

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.



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APPALACHIAN REGIONAL REFORESTATION INITIATIVE



**TREES FOR
APPALACHIA'S FUTURE**

A COOPERATIVE EFFORT AMONG:

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

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