

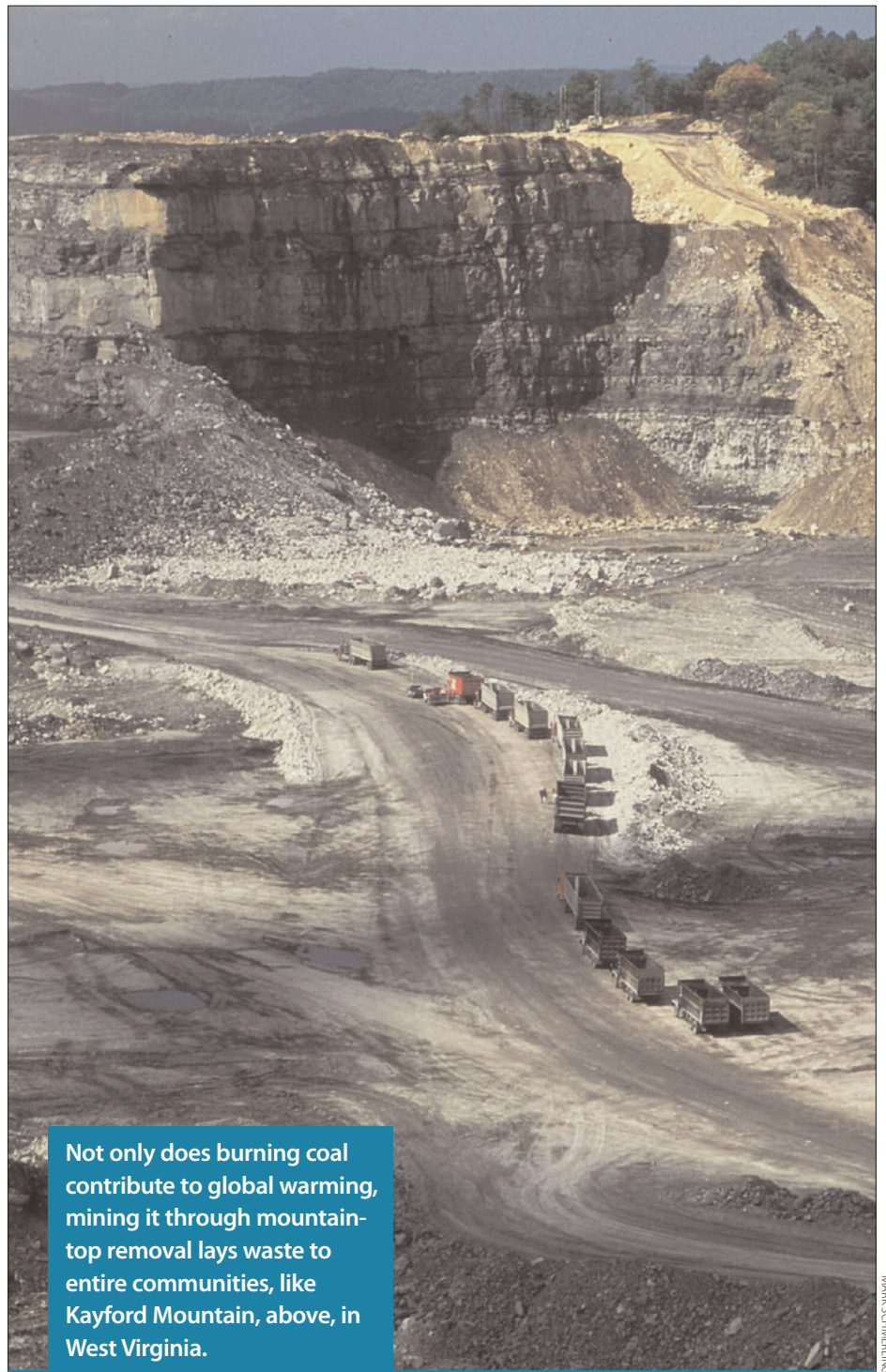
Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining Lays Waste to Appalachia

Mountaintop removal is exactly what it sounds like: Mining companies clearcut native forests and blow off mountaintops with explosives to uncover seams of coal, then dump millions of tons of the waste rock into the valleys below, permanently burying streams.

