Agency

- Agency is moving out of the Covid-19 restrictions, opening meeting rooms, opening offices. Field personnel are still working remotely as is the nature of our work for the most part and all personnel have access through cell phones and laptops to be able to work in remote situations.
- Agency has developed a new website, same address, www.dof.virginia.gov. Please take the opportunity to check out the new site, hopefully you will find it much more user friendly and you will be able to locate the services that you need and the VDOF personnel in your area to receive services from.
- The agency is undertaking a Hardwood Management Initiative and has received funding from the General Assembly to support a Program Coordinator position as well as funding for project implementation.
- The agency has also been approved for a Watershed Manager position to help out with the Chesapeake Bay Program as well as the Riparian Forest Buffer Program. In addition, VDOF has also been approved to hire three (3) Riparian Forest Buffer/Land Conservation specialists to assist with those programs.

Forest Management

- VDOF is working with the Black Family Land Trust on a U. S. Forest Service grant to provide forest management services and programs to underserved minority landowners in southside, Virginia. This program provides free management plans and other project services to assist those landowners in managing their forest resources, additional funding has been provided through EPA for assistance with underserved landowners for the Chesapeake Bay cleanup initiative assisting with Riparian Buffer establishment and the conversion of Turf to Trees.
- Training on hardwood management has been provided to a group of VDOF Foresters by the U. S. Forest Service Southern Research Station as part of the State Foresters Hardwood Management Initiative.

Water Quality

- The VDOF participated in various virtual Logger Training in cooperation with the SFI SHARP Logger Program which is managed by VT Cooperative Extension. In FY20, VDOF Water Quality personnel instructed on BMPs to 604 loggers in 21 separate on-line events.
- Calendar Year 2020 BMP Implementation Monitoring has been completed and shows that BMPs are continuing to be implemented at a very high rate of 95% statewide and the tract median score for those tracts within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed is 95.5%. Of the 240 sites visited, 2 sites (0.83%) had some issues that proved to be a risk to water quality if a rain event occurred, and one(1) of those sites (0.42%) exhibited active sedimentation. The logging community continues to do an exceptional job in the protection of soil and water quality. Report can be found here: https://dof.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/BMPs-Imp-Monitoring-2020_pub.pdf
- The first two quarters of BMP Monitoring has been completed for 2021 and the agency is on-track to complete monitoring by the end of the year.
- VDOF is accepting applications for the Riparian Forest Buffer Tax Credit program. Landowners that have harvested timber during the 2021 calendar year and have retained a forest buffer (Streamside Management Zone – SMZ) are eligible to receive a tax credit based of 25% of the value of the timber retained in the forest buffer up to a maximum of $17,500.