

## **Spring Planting 2024**

ARCA members have taken a significant step in managing their carbon footprint.

Using federal government guidelines to assess contractors' carbon footprints, ARCA has helped members calculate their individual impacts. In addition to their personal efforts to manage their fleets and operations, contractors benefit from the ARCA Forest initiative.

In 2023, ARCA acquired 160 acres of land in Northern Alberta with the aim of establishing an Alberta-based carbon capture strategy within the boreal forest. The ARCA Forest will be preserved for at least fifty years, and it has been seeded with 166,000 white pine trees.

The ARCA Forest is being managed by Sora Ecological Consulting under the leadership of Robb Stavne, M.Sc., P.Biol., R.P.Bio., a Wildlife Specialist. Following federal guidelines, it is estimated that this site will capture an average of 3600 tonnes of carbon per year. Over a span of fifty years, this will result in the removal of 360,000 tonnes of carbon from Alberta's environment.

The professional management of this forest will include maintaining optimal soil conditions and replanting trees as necessary. The first annual report on the ARCA Forest's progress will be presented by Sora Ecological Consulting at our AGM in June 2025.

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