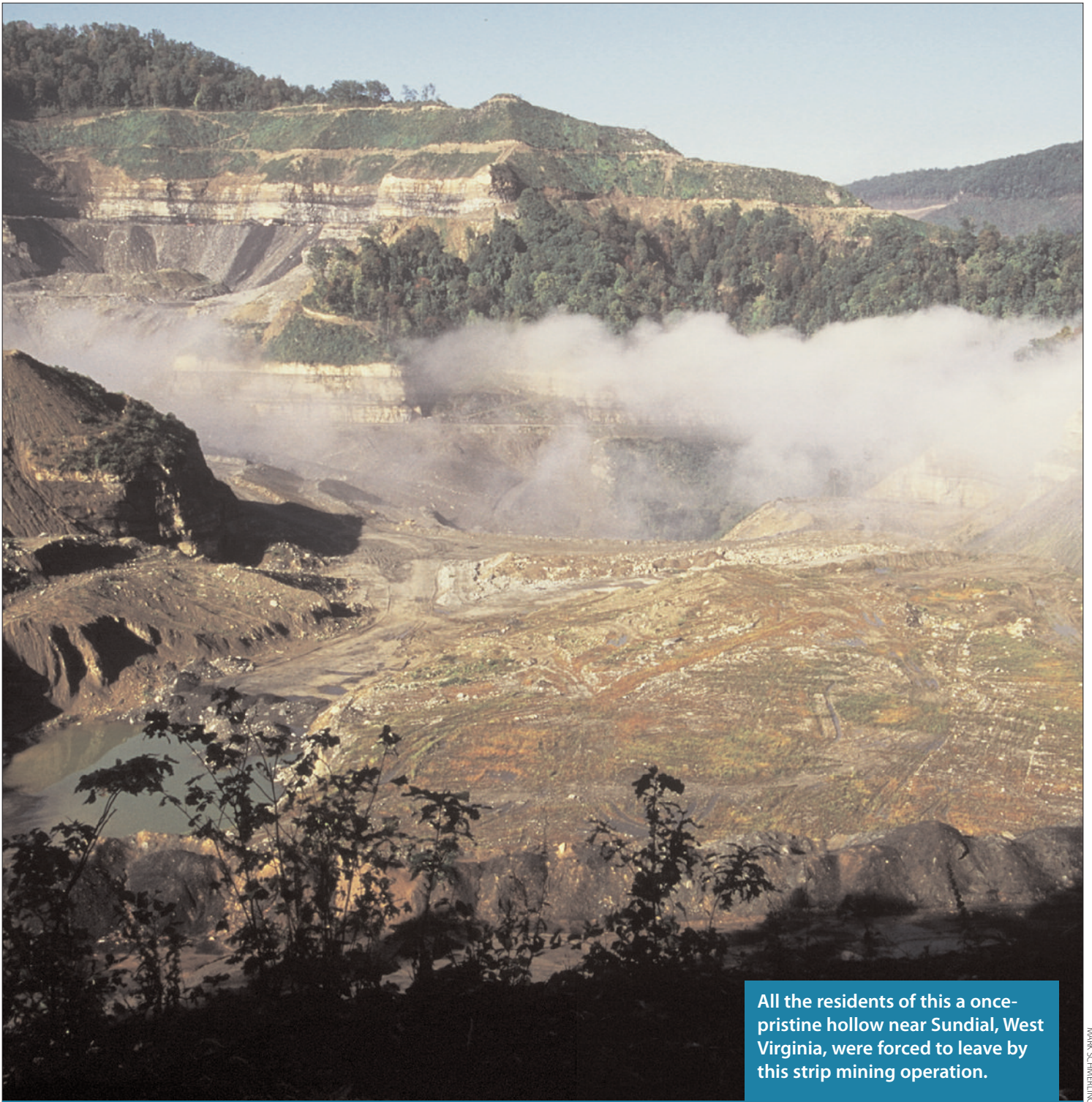
This devastating practice, the nation's most destructive form of coal mining, poisons drinking water, lays waste to wildlife habitat, increases risk of flooding, and wipes out entire communities.

According to federal Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) on mountaintop removal issued in 2005 and 2007, mountaintop removal coal mining has buried and contaminated close to 2,000 miles of streams in Appalachia. It also estimated that past and future mining could destroy more than 1.4 million acres—more than 11 percent of the area studied. By the end of this century, more than 2,200 square miles of Appalachian forests and mountains will be gone. Appalachia is an area of high biodiversity, and mountaintop removal could harm more than 240 species of animals.

In 2002, the Bush administration tried to legalize mountaintop removal mining by changing Clean Water Act rules. Under the new rules, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can issue permits to allow waste to fill the nation's waters. The change, which overturned a 25-year prohibition on using waste as fill material, violates the protections of the Clean Water Act.



Not only does burning coal contribute to global warming, mining it through mountaintop removal lays waste to entire communities, like Kayford Mountain, above, in West Virginia.



MARK SCHWARTZ/USFWS

All the residents of this a once-pristine hollow near Sundial, West Virginia, were forced to leave by this strip mining operation.

TAKE ACTION

Help Stop the Devastation of Appalachia's Communities, Mountains, and Streams

The massive destruction taking place in Appalachia is an affront to all who value this region's rich cultural heritage, environmental beauty, and wildlife.

Please urge your member of Congress to co-sponsor the Clean Water Protection Act (H.R. 1310), which would protect Appalachia's streams by restoring the prohibition on using waste to fill streams and wetlands.

Call (202) 224-3121 or go to www.congress.org to reach your representative's office. Please act now to save Appalachia's mountains, streams, and communities.

Ask your representative to co-sponsor the Clean Water Protection Act, H.R. 1310.