

# CASRI

## The Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative

2010

### Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative Meeting Agendas and Minutes

**Wednesday Feb. 10, 2010 - Monongahela National Forest Office - 9 a.m.**

#### **AGENDA**

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.

Brief Introductions/updates

9:10 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Barton Bench Update, ***Cindy Sandeno***

9:15 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

Priority Mapping & Modeling, ***Marquette Crockett***

9:20 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.

Funding updates, ***Evan Burks***

9:25 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

Spring Project Logistics

- Idleman's Run, ***Ken Sturm***
- Morgan Property, ***Amy Cimarolli***
- State Parks, ***Rob Gilligan***
- Elk Headwaters, ***Evan Burks or Ashton Berdine***
- Callen Property, ***Evan Burks or Ashton Berdine***
- Wildell Project, ***Evan Burks or Ashton Berdine***

10:35 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

*Five minute break*

10:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Progress Updates

- Monitoring Plan, ***Cathy Johnson 30 min.***
- Prescription Plan, ***Amy Crimarolli, Elizabeth Byers, Ken Sturm 30 min***
- CASRI General Summary, ***Evan Burks & Kate Goodrich-Arling 20 min***

## Wednesday Feb. 10, 2010 continued

### MEETING MINUTES

*Next meeting will be May 5, 2010 at the Forest Service in Elkins.*

#### ACTION ITEMS:

*Monitoring Plan, "What is Restored?" Cost Share Agreement, General Summary, and Communications Plan will be ready for final edits and general release by our May meeting*

**All** will comment on definition of "restored" in what is restored? document and send to Amy Cimarolli.

**Ken Sturm** will coordinate Idleman's Run planting on April 10<sup>th</sup> with Evan and communicate with group on project.

**Evan Burks** will coordinate Blackwater SP April planting with Rob Gilligan and Terry Evans and communicate with group on project.

**Ashton Berdine** will coordinate Gandy Creek Earth Day planting with Evan and Evan will keep group informed.

**Marquette Crockett** will work with Cathy Johnson and others to expand spruce mapping prioritization through photo-science and functional linkage tool

#### I. Updates

##### A. Barton Bench (Cindy Sandeno)

- Barton Bench analysis is completed
- NEPA decision memo has been signed
- Awarded \$5,000 WV Brownsfield grant to incorporate public collaboration in planning process, hold public meetings, discuss interpretation opportunities, etc.
- Interested in CASRI participation
- WVU student in Phillipi is interested in doing a spruce project and could be used to do interpretation project
- Eligible for additional \$12k from WV Brownfields in future
- Scott Eggerud from ARRI still very interested and helping with the project

##### B. Mapping & Modeling Spruce (Marquette Crockett)

- Can use restoration priorities (whatever they are) and overlay to pick out size/priority polygons
- Used functional linkage tool (Army Corps, Journal of Conservation Planning 2009)
  - Looks at habitat not just distance
  - Can assign habitat value
  - Can get measure of connectivity of whole ecosystem
- *Need for better spruce layer. Is there one???*
- Model can use multiple prioritizations that can be adjusted for funding availability etc.
- **Subgroup decided to meet after CASRI meeting**

##### C. Funding (Evan Burks)

- \$5k WV Brownfields grant awarded with additional \$12k possible for Barton Bench
- NFF CAP grant applied for to fund VISTA position for another 2 years and provide spruce restoration outreach support to businesses and timber industry (will know late Feb.)

