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News You Can Use

What’s Driving the Disparity Between Log and Lumber Prices?

- ◆ With the price of pine lumber skyrocketing, many are wondering why the prices landowners are receiving for their timber are not reflective of that increase. Several factors go into the price of lumber that vary from the driving forces behind the logging market. Forest2Market published an article on their blog that explains the disparity between the two markets as well as predicts what those markets may look like in the future. <https://www.forest2market.com/blog/whats-driving-the-disparity-between-log-and-lumber-prices>.

Cicadas are coming!

- ◆ Alert! Brood 10 periodical cicadas will emerge this spring. After spending 17 years underground, these insects are expected to emerge in high numbers in northern Virginia; stragglers may emerge in low numbers in Augusta and Albemarle. Cicadas may cause flagging on trees where they lay eggs, but they generally do not cause long term damage to mature, healthy trees. Young, newly planted trees may be more vulnerable, as too much flagging may be problematic. If trees are already planted, use ¼ inch netting to protect young trees. Insecticides are not recommended. Contact VDOF forest health staff for more information.

Project Updates

Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Projects

- ◆ The Cooperative Forestry section of the USDA Forest Service (USFS) offers competitive funding each year through Landscape Level Restoration Grants (LSR). The purpose of the LSR program is to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes. On April 2, the USFS Southern Region announced that of the 22 proposals submitted in the South, four proposals involving VDOF had been approved. Three of the projects were led by VDOF and Virginia partners, while VDOF represents a participating state on the fourth. The total federal funding for these projects is \$525,000, which will be matched by non-federal funds.
- **Putting Plans into Action:** Hardwood Management in Virginia. The original intent of this \$190,000 proposal was to further Virginia's Hardwood Forest Habitat Initiative (HFHI) through support for a VDOF Hardwood Coordinator. The General Assembly recently approved funding for the Coordinator position, so the LSR funds will be modified to support several other HFHI strategies, including installing demonstration areas and developing service providers to do hardwood improvement work.
- **Re-building Prescribed Burning Capacity for Restoration Landscapes in Virginia:** VDOF is partnering with The Nature Conservancy on this \$205,000 project, concentrated in southern and eastern Virginia. The project will bring support for strategies to increase private sector and agency capacity for prescribed burning for a variety of restoration purposes, particularly on private land.
- **Restoration of Ailanthus Stands Following their Removal with a Bio-herbicide:** VDOF is the lead on this \$100,000 project, yet much of the work will be accomplished through a close partnership with staff at Virginia Tech. Ailanthus is one of the most problematic invasive tree species in Virginia. The project will utilize a naturally-occurring bio-herbicide to demonstrate and develop ailanthus control techniques on several demonstration sites.
- **Phase II of a Range-wide Upland Oak Sustainability and Management Project:** VDOF is a partner on this project, along with five other southern states. With VDOF's allocation of \$30,000, we will test and refine a forest management analysis web application and a landowner portal. Both of these will build upon information and technical resources being developed in Phase I of this multi-state project.
- VDOF is also in consideration as a partner in three other projects led by states in the northern USFS region.

Last Week

State Forester

- ◆ Rob Farrell and Ed Zimmer (deputy state forester) participated in the Governor's Conference on Agricultural Trade. Rob Farrell introduced UK Ambassador Karen Pierce and highlighted the significance of forest products in the value of Virginia's annual exports to the UK.
- ◆ Rob Farrell, Ed Zimmer and Ed Stoots (state lands coordinator) participated in the USFS review of the George Washington-Jefferson National Forest. These periodic reviews, called a General Management Review are conducted for the national forest to showcase their level of collaboration with partners. VDOF was highlighted and provided overviews of the Hardwood Forest Habitats Initiative and our work on the national forest through the Good Neighbor Agreement. Everyone involved stressed the strong working relationship present in Virginia.

- ◆ Rob Farrell participated in the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan Leadership Team, representing VDOF as called for in SB1274.

