



"At the water's edge...just keep going"

American Packrafting Association

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NEWS RELEASE

Final Stream Protection Rule protects river communities of all kinds

The U.S. Department of Interior released long-awaited regulations today that will minimize coal industry impacts to surface and groundwater. The Stream Protection Rule requires companies to avoid mining practices that permanently pollute streams, destroy drinking water sources, increase flood risk, and threaten forests.

"The new regulations will improve health, safety, and quality of life for river communities of all kinds," said APA Vice-President Thomas Turiano, "...from wildlife and fish, to vegetation and river ecosystems, to riverside residents and river recreationists. Packrafters will paddle happier knowing that the rivers we run are protected at the highest levels of government from pollution that would otherwise destroy their wild qualities."

With extensive public, professional, and industry input, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement wrote the new rule as the latest update to a long series of revisions that began during the Reagan-era. The new rule requires the implementation of best-available science and modern technologies to protect the environment while allowing for coal mining to continue with negligible impact on the industry overall. The new rule's clear, measurable standards will allow mine operators to detect and correct problems that could arise, and hold them accountable to restore mined areas to their previous condition.

"In the past, coal companies did very little to ensure that their operations were environmentally safe for adjacent rivers and streams. Updating these regulations has been long overdue," said APA board member David Nix. "Each mine will now be required to monitor the quality of these riparian waterways before, during, and after operations. These are common sense regulations that will help ensure the health and safety of all who live and recreate in these river corridors."

APA represents over 1,200 members across all 50 states. Our membership is devoted to the protection and enjoyment of pure and wild waterways. The new rule will take effect in 30 days.

Signed/

Brad Meiklejohn, President
American Packrafting Association

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