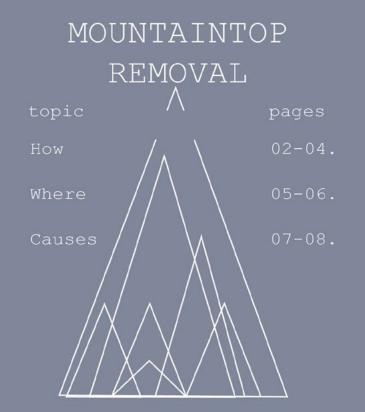
MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL

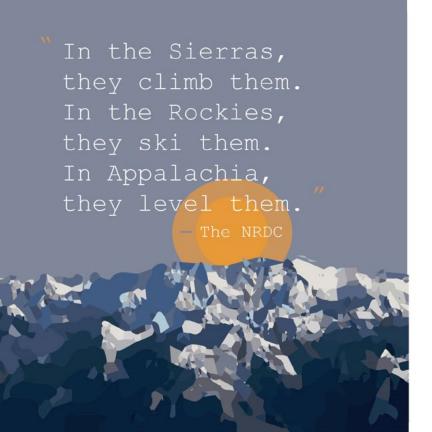


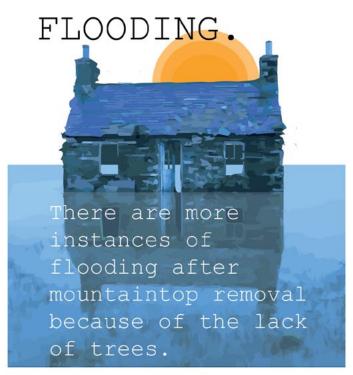




STATES OF MOUTAINS KENTUCKY TENNESSEE VIRGINIA W. VIRGINIA

TOTAL 501





0 1 CLEARING.



All topsoil and vegetation has to be cleared and ften coal companies just burn the trees.

The main hot spots for biodiversity is in the same area that mountain top removal occurs.





DIGGING.

Huge machines called draglines scoop up to 100 tons in a single load, scooping off the tops of mountains just to reach thin coal seams buried deep below.

$_{\text{No.}}$ 03 blasting.

For the coal seams that lie deep beneath the surface of the mountain, explosives are used to blast 600 ft or more. Blasting can destroy the foundations of homes in the communities nearby.