

ARRI and The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF)

The American Chestnut... Before and After The Blight.

Many consider the greatest ecological disaster of the 20th Century to be the introduction of a fungus to the American chestnut.

The ARRI/TACF partnership exemplifies the US Department of the Interior's Cooperative Conservation philosophy at its best.

- ▶ ARRI promotes reclaiming surface mines with trees
- ▶ TACF is breeding a blight-resistant variety of the American chestnut with the intention of returning this species to its former throne.



Before the blight much of Appalachia depended on the American chestnut for their livelihood.



A lumberman's fortune could be made by the American chestnut.



Once known as The Redwoods of the East, the blight killed nearly all of the former giants (3.5 billion trees) in less than 50 years.

ARRI & TACF: Why is this a Perfect Partnership?



Appalachian wildlife depended on the American chestnut as well.



Although wildlife has survived (without the chestnut), it has not thrived well. (William Lord, TACF)



A chestnut seedling growing on a reclaimed mine site in Appalachia.

- ▶ because most of the native range of the American chestnut and the Appalachian coalfields overlap perfectly.



- ▶ because many former surface mines in Appalachia have perfect conditions for the American chestnut to thrive

Reclaiming the Future.

- ▶ Together, ARRI and TACF endeavor to return the American chestnut to its former place of dominance in the east.
- ▶ TACF will soon start a massive effort to re-populate the American chestnut back to its native Appalachian range.
- ▶ ARRI has the infrastructure and organization in place to assist TACF in its dissemination of the American chestnut, once ready for dispersal.



For more information visit <http://arri.osmre.gov> or <http://www.acf.org/>