



## VDOF Hardwood Sustainability Strategy

### Abundant Resource:

- 12.6 million acres – 80 percent of Virginia’s Forests
- 22.8 billion cubic feet or 900 million tons and growing
- Large economic contributor
- Many associated values- wildlife habitat, clean water, recreation

### Concerns and Issues:

- Lack of proper management- high-grading, passive management
- Markets, economics, particularly for small and lower value trees
- Forest Health – oak decline, gypsy moth, many others, invasive species
- Scarcity of oak regeneration
- Land use changes, landowner demographics and knowledge

### The Need for Action – VDOF Hardwood Management Plan - Strategies

1. Develop a broad **partnership of stakeholders** in the hardwood resource and create a framework or a process to keep these partners engaged over the very long time frame that will be required to make meaningful improvement in the hardwood resource.
2. Work with the partners to **identify hardwood management practices** that have the potential to be widely implemented, evaluate existing barriers to their use, and develop plans to get those practices implemented at a meaningful scale.
3. Develop **service providers**/operators to perform the necessary work for landowners.
4. **Institutionalize** hardwood strategy within VDOF by integrating these strategies into agency work plans, accomplishment recording and reporting, and agency training.
5. Provide **training** opportunities for forestry professionals and practitioners particularly for loggers through the SHARP logger program.
6. Implement **outreach and education** programs for landowners and stakeholders that will include on-the-ground demonstration sites throughout the state.
7. Establish and implement **incentives** for landowners, loggers and forestry practitioners as needed to spur implementation of identified improved hardwood management practices.
8. Work with partners and stakeholders to develop new market opportunities for low grade and under-utilized timber