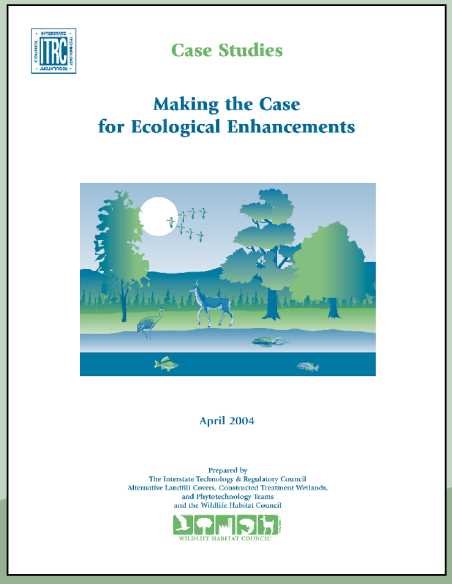
ITRC Ecological Land Reuse Team

Overview

The Ecological Land Reuse Team was formed to develop guidance on how to ecologically enhance the reuse of brownfields and other hazardous waste sites by increasing or improving habitats for plants and animals while protecting human health and the environment. Ecological enhancements can increase the environmental and economic benefits of land reuse and can include the use of natural, or green, remedial technologies and/or end uses that restore or increase the ecological value of the land.



Team Accomplishments

The team is based on the findings of a white paper prepared by the Wildlife Habitat Council, *Making the Case for Ecological Enhancements*. Members of the team participated in preparing this white paper. The Ecological Land Reuse Team is partnering with the Wildlife Habitat Council to seek efficient and cost-effective ways to couple restoration of contaminated sites with the improvement of wildlife habitat and other natural environments. ITRC and WHC have agreed to cooperate in fostering the use of innovative environmental technology, streamlining environmental technical and regulatory criteria, and improving training and technology transfer.

Integrated Training

Based on several ITRC team documents and tools for using green technologies to achieve ecological reuse

Team Products

The team is developing a guidance document and associated Internet-based training to detail the steps and techniques for planning and executing remediation at a contaminated site and directing the end use of the site toward a green landscape. The team's guidance will outline how ecological considerations can enhance land reuse as part of the process of addressing environmental impairment. The guidance will include methods or systems for valuing the green landscape and its inhabitants, thereby enabling site owners to judge the costs associated with ecological end uses of their properties.

The team has prepared an integrated training proposal to guide students through the decisions and criteria for considering a site's green or ecological reuse. This integrated training will incorporate the applicability of various technologies ITRC has produced guidance on, such as phytotechnologies, in situ chemical oxidation, natural attenuation, constructed treatment wetlands, mitigation wetlands, in situ bioremediation, and others. The training will include technical sessions on each of the techniques and their applicability in developing a green, or natural, landscape after remediation is complete.

Green technologies promote ecological land reuse.

Team Composition

Team Leader: Charles Johnson, Colorado

Team Members:
State – (4 team members from 4 states: Colorado, Delaware, Oklahoma, and Oregon)
Federal – 3
Military – 3
Universities – 1
Stakeholders – 2
Industry/Consultants – 5

Interested Parties: 12

For additional information, see other side.

ITRC: Promoting Innovative Environmental Technologies

The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) is a state-led, national coalition dedicated to helping regulatory agencies, site owners, and technology developers and vendors achieve better environmental protection through the use of innovative technologies. State regulators involved in ITRC are excited about and committed to working together to learn more about how innovative technologies can be appropriately used to clean up both federal and private-sector sites in their states. Through open communication among themselves and with federal, industrial, and stakeholder partners, ITRC members are promoting the widespread use of better, more cost-effective, innovative environmental technologies and helping to streamline and standardize the regulatory approval process.

ITRC forms technical teams that develop guidance documents intended to help regulatory staff, technology vendors, and site owners in the deployment of innovative technologies. Each technical team includes at least one citizen stakeholder representative. Some technical teams also develop classroom training courses offered across the country or Internet-based training sessions.

In 2004, some 43 states and the District of Columbia are members of ITRC. ITRC is truly a collaborative organization as it boasts membership from multiple federal agencies, including all military branches, and other site owners, technology developers, and others interested and involved in site cleanup.

The Ecological Land Reuse Team of the ITRC

The Ecological Land Reuse Team is one of 21 technical teams that operate under the ITRC banner to promote the appropriate use of, and smooth the regulatory path for, emerging environmental technologies and approaches. The team was formed in 2004 as an outgrowth of ITRC's participation in preparing *Making the Case for Ecological Enhancements*, a Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) white paper. Through the formation of the Ecological Land Reuse Team, ITRC, WHC, and others are working together to examine the value of remediation systems that couple restoration of contaminated sites with the improvement of wildlife habitat and other natural environments.

The Ecological Land Reuse Team is developing a guidance document and associated Internet-based training to outline how ecological considerations can enhance land reuse as part of the process of addressing environment impairment. The guidance will include methods or systems for valuing the green landscape and its inhabitants, thereby enabling site owners to judge the costs associated with ecological end uses of their properties.

Charles Johnson of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment leads the Ecological Land Reuse Team, which consists of representatives from four state environmental agencies, three federal agencies, three military organizations, one university, two public stakeholders, and five industry/environmental consulting companies. Twelve interested parties also participate on the team.

To learn more about ITRC and its technical and state engagement teams, go to **www.itrcweb.org**.

For additional information, see other side.