



FORESTRY LAND USE

Overview and Update

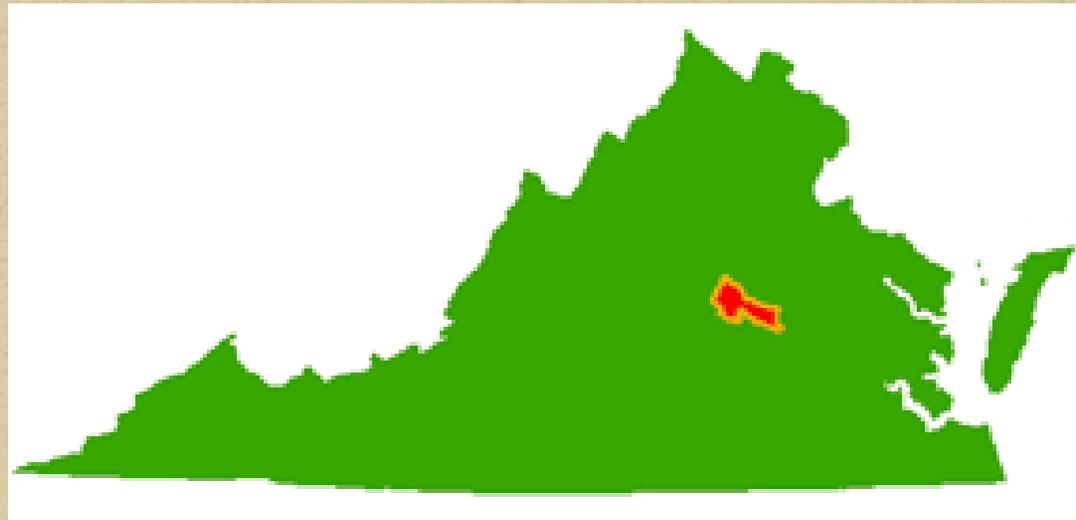
Goochland County
Land Use Work Session
October 20, 2016

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Forester
Virginia Department of Forestry



Goochland County

- **185,600 acres total area**
- **111,580 acres of forest**
- **3,840 acres of surface water**





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



Forest Benefits

- *Resource & economic benefits are derived from:*
 - ◆ Protection of soil & water quality
 - ◆ Moderation of air & climate
 - ◆ Provision of wildlife habitat



- ◆ These benefits valued at more than ***\$1.9 billion*** annually.



Land Use – Purpose

Policy:(From SLEAC Manual)

“.... preservation of real estate for agricultural, horticultural, forest and open space use is in the public interest and that the classification, special assessment and taxation of such property in a manner that promotes its preservation help foster long term public benefits.”



Land Use Focus: Timber Management

- 4VAC10-20-30A... “the real estate is being used in a planned program of **timber management** and soil conservation practices..” that:
 - 1. Enhance the growth of **commercially desirable species**
 - 2. Reduce or prevent soil erosion
- Intent by owner shown by a signed commitment or by submitting a plan prepared by a professional forester.



Qualifications for Forest Land Use

- 20 acres of Productive forest land, capable of producing a timber crop
- Well distributed, commercially valuable trees of any size
- Sufficient to compose at least 40% normal stocking of trees
- Recently harvested area being regenerated into a new forest qualify



Forest Land Use Values

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



Forest Value Modeling

- VDOF uses forest growth and yield models for volume determination
- A forestry financial analysis tool is used to calculate value, based upon the chosen parameters.
- Projection is run three times based upon three soil quality types – Fair, Good, Excellent



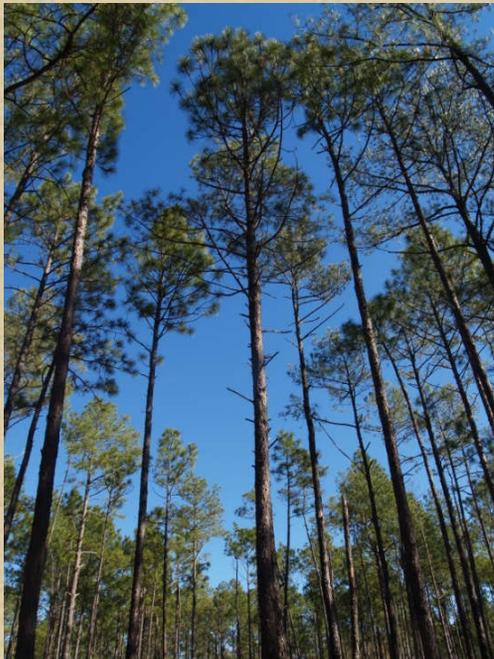
Determining the Value

- The value of the series of annualized costs and revenues, discounted to one point in time, or capitalized, gives the estimated forest use value.



