

West Virginia
Forestry



ANNUAL REPORT FY 2013



West Virginia
WEST VIRGINIA

A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FORESTER

I AM PLEASED TO REPORT that 2013 brought signs of economic improvement for the forest products industry. Housing starts showed steady improvement throughout the year and finished at approximately 600,000 new starts. Although this is only a third of the all-time high in 2006 when new housing starts totaled 1.8 million, it is twice the number of new starts in 2009 when the market hit bottom at 300,000. This increased demand, combined with the reduced supply, drove lumber prices for most hardwood species up to those prices experienced just prior to the downturn in 2008. Most mills are now running near capacity with the supply of logs being the only limiting factor.

The issue of logger availability, or the lack thereof, currently is limiting the industry's ability to grow. In 2005 when the market peaked, there were approximately 1,500 loggers; now there are only 1,000. This dramatic decline and loss of production was expected for all the usual reasons, but the increased demand for this type of experienced labor in the Marcellus Shale gas business is adding to the problem, especially in the northern part of the state. The West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVDOF), in cooperation with the Appalachian Hardwood Center, has initiated a series of meetings to evaluate the lack of trained loggers. Together we hope to develop a program to address this shortage that is limiting expansion of the forest products industry. This will be no small task and will require involvement from those in the forest products industry as well as those in secondary education, banking, insurance, equipment sales and government.

With the improving economy came inquiries from potential investors interested in establishing new manufacturing facilities in the state. To create better efficiency and alignment of technical resources to assist these potential investors, Matt Borror was transferred from the WVDOF to the Development Office. The WVDOF continues to work very closely with Matt and the Development Office to provide inventory data and other information potential investors need to ensure the state's resources are sustainable for new businesses and the established forest products industry.

The WVDOF also entered into its first "Stewardship Contract" with the Monongahela National Forest (MNF). This is the first agreement of this kind with a state agency east of the Mississippi, and will stimulate badly needed silvicultural activities on the MNF while acting as an economic stimulus for the rural economies surrounding the national forest.

West Virginia was the site of the 2013 National Boy Scout Jamboree with 30,000 Scouts in attendance at the Bechtel Summit Reserve near Beckley. The WVDOF led the effort to establish the Conservation Challenge in cooperation with the Society of American Foresters, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and West Virginia Forestry Association. More than 10,000 visitors explored the Conservation Trail during the seven-day jamboree.

The WVDOF was recognized for several accomplishments this past year. The investigation team was awarded the "Forester of the Year" award by the West Virginia Forestry Association for the team's efforts in law enforcement. Also, one member of the team was appointed to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group - Wildland Fire Investigation Committee. This group sets the standards for North American firefighters. The Communications Division was awarded the Diamond Merit Award for the display it designed for the Boy Scouts of America Jamboree. The group also received Honorable Mention for our Facebook page with "likes" increasing 286 percent compared to last year. Linda Carnell, WVDOF Logging Sediment Control Act Forester, was presented with an Eastern Region Honor Award by the U.S. Forest Service as a result of her efforts in the Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area. Last but not least, I was honored to be recognized by the National Association of State Foresters for serving as the group's president for two consecutive years and dealing with legislative issues at the national level.

I am confident 2014 will bring continued improvement to the hardwood lumber business. The WVDOF is prepared to respond to any unexpected challenges as well as those that presently limit our ability to fully capitalize on all the benefits West Virginia's forests provide.



Randy Dye
Director/State Forester

FIRE PROTECTION

The West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVDOF) is responsible for protecting nearly 12 million acres of forestland in West Virginia from damage and destruction due to wildfires. In order to reduce the number of wildfires and acreage burned, the WVDOF's Fire Protection program is divided into three primary areas: prevention, preparedness and suppression.

Fire Prevention

The WVDOF uses Smokey Bear and his longtime message of "Only You Can Prevent Wild (Forest) Fires" to provide wildfire prevention education to the citizens of W.Va. Forestry personnel spread the message through contacts with schools, civic organizations and group programs as well as newspaper articles and radio programs. In Fiscal Year 2013 (FY 2013), the WVDOF presented wildfire prevention messages to:

- 264 schools/16,848 students
- 72 groups/55,065 individuals
- 77 camps/850 campers
- 79 news articles and radio/TV programs
- 597 wildfire exhibits



Roadside wildfire danger sign.

