

Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining

Costs and Benefits of the Tennessee Scenic Vistas Protection Act, SB 3822, HB 3348

Cost

Some small portion of the total state coal severance tax, 500,000 annually; but not even a portion of that if the highest elevation mining moves to lower elevations or underground.

Some small portion of the less than 400 surface coal mining jobs in the state; but not even that if the highest elevation mining moves to lower elevations or underground. If companies use deep mining instead of surface mining the number and duration of jobs will substantially **increase**.

Benefits

Conservation of Tennessee's Scenic Vistas.

Preservation and expansion of Tennessee's tourism industry which employs over 81,000 people and contributes \$241,000,000 in state and local tax revenue annually.

Continued development of Tennessee's mountain peaks increasing jobs, profits, and tax revenue.

Less land to reclaim at state expense when reclamation by the companies does not occur.

Conservation of lands and streams for hunting and fishing.

Maintenance of property values.

Slowed decline of Tennessee's water quality.

Decreased vulnerability to draught.

Less flooding and associated costs of clean up.

Less community displacement due to flooding, fly rock, blasting damage and dust, bad wells and ruined municipal water.

Modeling Christian stewardship for others.

Maintenance of confidence in government that has been lost in other states around the issue of mountain top mining.

Surface Coal Mining over 2000 feet?

Why?