Management & Harvest Regimes

Pine
Shorter time



Hardwood
Longer time

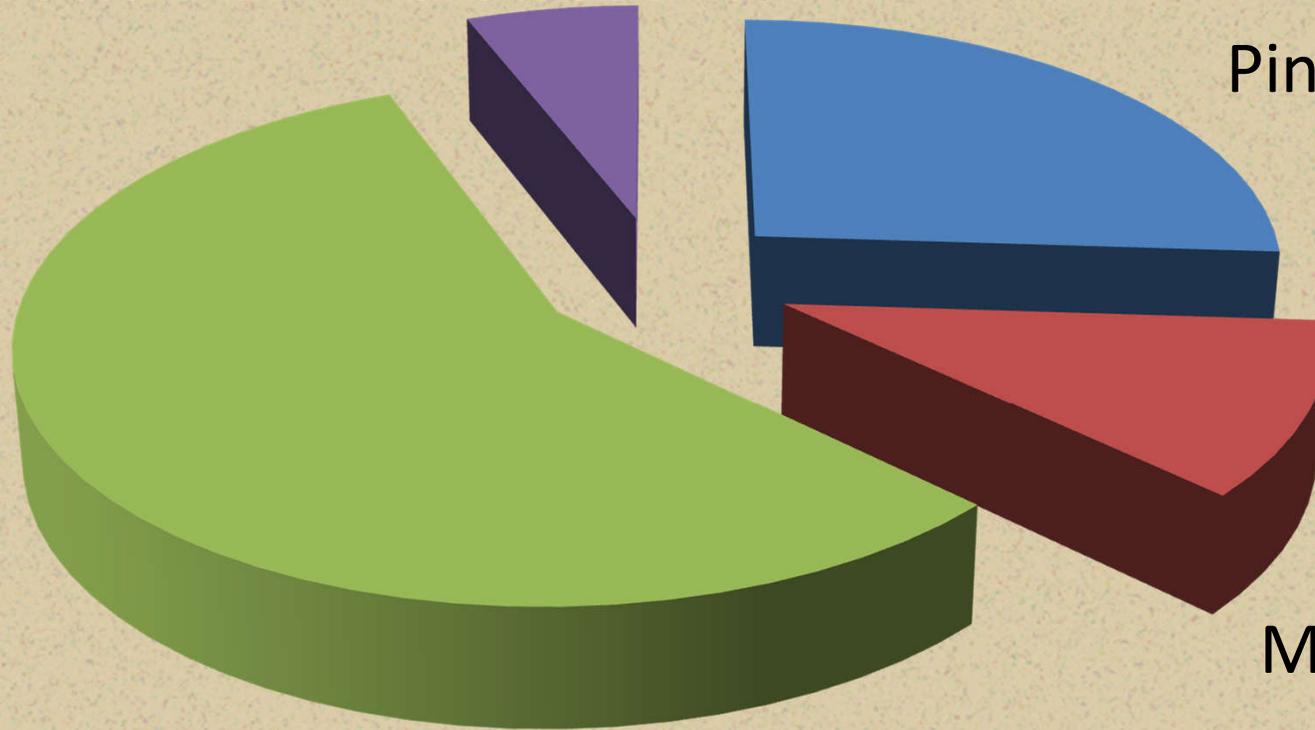




Goochland County Forest Types

Bottomland Hardwood- 6%

Pine – 26%



Hardwood – 57 %

