

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Help Protect PA's Wild Trout Streams

Re: Help Protect PA's Wild Trout Streams

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URL:

The impetus behind the legislation appears to be the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance (not sure exactly; it's the coal industry rape the land lobbying group). They're upset that 96 streams mostly in western PA were designated were re-classified as high quality trout streams by the PFBC thus making it more difficult for the coal industry to rape the land in and around those streams.

I grew up in central PA in Clearfield and Centre Counties in the 50s and early 60s prior to the Surface Mine Reclamation Act of 1977. If you weren't there then or have never seen pictures, there were any number of places where, from horizon to horizon, the effects of strip mining look like Mars or the moon. Much of that has been repaired, to a degree, but many of the streams still run red with acid mine drainage. King Coal could and did do whatever it wanted, whenever it wanted. No doubt they'd like to be able to do so again. Without a doubt, this legislation is a step in that direction.

Another item in the legislation which is truly frightening is requiring legislative oversight of the science employed by the Game Commission and PFBC in making the decisions those bodies make. The state's Republican legislators fall in line quite nicely behind the science deniers nationwide. With passage, we could no doubt expect sound scientific decision making to fall quickly by the wayside.

This legislation is garbage, pure and simple.