- NFF matching grant advanced to second round to match funds for Blackwater State Park planting this spring
- Looking for stream restoration project to apply for WV DEP \$5K grant due in April <http://www.wvca.us/stream.cfm>
- Arbor Day Foundation Reforestation Manager is interested in our work. They fund trees for projects on National Forest & National Park land.
- Need to update funding matrix & still need more funding opportunities for future. Send ideas to Evan

## II. Spring 2010 Projects

### A. Idleman's Run (Ken Sturm)

- 6,000 red spruce trees
- Dave Saville bringing WVU students to help with planting. Two additional AmeriCorps hired to help organize planting and set up monitoring pilot.
- 50 Dominion volunteers to help plant during 1 weekday (either Friday or Monday)
- Unable to reach Timberline for partnership
- Good possibility of USFS project in the future
- **Date: April 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>**

### B. State Parks (Blackwater/FS Strip Mine Planting)

- Rob Gilligan has committed \$500 from Blackwater and \$500 from Canaan
- Dave Saville and Evan Burks are seeking Highlands Conservancy Public Lands Funds for NFF to match. Likely total of \$5,000.
- Estimated 5,000 red spruce trees needed
- Monongahela can likely provide some funds for project
- Terry Evans expressed concern about planting too close to failed mining pools
- Cathy Johnson mentioned the great potential for an interpretive display because of site proximity to State Park education building.
- **Potential Date: April 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>**

### C. Morgan Property (Amy Cimarolli, Ashton Berdine)

- Morgan's awarded WHIP money
- 5,000 red spruce trees
- TNC committed to finding contractors for planting this spring
- *John Schmidt may know contractors in need of work*

### D. Elk Headwaters – Beckwith Lumber Co. (Ashton Berdine)

- 90 acres SE of fish hatchery on Elk Mtn. on old strip mine
- Leon Brown (Beckwith Lumber) has been directed to apply for WHIP money
- Existing spruce at site, grassland area may need ripping before planting
- Good site for contractors
- Good possibility for Aspen planting
- *Need for sight visit this spring*

### E. Gandy Creek Property (Ashton Berdine)

- SE side of Pharis Knob along stream
- Landowner refuses to sign gov't. contracts, but willing to allow planting this spring
- 5,000 red spruce trees needed
- Cattle are grazing land
- Very important area for connectivity and using spruce as nitrogen buffer
- Good place for volunteers

- **Potential Planting Dates: April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>**

**F. Wildell Wetland (Ashton Berdine)**

- 40 acres right near Wildell, open with existing alders
- Willing landowner that might be open to FWS Partners Agreement
- Elizabeth informs the geology probably isn't right for abies balsamea and nearby plantation fir is dying
- Shane suggests contacting adjacent landowner about spruce plantings on heavily logged wide hollow across from wetland
- 5,000 trees needed
- Likely project for TNC Maryland students in fall 2010

**G. Other Projects**

- TMI & TU planting at Big Run this spring (5,000 trees)
- Barton Bench will be ready for ripping fall 2010
- Upper Greenbrier North will be ready soon
- NFN3 native plant money awarded to Alderson
- John Rossell collecting Alder seed for Clements State Nursery
- Elizabeth Byers looking to film DNR TV on spruce at planting site in April

**III. CASRI Rapid Assessment Monitoring Plan**

**A. Overview & Objectives (Cathy Johnson)**

- Need for simple, "rapid assessment" monitoring that is easy for volunteers to follow so we can collect data and entice funders
- Need to shorten Table 1 to cut monitoring to one field day per visit
- Could cut out year 3???

**B. Initial Monitoring and Reference Site (Cathy Johnson)**

- Question of climate change?
- Will use NVC for species list
- Likely changes after pilot run this spring at Idleman's Run

**C. Comments**

- Marquette: Herps not as dynamic as birds and could be cut to make more rapid, need to think about what will change rapidly.
- Kent: Precise timing of herb & shrub changes needs to be consistent. What is best time for our species?
- Elizabeth: June-September should be fine for most
- Kent: End of June/early July good for NNIS and herbs

**IV. What is Restored?**

**A. Overview (Amy Cimarolli)**

- Initial starting points are crucial for how to restore
- Goal is to get to minimal intervention over time, but sometimes we must jump start the process
- **PLEASE READ AND COMMENT ON DEFINITION OF RESTORED!!**

**B. Reference Conditions**

- N. hardwood transitional graph on page 4 could tie together transitioning habitats
- Elizabeth will be adding more description of transitional forests
- Do we want to add hot to select reference conditions??

