



West Virginia Division of Forestry **2007 Annual Report**

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Mission Statement

The West Virginia Division of Forestry is committed to protecting, nurturing, and promoting the wise utilization and sustainability of our state's forest resources.

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Cover Photo: Fall colors along a country road near Spruce Knob in Pendleton County

Inside Cover Photo: Winter blankets the landscape on Dolly Sods in Tucker County

Photos by Steve Shaluta



A Message from the State Forester - Randy Dye



In 2007, the West Virginia Division of Forestry focused efforts on its primary legislative mandates, which include wildland fire suppression, ensuring compliance with the Logging Sediment Control Act and landowner assistance. However, several other emerging issues that will have a significant impact on the future of West Virginia's forests are the subject of my comments.

The rising cost of energy on a worldwide basis has seen many different interest groups exploring new technologies to meet the ever-increasing demand. Our forests may prove to be a contributing source of reliable and renewable energy to help meet this demand. West Virginia's coal and natural gas production has always been important, but there is now considerable interest in supplementing these traditional energy sources with biomass generated by our forests. This forest biomass is sustainable, with growth exceeding harvest by 30 percent. There also is estimated to be in excess of two million green tons of "topwood" biomass left over annually from the process of harvesting saw timber; it is presently not being utilized simply because there is not a market for this material. This could soon change, based on the number of inquiries that we have received from investors who are contemplating the construction of biomass fuel conversion facilities in West Virginia.

Fire has always been considered the greatest threat to our state's forest resources. However, this may not be the case much longer, even though wildland fires remain a significant problem. Invasive species may soon become the greatest threat to our forests. The number of different invasive species increases every year and there is no indication that this trend will change any time soon. Gypsy moth, which has been the number one invasive forest pest for many years, has been joined by such threats as the emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, beech bark disease, sudden oak death syndrome, siren woodwasp and the Asian longhorned beetle. Adequate funding to control these invasives will most likely become a problem as their numbers increase annually.

The State and Private Forestry branch of the U.S. Forest Service, working closely with the National Association of State Foresters, recently announced that beginning this coming year, federal grant programs would be on a competitive basis rather than on an allocation formula, as they had been for many years. The new competitive grant process will be based on an assessment of the state's forest resources and a response plan to address that assessment. In federal fiscal year 2008, 15 percent of all funds will be competitive. That will increase to 65 percent over a five-year period. Therefore, next year we must develop a geospatially-based assessment of the state's resources and a corresponding response plan to enable us to be competitive for the available federal dollars.

We pledge to meet these challenges head on, handling our traditional duties while implementing new strategies as needed. We will ensure that West Virginia's forests remain sustainable, while contributing to the state's economy, and providing clean water, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and scenic beauty. I encourage you to read this annual report, so that you will better understand the many conservation activities of the West Virginia Division of Forestry.

Randy Dye
Director/State Forester

Fire Protection



Authorization for fire protection programs comes from West Virginia Code §§20-3-2 to 29: "Upon receiving notice of any fire which is injuring or endangering forest land...the Director... shall employ all necessary means to confine, extinguish, or suppress the fire."

The Division of Forestry's top priority has always been and continues to be protecting the state's forest resource from the ravages of wildfire. At the turn of the 20th century, wildfires devastated West Virginia's forests. In 1908, more than 1.7 million acres of forestland were destroyed by fire. Because of this devastation, the West Virginia Reform Law of 1909 was established to protect the state's only renewable resource, the forest. Today, the Forestry Division protects nearly 12 million acres of forestland across West Virginia.

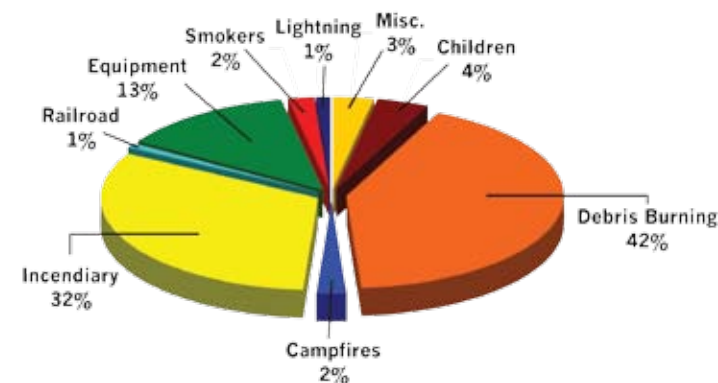
The Division of Forestry's Fire Protection Program is divided into three areas: prevention, preparedness and suppression.