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ The Roanoke Workshop webinar series concluded Wednesday with Dr. Andrew Loyd from Bartlett Tree Experts Laboratories. Dr. Loyd spoke about deadly decaying fungi that affect trees. This webinar was the fifth webinar put on this month by Trees Virginia, VDOF and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE). Over 135 people attended.
- ◆ Molly O'Liddy (urban & community forestry [U&CF] partnership coordinator), Robbie Lewis (senior area forester), Lisa Deaton (area forester) and Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (community forester) attended the Green Infrastructure Center's (GIC) Advisory Committee meeting on Resilient Coastal Forests. GIC shared new maps based on multiple variables linked to possible threats to these forests including but not limited to development, fire, insects and disease, and sea level rise.
- ◆ Molly O'Liddy participated in the second week of training in the USFS I-Tree Academy. Molly, along with Jim McGlone (urban forest conservationist) and Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (community forester) are taking the course to learn the latest features of the I-tree suite. The goal is to pass these tools on to communities to use in future urban forest planning.
- ◆ Lara Johnson (U&CF program manager) met Eli Podyma (community forester) at Woodlawn Cemetery to discuss GIS needs for an inventory to be conducted this spring. Woodlawn Cemetery is historically significant to Richmond and is looking for assistance in constructing an urban forest management plan for this area.
- ◆ Terry Lasher (assistant state forester) oversaw the completion and submission of "Virginia's Security Corridor" Sentinel Landscape Pre-Application to the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. This is the culmination of a multi-year, multi-partner effort that impacts 21 Department of Defense installations and the majority of eastern Virginia.
- ◆ Terry Lasher participated in the Foundation of the State Arboretum's Government Relations Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to increase exposure, visibility and prominence of Virginia's State Arboretum. Topics discussed were warm season grass management, the 2021 Tree of the Year, wildlife management and coordinated visits to the arboretum by elected officials.

Forest Resource Management

- ◆ VDOF Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) crews have completed and transmitted 45 percent of the inventory plots in the current panel of work as of April 1 (FIA staff had completed 30 percent as of March 1). This was a significant monthly increase and more than offset shortfalls in production in February, due to the weather.
- ◆ In the FIA quarterly report to the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF), VDOF was one of seven out of the 13 states to meet plot production and grant management targets for the quarter ending March 31.
- ◆ On March 30, VDOF Forest Management, Regional Staff, and Research staff led a Basics of Pine Reforestation virtual training for 15 newer VDOF field staff members. Todd Groh (forest management program manager), Brian Lacey and Peter Eales (regional resource specialists), Jerre Creighton (research program manager), Josh Bennicoff (nursery manager) and Dean Cumbia (director of forest management) led the session. The session included a history of tree planting in the state, reforestation assistance programs, the tree improvement program, nursery production, seeding handling and care,

and planting techniques and quality. Pine reforestation is of high importance in Virginia, and knowledgeable and capable staff help to assure quality and success in this program.

- ◆ Two VDOF FIA staff, Ryan Hewitt (forest inventory specialist) and John Pemberton (forest inventory manager) successfully completed the US Forest Service Northern Research Station Urban FIA certification training, ahead of the 2021 field season for urban inventory in Northern Virginia.
- ◆ Teagan O'Brien (forest health technician) and Lori Chamberlin (forest health program manager) have finalized contracts with three minor league baseball teams for emerald ash borer (EAB) outreach this summer: Salem Red Sox, Richmond Flying Squirrels, and Norfolk Tides.
- ◆ Teagan O'Brien toured Westover Park in Harrisonburg with Joe Lehnen (urban wood utilization forester). They observed and discussed how the City of Harrisonburg has responded to the EAB infestation with a combination of treatment, tree removal and wood utilization.
- ◆ Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist) placed southern pine beetle traps in Cumberland and Prince Edward State Forests. Area foresters will place 20 more traps in other work areas. Samples will be collected from these traps for the next 4-5 weeks and the results will give us information about the likelihood of a southern pine beetle outbreak in Virginia this year.

Agency Lands

- ◆ The Dragon Run State Forest Timber Sale on March 31 attracted two bidders. High Bidder was Potomac Supply, LLC.
- ◆ Mike Womack participated in the National Wildfire Coordination Group's Equipment and Technology Committee virtual meeting representing the Eastern United States last week.
- ◆ Staff applied gravel to the Brennen Byway Forest Road on the Appomattox Buckingham State Forest (ABSF) where a Verizon contract crew had ditched across the road installing cable to ABSF office. Vehicle traffic was creating a mudhole and pulling mud onto the State highway.
- ◆ Zach Olinger (forest management & education specialist) had a virtual meeting with Rachel Harris (utilization and marketing specialist) about potential hardwood utilization projects at the Matthews State Forest.
- ◆ Zach participated in the local Agricultural Education Advisory Council virtual meeting held last week.

