From: Farrell, Robert
To: DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES
Subject: Branch
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 8:04:09 AM
Attachments: 2021-03-22 Branch.pdf

Good morning everyone;

Please read through this week's Branch, there are some announcements that everyone should be aware of. Please register for the Governor's ONE Virginia Town Hall and plan to listen on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 1:00. I will be participating in a session for all agency heads on the Monday before where I assume we will be provided with expectations for all agencies to take steps to address equity and diversity within state government. This is an area that we will be trying to improve on in the coming year and there will be a role for everyone in the agency.

I am excited today to have two meetings that I hope will provide new opportunities for Virginia's hardwood initiative. This morning I have my first meeting of the White Oak Initiative steering committee since being selected as the state forester representative for the south. The WOI is a multi-state, multi-stakeholder coalition focused on restoring oak forests with white oak as the cornerstone species. This group is developing a lot of resources to focus on oak restoration and I look forward to sharing what we are doing and bringing additional resources back to Virginia.

After that I have my first meeting with Joe Secoges of Eastern Forest Consultants. They have been contracted by the US Endowment to work on the MVP forest enhancement mitigation funding and to field test the hardwood assessment tool. This will be focused on getting forest management work done on public lands in western Virginia.

Have a good week everybody.

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