Prevention Program

The Division of Forestry's main ally in the fight against forest fires is Smokey Bear, the national symbol for wildfire prevention. Smokey Bear, accompanied by Forestry employees, appears at schools, fairs, festivals and other events to remind residents that his slogan "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires" is still true today, more than 63 years after his inception. In fiscal year (FY) 2007, Division of Forestry employees shared Smokey's message with:

- 321 elementary schools
- 100 camps
- 90 media contacts
- 286 wildfire exhibits
- 208 group programs

Another tool in the Forestry Division's fire prevention arsenal is the Firewise West Virginia program, an extension of the national Firewise Communities initiative. This program creates safe access and defensible space for homes adjacent to woodlands. The primary goals of Firewise West Virginia are to educate the public on measures to minimize property damage or loss from wildfires and to help communities develop wildland fire mitigation plans, hazard reduction projects and protection improvements. Firewise West Virginia is active in 10 counties with a higher risk of wildland/urban interface fires: Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, Pendleton, Pocahontas and Tucker counties.





Preparedness Program

The Division of Forestry relies heavily on the assistance of volunteer fire departments (VFDs), local fire wardens (LFWs), the National Guard, prison inmates and other volunteers to aid in wildfire suppression. Cooperators must be trained in safe and proper wildland suppression techniques. In 2007, the Division of Forestry contacted and/or trained nearly 1,650 cooperators in wildland fire suppression.

Suppression Program

During FY 2007, 719 wildland fires ravaged almost 10,210 acres of forestland throughout West Virginia, resulting in a loss of more than \$3 million to the state's forest resource. In addition, eight structures and six vehicles were lost to wildfires in FY 2007.

To protect the state's forests, it is illegal to conduct any outdoor burning between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. during these statutory fire seasons:

- Spring Forest Fire Season - March 1 through May 31
- Fall Forest Fire Season – Oct. 1 through Dec. 31

Ninety-nine percent of all wildfires in West Virginia are caused by humans and their activities.

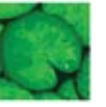
- Debris burning and incendiary fires are the leading causes of forest fires in West Virginia.
- Other causes of wildfires include campfires, children, equipment use, lightning, railroads and smokers.

Wildfires occur in every county; however, the largest percentage of forestland consumed by fire traditionally is in southern West Virginia. The 14 counties with the most fires and the most acres burned are Boone, Cabell, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh, Wayne and Wyoming. These counties are called "hot counties" due to the high fire occurrence.

The Division of Forestry conducts nationally accredited wildland fire suppression training classes. As a result of this training, West Virginia's wildfire suppression personnel are qualified to assist in national wildfire emergencies. In 2007, the Division of Forestry sent personnel to Georgia, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana and Virginia. This allowed the Division of Forestry to reduce operating costs and gain invaluable wildfire suppression experience.



Do you live in a "Hot County?"



Authorization for the investigation of all violations of the West Virginia State Fire Laws are stipulated within West Virginia State Code §20-3. In addition, the Division of Forestry also has authority to enforce violations of West Virginia State Code §19-1B, known as the Logging Sediment Control Act of 1992.

The Forestry Division's Forestry Investigative Unit currently consists of one administrative supervisor and three uniformed investigators. The supervisor was hired in May 2007, to lead the unit. Two of the unit's investigators are K-9 officers who utilize bloodhounds for tracking wildland fire arson suspects. In addition to pursuing arson suspects, the investigators and bloodhounds assist city, county and other state agencies with locating missing children, lost hunters and hikers, criminal suspects and prison escapees.

During FY 2007, investigative unit personnel participated in the prosecution of more than 250 violations of the fire laws and conducted more than 75 extensive investigations. The focus of these investigations ranged from simple debris burning violations to felony prosecutions for setting fire to the lands of another, the only felony violation within the fire laws of this state.

Though investigative unit personnel work primarily within the state of West Virginia, they have been called upon to assist in wildland fire arson investigations throughout the nation, and have helped teach and train investigators from outside agencies. In late spring of 2007, the investigators traveled to Georgia, conducting extensive investigations that resulted in the arrest of more than nine arson suspects in that state. The Forestry Investigative Unit also conducts basic wildland fire classes for volunteer fire departments throughout West Virginia. Due to the outstanding efforts of these investigators, the West Virginia Division of Forestry is recognized nationwide as a leader in the investigation and prosecution of wildland arsonists.