**C. Structure**

- Last pages suggest refer to stem densities for decisions on restoration projects to get desired conditions
- Group agrees an optimum range will be best for stem densities due to variability in regeneration of natural systems
- Still need work on functioning systems section

**D. Next Steps**

- **Guidelines for starting at different stages (pg. 7)**
- **Comment on restoration stages (pg. 6)**

**V. CASRI General Summary & Comm. Plan**

**A. Overview (Evan Burks)**

- Summary describes CASRI history, purpose, vision, and general group workings
- Will include Spruce MOU and other appendices
- Useful document for presenting to potential partners & funders
- Will eventually request comments from the group
- Comm. plan will outline key messages and key audiences
- Comm. plan will include tool kit for outreach
- **Need to coordinate PR opportunities on upcoming spring projects!**

**Wednesday May 5, 2010 - Monongahela National Forest Office - 9 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.

Introductions/Brownfields Association Award Presentation **Cindy Sandeno**

9:10 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

Spring Planting Debrief, **Evan Burks**

9:20 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

WVAPSS Partnership Opportunity, **Stephanie Connolly**

9:30 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.

Funding Updates, **Evan Burks**

9:35 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Spruce Mapping Updates, **Cathy Johnson, Elizabeth Byers & Marquette Crockett**

9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Final Drafts

- Monitoring Plan, **Cathy Johnson**
- What Is Restored?, **Amy Cimarolli**
- CASRI Summary, **Evan Burks**

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Fall Seed Collection

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Strategic Meeting for Restoration with NC

10:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

*Ten Minute Break*

10:55 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Fall Projects & Funding

## Wednesday May 5, 2010 continued

### MEETING MINUTES

Next meeting will be August 25, 2010 at 9 a.m.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

*Extend partnership to WVAPSS for soil monitoring; Come up with strategic plan for submitting proposals for WVNFS Fund; Schedule web conference with potential partners in VA & NC; Continue funding applications; Line up fall restoration projects. Evan will contact group members individually to help work on these actions before the next meeting.*

#### VI. Progress Updates

##### D. WV Brownfields Check Presentation (Cindy Sandeno)

- CASRI was glad to have Luke Elser, Project Manager for WV Brownfields Assistance Center attend meeting
- Awarded \$5,000 WV Brownsfield grant to incorporate public collaboration in planning process, hold public meetings, discuss interpretation opportunities, etc.
- Project will be eligible for additional \$12k from WV Brownfields in future for project implementation

##### E. Spring Planting Debrief (Evan Burks)

- Refuge/Blackwater Falls State Park/Mon Planting (April 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>)
  - About 12,000 trees planted
  - 180 volunteers attended
  - Funded by NFF matching grant, WV Highlands Conservancy, CVNWR and Dominion
  - Great press! <http://www.wvgazette.com/Outdoors/201004150608>
- Earth Day Planting (April 22<sup>nd</sup>)
  - 5,000 trees planted
  - 80 volunteers attended
- Thanks to everyone who made these plantings a great success including Dave Saville, Ashton Berdine, Ken Sturm and our AmeriCorps volunteers. Couldn't have been done without great coordination and other group members who helped out during the plantings

##### F. Soil Monitoring Opportunity (Stephanie Connolly)

- For future benefits it is imperative we collect baseline soil data now
- The WV Association of Professional Soil Scientists is interested in volunteering to collect soil samples on our monitoring plots to be archived
- First soil pits will be dug by volunteers on Idleman's Run plots
- Ken Sturm & Evan Burks will extend partnership to WVAPSS
- CASRI will invite WVAPSS to volunteer events in the future as we build this new partnership

##### G. Funding Updates (Evan Burks)

- \$5,000 NFF grant with WVHC match awarded for USFS/State Park planting
- Applied for 12,000 Landowner Incentive Program grant for tree costs
- Submitted pre-proposal for \$240,000 Wildlife Conservation Society grant to fund landscape scale conservation plan and project work over next two years

