



The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area was created by the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-251).

The Act protects water resources within the park, "preserving as a natural free-flowing stream, the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River, major portions of its Clear Fork and New River streams and portions of their various tributaries..."

Project Background

Approximately 100 former mine sites exist within the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

These abandoned coal mine sites are sources of contaminated water that affect the immediate environment and impact the water quality of the Big South Fork River and its tributaries

Contaminated mine drainage occurs when ground water reacts with coal and air in abandoned mines and flows out to impact the immediate environment and downstream water quality.