The Forestry Investigative Unit continues to update policy, procedures, training and equipment to remain a viable and indispensable tool in the overall effort of the West Virginia Division of Forestry to protect and improve the forested lands of this state.





Authorization for water quality programs comes from West Virginia Code §§19-1B-1 to 14, known as the Logging Sediment Control Act of 1992, and from Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act.

The Logging Sediment Control Act (LSCA) is the basis for water quality as it relates to forestry activities. The West Virginia Legislature passed the LSCA in 1992 and it requires loggers to take courses in best management practices (BMPs), chain saw safety and first aid to become certified. This training improves planning of logging operations to protect water quality and to ensure the safety of those who work in the logging industry. The law also provides for a licensing and notification system to help ensure that all jobs and operators are properly tracked for compliance with state laws and regulations.



Program Accomplishments

- Continued diligence to improve the safety and loss prevention program followed by Division of Forestry employees.
- Completed study in cooperation with the WVU Appalachian Hardwood Center that resulted in the publication "Laws and Regulations for West Virginia Loggers." The Forestry Division made this publication available on its Web site, www.wvforestry.com.
- Continued cooperation with WVU Division of Forestry on potential reclamation studies in relation to silvicultural activities.
- Continued collection of Universal Transverse Mercator data (topographic coordinates) for each timbering notification as part of an effort to improve site tracking.
- Updated, improved and reviewed statewide standards for logger training.
- Conducted 67 professional logger training workshops and updated logger training modules to better demonstrate and discuss water control measures and principles in a classroom situation. A total of 1,295 individuals were trained through these workshops.
- Continued cooperation with the Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) to present safety and environmental responsibility regulations and issues to loggers.
- Implemented statewide flood protection plan recommendations for Forestry operations.
- Reviewed standard operating procedures for LSCA inspections to identify potential areas for improvement and streamlining of inspections.
- Reviewed staffing levels needed to adequately perform job duties as part of the full implementation of the Division of Forestry's reorganization plan.
- Designed and prepared the groundwork for the upcoming "Logger of Excellence" program, an initiative to recognize loggers working in full compliance with the LSCA.
- Reviewed and refined detailed inspection procedures to periodically monitor for quality control.
- Continued participation in the Chesapeake Bay Initiative.
- Reviewed and improved inspection and notification databases to avoid redundancy, improve accuracy and promote statewide uniformity.
- Continued to foster professional relationships and coordination with cooperating agencies.
- Completed field data for Sand Fork Watershed Restoration Project.



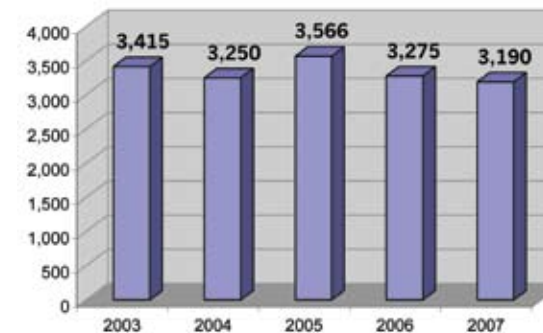
- Continued training of inspectors from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Environmental Enforcement on logging regulation law (LSCA) and BMP requirements.
- Continued cooperation and support of clean streams initiatives.
- Participated in local watershed meetings in an effort to educate and inform the public.
- Maintained active participation in the West Virginia Watershed Network and Stream Partners program.
- Continued to promote a better understanding of the LSCA to law enforcement agencies, elected officials and the public.
- Increased the percentage of logging operations receiving a primary inspection by 15 percent, and the percentage of logging operations receiving a reclamation inspection by 46 percent over the previous year.



2007 Logging Data

- Professional loggers trained 1,295
- Licensed certified loggers 1,630
- Licensed timber operators 1,229
- Logging notifications of harvesting operations 3,190
- Acres harvested 230,000
- Division of Forestry complaint and compliance checks 7,461

Logging Operations in West Virginia



Certified Professional Logger Training

Year	# Certified	Workshops	# Trained
2003	1,579	62	1,219
2004	1,705	64	1,288
2005	1,754	61	1,555
2006	1,677	62	1,184
2007	1,630	67	1,295





The obligations of this section of the Division of Forestry are outlined in West Virginia Code §§19-1A-1, §19-1A-2, and §19-1A-4. The legislative intent is that the Division of Forestry assist in the promotion of the state's forest resources and forest products produced and to increase the number of forest industries in the state.