Numerous Smokey Bear Wildfire Danger signs are in place throughout W.Va. to serve as a reminder to be careful with fire. These signs warn citizens of the potential risk of a wildfire occurring due to dry weather conditions.

In addition to providing prevention education, the WVDOF assists forest landowners and people living within woodland home developments reduce the risk of damage due to wildfires. The Firewise West Virginia program provides

assistance to homeowners and woodland developments to create passable access for emergency vehicles and defensible space between forestland and houses or other structures to minimize potential property damage. In FY 2013, the WVDOF provided assistance to 38 communities.

Fire Preparedness

Fire foresters in the WVDOF's Fire Protection group continually make preparations to safely and effectively suppress a wildfire



WVDOF weather station.

when one occurs. These foresters increase the wildfire suppression capability of the WVDOF by taking advanced training, maintaining equipment and training volunteers. Suppression assistance from volunteer fire departments, local fire wardens, local fire crews, the National Guard and prison inmates is essential to the WVDOF's fire suppression efforts. These volunteers are trained in safe and effective

wildfire suppression techniques and equipped with firefighting equipment and personal protection gear acquired by the WVDOF. In FY 2013, WVDOF personnel trained 603 volunteers. The WVDOF also maintains a statewide radio system for communication and firefighter safety during wildfire incidents. A statewide system of weather stations is maintained to assist with the prediction of potential fire danger and fire behavior.

Suppression Program

Wildfire suppression is one of the most important responsibilities of the WVDOF. In FY 2013, WVDOF personnel and volunteers fought 875 wildfires that burned 18,164 acres. These fires caused \$5.45 million in damages to the natural resources of W.Va. and more than \$305,775 in personal property loss. The number of fires was about average, but the acreage burned was approximately 28 percent above average. See chart for 10-year averages of number of fires and acreage burned since 1998.

10-Year Range	Average Number of Fires per year	Average Acres Burned per year
1998-2008	1,168	35,122
1999-2009	1,217	34,865
2000-2010	1,111	33,749
2001-2011	1,005	24,778
2002-2012	775	12,297
2003-2013	863	14,178

Ninety-nine percent of the acreage burned in FY 2013 was caused by fires set by people or their activities. Most wildfires occur in the spring and fall when the forests and grasslands of the state are more susceptible to fire due to dry conditions. Because of the increased fire danger during these two times of the year, outdoor burning is prohibited between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the months of March, April, May, October, November and December.

Part of the WVDOF Suppression program also involves providing wildfire suppression and disaster assistance to other in-state agencies and to other states and federal agencies. In FY 2013, the WVDOF sent a 20-person fire crew to South Dakota, Arizona and Montana to assist with wildfire suppression. Wildfire investigators were sent to Idaho and North Dakota to assist with wildfire cause determinations and investigations. WVDOF personnel provided disaster assistance in-state clearing trees from roads and delivering emergency supplies following the snowstorm



W.Va. Foresters work a fire line in Montana.

associated with Hurricane Sandy. That snowstorm covered much of the eastern part of the state with 3 feet or more of snow. WVDOF personnel spent more than 9,000 hours assisting other state and federal agencies in FY 2013.

Investigative Unit

This unit investigates all violations of the W.Va. State Fire Laws as stipulated within W.Va. State Code §20-3, and has authority to enforce violations of W.Va. State Code §19B, the Logging Sediment Control Act of 1992, and violations of the ginseng laws under W.Va. State Code §19-1A.

The investigative unit consists of three uniformed investigators and one administrative supervisor. Two of the investigators also are K-9 officers and utilize bloodhounds to track suspects in wild land fire arson cases.

During FY 2013, the investigative unit participated in the prosecution of more than 60 violations of fire laws and conducted more than 50 extensive investigations. These investigations ranged from simple debris burning violations to felony arson prosecutions. As a direct result of these investigations, 15 suspects were arrested and prosecuted and numerous citations for misdemeanor violations were issued.

Members of this unit also served as instructors for advanced fire investigation training classes for state, county and city agencies within West Virginia.

