



NEWS RELEASE

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY INCENTIVIZES HARDWOOD MANAGEMENT

Hardwood Initiative cost-share and tax credit programs now available

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – Virginia’s invaluable hardwood forests provide clean air and water, recreation, wildlife habitat, and raw materials used for a wide variety of products. To maximize these benefits and ensure a healthy, sustainable hardwood resource, the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) has established the Hardwood Initiative to promote quality management practices.

The Hardwood Initiative Cost-Share Program provides financial reimbursement — up to 75% of the total project cost — for hardwood management projects that include eligible best practices. The Hardwood Initiative Tax Credit Program reimburses up to \$1,000 of expenditures towards the implementation of best practices incurred within a single year. Some landowners may be eligible to receive both cost-share and tax credit ([recommended hardwood management practices can be found on DOF's website](#)).

To establish objectives and have forestland evaluated, interested landowners should contact DOF or a professional consulting forester for suitable management recommendations. If proposals include practices eligible for incentives, assistance with the application process can also be provided. To get started, visit DOF’s ["Find a Forester" web page](#).

“Virginia’s Hardwood Initiative is focused on growing healthy, sustainable hardwood forests for future generations,” said State Forester Rob Farrell. “Forests cover two-thirds of Virginia, with 80 percent of those forests dominated by hardwood. This illustrates just how critical it is that DOF continues to directly support landowners, agencies, organizations and businesses to restore healthy hardwood forests through boots-on-the-ground implementation of best practices.”

Learn more about the Hardwood Initiative cost-share and tax credit programs on DOF’s website: <https://DOF.Virginia.gov/forest-management-health/landowner-assistance/hardwood-initiative/>

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About the Virginia Department of Forestry

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) 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. DOF is an equal opportunity provider.