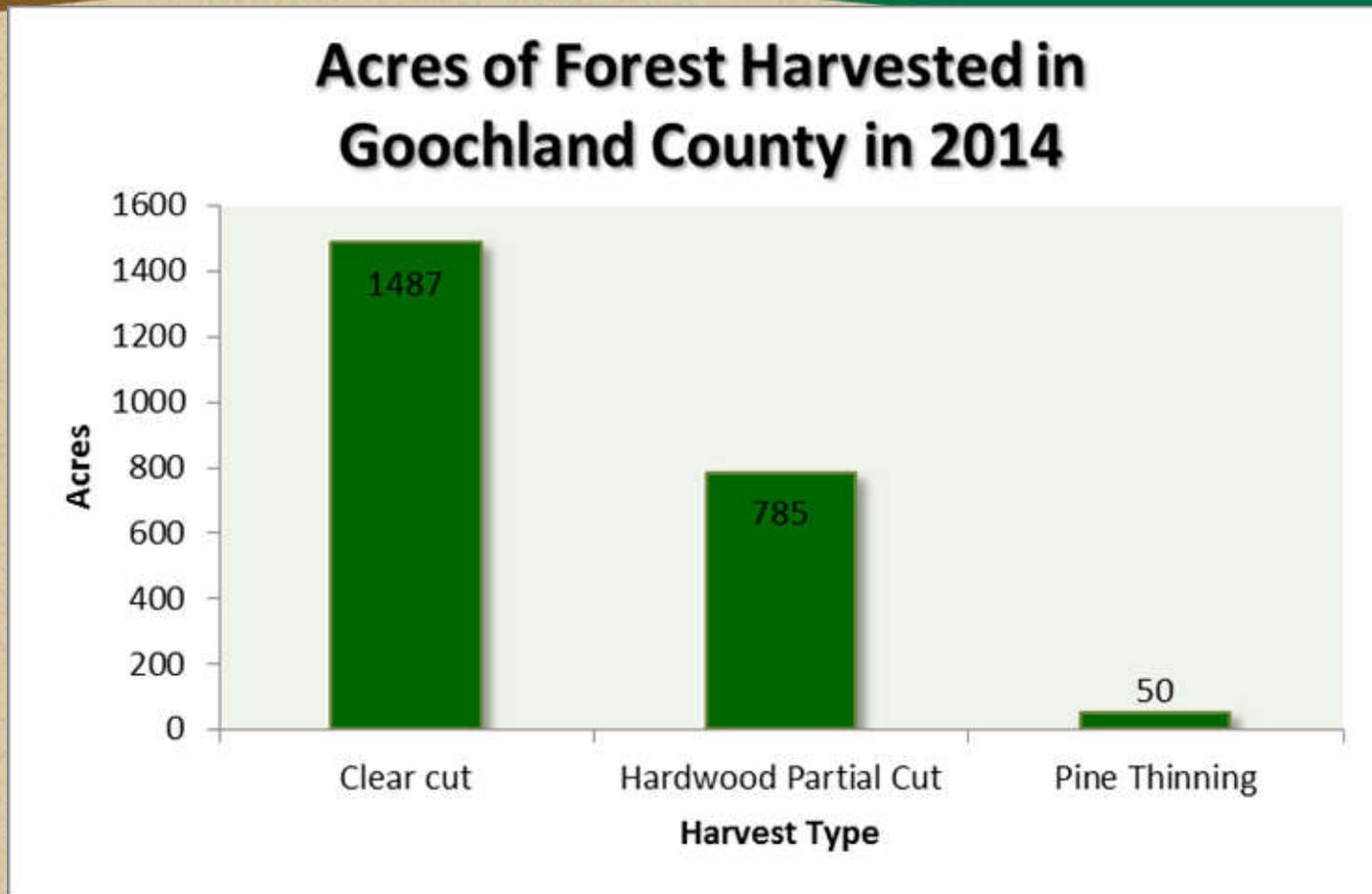
Mixed – 11%



Goochland County Timber Activity

- 2015 Timber harvests from harvest notifications:
 - ◆ 40 Harvest Sites
 - ◆ 1,897 Acres
- Average annual harvest value to landowners:
\$1.3 million

