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ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE COAL FIELDS OF INDIANA

Public interest and the active participation of avocational and professional archaeologists are the key factors in the progress which has occurred relative to cultural resources in the coal producing area of the state. This progress has taken several rather indirect pathways. Methods include a lands unsuitable for mining petition process, informal conferences between coal producers and archaeologists, and agreements between the regulatory authority (Division of Reclamation) and coal producers. Important sites preserved, temporarily avoided, or mitigated include the Beehunter Site, the Haug Sites, the Bluegrass Site, the Blanca Site, the Lattas Creek Site and the Flynn Site.

The Federal regulatory authority (Office of Surface Mining) is currently proposing changes for rules concerning cultural resources. While state laws and regulations have not been specific on locating, identifying, and evaluating historic and prehistoric archaeological sites in the coal fields, the Federal rule changes, if implemented, will eventually necessitate State regulatory changes. This may result in more direct and effective treatment of cultural resources.
