

revegetation notes

Brooklyn Native Seed Bank Project Near Completion

In June 1989, a joint effort at abandoned mine-lands reclamation was launched between the USFS Research Station in Princeton, WV, and New River Gorge NR. The project, known as the Brooklyn Reclamation Project, involved using layers of topsoil and leaf litter as a source of seed – a method known as native seed banking, and moving it to disturbed unvegetated sites.

The project site consisted of a 40+ year old half-acre coal refuse pile that was subject to washouts and gulying and completely bare of vegetation. The 20' x 20' plots were installed in June, October, April, and the following June, and were replicated 3 times. The plots were treated with lime and fertilizer, and the seed bank source area was selected based on the quality of topsoil, density of leaf litter,

and presence of desirable native species.

By installing the plots during different times of the year, we hoped to determine whether there would be a significant difference in the emergence of native vs. alien species and which time frame resulted in the quickest growth. The resource management staff is currently collecting final data and a formal research report, co-authored by the NPS and USFS, will be published this summer (1991).

It is hoped that the results will provide us with a low cost method of disturbed site revegetation that encourages the emergence of native species. Anyone interested in the project can obtain more information from Carol A. Pollio, Natural Resource Specialist, New River Gorge NR, at (304) 465-0508.