

Virginia Department of Forestry

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Senior Area Forester

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Who we are?

- State agency dedicated to protecting and developing healthy sustainable forest resources for Virginians.



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How do we get there?

- Wildfire Suppression
- Forest Health
- Legacy & Land Conservation
- Forest Stewardship & Management
- Urban Forestry
- Tree Nursery Program
- State Forest System
- State Own Lands Program
- Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA)
- Water Quality
- Forest Research
- Tree Improvement
- Forest Products Marketing
- Conservation Education
- All other duties as assigned...

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Healthy Forest = Managed?

- Forests are the natural land cover in Virginia.
 - ◆ Influenced by:
 - Soil, Weather, Diseases, Fire (Disturbances)
- What elements can we control?



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About Us

- Serve as a local forest management experts, trusted public advisors, and stewards of the Forest to assist landowners, forestry professionals, government agencies, and partner organizations.



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Manage State Lands and Nurseries

Pine Seedlings



Hardwood Seedlings




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Protection from Wildfires

- Primary Goal:
 - ◆ Preventing injury or loss of life, minimizing property damage, and protect forest resources.
- Nearly all wildfires are human caused in Virginia. (Intentional or not)



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Water Quality




- Forest conservation is one of the most effective measures to protect water quality.
- VDOF has been involved since the 1970's when Forest BMP's for Water Quality were developed.

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Services We Provide to Landowners

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Site Visits

- Most management journeys start with a site visit.
- We will visit properties to walk and talk with landowners to figure out how we can get you what you want from your property.
- From there we can assist in developing a plan(s) for your property.

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Types of Plans

Stewardship Plans

- Our most comprehensive plan that serves as the foundation for connecting landowners with their forestland.
- Address landowner objectives.
- Optimal for landowners with multiple objects and a desire to manage their land for multiple purposes.
- Included a very thorough appendix when plan is delivered.

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Types of Plans

Stewardship Plan

- Elements can include:

◆ Soil and Water	◆ Endangered species
◆ Bio diversity	◆ Forest Health (Invasives)
◆ Agroforestry	◆ Wetlands
◆ Aesthetic quality	◆ Fire
◆ Recreation	◆ Conservation based estate planning
◆ Wood and fiber production	◆ Carbon sequestrations
◆ Fish and wildlife	◆ And more....

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Types of Plans

Land Use Plan

- Concise 1-2 page plans that include very brief information about the present forest stands, soils, and includes general forest management practice recommendations.
- Developed to meet the planning requirements for taxation purposes in counties.
- Cover all forested acres on a tract.

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Types of Plans

Stand/Practice Plan

- Management plan for a single stand/area of a tract, particular management concern, or landowner area of interest.
- Address a more immediate need, can be the first step to a more comprehensive plan in the future.

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Types of Plans

Pre-Harvest Plan

- Based on standards for BMP's.
- Include Maps
 - ◆ Skid Roads, Haul Roads, Crossings, Deck Locations, Concern areas.
- Recommendations for post harvest work as well.



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Types of Plans

Cost-Share Plans

- Make recommendations for specific practices that are covered by state or federal cost-share programs.



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Selling Timber

- Learn the resource, Plan, and Act
- Speak with a forestry representative BEFORE timber sales are made.
- If you start planning after the harvest is complete you are behind.

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Legacy and Estate Planning

- VDOF and its partners offer resources to assist landowners in long-term plans for their properties.
- Generation Next
 - ◆ Partnership developed to help family forestland owners make decisions regarding passing their land forward.




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Easements

- Voluntary legal agreement that permanently limits future development.
- Ensures land preservation in perpetuity.
- You can help set terms.





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Riparian Buffers

- More than 50% of Virginia's freshwater originates from forests that cover 2/3's of the state.
- One of the best ways to maintain water quality.





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Water Protection on Farms

- What can farmers do?
 - ◆ Promote forested buffers.
 - ◆ Keep livestock out of stream.
 - ◆ Reduce ag runoff and soil erosion.
- Cost-share programs out there to help farmers accomplish some of these goals.




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Hot Topic (Prescribed Fire)

- Good vs. Bad Fire
 - ◆ Some species/ecosystems need fire
 - ◆ Historically Virginia burned every few years.
 - ◆ Removal of Fuel - Reduces impacts of wildfires.
 - ◆ Animals like the shrubby habitat and fruit bearing species that come in after burns.
- Bad Fire
 - ◆ Health Concerns
 - ◆ Property Concerns
 - ◆ Costly (Literally)


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Burning Questions

Thank you all for having me!

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