- The forest industry contributed more than \$4 billion to West Virginia's economy.
- West Virginia's forests generated a total economic impact of more than \$7 billion.
- Division of Forestry personnel assisted the Development Office in marketing the state to forest products industries around the world.
- Division of Forestry staff assisted with the state's exhibit at the International Wood and Furniture Show in Las Vegas, Nevada. This cooperative effort precipitated numerous inquiries about West Virginia's hardwood resources and production.
- West Virginia's wood products industry accounted for nearly 30,000 jobs statewide and paid in excess of \$703 million in employee compensation. This activity also generated \$45.4 million in taxes.
- Employment in the wood products industry continued to rise in 2007.
- Division of Forestry personnel attended the Northeastern Utilization and Marketing Council meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.
- The Division of Forestry served as associate board member of the Hardwood Alliance Zone.
- Despite poor market conditions, numerous primary wood processing facilities upgraded their operations to better utilize and produce quality products. Production levels dropped slightly due to the decreased demand for raw materials.
- Interstate Hardwoods of Bartow (Randolph County) completed a \$500,000 expansion of its secondary manufacturing facility, creating 10 jobs.
- The volume of West Virginia lumber and logs exported to Europe and Asia rose sharply, therefore increasing gross receipts.
- Division of Forestry staff responded to numerous requests from the industry and various agencies regarding biomass for fuel resource availability.
- The forest industry continued to adapt to the sharp downturn in lumber prices of red oak and hard maple over the past two years. The price of these species now has begun to stabilize from that volatile state.
- Stumpage prices fell 10 percent each year for the past two years, and continue to drop, matching the fall in lumber prices. Consequently, private landowners are advertising less timber for sale, although large landowners continue to market the resource to maintain the industry.
- The logging industry maintained production levels even with fewer companies. A reliable labor force seems to be the industry's greatest challenge due to competition with other more fruitful industries.



Forest Inventory and Analysis

- The Division of Forestry now has access to the most current forest resource data through FIA.
- A complete inventory will take place every five years and be updated annually.
- This annually updated inventory will enable the Division of Forestry to advise new industries of raw material availability.
- Division of Forestry staff attended a meeting of the northern area (24 states) FIA and regional teams in Columbus, Ohio.
- The Division of Forestry assisted the forest industry with resource analysis, technology transfer and marketing.
- The USDA Forest Service Resource Bulletin NRS-17 "Forests of the Mountain State" is now available for distribution. This bulletin summarizes the findings of the most current and previous inventories and highlights major changes in the state's forests.

Three primary uses of Forest Inventory and Analysis survey data are:

- Accurate information to help new and expanding forest products industries make business decisions.
- Good and timely information about the condition of our forests to help professional foresters make sound forest management decisions.
- Reliable information policymakers need as the basis upon which to help make informed natural resource policy decisions.





Authorization for managed timberland programs comes from West Virginia Code §§11-1A-11, §11-1C-11a, and §11-1C-11b.

A sustainable forest resource is very important to the forestry industry and all citizens. The Managed Timberland Program was created to help promote the practice of sustainable forestry. This program provides a formula-based method of taxation for forest landowners who practice sustainable forestry on their nonindustrial, privately-owned forestland.

Value Assessment

Each year, the Forestry Division conducts statewide and regional stumpage price surveys. Stumpage price, or the value of timber as it stands uncut, is a major factor in computing the property values and the taxes for property in the Managed Timberland Program. Once the regional information is ascertained, it is forwarded to the West Virginia Tax Department, the agency charged by law with appraising managed timberland properties. The tax department then makes appraisals based on the formula included in the Managed Timberland Law. This formula is designed to appraise the property based on the value of timber it can produce.

