



Virginia Department of Forestry 2011 At A Glance

Forestry Topic FT0014

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- ▲ 245 employees protected 15.8 million acres of forestland and provided services to 373,600 private landowners who own 12.9 million acres.
- ▲ Employees responded to 1,114 wildfires that burned 22,022 acres.
- ▲ VDOF wildland firefighters protected more than 4,000 homes and other structures thereby preventing more than \$470 million in losses.
- ▲ Employees conducted 5,904 timber harvest inspections to ensure water quality protection on 240,000 acres.
- ▲ The average employee has worked for VDOF for 15 years and makes \$44,000.
- ▲ Overall best management practices for timber harvesting had a compliance rate of 84.5 percent, and 98.7 percent of sites had no water quality sedimentation issues.
- ▲ The Commonwealth lost 16,000 acres of forestland – that's 44 acres every day.
- ▲ VDOF managed 22 State Forests (67,901 acres).
- ▲ State Forests generated \$181,483 in payments to counties from timber sales and forest use permits.



- ▲ Hardwood trees comprised 78 percent of Virginia's forests; 22 percent were pine species.
- ▲ The ratio of tree growth to removal continued to improve with a 1.8 to 1 ratio.
- ▲ Virginia's forests captured and stored 6.42 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, offsetting about 14 percent of the total carbon dioxide emissions in the state.
- ▲ VDOF recorded 24 conservation easements that permanently protected more than 8,000 acres.
- ▲ Agency employees prepared stewardship plans that ensured good management on more than 110,000 acres of forestland.
- ▲ The Agency provided more than 11,000 hours of training to more than 350 firefighters from across the Commonwealth at the Interagency Wildfire Academy.
- ▲ Disbursed more than \$233,000 in grants to help rural volunteer fire departments improve their capabilities and effectiveness.
- ▲ VDOF paid for the installation of 27 new dry hydrants.
- ▲ Tree improvement research has enhanced forest productivity (growth) from 25 percent to 60 percent in pine species.
- ▲ Two VDOF nurseries planted, grew and sold 24 million tree seedlings.

VDOF Concerns:

- ▲ Recruitment and retention of public safety employees
- ▲ Threats to public safety due to an aging firefighting and law enforcement workforce
- ▲ Maintaining the fleet of emergency response vehicles
- ▲ Remaining effective and efficient in a world of changing technology
- ▲ Dwindling markets and the sustainability of the forest resource
- ▲ Continued ability to provide core services