



**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009**  
**COALFIELD PROGRESS**

## Volunteers needed to plant 800 trees

The Guest River Restoration Project needs volunteers to help improve Guest River water quality by planting 800 trees.

The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy will provide 800 trees to be planted on a reclaimed gob pile in the Cranes Nest community, north of Coeburn.

Trees improve water quality by holding soil in place with their roots. Increased sediment in streams fills up stream habitat and clogs the gills of aquatic species. Trees also provide shade for aquatic creatures, preventing water temperatures from getting too hot, and they create food and habitat space for other animals.

Trees will be planted on March 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. To reach the site, travel north on 72 and turn right onto Floyd Road, past the tipples at Tom's Creek. From Floyd Road, turn left onto Carroll Road. The tree planting site is a mile up Carroll Road on the left. For more information or to volunteer please contact Allyson at 276/376-4692.

The Guest River Restoration Project is proud to partner with the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative and the Lonesome Pine Soil & Water Conservation District with this tree-planting event. The goal of the Initiative is to plant hardwood trees on reclaimed coal-mined lands to establish forest habitat through natural succession.

The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative [ARRI] is a cooperative effort by the states of the Appalachian Region with the Office of Surface Mining to encourage restoration of high quality forests on reclaimed coal mines in the eastern USA.

Its goals are to communicate and encourage mine reforestation practices which:

- plant more high-value hardwood trees on reclaimed coal mined lands in Appalachia;
- increase the survival rates and growth rates of planted trees; and
- expedite the establishment of forest habitat through natural succession

Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative's collaboration efforts have grown to include members of watershed and environmental groups, industry, state and federal government, coalfield communities, landowners and private citizens to enlist their efforts and support.

For more information about the ARRI, please visit: <http://arri.osmre.gov> .