

Mine Gating New River Gorge Mine Gating Project Glen Jean, West Virginia

Owner/Client: National Park Service
Office of Surface Mining

Project Features:

- Installation of eight bat gates
- Restoration of stream channels

Background:

Kaymoor was a mine and camp built by the Low Moor Iron Company in 1899 and was in operation until 1964. As a result of this operation, numerous mine openings were left in the hills of West Virginia. These became overgrown and were left in disrepair until the National Park Service came to the New River Gorge. They documented hundreds of mine openings in this area.

In 2002, researchers conducting bat surveys of the mine openings confirmed that the site was providing important habitat for seven species of bats. Armstrong Drilling was contracted to install fourteen bat gates to allow for protection of these bats, and other animals while preventing human access into the mines.

Description of Work:

Armstrong Drilling installed bat gates constructed of 4-inch (rust proof) angle iron placed just inside the mine opening to provide roof support. In the absence of these gates, the roofs would have surely failed, as they have on most mine openings in the park. The bat gates do not restrict air flow or access important to bats and small animals. Drainage structures were also removed and natural stream channels were restored.

Project Challenges:

Because of the remote location of most mine openings, Armstrong Drilling enlisted the help of a helicopter to fly in the 4" iron rods and other supplies to each location. Often located miles into densely wooded areas, truck and equipment access was not feasible. Employees had to hike daily into the woods carrying heavy supplies and equipment.

Start Date: May 2011
Completion: November 2011

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