

Policy and Procedure 10-3 Century Forest Program

Issued By:	Robert W. Farrell, State Forester
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Codes/Mandates:	Code of Virginia §10.1-1105.1 Century Forest Program Code of Virginia §2.2-3700 et seq. Freedom of Information Act
References:	N/A
Forms:	Form 10.3 Century Forest Program Application

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PURPOSE

To provide guidance for the administration of the Century Forest Program.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) to recognize and honor qualifying individuals and families who have made a long-term commitment to enhancing the environment and protecting the quality of life for their fellow Virginians through forestry by distinguishing their property as a Century Forest. Recognition of a property as a Century Forest is a symbolic act that does not create or result in additional obligations on the part of the property owners, such as requiring public access or granting agency representatives special access rights, nor does it create or result in additional obligations to VDOF.

DEFINITIONS

“Agency” and “VDOF” means the Virginia Department of Forestry.

“Descendant” means a lineal or collateral relative of the original owner(s) of the property, or other lawful heir to the property, by bloodline, adoption or marriage.

PROCEDURES

Criteria for Program Eligibility

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia [§10.1-1105.1](#), to be eligible for Century Forest recognition, the property must:

- ◆ Have been owned by the same family for at least one hundred (100) consecutive years; and

- ◆ Include at least twenty (20) contiguous acres of forest; and
- ◆ Be lived on or actually managed by a descendant of the original owners, and
- ◆ Have a documented history of timber harvests or forest management activities.

Application Process

The Century Forest designation is intended to be an honorary recognition for landowners of qualifying properties. The application form and process provide landowners an opportunity to demonstrate how their property meets program criteria and attest that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge.

- ◆ Individuals and families interested in having their forestland recognized under the program must submit a properly completed and notarized Form 10.3 Century Forest Program Application to the attention of the Century Forest Program at VDOF headquarters.
- ◆ Landowners are required to:
 - Provide a copy of the current legal description to verify current ownership, property size and physical location.
 - Describe the chain of family ownership going back at least 100 years.
- ◆ With respect to the documentation of timber harvests or forest management activities, VDOF shall be receptive to accepting all reasonable proof, such as copies of the most recent forest stewardship management plan or equivalent, or a signed statement from a VDOF forester or a private forestry consultant attesting to their personal knowledge and familiarity with the forest management practices on the property, and that such activities occurred or continue to occur on the property.
- ◆ Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis.
- ◆ The application and accompanying documentation are subject to public disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia [§2.2-3700 et seq.](#)). VDOF shall maintain the application and any supporting documentation for as long as the property meets the eligibility criteria.

Application Review, Recognition and Continued Eligibility

- ◆ Applications will be batched on a quarterly basis by the Century Forest program manager who will review them for completeness to determine if the property qualifies for recognition. Qualifying applications shall be recommended for approval by the State Forester.
- ◆ The Century Forest program manager shall prepare the certificate, recognition letter and arrange to obtain the Governor's and State Forester's signatures.
- ◆ Upon approval by the State Forester, the owner of the qualifying property shall receive a certificate signed by the Governor and State Forester and a recognition letter from the State Forester. VDOF will provide one (1) Century Forest sign to the landowner.
- ◆ Certificates, recognition letters and signs will be routed to the appropriate senior area forester for delivery to the landowner by staff in the agency's Forestland Conservation program.
 - When possible, and with the prior consent of the family or individual being recognized, the local media should be alerted to the presentation.
- ◆ The Century Forest sign is intended to be displayed prominently on the property to recognize the landowner's long-term commitment to forest ownership and also to make the public aware of program.
- ◆ From time to time, VDOF will contact landowners of Century Forest properties to determine if the criteria are still being met.
 - Qualification in the program will cease if any one of the four criteria for eligibility as a Century Forest is no longer met.

- If the VDOF determines that any of the criteria are no longer being met and the landowner is unable to demonstrate continued qualification, the VDOF will notify the landowner in writing and the name of the property will be removed from the list of qualifying Century Forest properties and from subsequent publications.

Additional Signs

Individuals and families may purchase additional Century Forest signs at the cost listed below. The price includes shipping and handling and applicable taxes. Requests accompanied with payment should be sent to the attention of the Century Forest Program at VDOF headquarters. Checks should be made payable to "State Forester." Signs will be shipped when the order and money is received.

- ◆ 1st Tier – \$40 each (the sign is the same quality as the first one they received)
- ◆ 2nd Tier – \$25 each (the sign has minor blemishes or imperfections)

IFRIS Reporting

Century Forest certification should be entered as a tract-level accomplishment. There is no time category or code associated with Century Forest certification.

AUTHORITY

This policy and procedure is issued by the Virginia state forester.

INTERPRETATION

The forestland conservation program manager and assistant state forester are responsible for the interpretation of this policy and procedure.

APPROVAL

I certify that this policy and procedure is approved and ready for publication.

Karl Didier

Forestland Conservation Program Manager Name (Print)

Forestland Conservation Program Manager Signature

Terrance Lasher

Assistant State Forester Name (Print)

Assistant State Forester Signature