Although the investigative unit works primarily within West Virginia, other jurisdictions frequently request members travel out of state to assist with incendiary wild land fire investigations and provide advanced wild land fire investigation training.

During FY 2013, one member of the forestry investigation unit was selected to serve on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Wildfire Investigation Advisory Board for the review and update of advanced investigative techniques relating to the FI-210 course. This course is taught internationally, and this effort represented the first time a member of the WVDOF served on this prestigious board.

The two K-9 bloodhound handlers traveled to South Carolina and served as instructors at the annual Police Bloodhound Certification School in York County. This school is a nationally recognized leader in law enforcement training and certification of bloodhounds and their handlers. The WVDOF's K-9 bloodhound handlers were requested because of their outstanding dedication and excellence in the field.

During this past fiscal year the investigation unit activated new K-9 Bloodhound "Raisy." Raisy takes over for retiring K-9 Bloodhound Sadie May, who has served the WVDOF for more than 10 years. Raisy is stationed in the Beckley area and is handled by Investigator Don Kelley.

Due to the exceptional efforts of these investigators and their bloodhounds, the WVDOF continues to be recognized nationwide as a leader in the investigation and prosecution of wild land arsonists.



Logging inspection.

WATER QUALITY

The Logging Sediment Control Act (LSCA) is the state's set of laws governing water quality as it pertains to forestry activities. The WVDOF is responsible for training and licensing loggers and timber operators in West Virginia, and ensuring that those licensed abide by water quality laws.

Anyone who buys timber or logs for resale or who harvests timber within the state must obtain a timbering license from the WVDOF. All timbering operations must submit a notification to the WVDOF within three days of the start of operations, and have a certified logger present who has been trained by the WVDOF in Best Management Practices and Safety and Tree Felling and has current First Aid training.

FY 2013 Logging Data

- Professional loggers trained1,032
- Logger certifications issued..... 670
- Timber licenses issued 531
- Logging notifications of harvesting operations2,109
- Acres harvested 154,226
- WVDOF complaint and compliance checks7,239

Loggers of Excellence

In 2013, the WVDOF named 22 companies as W.Va. 5-Year Loggers of Excellence for completing five consecutive years' work in full compliance with the LSCA. In addition, 165 companies were named 2013 Loggers of Excellence for their year's work in full compliance with the state's water quality and sedimentation laws.

Managed Timberland

The Managed Timberland program provides property tax incentives to forest landowners who practice sound forest management. In recent years, the number of nonindustrial landowners has increased. As required, new enrollees are acquiring forest management plans for their properties, ensuring healthy and sustainable forests for future generations.

Program Requirements

- A parcel must be part of a tract with at least 10 contiguous acres of forest.
- The parcel must contain sufficient numbers of commercially valuable species of trees to constitute at least 40 percent normal stocking of forest trees. The trees must be well distributed over the growing site.
- All parcels must have a management plan established within two years of enrollment and be managed pursuant to the established plan.
- Parcels may not be part of any subdivision or have any deed restriction.

Program Accomplishments

- The 2012 Timber Price Report was completed as part of the annual valuation for the W.Va. Tax Department.

2013 Managed Timberland Data

- Landowners enrolled2,585
- Parcels enrolled 12,803
- Total Acres 2,380,774

Chesapeake Bay

In addition to enforcing the LSCA, which reduces sediment flowing into rivers and streams, the WVDOF supports other water quality initiatives like the West Virginia Chesapeake Bay program. The annual objectives of this program are to permanently protect priority forests, establish riparian forest buffers and establish urban tree canopy (UTC) goals for counties and municipalities.

In FY 2013, the forester assigned to this program conducted eight riparian buffer plantings in four counties: Harlan Run, Tuscarora Creek and Opequon Creek in Berkeley County, Warm Springs Run in Morgan County, Town Run in Jefferson County, and the Cacapon River in Hardy County. He also coordinated a 3,800-foot buffer on a farm in Berkeley County utilizing Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding.