State-Owned Lands

- ◆ Pine planting was completed on all State Forest & State-Owned Lands Projects on March 31 with the crew completing the Richard Bland College reforestation project last (pictured).
- ◆ The Greenville Correctional timber sale attracted one bidder, Real Tree Wood Corporation.

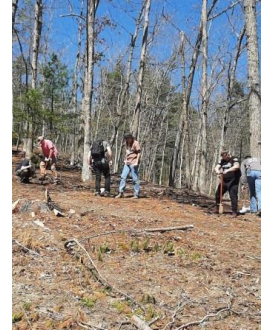


Central Region

- ◆ Patrick Murphy (senior area forester) helped commemorate the 16th annual Farmville Arbor Day celebration by conducting a drive-thru tree giveaway at the Farmville Farmer's Market. Common apple and shumard oak seedlings produced by the VDOF nursery were given to residents of Farmville and the surrounding counties. Patrick, a member of the Farmville Tree Board since its inception 16 years ago, has participated in the tree giveaway each of the last 15 years. The Tree Board has given away over 20,000 VDOF seedlings over the last decade and a half.

Western Region

- ◆ Mountain Valley team members Grayson Coleman, Daniel Swisher (forest technicians), Clint Folks natural resource specialist, and Walker Wolff (forester) met with Dabney S. Lancaster Community College forestry students in Bath County to discuss forest management and plant trees. The students had the opportunity to exercise dibble bars, learn the effects of prescribed fire in the landscape, and observe the multiple benefits of well-managed forests. All the trees were in the ground tight! (pictured)
- ◆ Greg Estoll (natural resource manager) worked with the Conservation Education Coordinator at Tazewell Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to record a forestry and water quality educational video. They also recorded a short piece about the 4 PM Burning Law to help answer citizen questions.
- ◆ In the wake of an active prescribed burning season in southwest Virginia, local television station WVVA, contacted Greg Estoll and Jon Perry (forest technician) seeking video and an interview regarding controlled burns. Jon stepped up and worked with the reporter to develop this news story: <https://wvva.com/2021/03/22/met-monday-why-are-controlled-burns-needed/>
- ◆ Bill Sweeney (area forester) was interviewed by the Franklin News-Post and the Smith Mountain Eagle regarding a recent wildfire in the Callaway section of Franklin County and the area's fire season in general. The story may be seen at: https://thefranklinnews.com/news/crews-spend-two-days-getting-fire-contained/article_4bce7c36-85ca-11eb-842e-df1a3c6b9ef1.html
- ◆ David Tompkins (forest technician) worked with Roanoke TV station WDBJ on a prescribed burn in Botetourt County to explain the benefits of prescribed fire versus the danger of wildfire. A link to the story is: <https://www.wdbj7.com/2021/03/25/amid-spring-fire-season-some-firefighters-work-to-get-more-blazes-burning/>



Public Information

- ◆ The Website Core Workgroup met last week to review the redesign progress and discuss early-stage testing feedback. The website launch is projected for the end of April. A roll-out promotion will include information placed in partner publications, a media alert and short videos featuring our partners highlighting some of the new website's features.

News Clips

- ◆ [Fire crews, forestry service monitoring Campbell County brush fire](#)
- ◆ [VA livestock fencing program sees jump in sign-ups](#)
- ◆ [Turning Wood Into Plastic](#)
- ◆ [STAFFORD: Series helps landowners with legacy planning](#)
- ◆ [Virtual Forestry Camp Offered](#)
- ◆ [Understanding Seasonality in Timber Prices](#)
- ◆ [Solar Development, Forest Protection Need Better Balance](#)
- ◆ [Maya Lin's Ghost Forest will open in Madison Square Park alongside a slew of programming](#)

- ◆ [Leading Standards and Urban Forestry Partners Collaborate to Develop a New SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard](#)
- ◆ [THE SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE TO LEGO ARE THESE BUILDING BLOCKS ENTIRELY CARVED FROM TIMBER](#)
- ◆ [USDA, partners unveil new fire mapping tool with national wildfire management implications](#)