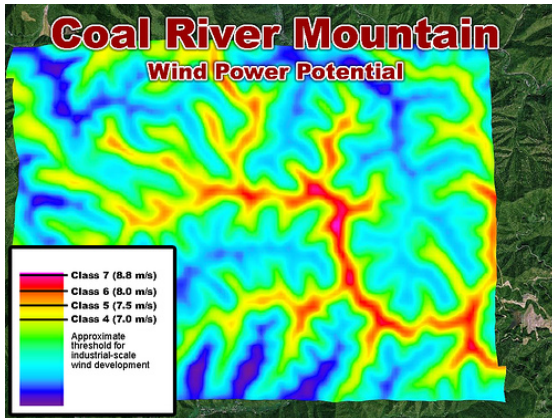
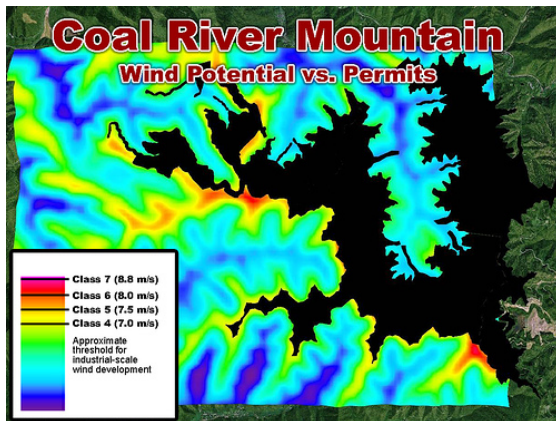


Lost Opportunity

A reclaimed MTR site is not suitable for wind development for two main reasons: 1) the construction of wind farms on strip-mined lands is more difficult and expensive, and; 2) the wind patterns change when a mountaintop is removed. The high wind speeds found on Coal River Mountain are dependent upon the existence of the high-altitude ridges.



At least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the potential sites for wind turbines would be eliminated by these three mines (outlined in black):



There is a Choice:

Mountaintop Removal: (Kayford, WV)



- OR -

Wind Farm: (Buffalo Ridge, TN)



We can join together and make West Virginia a key part of the national energy solution, and preserve Coal River Mountain for current and future generations. There is a better plan for affordable, clean electricity and good, green jobs on Coal River Mountain!

To Learn More Contact :

Coal River Mountain Watch
(304) 854-2182
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Coal River Mountain Wind

Alternative Energy and Economic Development in the Coal River Valley

There are currently four massive strip-mine permits out for Coal River Mountain that will level 6,600 acres and lead to the construction of 18 valley fills.

These mines will be at the heads of Horse Creek, Dry Creek, and Rock Creek, and will surround nearly the entire length of Sycamore Creek, considered to be the most pristine stream in the area. Communities are situated at the mouth of each of these streams.

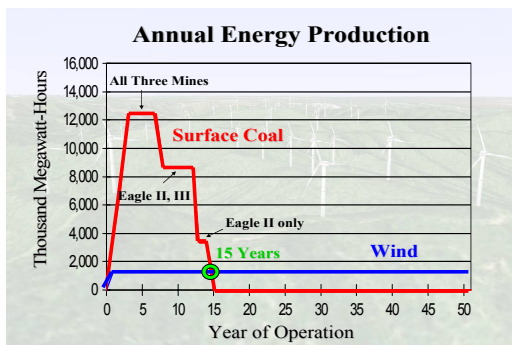
Fortunately, there is an alternative to the mountaintop removal mining – wind power.

A wind survey of Coal River Mountain showed that there is excellent potential for wind development on the mountain.

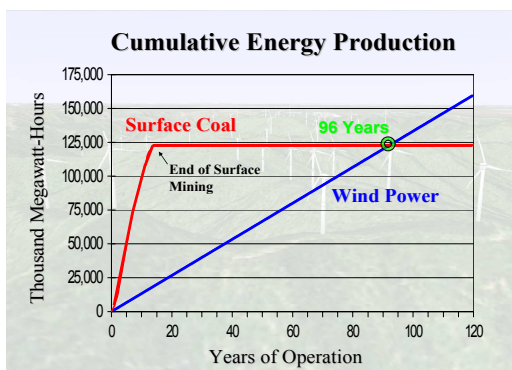
A wind farm would provide **permanent jobs** and **sustainable energy** for Raleigh County and West Virginia, while at the same time promoting a healthy, safe environment for people and wildlife to enjoy.

Energy

Appalachian coal has fueled the nation for over a century, but it is a non-renewable resource and will run out some day. In 2000, the U.S. Geologic Survey estimated that coal in West Virginia would be mined out within 20-30 years. According to the four permit applications, surface mining on Coal River Mountain will produce coal and energy for about 15 years. In contrast, a wind farm will produce energy for as long as the wind blows.

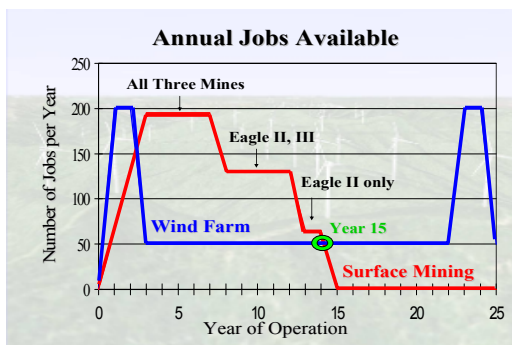


While the initial power output is higher with coal in the short term, wind power will produce far more energy over the long term.



Jobs

Jobs in coal production last only as long as there is coal to mine. In the case of Coal River Mountain, this will only be 15 years. A wind farm, on the other hand, will employ over 200 local residents during the 2-year construction phase (and during replacement every 20 years), and create 40-50 *permanent* maintenance jobs afterwards. Further, it takes only 35 years for a wind farm to provide a greater number of one-year jobs than the four surface mines *combined*.



A wind farm will allow the mountain to be used for other economic purposes, creating additional jobs and income. Potential uses for Coal River Mountain include:

- Ginseng** and other valuable forest plants can grow and be harvested right up to the base of a windmill.
- Sustainable forestry** can employ many people and provide useful and in-demand products forever.
- Mountain tourism** could be profitable on Coal River Mountain, as the mountain is one of the area's finest.

Recreation and the Environment

Surface mine reclamation is difficult and limited. Four wheeling on a moonscape is a short-lived novelty, hunting is limited, and fishing is rare. While the permitted area may be large for a wind farm, only a small amount of land is disturbed. The only development necessary for a wind farm is an access road up to and along the ridge. These roads often exist from logging and gas wells and require little modification.

Further, wind turbines do not produce any harmful by-products. Windmills add no chemicals to waterways. Coal River Mountain's streams can be filled with native fish species, rather than having to be stocked with non-native fish.



Finally, when a mine goes in, access to land is often restricted. There is no need to restrict access to a wind farm and communities are given permission to hunt, four-wheel, gather herbs or hike on the mountain at their leisure.