In addition, he continues to monitor more than 30 previous plantings and conducts maintenance as needed. He assisted Berkeley County and Martinsburg in the establishment of UTC goals. This goal-setting step included several urban tree plantings. This forester also works with "Project Communitree" to plant trees on public property around the eight-county area. He serves as a board member of the Potomac Watershed Partnership and maintains working relationships with all of the W.Va. watershed groups in the Potomac area. In addition, he works with the West Virginia Conservation Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), land trusts, farmland protection boards and non-governmental organizations.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Rural Forestry Assistance

In FY 2013, the WVDOF provided professional forestry assistance to 3,117 landowners. This assistance included forest management planning, tree planting, forest road and recreational development, wildlife habitat enhancement and timber harvests.

Environment Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Practices completed in the past through the WVDOF's Forest Land Enhancement Program are now funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is administered by the NRCS, and the WVDOF's landowner assistance foresters serve as technical service providers for the program. A contribution agreement between NRCS and the WVDOF enables the WVDOF to employ foresters who are located in NRCS offices.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address soil- and water-related concerns on the landowners' properties. These concerns are addressed in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) offers additional incentives to encourage landowners to implement practices that will help reduce sediment and nutrients in the Chesapeake Bay and improve wildlife habitat.

In terms of forestry, these programs encourage landowners to convert highly erodible cropland and other environmentally sensitive areas to permanent cover with trees, and to plant trees near streams to establish riparian buffers.

Both programs are administered by the FSA. NRCS and the WVDOF provide technical assistance to help landowners plan and implement CRP/CREP practices.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for conservation-minded landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forestland. In West Virginia, the WVDOF provides technical assistance on silvicultural projects involving stewardship and American Tree Farm properties.

Accomplishments for FY 2013 include:

- Site Preparation 22 acres
- Forest Stand Improvement 832 acres
- Riparian Forest Buffer 24 acres
- Tree Establishment..... 58 acres
- Access Control..... 1,472 acres
- Brush Management – Invasive species954 acres

Forest Stewardship Program

The Forest Stewardship program offers technical and financial assistance to private landowners interested in planning and managing their forestland for multiple-use benefits, including wood products, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics and other resource considerations. The program reimburses landowners for 75 percent of the cost to prepare a stewardship plan. These plans list the individual landowner's objectives, contain maps of the property and make forest management recommendations for a 10-year time frame. In FY 2013, 79 stewardship plans were completed for 10,417 acres. Currently 214,533 acres are managed under stewardship plans.

In FY 2013, the WVDOF offered four stewardship training workshops to consulting foresters, natural resource professionals and other foresters from around the state. These four workshops drew 238 participants. In order to prepare forest stewardship plans, foresters are required to attend a minimum of two of these sessions annually. These workshops provide an opportunity to earn continuing education credits that are required for state and national registered forester status. Speakers from academia, experienced field practitioners and researchers provide technical presentations on subjects and issues useful to plan writers. These education workshops are extremely popular within the natural resources community.

A major cooperator on stewardship outreach to forest landowners is the West Virginia University Extension Service/ Appalachian Hardwood Center of the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Design, Division of Forestry & Natural Resources. Ongoing projects include joint monitoring of the stewardship program, including field visits and landowner interviews; outreach and education involving landowner workshops, newsletters and technical information; and the West Virginia Woodlands Welcome Wagon. The Woodlands Welcome Wagon is a popular activity where new landowners can get connected with the organizations and professionals of the forestry community and receive introductory information on forest products and services.

Virginia pine in Marion County.

Big Tree Program

In FY 2013, the WVDOF continued efforts to locate and re-measure trees listed in the Big Tree database. Natural mortality took some trees while others were replaced by newly nominated champions. A revised Big Tree register is available at www.wvcommerce.org/BigTrees. West Virginia's Champion Mountain Maple (*Acer spicatum*) is now in the American Forests' National Big Tree register as the largest species of its kind on record in the United States.

Forest Legacy Program

The Forest Legacy program purchases working forest conservation easements (WFCEs) to extinguish development rights on significant forested properties. WFCEs provide timber, wildlife, recreation, water quality and scenic benefits and at the same time also prevent parcelization and development from occurring. In addition, the opportunity to practice forestry and to harvest timber is provided. After WFCEs are acquired, landowners continue to own and manage the land according to their own objectives with their Forest Stewardship Plan.

The first conservation easement, 764 acres along the South Branch of the Potomac River in Hampshire County, was purchased in 2008. In 2010, the second and third conservation easements were purchased. These easements include 2,500 acres in Morgan County and 144 acres in Hampshire County. The fourth easement, 378 acres in Grant County, was acquired in 2013.

