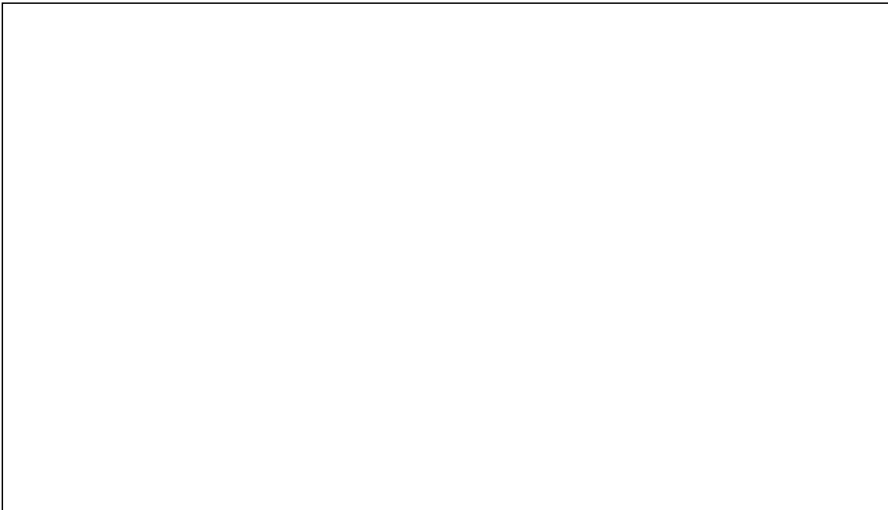




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New Regulations Aim to Protect Streams from Coal Mining

Written by [Renata Di Gregorio](#)
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New regulations have been put in place in order to protect streams from coal mining. The federal regulations on protecting streams haven't been updated for over 30 years, but like most new decisions, not everyone likes the new rules.

The idea is this: There will be a 100-foot buffer zone adjacent to streams in order to prevent debris from being dumped into the water. The president of the environmental consultant firm Downstream Strategies explained why the damage done to streams and their aquatic life is irreplaceable.

"This rule is an attempt to clarify regulations regarding which types of streams are able to be filled," said President Evan Hansen. "And when you fill a stream you impact the aquatic life, the fish and the other life that lives in streams. And you do that in a couple ways. If you buried a stream then it no longer exists, so you don't have any aquatic life, but you're also impacting the life downstream."

But of course not everyone is happy. 5 News spoke with a coal miner from our state today

who says that lawmakers don't understand the difficulty of the industry.

"I certainly believe in mining responsibly, safely, and everyone doing their part to keep a good environment as best as we can," said a West Virginia Coal Miner who wishes to remain anonymous. "But we can't do everything at the expense of people losing their jobs."

The new regulations want to quicken the process of restoring areas to the way they were before the mining began.

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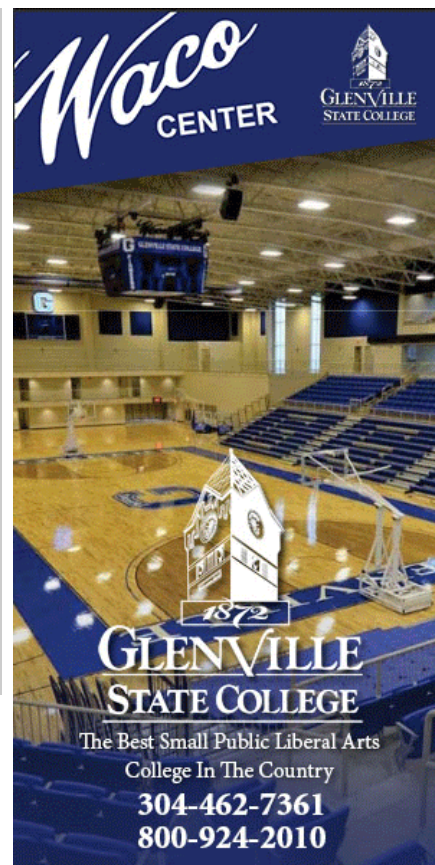
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