



There are more than 100 former coal mine sites within Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Need for Action

Abandoned coal mines are a source of contaminated mine drainage, which is produced when groundwater reacts with coal and air in the mines to produce sulfuric acid and precipitation of metals.

Contaminated mine drainage can adversely impact water resources, ecosystems, wildlife habitats, human health and safety, as well as visitor use and experience



The EIS is needed to provide an efficient and effective strategy for park managers to limit or prevent contaminated mine drainage and ultimately improve the water quality in the Big South Fork River and its tributaries. Mitigation and treatment of contaminated mine drainage can also improve wildlife habitat, natural ecosystems, and visitor experience.