



## Conserving Virginia's Forestland for Future Generations

Owning Virginia forestland is one of the greatest privileges that any citizen of the Commonwealth can attain. Virginia's forests and natural resources benefit more than just the landowner; they benefit all Virginians by providing clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, recreation and a renewable source of raw materials for daily living.

But forestland ownership comes with responsibility. Therefore, it is essential to learn more about your forests so that you can make informed decisions about your future management activities. One of the best ways of learning how to manage your forestland is by speaking with a professional forester and having him or her prepare a multi-resource forest management plan for your property.

## Management Plan Contacts

To learn more about forestry management plans and cost-share programs, contact your local VDOF office or USDA Service Center, or visit

**VDOF:** [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)

**NRCS:** [www.va.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov)



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

### For More Information

For more information about VDOF services or programs, please contact your local Virginia Department of Forestry office or visit:

**[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)**

**Western Region Office, Salem:**

Phone: (540) 387-5461

**Central Region Office, Charlottesville:**

Phone: (434) 977-5193

**Eastern Region Office, Providence Forge:**

Phone: (804) 966-5092



**Virginia Department of Forestry**

900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903  
Phone: (434) 977-6555

**[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)**

VDOF P00205; 09/2015

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## PLAN YOUR FOREST'S FUTURE

*Don't Leave it to Chance*



Virginia Department of Forestry

# Forest Planning Options

In Virginia, landowners may choose from several management plans that can be prepared by a public or private forester. Below are three plans and some basic information about each plan.

## Forest Stewardship Plan

- ◆ Sponsored by the USDA Forest Service
- ◆ Plans are developed primarily by the Virginia Department of Forestry foresters
- ◆ Preparation fee applies

## Conservation Activity Plan (Forest)

- ◆ Sponsored by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- ◆ Plans are developed by a private foresters certified as USDA technical service providers
- ◆ Preparation fee applies
- ◆ Landowner cost-share available through NRCS

## Tree Farm Plan

- ◆ Sponsored by the American Tree Farm System®
- ◆ Plans are developed by certified Tree Farm inspectors working in Virginia
- ◆ Preparation fee may apply



## Elements of a Plan

A multi-resource management plan contains several key elements that will help the landowner make good decisions about forest management. The plan will include:

- ◆ A listing of the landowner's stated goals and objectives
- ◆ A detailed map of the property
- ◆ General forest health information
- ◆ Identification of unique areas
- ◆ Detailed forest stand conditions
- ◆ Recommended practices to enhance or maintain the natural resource benefits
- ◆ A summary list and timeline to help schedule management practice implementation
- ◆ A list of natural resource professionals and agencies that can provide further information and/or cost-share assistance

## Benefits of a Plan

A written multi-resource management plan provides more than just education; it can add value to the landowner by:

- ◆ Providing a blueprint to meet landowner objectives through well-managed, sustainable forests.
- ◆ Meeting forest management plan elements required to become certified as a Tree Farm®.
- ◆ Meeting plan requirements necessary for land to become certified as sustainably managed land.
- ◆ Meeting requirements for a management plan for Forest Use-Value taxation.
- ◆ Meeting a prerequisite for applying for the Riparian Forest Buffer Tax Credit.
- ◆ Providing an element often required for placing the land under a conservation easement, which may result in tax advantages.
- ◆ Increasing priority approval or ranking under several federal cost-share programs.
- ◆ Potentially helping to meet sustainability requirements necessary to participate in ecosystem services markets.