Virginia Association of Assessing Officers
LAND USE SEMINAR

Forestry Overview and Update
7-16-14

Dean Cumbia, Director
Forest Resource Management Division
Virginia Forest Cover

61.5% Forest Cover
15.88 million acres
Forest Owners - 300,000+

- Individual/Family: 62%
- Corporate: 18%
- Forest Industry: 1%
- Public: 19%

Individual/Family: +300,000
Forest Type Groups, Virginia 2012

- Upland Hardwoods: 61%
- Non-Stocked: 1%
- Pine Plantation: 13%
- Natural Pine: 7%
- Oak-Pine: 11%
- Lowland Hardwood: 5%
- Birch-Beech-Maple: 2%

Source: USFS-FIA
Virginia Forestland Provides

- Economic Benefit: $17 Billion/year
- Jobs – 103,000
- Lumber
- Paper
- Wood for Energy
- Recreation
- Wildlife habitat
- Clean water
- Cleaner air
- Improved quality of life
Since 1940, total volume has more than doubled from 15.5 to 33.6 billion cubic feet.
VDOF inspects over 5,000 harvests annually with an average size of 40 acres.
Forests provide wood, timber for:

- 100 Sawmills that produce 1.2 billion board feet of lumber for construction, furniture, cabinets, flooring, decking, railroad ties, pallets, grade lumber for exports.

- Pulp, paper and panel industries utilize over 3.2 million cords per year.

- Fuel wood, wood pellets and boiler fuels.
Wood For Power, Heat

Newer facilities

Existing facilities

Provided by VA Tech
Timber is a long term crop – planning is critical

For Land Use – Must enhance the growth of commercially desirable species through generally accepted silvicultural practices.

For Land Use – evidenced by a plan, prepared by a professional forester, or a forest use agreement
Providing service for professional assistance to Virginia’s private forest landowners
Making it Happen: Plan Implementation

Timber Sale, Harvesting Advice
Reforestation Assistance, Coordination
Timber Stand Improvement
Protecting Virginia’s Water Quality

- For Land Use, following Forestry Best Management Practices is a standard
- VDOF conducts harvest inspections
- Enforces forest water quality law (sediment)
Qualifications for Forest Use

- Productive forest land, capable of producing a timber crop accessible for harvesting
- Well-distributed, commercially valuable trees of any size
- Sufficient to compose at least 40% normal stocking of forest trees
- Recently harvested area being regenerated into a new forest qualify
Common Native Trees of Virginia

Common Native Trees of Virginia Tree Identification Book
Determining Forest Land Use Values

- Estimating the potential of the site to produce a forest crop
- Based on that potential, **not** based upon the current crop
- Determine the present value of future timber crops
Factors in Value Determination

- Productivity
- Type and growth rate of forest
- Timber prices
- Expenses, such as reforestation costs
- Type, timing of forest management and harvest revenue
- Financial parameters like interest rate, inflation, taxes, annual expenses
Modeling the Forest and Value

- VDOF uses timber yield tools for volume determination
- A forestry financial analysis model is used to calculate value, based upon the chosen parameters.
- Projection is run three times based upon three soil quality types – Fair, Good, Excellent
- Values are suggestions for counties to use
Keeping our Forests Working...and Growing