

# PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF LAND

---

- **Preamble:** Historically, the environmental movement has emphasized three tracks: 1) conservation; 2) changing consumptive habits; and 3) regulating, eliminating, and reducing the production of harmful substances.
- **Conservation:** In the 19th and 20th centuries the efforts of John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt laid the foundation for conservationists. An outgrowth of their efforts was the creation of national parks and an appreciation of the intrinsic value of our natural resources.
- **Consumption:** The second track relates to the adjusting of consumer habits. Efforts to “reduce, reuse and recycle” and the use of Compact Florescent Bulbs illustrate this trend.
- **Precautionary & Cost:** The third track attempts to alter the production of substances that are harmful to people and the environment. If “an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.” This track strives to learn if we have “hidden” costs, placed on the public and government for resource development and production. “Hidden” costs can include tax subsidies and adverse health problems experienced by residents and workers.

<sup>1</sup> Paul Russell Cutright, *Theodore Roosevelt: The Making of a Conservationist*, Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1985 and John Muir, *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth*, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1916

<sup>2</sup> Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle, Jan. 1998, <http://www.sehn.org/wing.html>

<sup>3</sup> Jenrose Fitzgerald, Ph.D., Jason Bailey and Melissa Fry Konty, Ph.D., *The Economics of Coal in Kentucky: Current Impacts and Future Prospects*, Berea, Ky.: Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, June 25, 2009. [http://maced.org/coal/documents/Impact\\_of\\_Coal.pdf](http://maced.org/coal/documents/Impact_of_Coal.pdf) and Jenrose Fitzgerald, Ph.D., Jason Bailey and Melissa Fry Konty, Ph.D., *The Impact of Coal on the Kentucky State Budget*, Berea, Ky.: Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, June 25, 2009. [http://maced.org/coal/documents/Economics\\_of\\_Coal.pdf](http://maced.org/coal/documents/Economics_of_Coal.pdf); and Downstream Strategies has published reports on the impact of coal on the state budgets of Tennessee <[http://www.downstreamstrategies.com/Documents/reports\\_publication/DownstreamStrategies-coalWV.pdf](http://www.downstreamstrategies.com/Documents/reports_publication/DownstreamStrategies-coalWV.pdf)> and West Virginia <[http://www.downstreamstrategies.com/Documents/reports\\_publication/DownstreamStrategies-coalTN.pdf](http://www.downstreamstrategies.com/Documents/reports_publication/DownstreamStrategies-coalTN.pdf)>

<sup>4</sup> Michael Hendryx and Melissa M. Ahern, “Mortality in Appalachian Coal Mining Regions: The Value of Statistical Life Lost,” *Public Health Reports*, Volume 124, Issue Number 4 July/August 2009, pp. 541-550, available from <http://wvgazette.com/static/coalatattoo/MortalityAppCoalRegions.pdf>

---

## SOME STARTING POINTS FOR OUR CONVERSATION

---

Environmental regulation and preservation programs protect people in communities and workplaces. They can preserve or restore the health of our air, water, and land. Successful regulation limits or stops environmental destruction, supports restoration, and reduces or eliminates the production of harmful substances. Preservation of land and resources provides long-term protection and can also create opportunities for recreation and tourism that can strengthen local economies.

How can regulation and preservation lead to new economic opportunities and ensure the long-term health of the environment? The recently departed Senator Robert C. Byrd said that we “can choose to anticipate change and adapt to it, or resist and be overrun by it.” How can we invest in Appalachian people, communities and infrastructure and protect the environment for future generations?