



Large areas of the United States have been disrupted by surface mining of coal. Nearly 1 million acres of this mined land remained undisturbed in 1974. These strip mines have caused environmental degradation in a variety of ways, and government agencies are increasingly involved in regulating their reclamation. This map, a generalized overview of coal strip mine locations, is preliminary and subject to revision as new data become available.

The map was compiled by reducing available maps to a scale of 1:5,000,000. The dates of these sources of information vary, so that different sections of the map may be more up to date than others. In regions such as Appalachia, strip mines are so abundant and alternate with non-stripped areas, that more area is shown as having been stripped, because of cartographic problems involved, than was actually stripped. For some states, no maps have been published, and several geologists have kindly prepared generalized maps showing the stripped areas (see Sources of data).

- Sources of data**
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