



## NEWS RELEASE

# Plan Before You Cut

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For most people, selling timber is a once in a lifetime opportunity. People may choose to sell their timber for a variety reasons including financial/income, trees in poor health, providing access, among other reasons. For a forester, harvesting timber is only part of the equation. Having a plan for what will happen afterwards is the other, often missing, key component. Timber harvesting practices affect what grows back in the future, so plan your forest's future *before* you cut.

Professional foresters provide insight and expertise that combine your objectives with the realities of the property. A management plan describes what you have and provides recommendations for next steps. That next step may be

Forestry offers management planning assistance in the form of single focus stand plans, planting plans, pre-harvest plans, and comprehensive forest stewardship plans.

Management plans help landowners accomplish a variety of long-term objectives. As well, a plan may be a stepping-stone into a sustainable forest certification system like the American Tree Farm System or it may lead to cost-share assistance for planting, treating invasive species or forest improvement practices. A management plan may lead to income tax credits for leaving trees along waterways during a harvest, or reduced real property tax valuation.

Whether your desire is to grow trees for income, or maintain a hunting or recreational property, or some combination, periodic action is usually the best option. As a garden needs to be prepared and planted, or a wildlife food plot needs to be prepared and planted or renewed, the woods will best meet your objectives through attention and good planning.

The Virginia Department of Forestry would be glad to provide you with forest management assistance or a forest management plan. Private forestry consultants also provide similar assistance. For Bland, Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell or Tazewell Counties, call Greg Estoll at 276-979-7420 for more information.

Learn more about forest management [here](#).

<https://dof.virginia.gov/forest-management-health/>

### *About the Virginia Department of Forestry*

The Virginia Department of Forestry protects and develops healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians. With nearly 16 million acres of forestland and more than 108,000 Virginians employed in forestry, forest products and related industries, Virginia forests provide an overall economic output of more than \$21 Billion annually.

Headquartered in Charlottesville, the Agency has forestry staff members assigned to every county to provide citizen service and public safety protection across the Commonwealth, which it's been doing now for more than 100 years. VDOF is an equal opportunity provider.

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