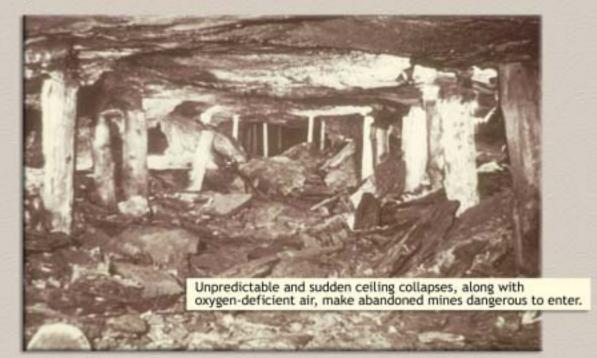
LIFE AFTER MINING

Abandoned coal mines are dangerous for humans, but can provide valuable habitat for wildlife.



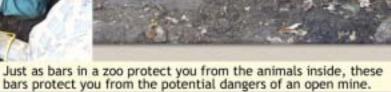


On April 29, 2000, the entrance to the Lusk Coal Mine was permanently gated.

Volunteers from the Indiana Karst Conservancy carried steel bars each weighing as much as 300 pounds down the steep hill behind you. They cut the bars to size with a cutting torch and welded them into place. The gate was installed at this site for two reasons: the safety of visitors and the protection of bats.







elding the final cross member in place...

Safe for visitors - Safe for bats

The gate on this mine is designed to allow bats to fly freely in and out, providing them access to the protected roosting habitat inside.



to habitat loss, bat populations are declining at an alarming rate.