

# The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative and the Forestry Reclamation Approach

“A State – Federal Reforestation Initiative”



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# ARRI – Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative

- ⇒ States representatives and OSM began meeting in May 2004
- ⇒ Core group includes - VA, KY, TN, WV, MD, OH, Pa
- ⇒ Initial discussion focused on ways of promoting reforestation
- ⇒ Goal to plant more native hardwood trees on active and abandoned mine lands



# ARRI – Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative

- ➔ The Core Group recognized the potential of reforestation to provide environmental and economic benefits to the region
  - Diversity of plant species, natural succession of native forest plants, enhanced wildlife habitat
  - Increased timber value, recreational opportunities, jobs



# ARRI – Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative

- ⇒ Objectives of the the ARRI partnership
  - Establish of reforestation program within the Appalachian Region states that promotes the Forestry Reclamation Approach (FRA)
  - Raise awareness of organizations about the benefits of planting high quality trees
  - Work with groups to identify companies and landowners what will use FRA in reclamation



# ARRI – Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative

- ⇒ Objectives of the the ARRI partnership
  - Provide a forum to transfer technology and other information about the FRA
  - Apply FRA technology for growing high quality trees
  - Prepare reports to describe the current status, success and increased productive tree planting projects using the FRA technology



# ARRI – Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative

## ⇒ Five steps of Forestry Reclamation Approach (FRA)

- Create a suitable rooting medium
- Loosely grade topsoil
- Plant native and noncompetitive ground covers
- Plant two types of trees
- Use proper tree planting techniques



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- ⇒ FRA was not new in 2004
- ⇒ Academic research had been conducted many years prior
  - Clark Ashby – Southern Illinois University
  - Willis Vogel – Formerly of the US Forest Service
  - Jim Burger – VA Tech
  - Don Graves – University of Kentucky



# ARRI – Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative

- ⇒ Core group discussed ways of promoting reforestation on mine lands both pre and post SMCRA



# ARRI – Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative

- ⇒ Continuing efforts to enhance reforestation
  - Promote research
  - Explore ways to fund and accomplish reforestation on AML projects
  - Continue to review state and federal regulations for possible impediments to reforestation
  - Continue to encourage companies and landowners to use the FRA in land reclamation.



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## Virginia Reforestation Initiatives

- ⇒ Virginia has worked to enhance reforestation since 1994
  - MEMORANDUM # 8-94 Guidelines for Normal Husbandry Practices (issued 9/27/94)
  - MEMORANDUM # 3-96 Guidelines for Husbandry & Reclamation Practices (issued 7/9/96, updated 10/1/01)
  - Continue to review state and federal regulations for possible impediments to reforestation. Currently undertaking rulemaking to incorporate FRA practices



# ARRI – Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative

## Virginia Reforestation Initiatives Cont'd

- Signed the ARRI Statement of Mutual Intent on December 15, 2004 GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM No. 2-01, Guidelines for Reforestation Reclamation Practices (Issued 5/29/01)
- DMLR Enforcement Procedure 3.3.17, Tree Planting (Issued 8/30/05)
- Continues to encourage companies and landowners to use the FRA in land reclamation.