##### H. Spruce Mapping (Elizabeth Byers)

- Group needs a spruce layer to run models for strategic conservation plans
- DNR is assessing feasibility in finishing photo science as money is available

- Ground truth data available has been used to create a potential spruce range polygon
- Group agrees creating a strategic project area map will be a high priority

## **VII. Final Drafts**

### **A. Rapid Assessment Monitoring Plan (Cathy Johnson)**

- Plan now includes plant ID and other forms designed to make it easy for volunteers to complete
- Plan is ready to be released as a draft, but will likely be changed as kinks are worked out
- Plan is only designed to be initial “rapid assessment,” more involved monitoring will come later

### **B. What Is Restored? (Amy Cimarolli)**

- Group is fine tuning product and will be ready to release draft by next week
- Document will include “concepts for restoration” and “working definition of restoration”
- Evan will email to group when document is ready

### **C. Group Summary & Other PR (Evan Burks)**

- Group summary is available for distribution to potential partners, funders, etc.
- Summary will continue to change as we move forward
- 2 page “Fact Sheet” is now available for distribution
- 1 page “CASRI Successes” document will be complete soon

## **VIII. Group Coordinator Position**

### **A. Group Coordinator (Jack Tribble)**

- The USFS, USFWS, and TNC have created an agreement to hire a full-time group coordinator position for next year
- There is a good possibility CASRI will also continue to have a VISTA Volunteer as well

## **IX. Fall Seed Collection**

### **A. Alderson PMC**

- Alderson needs the follow seed to propagate for restoration projects
  - Elderberry
  - Aspen
  - Service berry
  - Alder
  - Fir
  - Red spruce

### **B. Seed Supply**

- Trip to Clements State Nursery planned for June to see what they can grow for us (contact Glen Juergens for more information)
- CASRI needs to be strategic in creating supply of native plants
- Adequate future planning will be essential to keep supply and demand balanced
- Seed collection days will be planned for the fall (Evan will organize)

## **X. Meeting with NC & VA**

### **A. Teleconference**

- Interest has been building from agencies in NC and VA
- A subgroup will meet to plan video conference for August to discuss partnerships
- Possible attendees: Cherokee NF, GW Jefferson NF, NPS, NC State, Pisgah etc.

## **XI. Fall Projects & Funding**

### **A. WVNFS Fund (Barb Douglas)**

- \$762,000 available for WVNFS from WVDON

- Additional \$728,000 may be available soon
  - Funding is designed specifically for purchase of habitat, restoration, research for WVNFS
  - Subgroup will be formed by July to discuss how CASRI will proceed with application
  - Need to leverage these funds as much as possible
- B. Arbor Day Foundation & Global RELeaf**
- Arbor Day Foundation is a good fit for the Barton Bench Project
  - Global RELeaf might be better used on private lands
  - **Still need a project for Global RELeaf application DUE JULY 1<sup>st</sup>!**
- C. Callen Property (Keith Fisher)**
- Callen was very excited after our Earth Day Planting
  - Wants to put conservation easement on his 900 acre property
  - Would be essential for connecting Laurel Fork Wilderness to Spruce Knob
- D. WVDOF Projects (John Rossell)**
- Kumbrabow just finished cuts involving some spruce release
  - Interested in planting some spruce in their next cut
- E. Barton Bench Project (Shane Jones)**
- Ready for deep ripping this fall on 90 acres
  - Will include wetland restoration work
- F. Upper Greenbrier North (Shane Jones)**
- Almost NEPA Ready
    - 4,500 acres non-commercial release
    - 1,100 acres commercial management for spruce
    - Basic monitoring plan being established

