Determining Mountaintop Mining Locations in West Virginia Using Elevation Datasets

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CROSS SECTION OF A TYPICAL MOUNTAIN AND VALLEY IN KENTUCKY

1. Blast hole drilled, explosives planted
2. Blast hole fractures overburden
3. Overburden removed by dragline...
4. ...dumped into valley
5. Coal removed

ORIGINAL CONTOUR OF MOUNTAIN

CROSS SECTION AFTER MOUNTAINTOP HAS BEEN REMOVED

Valley filled with spoil

“Nine men—that is all it takes to bring this mountain low.”
Mountaintop Mining Operation
2 Elevation datasets: NED & SRTM
Elevation Change Over ~30 Year Period
SRTM Subtracted from NED
Orthoimagery of Area
