



**January 17, 2022**

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**Employee News**

*Form Update*

- ◆ Form 8.2 Emergency Work Disclosure has been combined with [Form 8.7 Wage Employment Application](#). Form 8.2 has been removed from the website and the new [Form 8.7](#) added.

**News You Can Use**

*Forest Health Review*

- ◆ The December, 2021 edition of the Forest Health Review has been posted online. This publication summarizes significant forest health disturbances that were observed in Virginia in 2021, and highlights some of the work done to mitigate impact to our forests. Copies were mailed to each VDOF office, but please contact VDOF Forest Health staff if you'd like more. [https://dof.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/FHR-2021-12\\_pub.pdf?x15979](https://dof.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/FHR-2021-12_pub.pdf?x15979)

**Last Week**

*Forest Resource Management*

- ◆ Joe Rossetti, Hardwood Forest Habitat Initiative Coordinator, met virtually with Kyle Dingus, Loudoun County Natural Resource Engineer (and former VDOF employee) and his staff to discuss hardwood forest management. Loudoun County is undergoing a review of the zoning ordinance, giving staff the opportunity to recommend changes. Loudoun County zoning has special requirements for land management activities on slopes over 15% and in a special mountain overlay district. Discussion centered on the benefits of forest management, especially on steep areas, logistics and environmental

impacts of management, regeneration and success of planting trees in hardwood understories and for reforestation, and ways to convey silvicultural information to landowners. The conversation will aid Kyle's staff in giving recommendations on the zoning ordinance.

- ◆ Each year the USDA Forest Service (USFS) randomly selects Forest Stewardship Plans from their database for each state to monitor and determine if the plans are being implemented. Levels of activity and accomplishments are a gauge of the effectiveness, benefits, and continued investment in the program. Each year, the Forest Resource Management Branch (FRMB) adds additional Stewardship tracts to the USFS list to encompass more of Virginia's planning accomplishments. This year, plans were selected from each VDOF work unit instead of from the Regional list. The FRMB thanks all of the Regional staff for their time and effort in getting the visits made and paperwork completed by the due date. The 2021 monitoring results are listed in the table below.
  - "YES" = the plan is being followed/implemented. "NO" = the plan is not being followed/implemented.

	ACRES "YES"	ACRES "NO"	% ACRES MANAGED SUSTAINABLY	# PLANS "YES"	# PLANS "NO"	% PLANS MANAGED SUSTAINABLY
CENTRAL REGION	2,099	1,325	61%	15	8	65%
EASTERN REGION	1,330	245	84%	13	3	76%
WESTERN REGION	1,700	130	89%	13	2	81%
<b>STATEWIDE TOTALS</b>	<b>5,129</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>73%</b>

- ◆ In many cases, whether a landowner implements their recommended practices or not depends on how the plan is presented and how often the forester is able to nudge the landowner forward to practice implementation. Landowners who are willing to invest their money to have a plan developed are often more likely to install practices that are identified in the plan. So our challenge is to keep these interested landowners engaged in forest management activities to reach their goals.

### State Forest

- ◆ Both Cumberland and Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest complexes were without power for the majority of the week ending January 7, with power restored on Thursday, January 6. Thankfully no water pipes were affected by the cold temperatures, due to staff cutting off the well pumps. Staff are currently removing downed timber from various forested roads and assessing the overall damage to the timber resource.
- ◆ Staff assisted Central Region staff with winter storm cleanup in Fluvanna County.

### Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

- ◆ The Ewing Mountain Decision Brief has been finalized and the Good Neighbor Authority Project for Ewing Mountain on the Mount Rogers NRA is now ready to move forward. Approximately 211 acres of mostly white pine will be thinned within the Brushy Creek area near Wythe and Carroll counties.

### Eastern Region

- ◆ An episode of *Virginia Homegrown* that aired last fall and was recently made available online interviews Southside Releaf, a Richmond-based nonprofit focused on environmental justice. At around

the 8:45 mark they mention working with VDOF U&CF as one of their "amazing partners within the community." <https://www.pbs.org/video/celebration-of-trees-628qgo/>

- ◆ Lisa Deaton (area forester) engaged with 200 high schoolers via ZOOM during the Gloucester Virtual Career Awareness Expo. They watched our "Virtual Career Day with VDOF Forest Technician Jesse Bander" video, available on YouTube, and learned about Camp Woods & Wildlife, Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (VASWCD) Youth Conservation Camp, education requirements, working conditions, and pay.
- ◆ Molly O'Liddy (urban & community forestry [U&CF] partnership coordinator) and Eli Podyma (community forestry specialist) attended American Forests' kickoff meeting for their Tree Equity Score Analyzer (TESA) and Urban Forestry Training Program in Richmond. Local nonprofits, businesses, and city representatives were also in attendance. Richmond is the first mid-sized city in the nation to be chosen for the Tree Equity Score Analyzer tool. This tool gives deeper analysis of the American Forests Tree Equity Scores, which compare canopy cover with a variety of demographic metrics including income, race, employment, and surface temperature. Richmond's TESA will provide another decision-making tool for allocating resources and services to the areas in the community that need them the most.

### News Clips

- ◆ [Japan plans launch of world's first wooden satellite in 2023](#)
- ◆ [The odd history of the Osage orange tree](#)
- ◆ [Governor-elect Youngkin selects Valley farmer as Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry](#)
- ◆ [This Vast Wildfire Lab Is Helping Foresters Prepare for a Hotter Planet](#)
- ◆ [Restoring Longleaf Pine Forests through USDA-NRCS Program](#)
- ◆ [Lumber Market 2021 Year in Review: What's Next?](#)
- ◆ [CONTROLLED BURNS CAN HELP FORESTS CAPTURE MORE CARBON, HERE'S HOW](#)
- ◆ [Dry conditions and December fires raise concern for spring fire season](#)
- ◆ [Lynchburg approves grant to deal with spotted lanternfly](#)
- ◆ [Firewood Vending Machine Ignites Sales for One Association After Pandemic Slowdown](#)
- ◆ [State forestry officials raise concerns about data centers near Conway forest, Manassas battlefield](#)
- ◆ [Essential tree species facing decline](#)