From:	Farrell, Robert
To:	DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES
Subject:	The Branch
Date:	Monday, August 24, 2020 9:10:41 AM
Attachments:	2020-08-24final.pdf

Good morning everyone;

Good news, we have approval from Secretary Ring to begin recruiting to fill open positions. Over the past six months or so we have had quite a number of retirements and staff moving to other opportunities so we have a large number of open positions across the agency. We are fortunate that Virginia had a robust economy when the pandemic hit and that state leadership reacted well to the global financial impacts. While it doesn't look like we will get funding for new positions that were approved in the GA this spring, we are able to fill existing positions.

Our plan is to announce open positions in batches every two weeks. As always, please spread the word through your networks to attract qualified candidates. Recruiting this many new employees represents a significant commitment by the agency. Not only for our HR team, but for hiring managers, interview teams, and for co-workers helping to train and to get new employees up to speed. Please make yourselves available when the need arises so that we can select, train, and retain great new employees.

On a related note, I wanted to thank our employees who have utilized the retirement planning process. This benefits the agency by allowing us to plan for vacancies and enables the employee to make more thoughtful decisions and make the most of the benefits they have accrued over their career.

Thanks also to everyone who has completed the training on preventing the spread of communicable diseases. We are well over 90% completion for the agency, so please finish that up if you have not done so already.

I had a great visit last week with the Rappahannock work area, visiting with multiple stakeholders to talk about the hardwood initiative. This week I will get out in the woods with the Five Forks team trying out the hardwood assessment tool. We are also making good progress with developing the new agency website, I think it is going to be a great tool for reaching landowners and other stakeholders.

Last but not least, please join me in congratulating David Powell on being recognized as a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters. Thank you David for all your work supporting the profession and practice of forestry.

Rob Farrell

State Forester
Virginia Department of Forestry

Headquarters
900 Natural Resources Drive, #800
Charlottesville, VA 22903
office (434) 220-9047

cell (757) 810-6943
fax (434) 220-9140

rob.farrell@dof.virginia.gov

www.dof.virginia.gov