



DOF 2014

SHAPING VIRGINIA'S FORESTS

...because we care

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FOR TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT



www.dof.virginia.org

MISSION: We protect and develop healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) will celebrate its **100th anniversary** in the year 2014. Milestones such as this one provide the opportunity to both reflect and predict. Since forests and forestry have changed markedly over the last 89 years, the agency has begun to rework its vision and preferred future. Since DOF's inception, Virginia's population has grown exponentially. The values and desires of today's new forest landowner and citizens have changed significantly. The management decisions by forest landowners have become more complex.

Therefore, the focus of this strategic initiative is not our agency, but on the forest resources, the landowners and Virginia's citizens, and their future. With only 11% of Virginia's forest resources owned by governments, the remaining 14.1 million acres of forestland rest in the hands of the private sector. The success of this initiative will, at best, depend on the influence that DOF has with these owners, and utilize cooperative support from other agencies, private organizations and policy-makers.

To continue its vital role in guiding the stewardship of Virginia's forests, DOF must create new ways of communicating with our customers. While many of DOF's traditional roles still apply, the relationships with both our internal and external customers must remain dynamic. Exploring appropriate technical service delivery, new information sets, and even a new agency structure are key ingredients to our success. The agency, in order to remain vigorous and serve Virginia's concerned citizens, must embrace this continuing shift in resource and customer bases.

Our transition will not be a single event or shift. The information generated over the next several years will enable the agency to respond and adapt to Virginia's changing landscape. We hope to be opportunistic, shifting when available resources allow, and re-align those resources in accordance with our new vision and preferred future.

The DOF Strategic Management Team developed the vision and preferred future, and the following information serves as a base for the more traditional strategic planning categories of "Goals, Objectives and Strategies." An excerpt from the Virginia Constitution is the basis for this new vision and future:

ARTICLE XI, VIRGINIA CONSTITUTION

"...To the end that the people have clean air, pure water, and the use and enjoyment for recreation of adequate public lands, waters and other natural resources, it shall be the policy of the Commonwealth to conserve, develop and utilize its natural resources, its public lands and its historical sites and buildings. Further, it shall be the Commonwealth's policy to protect its atmosphere, lands and water from pollution, impairment, or destruction, for the public benefit, enjoyment, and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth..."

PREFERRED FUTURE

THE CORE FOUNDATION:

Recognizing that forest resource benefits are dependent on land protected and retained in forest, forestland conservation is paramount and serves as the agency's core foundation. A resource-based, healthy, living environment requires both natural and social interactions with forestland at the center. This core foundation recognizes the interdependence of these natural and human interactions.

VIRGINIA'S FOREST RESOURCES WILL:

- ◆ Be protected from damaging fire, theft, insects, pathogens and weeds, including invasive species;
- ◆ Be diverse in age, species, location, pattern and size;
- ◆ Provide extensive cover in all 14 river basins;
- ◆ Include unique and fragile habitats;
- ◆ Be available for use and enjoyment of all, and
- ◆ Contribute to the state's financial diversity and provide economic vitality to the rural communities.

VISION

We envision forest resources that support and enhance a healthy living environment.

BY 2014, THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY WILL:

- ◆ Have a statewide cadre of experienced and well-trained professional foresters to help landowners, businesses and local governments make informed decisions concerning forest resources and community forest benefits;
- ◆ Have readily available, current, accurate, detailed and understandable forest resource information;
- ◆ Be a statewide leader for the management of wildfires and a resource for other emergency incidents;
- ◆ Be leaders in efforts for the restoration of diminished native tree species of Virginia, and
- ◆ Be instrumental in developing and implementing a statewide policy for forest resource protection and management.

MISSION

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DOF STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

GOALS

- Goal 1** - (P) Protect the citizens, their property and the forest resources from wildfire.
- Goal 2** - (P) Protect, promote and enhance forested watersheds, non-tidal wetlands, and riparian areas.
- Goal 3** - (P) Conserve the forest landbase.
- Goal 4** - (P) Improve the stewardship, health and diversity of the forest resources.
- Goal 5** - (P) Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide forest policy.
- Goal 6** - (M) Collect, maintain and communicate forest resource information.
- Goal 7** - (M) Manage DOF resources to effectively and efficiently accomplish the strategic initiatives.

(P) = Program Goals (M) = Management Goals

*We're Shaping the
Future of
Virginia's Forests.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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