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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 15, 2009

Contact: UM Department of Environmental Studies, 406-243-6273, evst@umontana.edu.

**EXPERTS TO DISCUSS HARMFUL EFFECTS OF MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL
MISSOULA —**

Activists with the nonprofit Appalachian Voices organization will present “Appalachian Treasures: The Struggle to Save the Heart of Appalachia” from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, in the North Underground Lecture Hall at The University of Montana.

UM’s Department of Environmental Studies is sponsoring the presentation, which is free and open to the public.

Mickey McCoy and Austin Hall with Appalachian Voices will talk about the harmful effects of mountaintop removal, a mining practice that involves blasting a mountain top, removing coal and dumping the remainder into a nearby valley. McCoy and Hall will discuss their efforts to stop this practice, which not only destroys mountains and adjacent landscapes but also poisons groundwater in surrounding communities.

For more information, call UM’s Department of Environmental Studies at 406-243-6273 or e-mail evst@umontana.edu.

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