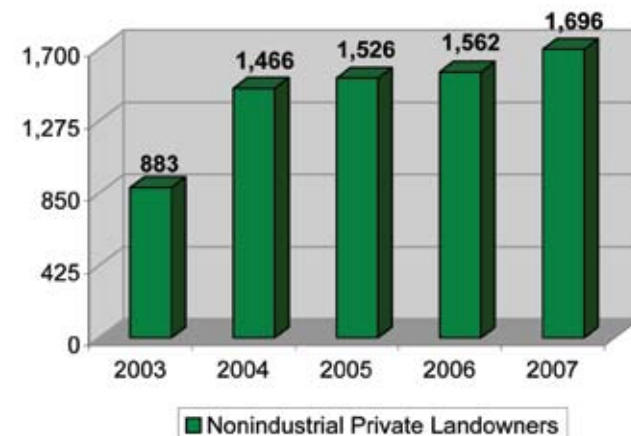
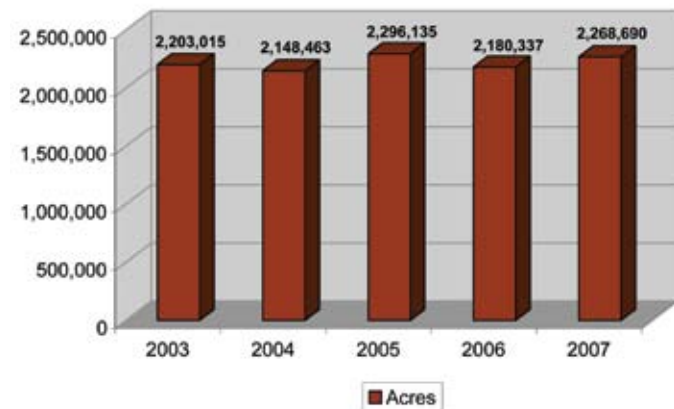
Public Participation

The number of individual private landowners participating in the Managed Timberland Program continues to increase, especially in the Eastern Panhandle counties. The number of landowners enrolled in the program is increasing faster than the amount of acreage because many of the larger tracts of land are being divided into smaller parcels of timberland under separate ownership. Thus, the program is achieving greater success through increased number of landowners participating.

The Managed Timberland Program is an important tool in promoting sound forest management practices and principles to help sustain the forests of the Mountain State.



Managed Timberland Program



Authorization for cooperative forest management programs comes from West Virginia Code §19-1A-3: "The Division of Forestry has within its jurisdiction and supervision the state forests, other forests and woodland areas, ...the management of forest areas for natural resources, conservation, and undeveloped recreational activities..."

Section 5 of the Federal Clark-McNary Act of 1924 provides funds (on a matching basis by the individual states) for cooperative farm-forestry work.

Rural Forestry Assistance

West Virginia is the third most heavily forested state in the nation, with nearly 80 percent of its land covered in forests. These forests account for more than 12 million acres across the state. The majority of this forestland, about 58 percent, is owned by approximately 260,000 private nonindustrial landowners. The Division of Forestry offers professional forestry assistance and advice to these landowners for a variety of activities, including forest management planning, tree planting, forest road development, recreational development, wildlife habitat enhancement and timber harvests.

2007 Rural Forestry Assists

- 6,241 technical assists
- 202 forestry practice plans
- 1,553 forestry practice plan acres

Forest Land Enhancement Program

The federal Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) has been available to West Virginia's private nonindustrial forest landowners since April 2003 to assist them in implementation of recommended practices from their forest stewardship management plans. FLEP practices improve timber quality and productivity, biological diversity, forest health, water quality, and wildlife habitat. In FY 2007, the FLEP state priority plan, FLEP procedures and FLEP practices were updated. All remaining unspent FLEP funds were obligated.

- 549 landowners enrolled
- \$329,780 currently obligated to landowners
- \$265,165 funds paid to landowners
- 285 completed projects
- 87 stewardship plans prepared for 12,528 acres





Forest Stewardship Program

The Division of Forestry's forest stewardship program does an excellent job of connecting resource professionals with underserved landowners, who then work together to develop multiple-use forest management plans for the landowners' properties. One-on-one contact between professional foresters and landowners is an essential part of the stewardship program and is just one reason for its continued success.

To participate in the forest stewardship program, professional foresters must be certified to prepare stewardship plans. In 2007 in West Virginia, the following were certified to write stewardship plans:

- 72 Certified Stewardship Consulting Foresters
- 16 Division of Forestry employees

Since its establishment in 1990, West Virginia's forest stewardship program has been very successful helping the state's landowners meet their forest management needs.

