

Fact Sheet

Wildcat Branch - Addison Branch Mine Site Daniel Boone National Forest

Overview

The Wildcat Branch-Addison Branch Mine Site is located in the Daniel Boone National Forest, Pulaski County, approximately five miles south of Mount Victory, Kentucky. The U.S. Forest Service is examining this site to: 1) evaluate the environmental impacts; 2) assess public health risks; and 3) minimize the impacts associated with historic coal mining activities in this area.



Contaminated stream in the Wildcat Branch-Addison Branch Mine Site

Site History

The Wildcat Branch-Addison Branch Mine Site is one of many abandoned coal mines in the Cumberland River watershed. The site covers 2,636 acres, or 4.1 square miles. The U.S. Forest Service acquired this land between 1930 and 1992.

This area was mined extensively during the early 1900s, with some portions mined into the late 1970s. Over time, both underground and surface mining techniques were used to extract the coal.

Mine entries, or portals, were created to access the coal underground. These portals occur mostly along steep slopes and above streams that flow into the Cumberland River.

Acid mine drainage, which is characterized by acidic water with a high level of heavy metals, flows from several mine portals into the streams below. Many uncapped and unlined piles of waste and unrecovered coal further contribute to the contamination of nearby streams.

Water samples collected from ponds, seeps, portal pools and streams indicate widespread contamination. These waters contain elevated concentrations of sulfate, aluminum, iron and other toxic metals.

Evaluation and Remedial Cost Analysis

Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the U.S. Forest Service is evaluating the Wildcat Branch-Addison Branch Mine Site to determine the extent of acid mine drainage, related mining damage, and potential cleanup alternatives.

Due to impacts on water quality and associated health risks, the evaluation is focused on uncapped/unlined coal waste piles and contaminated water flow from mine portals, seeps, and sedimentation ponds. The cost analysis is focused on the feasibility of necessary corrective actions.

Potential Actions

The U.S. Forest Service has identified several technologies that may reduce or remove acid mine drainage impacts. An engineering evaluation and cost analysis (EE/CA) was conducted to address potential alternatives. The Draft EE/CA and other administrative records are available for public review at the Daniel Boone National Forest Supervisor's Office and London Ranger District office. The Draft EE/CA and Fact Sheet are available for public review online at www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf/.



Public Contact Information

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Draft EE/CA and Fact Sheet Online:
www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf/

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