



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL REFORESTATION INITIATIVE [ARRI] EXCELLENCE IN REFORESTATION AWARDS

A PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The ARRI Core Team has established an *Awards Program* to honor both Title IV and Title V operations, [abandoned mine lands (AML) and active mine lands, respectively], from each State in the Appalachian Region that best exemplify use of the Forestry Reclamation Approach (FRA) on a reclaimed mine site. A description of the EXCELLENCE IN REFORESTATION AWARDS PROGRAM, including guidelines and nomination criteria, are detailed below.

A. Submission of Nominations

The ARRI Awards Committee is developing a “Call for Nominations,” similar to the one that is used in the Office of Surface Mining’s Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards program, to solicit nominations in the future. The current format for submissions is attached.

STATE AWARDS

Each State Program Regulatory Authority (RA) in the Appalachian Region¹ and the Tennessee Federal Program² are responsible for locating and submitting potential mine sites that best exemplify use of the FRA during forestry reclamation in their States. Methods for seeking State Award nominations will be at each individual State’s discretion.

REGIONAL AWARD

To be considered for the Regional Award, nomination packages must be submitted to the ARRI Awards Committee by **March 31st** of each year. The ARRI Awards Committee will evaluate the nomination packages and make the selection for the Regional Award by **July 1st**.

B. Judging the Submissions

STATE AWARDS

The ARRI Core Team members from each State will judge their nominations for individual State Awards.

REGIONAL AWARD

A panel of judges will be appointed to judge the nominations for the Regional Award. The panel of judges charged with selecting the Regional winner, also known as the ARRI Awards Committee, will be rotated each year and will be comprised of two (2) State Core Team members, two (2) OSM Core Team members, and one (1) Science Team member.

On-site inspections of nominated sites are recommended unless there is sufficient documentation in the submission to make an inspection unnecessary.

C. Number of Awards

Awards may be given to individual(s), operator(s), and/or organization(s).

STATE AWARDS

Two awards may be given by each State in the Appalachian Region each year.

REGIONAL AWARD

One Regional Award will be selected each year.

D. Award Presentations & Ceremonies

The EXCELLENCE IN REFORESTATION AWARDS can be combined with existing award programs as appropriate.

STATE AWARDS

Each State Program Director and the applicable OSM Field Office Director, or their designees, will present the EXCELLENCE IN REFORESTATION STATE AWARDS. The time and place for presenting the EXCELLENCE IN REFORESTATION STATE AWARDS will be at the discretion of each State RA.

REGIONAL AWARD

The EXCELLENCE IN REFORESTATION REGIONAL AWARD will be given at a time and place chosen by the State RA, in consultation with the ARRI Core Team and OSM's Regional Director (RD). OSM's RD will be in attendance, as available, to present the EXCELLENCE IN REFORESTATION REGIONAL AWARD.

E. Publicizing the Awards

ARRI Core Team members from each State should consult with their local media contacts to obtain appropriate media coverage for State Award recipients. Team members are encouraged to draft articles for the [ARRI website](#), the ARRI Quarterly Newsletter, and the Department of the Interior's employee publication, "[People, Land and Water](#)," to announce their award recipient(s).

F. The Awards

Each award recipient will receive an engraved plaque, provided by OSM. All nominees will receive a letter of commendation signed by the Director of the State RA, (or in the State of Tennessee by the Field Office Director), and the Regional Director of OSM for their support of ARRI.

¹ The 'Appalachian Region' includes RAs for the States of Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

² Nomination Submissions for the Tennessee Federal Program should be submitted to the Knoxville Field Office.