the valley [illegible] rainfall. Where there once was a [illegible] with life there is [illegible] ports no life.

[illegible] of streams, increases water treat- [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] runoff increases the likeli- [illegible] stream.

Change this — Pass HB 231!

Kentuckians For The Commonwealth

[illegible]