

THE CENTRAL APPALACHIAN SPRUCE RESTORATION INITIATIVE

PROTECTING WEST VIRGINIA'S MOST UNIQUE ECOSYSTEM:
2013 YEAR END HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR END REVIEW

We are pleased to share highlights of the Central Appalachians Spruce Restoration Initiative!

CASRI is a diverse partnership of private, state, federal, and non-governmental organizations with a common goal of restoring historic red spruce-northern hardwood ecosystems across the Central Appalachians.

CASRI's vision is of a functioning red spruce-northern hardwood forest ecosystem restored across portions of its former range on both public and private lands, with the scale, connectivity, maturity and other features that provide habitat to sustain and enhance the viability of the many species and natural communities dependent on this ecosystem.



Aerial imagery of deep ripped acreage at Lambert ecological restoration project area on the Mower Tract.

CASRI would like to thank the following organizations that have contributed funding to support conservation and on-the-ground efforts:

**Appalachian Stewardship Foundation
Arbor Day Foundation**

**Environmental Protection Association: American
Rivers Grant**

**Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund
West Virginia Department of Environmental
Protection**

Wildlife Conservation Society



Volunteers smile for the camera after planting one of the thousands of red spruce seedlings planted at Canaan Valley NWR in 2013.

Restoration Coordinator,
Dave Saville planting red
spruce tree seedlings near
Mount Porte Crayon, WV.
© Andrea Brandon/TNC



MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

2013 proved to be an extremely productive and fruitful year for CASRI partners.

- Over 1.2 million dollars for land conservation purchases and on-the-ground restoration projects in 2013, totaling \$2,088,141 raised.
- 573 acres of high elevation lands placed on a trajectory toward restoration, bringing our restoration total to 1,500 acres .
- 63,780 red spruce seedlings and 9,331 native plants were planted upon high priority conservation and restoration sites.
- Volunteers dedicated 822 hours of their time working to restore red spruce across lands in the Central Appalachians.
- Over 250 acres of non-native invasive species were treated in high elevation red spruce systems.
- Over 89,000 acres of land across the Monongahela National Forest were updated for soil survey and ecological site inventory.

We
Are
CASRI



West
Virginia
Highlands
Conservancy



APPALACHIAN
MOUNTAINS
JOINT VENTURE



TROUT
UNLIMITED



The Nature
Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
FORESTRY



The Mountain Institute
www.mountain.org/appalachia

APPALACHIAN
LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

HEADS IN THE TREES, FEET ON THE GROUND

CASRI hit the ground running this year, carrying out a broad array of restoration projects at our grandest scale yet:

- The **Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge** brought 215 volunteers to the Refuge during volunteer events who planted 7,800 red spruce seedlings on 57.5 acres. These events are used to achieve restoration objectives and educate volunteers about the importance of spruce ecosystems and restoration.
- The **Monongahela National Forest** treated over 100 acres of formerly mined land by deep-ripping 80 acres, constructing 105 sites to act as vernal pools and wetlands, knocking down and spreading over 20 acres of non-native trees across 65 acres of deep-ripped land for a long-term soil improvement source, and planting over 550 aspen to create vigorous early successional habitat for wildlife.
- **The Nature Conservancy** released 199 acres of red spruce from the understory by eliminating growth suppressing vegetation. Moreover, they planted 34,000 trees on 239 acres near Mount Porte Crayon in Randolph County. These projects act to enhance the resiliency and adaptive capacity of the species and systems related to the red spruce northern-hardwood ecosystem.

MAPPING IN THE HIGH COUNTRY

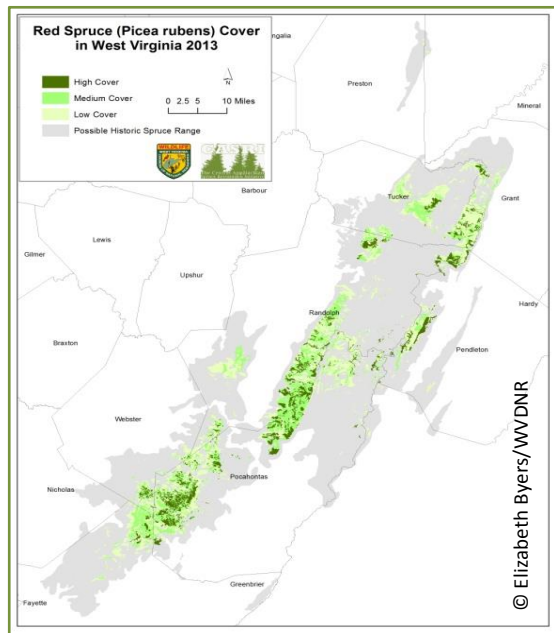
With the intent of assisting with conservation and restoration of red spruce communities and the high elevation species that depend upon them, CASRI partners joined together to map red spruce cover in West Virginia. The current locations of remnant and regenerating red spruce stands are part of the baseline data needed to identify the greatest opportunities for habitat restoration, connectivity, and vulnerability assessment. The spruce cover map was completed in 2013.

This collaborative mapping effort will be a powerful tool for prioritizing red spruce conservation and restoration projects in the Central Appalachians. A map can be found at:

<http://wvgis.wvu.edu/data/dataset.php?ID=455>

To learn more about CASRI, visit:

<http://RestoreRedSpruce.org>



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