**Dr. Rentch: Spruce Conference Papers will be available in the next few weeks.**

**Wednesday Aug. 5, 2010 - Monongahela National Forest Office - 9 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

**Please read:** CASRI Action Plan

**9:00 – 9:10**

**Introductions/Welcome** *Evan Burks*

**9:10 – 9:35**

**Brief Updates**

- Barton Bench *Shane Jones*
- Monitoring Plan *Cathy Johnson*
- Soils Field Day *Jason Teets*
- Multi-State Conference Call *Thomas Minney*

**9:35 – 9:45**

**New CASRI Logo** *Kate Goodrich-Arling*

**9:45 – 10:30**

**Upcoming Fall Projects**

- Nat'l Public Land Day 9/25 *Evan Burks*
- NFF Planting *Evan Burks*
- Wildell Planting *Evan Burks*



- Deep Ripping *Shane Jones*
- Seed Collection *Randall Lester*

**-Ten Minute Break-**

**10:40 – 11:20**

**CASRI Action Plan Final Draft** *Strategy Subgroup*

**11:20 – 12:00**

**CASRI Projects for WVNFS** *Evan Burks*

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Next meeting will be October 20, 2010 at 9 a.m.**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

***Send all final edits on CASRI Action Plan to Evan by September 10<sup>th</sup>***

***Collect Cherry and Alder seeds for PMC (if you need collection envelopes contact Evan)***

***Submit ALL CASRI WVNFS project proposals and associated costs to Evan by September 20<sup>th</sup>***

***Attend CASRI Plantings - National Public Lands Day (9/25) 10 a.m. at Refuge***

**XII.**

**Progress Updates**

**I. Rapid Assessment Monitoring Plan Implementation (Cathy Johnson)**

- Partners attempted to implement monitoring protocol at Idleman's Run. 10 plots took about 2 full days of work. Comments from the trial run are being used to modify data sheets.
- CWD and Soils Data sheet need to be added.
- Plots will be set up near Blackwater Falls this fall.
- Need for database (access) as information comes in. This winter we intend to expand rapid assessment monitoring plan and creating release site monitoring protocol.

**J. Barton Bench (Shane Jones)**

- Completed Stage I for Brownfields grant for community outreach. Stage II funding applied for interpretive signs and brochures.
- Group meeting with contractors on 8/27 to discuss deep ripping this fall.
- Group meeting with WVDEP on 8/26 to discuss funding opportunities.

**K. Soils Field Trip (Jason Teets)**

- CASRI members took trip to UGN to discuss special spruce soils with Jason Teets, Stephanie Connolly, Shane Jones, Elizabeth Byers and other NRCS Soil Scientists.
- NRCS spent the entire week in UGN delineating soils.

**L. Spruce Mapping Updates (Elizabeth Byers)**

- USFS completed 660,000 acres of photoscience, DNR has doubled the area to fill in entire spruce range.
- Phase II (Fall 2010) will include differentiation of red spruce from other conifer. Phase III will be validation of mapping using CASRI volunteers to ground-truth photo interpretation.
- Contact Elizabeth Byers for more information.

**M. Multi-State Conference Call (Thomas Minney)**

- Conference call involving different agencies and groups working on spruce restoration in NC, VA, WV, and TN was held on 8/18.
- Purpose of call was to open communication and think about how we can work together across the larger landscape. Call received very positive feedback, and the multi-state group is moving forward to have regular communication.
- For full conference call notes contact Evan Burks.