The WVDOF is currently in the process of protecting additional properties in Hampshire and Grant counties.

Ginseng Program

The WVDOF tracks, weighs and certifies all harvested ginseng before the roots are exported from the state. During the 2012-2013 season, the WVDOF certified 4,927 pounds of wild ginseng and registered 31 ginseng dealers.

In 2007, with assistance of the W.Va. Ginseng Grower's Association, the WVDOF established the Ginseng Growers' program. This program establishes areas (makes determinations) where individuals can grow ginseng without threatening the areas' native wild ginseng populations. Since the program's establishment, WVDOF foresters have made 85 determinations. In 2012, there were 67 registered ginseng growers in the state. It is too early in this program's history to see if any significant amounts of artificially propagated ginseng are being harvested. The Ginseng Growers' program also allows ginseng growers to export their ginseng, if, for some reason, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would ever close the season in the state.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Urban and Community Forestry program's objective is to establish long-term tree care programs in municipalities throughout the state to protect and effectively manage the most valuable trees in W.Va. The program also provides the necessary knowledge and tools to communities to make comprehensive urban forestry management successful.

Program Accomplishments

- Worked with 89 communities and county governments, impacting 588,339 W.Va. citizens.
- Conducted 29 workshops that provided 3,116 training hours covering many components of proper tree care.
- Provided 310 technical assists to communities to foster municipal urban forestry programs.
- Planted 4,230 new trees in communities across the state.

- Implementing a U.S. Forest Service competitive grant for \$246,343 to fund an assessment of urban tree canopy (UTC) of selected counties within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This project is a partnership among the WVDOF, WV Conservation Agency, the Cacapon Institute, WVDOH and units of local government. Cacapon Institute is utilizing UTC assessments to identify high priority planting areas and develop land management strategies at county and municipal levels. To date, 2,586 volunteers representing 37 volunteer organizations have planted 1,436 trees in high priority areas with Project CommuniTree funds made possible by this grant. We are continuing to work with communities to assess current canopy cover, set future canopy cover goals and develop land management strategies. Our goal is to increase public benefits from both urban trees and surrounding forestland within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- Helped 16 municipalities receive national recognition for their urban forestry programs through the Tree City USA award program. These municipalities include Bath, Bluefield, Charles Town, Elkins, Follansbee, Harpers Ferry, Hinton, Huntington, Lewisburg, Morgantown, Parkersburg, Petersburg, Ronceverte, Shepherdstown, Summersville and Williamstown.
- Provided 1,930 trees to 13 communities and volunteer groups for planting on public property through the Mountaineer Treeways program. More than 168 volunteers donated 949 hours to plant and care for these trees.
- Utilized \$2,490 in donations from the W.Va. Forestry Association to fund tree planting and support the Arbor Day Poster Contest.
- Administered \$31,800 in Demonstration City grants with pass-through federal funds to promote sustained tree care in Elkins, Harpers Ferry, Huntington, Ronceverte and Summersville. This program generated a local match totaling \$46,811. Accomplishments include the planting of 114 trees, pruning of 84 high value and storm damaged trees and removal of tons of tree debris resulting from Hurricane Sandy.
- Conducted UTC assessments and inventories and planted 40 much-needed trees in Berkeley County and Martinsburg through the Chesapeake Bay Community Grant program. This program was made possible by federal Chesapeake Bay funds totaling \$19,092. Urban Forestry staff worked with our Chesapeake Bay forester to provide technical assistance to these communities.
- In a cooperative effort with Allegheny Power and Appalachian Power, the WVDOF obtained \$24,753 to plant 138 utility line-compatible trees in seven communities through the Municipal Tree Restoration Program. Those communities include:
 - Buckhannon — \$4,910 to plant 33 trees
 - Elizabeth — \$930 to plant 6 trees
 - Elkins — \$4,833 to plant 23 trees
 - Hinton — \$2,000 to plant 8 trees
 - Morgantown — \$4,860 to plant 29 trees
 - Parkersburg — \$4,720 to plant 31 trees
 - Parsons — \$2,500 to plant 8 trees

Clements State Tree Nursery

Clements State Tree Nursery is the only state-operated bare-root seedling nursery in W.Va., producing both hardwood and conifer seedlings. Recently, Ohio closed its state tree nursery, and in FY 2013, the WVDOF marketed its seedlings to Ohio landowners. This move paid off, increasing seedling sales for FY 2013 to 786,000, up 45 percent from FY 2012.