2014 County Timber Harvest

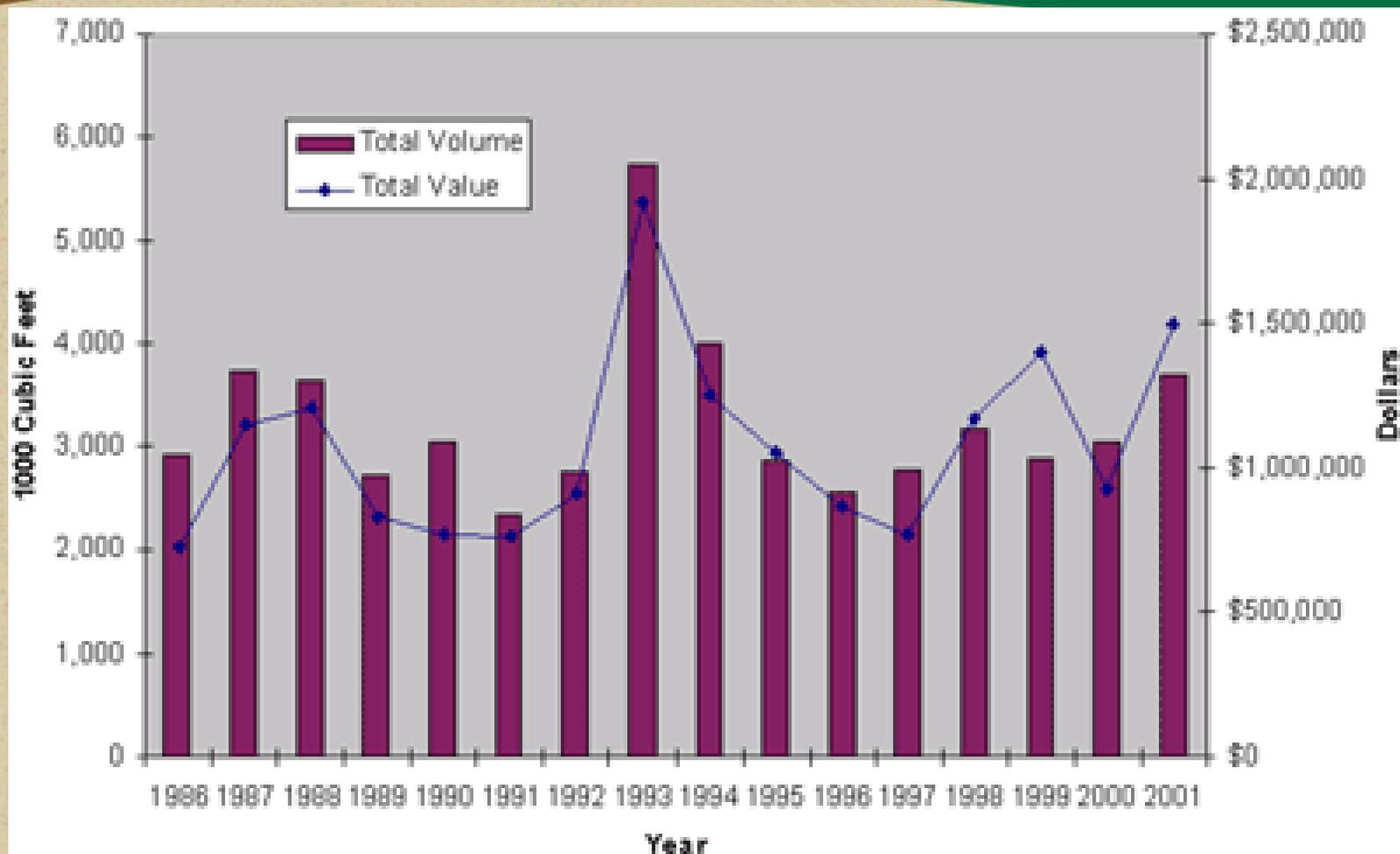




Timber Harvesting

| Year | # of harvests | Harvest acres |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2010 | 56 | 2,210 |
| 2011 | 67 | 2,573 |
| 2014 | 50 | 2,322 |
| 2015 | 40 | 1,897 |

Goochland County Timber Volume & Value Trends





Forest Management Plans

- Forest Stewardship Management Plans (FSMP)
 - ◆ Produced by a professional forester (public or private).
 - ◆ VDOF charges \$1.50 per acre, \$200 minimum.
 - ◆ Comprehensive plan that includes information on soils, endangered & threatened species, special sites, etc.
- CAP 106 plan
 - ◆ Equivalent to a FSMP
 - ◆ Produced and cost-shared through NRCS.



Forest Management Plans

- Forest Land Use Plan
 - ◆ Bare minimum – meets land use requirements.
 - ◆ VDOF charges \$1.50 per acre, minimum charge of \$200.



Forest Management Plans

- Benefits of a FSMP:
 - ◆ Meets requirement for land use.
 - ◆ Provides professional advice on how to achieve your goals over a period of time (minimum ten years).
 - ◆ Required to obtain a Riparian Tax Credit.



Forest Management Plans

- Required to become a certified Tree Farm and sometimes required for conservation easements.
- Increases chances of acquiring Federal cost share.

Forest Conservation

- Conservation Easements- 3
(532.37 ac)
- Forest Stewardship Certification
 - ◆ 2011 - 2 tracts (190 ac)
 - ◆ 2010 - 2 tracts (1,172 ac)
- Stewardship Management Plans
 - ◆ 2011 - 5 plans (1,200 ac)
 - ◆ 2010 - 4 plans (970 ac)
 - ◆ Over 5,000 ac since 1999





Cost Share Funding

- Reforestation of Timberland Fund (RT)
 - \$17,367 in 2016.
- Southern Pine Bark Beetle Prevention Program
 - 60% of costs to thin young pine stands
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Pine Reforestation



- Pine Reforestation on harvested land:
 - ◆ 2009: 14 tracts (443 ac)
 - ◆ 2010: 22 tracts (580 ac)
 - ◆ 2011: 18 tracts (805 ac)
 - ◆ 2012: 15 tracts (524 ac)
 - ◆ 2016: 14 tracts (507 ac)



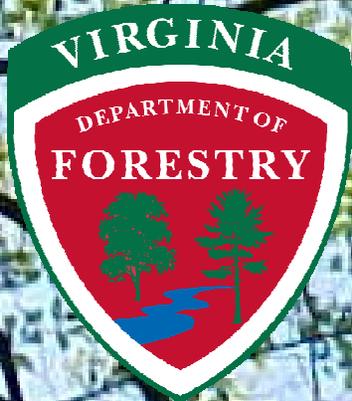
Forest Management

Pine Herbicide Release Program



- 2016 – Sprayed total of 682 acres between August 1st and October 1st.
- Most years average around 500 acres.

QUESTIONS



Keeping our Forests
Working...and Growing