- XIII. New CASRI Logo**
- D. Branding CASRI Group (Kate Goodrich-Arling)**
- Kate worked with a local artist to develop new CASRI logo
  - **CASRI now has 2 all-weather banners with our logo on them. Please contact Evan if you want to use these for public events.**
  - Kate brought a variety of examples for applying the CASRI logo including hats, scarves and t-shirts. As funding becomes available t-shirts can be made or group members could put in to get individual t-shirts.
  - Kate and Evan will continue to work on Communications Plan this fall/winter.
- XIV. Upcoming Fall Projects**
- B. National Public Lands Day (9/25) (Evan Burks)**
- CVNWR and CV State Park will plant 3,000 trees on Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers should meet at Refuge Visitor Center at 10 a.m.
  - Volunteers from WVU and WV Wesleyan College will attend.
- B. NFF Planting TBA (Evan Burks)**
- Terry Evans, Dave Saville, and Evan Burks have been working on completing NFF Matching Grant award to plant trees near Blackwater Falls SP.
  - 1,000 trees still need to be planted. Cathy would like to set up monitoring plots as well. This could be a CASRI planting day for partners to share field day planting experience. More info to come soon.
- C. Wildell Planting TBA (Evan Burks)**
- TNC currently working on management agreement with landowner in Wildell for small planting this fall. More information will be available shortly.
- D. Deep Ripping on Barton (Shane Jones)**
- Funding for deep ripping has been secured and contract is out. Ripping is set to begin this fall.
  - Small Rx'd burn also planned for steep area on Barton this fall.
- E. Seed Collection (Randall Lester)**
- Randall passed out spread sheet containing species collected for restoration work on Mower Tract.
  - **Need: Black Cherry and Speckled Alder (late Sept. – Oct.) and Common Winterberry - please collect seeds if you see them. Contact Evan for collection envelopes.**
  - Need successional species list for spruce communities for restoration work. Elizabeth volunteered to help put this together.
- F. CCPI (Jason Teets)**
- NWTF has cooperative conservation agreement with RC&D to treat invasive species on private lands in Laurel Fork, Gandy, and Dry Fork with a small commercial and non-commercial spruce release component.
  - Funding also includes small spruce planting component.
  - Natural Heritage Program would like to be involved in the process of surveying land for rare species.
- XV. CASRI Action Plan**
- C. Final Draft (Evan Burks)**
- **Please review final draft and send all comments/edits to Evan no later than September 10<sup>th</sup>.**
  - Action Plan was part of VISTA work plan, will help keep group focused on big picture goals, and will be used to attract large funders.

**XVI. WVNFS CASRI Projects**

**B. Call for Proposals (Evan Burks)**

- USFWS has asked CASRI to gather projects for WVNFS.
- **ALL CASRI project proposals should be sent to Evan no later than September 20<sup>th</sup> 2010.**
- USFWS will create non-biased mechanism for project selection.
- Evan will help link CASRI projects together and find funding sources for match.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Dr. Rentch: Spruce Conference Papers are available September 17<sup>th</sup> in CD form and will be sent to participants.**

**Mike Powell: Funding available for caging balsam fir on private lands.**

**Wednesday Nov. 10, 2010 - Monongahela National Forest Office - 9 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

**Please read:** CASRI Action Plan

**9:00 – 9:10**

**Introductions/Welcome** *Evan Burks*

**9:10 – 9:35**

**Brief Updates**

- Barton Bench *Shane Jones*
- Mapping *Elizabeth Byers*
- SAMAB Conference *Evan Burks*
- WVNFS Fund *Evan Burks*
- Restoreredspruce.org *Dave Saville*

**9:35 – 9:45**

**CASRI MOU** *Evan Burks*

**9:45 – 10:30**

**Restructuring for Productivity**

- Native Plant/Seed Collection Subgroup
- Private Lands Subgroup
- Regional Working Group
- Continuing Other Subgroups?

**-Ten Minute Break-**

**10:40 – 11:20**

**Resiliency & Fragmentation Models** *Thomas Minney*

**11:20 – 12:00**

**Spring Projects** *Evan Burks*

## Wednesday Nov. 10, 2010 continued

### MEETING MINUTES

Next meeting scheduled for Jan 26<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. Please send any power point slides relating to CASRI to Ken Sturm before end of December.

### Updates

#### **WVNFS Fund**

**Barb Douglas** has received proposals and is currently putting together a review team and proposal grading sheet. She expects to have the team meet sometime early 2011 to assess proposals.

#### **SAMAB**

**Evan Burks and Kent Karriker** will attend Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere conference to present work on Barton Bench and continue spruce coordination with our partners to the south.