The majority of the hardwood seedlings are sold to mine land reclamation contractors in W.Va. and Ohio. The nursery has the facility, land and irrigation capacity to double and even triple seedling production if coal companies and mine reclamation contractors could be encouraged to purchase W.Va.-grown seedlings rather than seedlings from out-of-state contractors.

In addition to mine reclamation, our seedlings are used for cost-share program plantings, wildlife habitat, erosion control, reforestation projects and Christmas tree production. The nursery maintains four seed orchards: American chestnut, Allegheny chinquapin, white pine and tulip poplar. Seed from our orchards is genetically improved to grow faster and produce higher quality timber than seed collected in the wild. Clements staff purchases only high-quality seed resulting in better germination and uniformity in seedbeds. This, combined with a successful herbicide program, allows the nursery to operate more efficiently. Utilizing inmates from nearby Lakin Correctional Center to weed and process seedlings contributes to a decrease in labor costs.

Currently, the nursery holds agreements for seedling production with the U.S. Forest Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and WVDNR, and with the American Chestnut Foundation for orchard establishment. Seedlings may be purchased online September through April at www.wvcommerce.org/ClementsNurseryStore.

State Forests

Program Accomplishments

- **Cabwaylingo State Forest**
 - Completed the Gourd Branch harvest.
 - Upper Arkansas Branch timber being harvested (December 2013).
 - Tick Ridge timber put up for sale - 439,058 board feet and minimum bid of \$95,712.03. No bids were received. If WVDOF fails to find a buyer within six months, the timber must be reappraised and put out for bid again.
 - Prepared silvicultural prescription for Turkey Creek and Bark Camp II projects and received permission to sell the timber.
- **Greenbrier State Forest**
 - Laurel Branch timber is being harvested by J. J. Martin for Allegheny Wood Products.
- **Camp Creek State Forest**
 - Neely Ridge II timber harvest was completed by Collins Hardwoods.
 - The Blue Jay Ridge timber sale was approved. This timber is being marked with anticipation of selling it by spring of 2014.



New overlook at Kumbrabow State Forest.

- **Kumbrabow State Forest**
 - Fire Tower/Overlook timber (910,661 board feet) sold to Penn West Trading Company for \$293,684.84 in December 2012. Harvest was completed in September 2013.
 - Oxley Run timber has been marked and put out for sale; bid opening was scheduled for Dec. 17, 2013.
 - Morgan Camp Run timber is being marked. WVDOF anticipates putting it out for bid no later than January 2014.
- **Seneca State Forest**
 - The Big Run timber harvest was completed by Augusta Lumber Company in October 2013.
- **TOTAL Board Feet Harvested = 910,661**
- **TOTAL Funds Collected = \$293,684.84**

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

When the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) selected an 11,000 acre tract in W.Va. as their fourth high- adventure camp and permanent location for the National Jamboree, the BSA National Conservation committee began planning to establish an area on the site for the Conservation Trail.

On a gentle spur ridge above Goodrich Lake in the heart of the Conservation Trail, WVDOF foresters interacted with Scouts, Scouters and members of the general public answering questions about trees, stewardship and general forestry issues.



LSCA Forester David Turnipseed assists a Boy Scout during the National Jamboree in July 2013.

During the seven-day Jamboree, 10,000+ visitors explored the Conservation Trail and visited the various exhibits or took part in activities. One of these was the "Conservation Challenge," a series of 20 questions scattered along the Conservation Trail. By answering questions correctly, participants solved a Jamboree-related phrase and received a special patch.

The Conservation Challenge utilized QR codes (Quick Response codes) that sent participants to websites where the correct answers could be found.

These websites included the Society of American Foresters, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, West Virginia Forestry Association and the WVDOF, the four groups that partnered to bring the Conservation Challenge to the National Jamboree. In addition, these same groups collaborated to teach Scouts the Forestry Merit Badge.