- In FY 2007, 112 stewardship plans were prepared on 10,550 acres
- From 1990 to 2007, 4,383 stewardship plans were prepared on 724,728 acres

One of the challenges the forest stewardship program faces is recruiting new participants. Of the more than 260,000 private nonindustrial forest landowners in the state, it is estimated that less than 15 percent have used professional forestry assistance. The Division of Forestry is looking for ways to improve on this number and reach as many underserved landowners as possible.



Cooperative Research

Authorization for cooperative research projects comes from West Virginia Code §19-1A-4: "The Division Director may exercise all powers necessary or appropriate...to pursue research and education related to forest resources and their multiple use, including conservation, management and utilization, evaluation of forest land use and the maintenance of the rural environment..."

The Division of Forestry maintains a partnership with the faculty and staff of WVU to seek new opportunities to enhance forest management methods. WVU has the resources to take a quantitative approach in evaluating past techniques and determining future directions in forest management. During 2007, the Division of Forestry contracted with the WVU Forestry Department for the following special projects:

- Completion of a geo-spatial analysis project to map forest stewardship properties.
- Completion of the "History & Impact Study of the Forest Stewardship Program."
- Continuing development of an interactive CD to explain forest silviculture ideology and techniques, called "Your Forests, Your Future."
- Continuation of a four-day "Master Forest Land Owners" workshop.
- Continuation of a Stewardship Outreach and Education Coordinator position that will promote the program through a quarterly newsletter, and various landowner workshops and tours.
- Continuation of a research project that will promote nontimber forest products in West Virginia. The project includes establishing demonstration plots and regional landowner workshops.
- Initiated a research project on the ecological and economic impact of professional forestry assistance on timber harvests in West Virginia.
- Completed a revision and update of the "Trees of West Virginia" identification booklet.



Ginseng Program

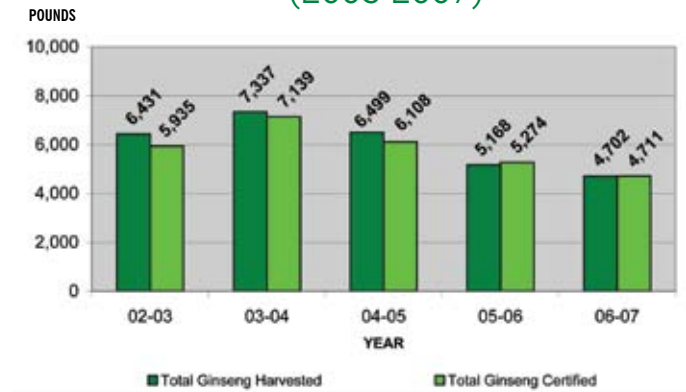
Authorization for the ginseng program comes from West Virginia Code §19-1A-3: "The Division of Forestry has jurisdiction to regulate the digging, possession and sale of native, wild, or cultivated ginseng..."

The Division of Forestry is mandated by state law to track, weigh and certify all commercially dug ginseng before it is used or exported from West Virginia. This perennial herb has been harvested in the state for more than 100 years and contributes an average of approximately \$3 to \$4 million annually to the state's economy (diggers and dealers combined).

In 2007, the new Legislative Rule for growing, digging, possessing and selling wild, cultivated and wild simulated ginseng went into effect. The new ginseng rule was modified to include ginseng growers' permits and related fees.

Also in 2007, the Division of Forestry met with the West Virginia Ginseng Growers Association prior to conducting determinations for landowners who had previously planted ginseng, as well as for those landowners who planned to plant ginseng. Determinations are conducted by the Division of Forestry prior to issuing growers' permits. The determination documents the presence or absence of wild ginseng on the planting site. If ginseng ever becomes an endangered species, landowners could still sell planted ginseng, with a valid growers' permit. The first growers' permits were issued in December 2007.

Ginseng Harvested and Certified (2003-2007)



Forest Legacy Program

The Forest Legacy Program was established by Congress in the 1990 Farm Bill to protect environmentally important forest areas through the purchase of properties in fee or acquiring certain property rights through a conservation easement. In April 2001, Gov. Bob Wise selected the Division of Forestry as the lead agency for this program.

The Forest Legacy Program uses conservation easements to acquire development rights on forested properties and to maintain them as working forests. In working forests, management activities are conducted and timber is harvested. Moreover, working forests provide opportunities for wildlife management, recreation, watershed protection and other traditional forest uses.