#### **E. Fork Greenbrier Project**

Elizabeth Byers wrote grant for \$6,600 to continue work on E. Fork of Greenbrier. Funding will allow for spruce plantings, more NNIS work on yellow iris, and enclosures. 1,000 spruce trees needed. Will possibly need **John Schmidt's** fencing expertise. Will pursue possible seed collection from John Dalen.

#### **Mapping Project**

Map currently shows conifer density within the spruce eco zone. Now need to turn into spruce map with ground truthing effort. **Shane Jones** will send points from goshawk surveys to Elizabeth. Criteria for volunteer ground truthing effort will be developed and coordinated. 13,000 polygons available. Could prioritize areas to do first. Contact **Evan Burks** for more information.

Elizabeth Byers has made spruce models available to TNC for GWJeff mapping. **TNC** will run the models for GWJeff Laurel Fork Area.

#### **Website**

**Dave Saville** has reserved [www.restoreredspruce.org](http://www.restoreredspruce.org) for disseminating information, research, pictures, press, volunteer coordination and messaging for CASRI. Website should be up and running soon.

#### **Barton Bench**

Deep ripping contract is underway. Site visit with partners made front page of Sunday Gazette and received national recognition in the USA Today! **Shane Jones** will coordinate more aspen root collection this winter. Shane also submitted a NCCC planting crew application with ARRI to receive a team of tree planters this spring.

#### **MOU**

Red Spruce MOU is set to be reviewed in Jan. 2012. **Evan Burks** will contact USFWS to determine what that review will entail. Exhibit 2 allows for additional signatories. Should there be a CASRI amendment? Does CASRI want an additional MOU to broaden the scope and have two mutually supportive documents? **Evan** will coordinate efforts around addressing the five year MOU review and possible CASRI MOU.

## Subgroup Recap

### **Monitoring Plan**

**Cathy Johnson** is working on finalizing the monitoring plan to include CWD and soils. Action Items for soil monitoring need to be changed to reflect what CASRI is actually doing to support soil monitoring activities. **Evan Burks** will work to incorporate more veg monitoring into CASRI Action Plan.

### **What is Restored?**

Group needs to re-engage to complete document this winter. Next steps include moving towards developing TSI expectation and including silvicultural work. **Elizabeth, Ken, and Amy** will coordinate to finish this document before spring.

### **Native Plant Group**

USFS has huge unmet needs for native plant material. Newly formed group intends to increase capacity and ramp up native plant production in the private sector. Group will engage WV Nurseryman's Association (1<sup>st</sup> week of Jan.), WV Native Plant Society, and DNR Game Biologists. **John Rossell, Kent Karriker, Jason Teets, and Elizabeth Byers** expressed interest in working on these issues.

### **Private Lands**

Partners working on private lands will work to incorporate Action Plan Items into work. Partners need to increase collaboration on private lands and re-discuss priorities for private land. **Evan Burks** will help coordinate these efforts.

### **Other Items**

**Evan Burks** and **Kate Goodrich-Arling** will continue to develop outreach and PR plans. **Ken Sturm** and **Elizabeth Byers** will coordinate with **Evan Burks** to develop a "species of concern" list and "threat assessment."

## Presentation on Energy Development & Forest Fragmentation

**Thomas Minney** presented work from PA TNC on energy development and forest fragmentation mapping. Resources included finding regional pinch points for prioritizing restoration areas, projected gas development, projected wind development, and impact to forest blocks. PA is expected to rollout information Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. Models are expected to be applied to Central Apps over next year. Information will help with site prioritization.

## Spring Projects

**Barton Bench** – Earth Day volunteer tree planting planned. 10k spruce needed

**Refuge** – 5k spruce needed. Possible CARI canoe planting trip.

**E. Fork Greenbrier** – 1k spruce needed

**Wildell** – Possibility of 1-2k tree planting if funding comes through.

**TMI** – May need trees for Big Run???