



July 16, 2024

Upcoming Events

[2024 Forest Management Academy, Sweet Briar College](#) – Sept. 9 - 13

[Virginia Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Course](#) — Jan. 21 – Feb. 8, 2025 (Registration closes Aug. 16)

Have an upcoming agency calendar event to share? Email **Mary Weaver** at Mary.Weaver@DOF.Virginia.gov

Policy Updates

[Policy and Procedure 18-001 Harvest Notification](#) and [18-002 Harvest Inspections](#) have recently been updated to account for new biomass best management practices. Form 18.1 Notification of Logging Operation and Form 18.2 Harvest Inspection and have been updated as well. Please review the changes and direct any questions to Silvicultural Water Quality Program Manager **Rod Newlin** at Rod.Newlin@DOF.Virginia.gov.

Welcome to DOF!

We would like to welcome back **Russell Schmidt** to the DOF family as the Five Forks area forester. Russell attended WVU for Forest Resource Management and previously worked for DOF as a forest technician in the Heartland Work Area before transferring to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to become a conservation officer. He missed working for DOF and was able to return when a position opened in his hometown area of Charlotte County. Russell is excited to be back and looks forward to a long career with DOF.



Interning this summer with Central Region is **Nick Dawson**, a student at Mountain Gateway Community College studying forest management technology. Outside of school he enjoys hunting, fly fishing and running. Nick is looking forward to working with DOF this summer to continue his education in this immersive experience.

Dixon Hass is joining DOF this summer as an Information Technology GIS Intern. Dixon holds a bachelor's in history from Virginia Tech as well as a GIS graduate certificate from Penn State. In his role, Dixon will be supporting web application development as part of IFRIS modernization projects. In his free time, Dixon enjoys roller hockey, working out and birdwatching.



Agency Updates

Biomass BMPs Webinar Recording Now Available

The recording from the June 24 webinar with State Forester Rob Farrell and Water Quality Engineer Rod Newlin on the new biomass BMPs DOF will incorporate into our timber harvest inspection program is now available. The webinar focused on the purpose of the BMPs, what harvests they will be applied to, a description of the three BMPs, and the notification and inspection process. Watch the full recording on [Sharepoint](#).

Prevent Tick Bites: Permethrin Treated Clothing

DOF will reimburse employees for the costs of treating two pairs of pants with permethrin by [Insect Shield](#). The treatment repels ticks and other biting insects for up to 70 washes. Employees must pay up front but can then file for reimbursement of treatment cost and shipping both ways via a standard expense voucher. Please do not charge this to a SPCC or Emergency Purchase card. Only send your own clothing for treatment. Contact your immediate supervisor for further guidance on the treatment process.



Bat Monitoring at State Forests

State forest staff recently collected bat monitors that had been installed at several sites on Sandy Point and Dragon Run state forests and sent them to Virginia Tech for analysis. Over a 14-day period, the monitors recorded sound each night to detect Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) activity. More monitors will be placed at Cumberland and Prince Edward-Gallion state forests. This bat species spends part of the year in forested habitats and was recently listed as endangered, resulting in required changes to forest management practices. Learn more on the DOF website: <https://dof.virginia.gov/forest-management-health/landowner-assistance/endangered-northern-long-eared-bat/>

Utilization and Marketing Meets with Virginia Energy

Earlier this month, Utilization and Marketing staff met with Virginia Energy to tour multiple mine sites in Lee and Wise Counties to look at using biochar to help with mine land reclamation and locate some suitable demonstration areas. They also visited potential sites for biochar facilities throughout the region. Biochar is used for soil amendment, storm-water management, and mine reclamation, offering significant environmental benefits.



Upcoming Project Learning Tree Events

Project Learning Tree (PLT) Virginia has several upcoming workshops this summer and fall. DOF staff are welcome to join these workshops for free.

- July 12 – Early childhood joint workshop with Project WILD! at the Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge Hutchinson Unit, Tappahannock, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- August 8 – K-8 joint workshop with Project WILD! at Ivy Creek Natural Area & Historic River View Farm in Charlottesville, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- August 17 – K-8 workshop at Staunton River Battlefield State Park in Randolph, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- September 14 – K-8 workshop at the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum in Harrisonburg, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Register online: <https://sites.google.com/site/pltvwebsite/workshops>. If you have any questions or would like to host a workshop, contact PLT Coordinator **Lesley Newman** at Lesley.Newman@DOF.Virginia.gov or (434) 981-6742. Workshops can be hosted asynchronously anytime from anywhere. For those interested in becoming a PLT facilitator, the next training is in winter 2025 at Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox.

Virginia State Forests Join the Wild Spotter App

Virginia's state forests have now been added to the Wild Spotter app, which allows citizen scientists to map invasive species in natural areas. A collaboration between the U.S. Forest Service, University of Georgia, Wildlife Forever and several national, regional, state and local partners, Wild Spotter's mission is to build capacity to protect wild places from harmful invasives that threaten the biodiversity and health of the ecosystem. The information collected via the app will help DOF staff track the distribution of invasive species in Virginia to inform management plans. Invasive Species Specialist Lindsay Caplan and Communications Specialist Cory Swift recently produced a video that describes how to use the app to report invasive species in our state forests: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8pThe-ja3M.



Charlotte State Forest to Receive Funding for Impoundment Repair

Charlotte State Forest features several water impoundments that create excellent habitat for migratory waterfowl species. However, these impoundments need repair and are threatening to fail. DOF has been working with Ducks Unlimited for the past two years to secure approximately \$760,000 through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for impoundment repairs. None of this money will pass through DOF. Upon receiving the award in about 6-8 months, Ducks Unlimited will procure and pay contractors for identified project activities as well as manage the survey and design of the project.