Program Accomplishments

- The Potomac River Hills project, consisting of 2,500 acres in Morgan County, was approved for funding by the USDA Forest Service. The purchase of a conservation easement for this property will ensure that it remains intact as a "working forest." The negotiations on easement terms have been finalized and the appraisal has begun.
- Negotiations on easement terms for the 764-acre Trough project in Hampshire County have been finalized and the property appraisal is nearing completion.
- The Forest Legacy Subcommittee of the West Virginia Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee also evaluated 15 landowner applications and the top candidates were submitted to the USDA Forest Service for consideration in the 2009 funding cycle.



Tree Nursery



Clements State Tree Nursery

Authorization for the Clements State Tree Nursery comes from West Virginia Code §19-1A-3: "All moneys collected from...the sale of seedlings from the tree nurseries shall be paid into the state treasury and shall be credited to a special account within the Division of Forestry..."

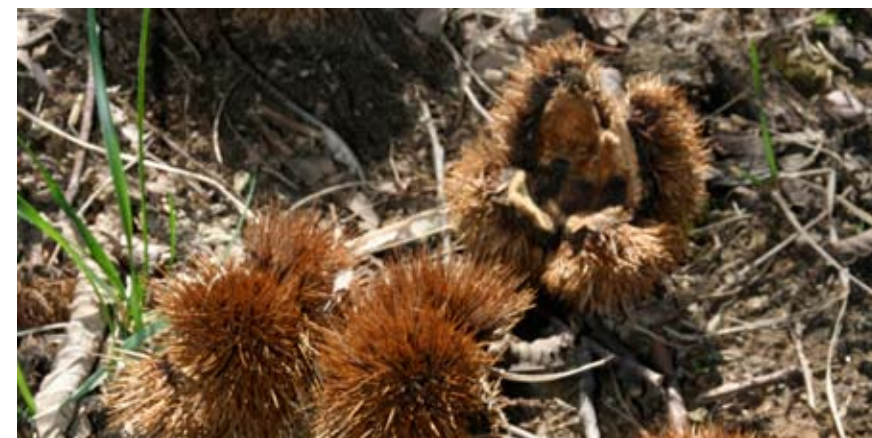
The Forestry Division operates the state's only forest tree nursery, Clements State Tree Nursery in West Columbia, north of Point Pleasant, along the Ohio River. The nursery currently produces and sells more than 35 different species of hardwoods and conifers; another five species are expected to be offered within the next year. Tree seedlings are sold in bundles of 25, and depending upon the species, are sold in varying minimums of 50, 100 and 500.

Nursery tree sales totaled more than 633,000 seedlings during FY 2007. Seedlings are sold for:

- Reforestation
- Erosion control
- Christmas trees
- Wildlife plantings
- Windbreaks

Approximately one-fourth of the seed used to grow the nursery's tree seedlings comes from within West Virginia. The nursery produces several different types of seed in its orchards, including chinquapin, American chestnut, tulip poplar and white pine. In FY 2007, nursery staff collected more than 620 pounds of seed from the nursery's orchards, and purchased almost 6,800 pounds of seed from local sources. Seed from Chinese chestnut, various oak species, tulip poplar, butternut and shagbark hickory are purchased each year from the general public through an allotment system. Availability of viable seed is a determining factor in the production and sales of seedlings from the nursery. American chestnut seed from the nursery's orchards shows considerable resistance to chestnut blight, and the tulip poplar and white pine seeds are from superior trees, meaning the seed will produce superior, faster growing trees.

In 2007, Clements State Tree Nursery began utilizing nonviolent prison inmates from the neighboring Lakin Correctional Center. This 10-person crew helps with weed control, orchard cleanup and processing tree seedlings for shipment.



State Forests



State Forests

West Virginia's State Forests are mandated by the Legislature as an important resource for silvicultural and scientific research; developed and undeveloped outdoor recreation; propagation of forest trees; fish and wildlife; aesthetic preservation; hunting and fishing; timber production; and demonstration of state-of-the-art forest management. Therefore, they should be managed on a multiple-use basis.