The next national Jamboree will be held in W.Va. in 2017, followed by the 24th World Scout Jamboree in 2019. The World Scout Jamboree will be hosted by Boy Scouts of America, Scouts Canada and the Scout Association of Mexico.

COMMUNICATIONS

The WVDOF utilizes the Department of Commerce's Communications and Marketing Division for public information, media management and publication layout and design. In FY 2013, the WVDOF worked closely with the marketing division to create a display for the BSA Jamboree. The 8'x10' display and three free-standing cut-outs were interactive, featuring QR codes that led to a webpage featuring individual foresters' biographies. The cut-outs allowed visitors to put their face on a forester's body and were very popular with attendees. In December 2013, the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) honored the display with a Diamond Merit Award for public service.

The WVDOF's Facebook (www.facebook/wvforestry) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/WVForestry>) accounts continue to be popular. In June 2013, the West Virginia PRSA Chapter awarded forestry's Facebook page Honorable Mention for social media in a statewide competition. From Oct. 16, 2012, to Oct. 16, 2013, WVDOF Facebook page "likes" increased by 268 percent, from 592 to 2,207.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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Clements State Tree Nursery

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West Columbia, WV 25287
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Region 1

Serving the counties of Barbour, Berkeley, Brooke, Grant, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jefferson, Marion, Marshall, Mineral, Monongalia, Morgan, Ohio, Pendleton, Preston, Taylor, Tucker and Wetzel.

Region 1 Headquarters

Farmington Office

P.O. Box 40
1106 Railroad Street
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Region 1

Romney Office

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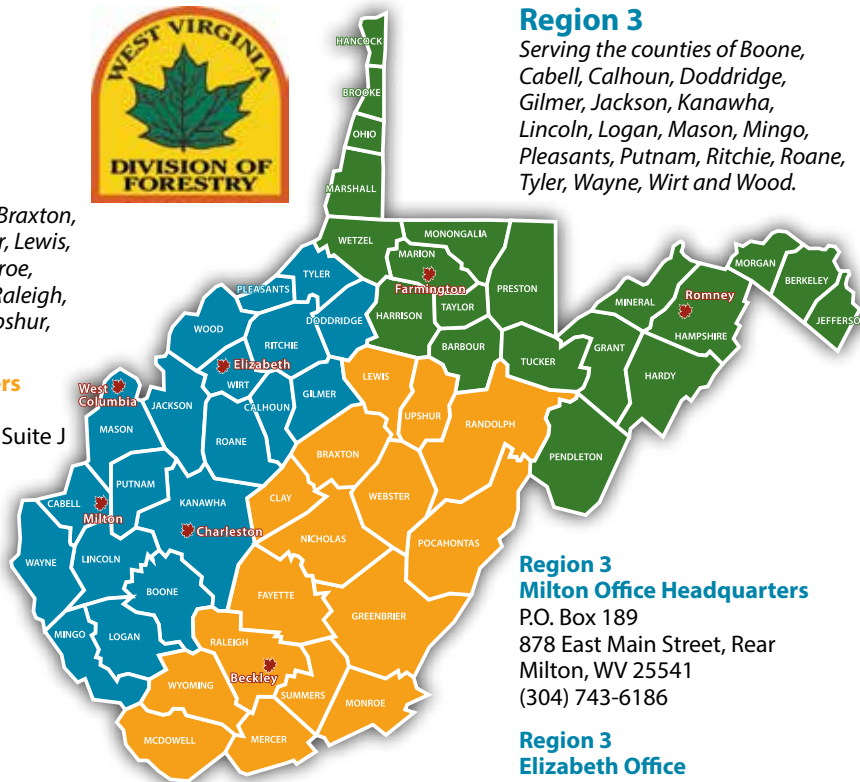
Region 2

Serving the counties of Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Lewis, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Randolph, Summers, Upshur, Webster and Wyoming.

Region 2 Headquarters

Beckley Office

330 Harper Park Drive, Suite J
Beckley, WV 25801
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Region 3

Serving the counties of Boone, Cabell, Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Pleasants, Putnam, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wayne, Wirt and Wood.

Region 3

Milton Office Headquarters

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Region 3

Elizabeth Office

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