

# Southern Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative Charter

## Mission and Goals

The Southern Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative (SASRI) is comprised of private, state, federal, and non-governmental organizations that recognize the importance of the rare, fragmented and isolated spruce-fir forests of the Southern Blue Ridge ecosystem for their ecological, aesthetic, recreational, economic, and cultural values. These ecosystems have been reduced greatly in extent and integrity from a combination of past and current anthropogenic and natural (biotic and abiotic) stressors and perturbations.

- SASRI Objective 1:** Determine reasonable restoration targets, including annual acreages and criteria for determining appropriate locations, through a planning process. Support efforts to achieve these targets whenever possible.
- SASRI Objective 2:** Build a network of organizations and agencies dedicated to achieving our spruce restoration goal.
- SASRI Objective 3:** Improve the understanding of the ecology of spruce ecosystems.
- SASRI Objective 4:** Increase the capacity for growing spruce seedlings for planting, in order to meet the restoration goals.

## Roles and Responsibilities

**SASRI Membership:** The membership of SASRI is made up of a wide array of diverse interested parties. Members will be included on the SASRI email distribution list. This email distribution list will be used to notify members of SASRI meetings, and spruce related announcements. Members will be invited to SASRI meetings. SASRI member meetings will take place at least once annually and may happen more frequently if the group wishes. The membership will have the opportunity to review and revise any documents endorsed by the group (ex. Spruce plan and any subsequent revisions).

**Steering Committee:** The Steering Committee will be made up of no more than 15 individuals. Individuals will serve on the Steering Committee for a three-year term that can be renewed once consecutively. Should a member want to serve additional terms in the future, rotating off for 3 years makes them eligible for another 3 year term that can be renewed once consecutively. Steering Committee membership should represent the diversity of SASRI member organizations and should include, at minimum:

- One representative from a Federal Agency
- One representative from a State Agency
- One representative from a non-governmental organization
- One representative from an academic institution

Steering Committee membership should also represent the diversity of interests within the SASRI member organizations, for example:

- Persons interested in propagation
- Persons interested in planning
- Persons interested in/responsible for land management
- Persons interested in spruce related research

**Co-chairs:** The Steering Committee will have two co-chairs, each serving a two-year term that will be staggered, thus ensuring continuity of leadership. Should a co-chair need to be replaced in the middle of a term, the new co-chair will serve out the remainder of the existing term. The following responsibilities will be shared by the two co-chairs and can be divided among them as they see fit:

- Co-chairs will be responsible for convening the Steering Committee as needed
- Co-chairs will be responsible for maintaining the member e-mail distribution list
- Co-chairs will be responsible for ensuring the membership meets at least annually

**Elections and voting:** New Steering Committee members can be nominated by existing Steering Committee members, or anyone else in the membership. Steering Committee members will be elected by the general membership preferably at the annual meetings. A quorum of members will be defined as 10 or more members. A majority (over half) of the members present at the meeting will be required to elect new Steering Committee members. Each member organization will be allowed one vote during elections. It will be up to each member organization to determine who their voting representative will be. The meeting and the election will be announced to the general membership at least two weeks in advance. Co-chairs of the Steering Committee will be elected by a majority vote of the current Steering Committee members.

**Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees:** The Steering Committee can establish new Standing Committees by vote. Currently, there is one Standing Committee, which is the Planting and Propagation Committee. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate region-wide planting efforts as well as seed-collection and propagation efforts. Standing Committees can also be dissolved when they are no longer needed by a vote of the Steering Committee.

Ad-Hoc Committees can be established through a vote of the Steering Committee and should be given a specific task and duration or timeline for completion.