From: Farrell, Robert
To: DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES
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Good morning everybody;

Check out the Branch for two important education and outreach programs that we need to promote and participate in as you are able. First is the Woodland Owners' Retreats which are held across the state. These are a great chance to get new landowners connected with forest management and expert assistance. Second is Camp Woods and Wildlife. This offers one of our best chances to influence young people about the need for forestry and maybe get some of them started on a path to a natural resources career. Thanks to all of the volunteers that make the commitment to spend time at camp and make this important program possible. I hope that everyone will make a special effort to help recruit for both of these education programs.

On Saturday, Secretary Ring and I attended the Virginia Loggers Association board meeting where Representative Abigail Spanberger was a guest. The Congresswoman from central Virginia spent a couple of hours learning about issues facing loggers and forestry and was very engaged throughout. She said that one of her key takeaways was that Virginia is growing twice as much wood as we are harvesting statewide.

This week we have the Virginia Forest Health Professionals annual conference in Richmond and the APSAF annual meeting in Norfolk. I look forward to seeing many of you at those meetings. In between those events I will be at the General Assembly talking about our budget amendments and making sure everyone understands the importance of our work and getting these additional resources.

Have a good week.

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