

GETTING STARTED

The partners in the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) will sign a Statement of Mutual Intent in which we pledge to:

1. Establish and implement a reforestation program within each of the seven Appalachian Region States that promotes the Forestry Reclamation Approach (FRA) during reclamation of active coal mining operations and abandoned mined lands projects.
2. Provide FRA training and raise the awareness level of government agencies, private organizations, and general public on economic and environmental benefits associated with planting quality trees using FRA technology.
3. Work with Federal, State, and local government agencies, environmental groups, industry groups, academia and other public and private organizations to identify landowners and mining companies that will use the current FRA technology in reclamation.
4. Provide a forum to transfer technology and other information concerning the creation of highly productive forestland and related environmental assets and cooperate as a clearinghouse to share data and information as it relates to current FRA technology.
5. Apply FRA technology for growing quality trees while supporting the development of new technologies.
6. Prepare periodic reports to describe the current status, success and increased productive tree planting efforts of projects using the FRA technology.
7. Promote the establishment of native tree species.



For further information

about the science behind the Forestry Reclamation Approach please contact a member of the ARRI Science Team.

The Science Team members can be found on the web at www.arri.osmre.gov.

ARRI Science Team

In March of 2005, the ARRI Science Team was established to ensure that the methods ARRI promotes are based on proven science and research, and to guarantee the continued scientific research into forestry reclamation.

The Science Team includes active members representing prominent colleges and universities throughout the United States. Members consist of forest ecologists, silviculturalists, mining engineers, soil scientists, hydrologists, forest economists, forest physiologists, and forestry reclamation specialists. The Science Team provides scientific information on forestry reclamation and specific advice on selected tree planting projects.



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APPALACHIAN REGIONAL REFORESTATION INITIATIVE



**TREES FOR
APPALACHIA'S FUTURE**

www.arri.osmre.gov

A COOPERATIVE EFFORT AMONG:

The States of: Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia;

Office of Surface Mining
Reclamation and Enforcement;
their partners in industry;

environmental organizations; academia;
local, State and Federal government
agencies; and local citizenry.

THE GOALS OF OUR INITIATIVE

- Plant more high-value hardwood trees on reclaimed coal mined lands in Appalachia
- Increase the survival rates and growth rates of planted trees
- Expedite the establishment of forest habitat through natural succession

REASONS THIS INITIATIVE IS IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE OF APPALACHIA

Trees are a good investment.

- High quality timber can offer substantial revenue for landowners and job opportunities for local residents

Trees are environmentally important

- Trees minimize soil erosion
- Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air
- Trees provide wildlife habitat and diverse plant species
- Trees help conserve water resources

Planting trees restores our forests which are important recreational areas for:

- Hunting
- Mountain Biking
- Hiking
- Camping

Trees are our renewable resource



Mature tree growth on reclaimed mine land.

ACCOMPLISHING OUR GOALS:

Reclaim Coal Mines Using the FORESTRY RECLAMATION APPROACH

- Create a suitable rooting medium for good tree growth that is no less than 4 feet deep and comprised of topsoil, weathered sandstone and/or the best available material
- Loosely grade the topsoil or topsoil substitutes established in step one to create a non-compacted growth medium
- Use ground covers that are compatible with growing trees
- Plant two types of trees – early succession species for wildlife and soil stability, and commercially valuable crop trees
- Use proper tree planting techniques

The FRA technique described above has been confirmed by forestry research. The ARRI Core Team has determined that the FRA can be implemented under current Federal and State regulations.

Remove Existing Barriers

- Cultural – change the perception that tree planting is more expensive and risky than conventional reclamation, provide education on the impacts of compaction and change the perception of what good forestry reclamation should look like
- Technical – eliminate excessive surface compaction, ground cover competition, and inappropriate growth medium; plant quality hardwood trees
- Regulatory - change the perception that regulations impede effective reforestation techniques and interfere with bond release

For further information
about ARRI and the Forestry Reclamation Approach contact the ARRI Core Team member in your state. The Core Team members can be found on the web at www.arri.osmre.gov.

ARRI Core Team

To begin ARRI, the Core Team was established in early 2004. ARRI's Core Team is comprised of representatives from the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE); the State government agencies that regulate coal mining in Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia; and the Tennessee Federal Program.

The primary role of the Core Team is to promote the planting of high-value hardwood trees on surface mines in Appalachia using the Forestry Reclamation Approach. This is done by public education, creating awareness, formal trainings, and expanding partnerships. Core Team responsibilities include monthly meetings to discuss on-going projects and partnership opportunities in each State, annual Arbor Day tree-planting events in each State, an annual reforestation conference and field tour, and other events promoting public awareness about reforesting surface mines.