Program Accomplishments

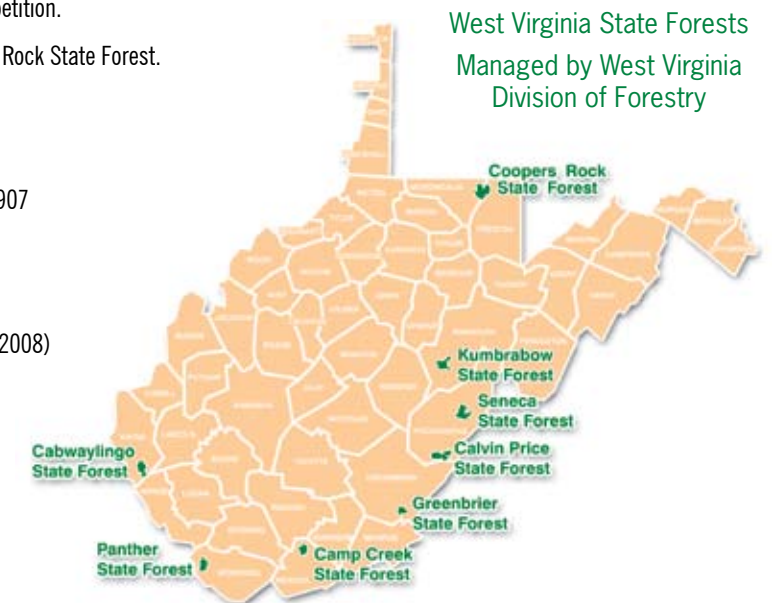
- Working with WVU, Recreation, Parks and Tourism resources to develop a recreation plan for Coopers Rock State Forest, a 12,747-acre forest outside Morgantown.
- Implemented prescribed silvicultural practices on Calvin Price, Greenbrier, Kumbrabow, Seneca and Coopers Rock state forests. Prescribed silvicultural practices on state forests are designed to encourage wildlife habitat diversity, improve forest health conditions, remove hazard trees and salvage trees damaged by storms and insect infestations.
- Ready to install interpretive sign on Kumbrabow State Forest explaining the importance of crop tree demonstrations. Sign will be located within a crop tree demonstration area, a 20-year-old stand of black cherry trees.
- Completed a fire plan to address the threat of fire to the three toothed flat-spined land snail, a threatened species that occurs in Coopers Rock State Forest.
- Continued developing guidelines for enhancing habitat for the endangered northern flying squirrel and red spruce restoration on Kumbrabow State Forest.
- Continued partnership with the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (AFHA) to develop tours, interpretive materials and promotional efforts for the five state forests in this region.
- Received a grant through the Hardwood Forestry Fund to treat fern and woody competition that impact cherry regeneration on Kumbrabow State Forest.
- Implemented invasive species control work at Greenbrier and Camp Creek state forests.
- Performed cultural work on Seneca State Forest to reduce woody competition.
- Completed silvah cruise on a portion of the Scott Run area on Coopers Rock State Forest.

Timber Harvests - Completed

- Seneca – 332,000 board feet (BF); 1,708 tons of pulpwood (TP); \$59,907

Timber Harvests - Planned

- Greenbrier – 344,145 BF, \$45,768 (timber sold, harvest to begin Jan. 2008)
- Coopers Rock – 650,000 BF, \$80,000 (estimated minimum bid)
- Kumbrabow – 1,700,000 BF, \$900,000 (estimated minimum bid)
- Calvin Price – 855,420 BF; 4,631 TP; \$100,180 (timber sold, harvest began fall of 2007)





Urban and Community Forestry



The USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program was authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (PL 95-313) and revised by the 1990 Farm Bill (PL 101-624) to promote natural resource management in populated areas and improve quality of life.

The Division of Forestry Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF) was established in 1991 to encourage municipal governments to provide long-term care for trees on public property. The program is entirely dependent on federal funding from the USDA Forest Service. Three positions comprise the U&CF staff: urban forestry coordinator, partnership coordinator and technical specialist.

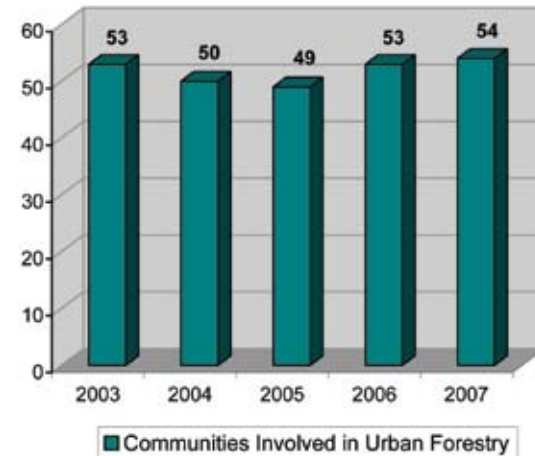
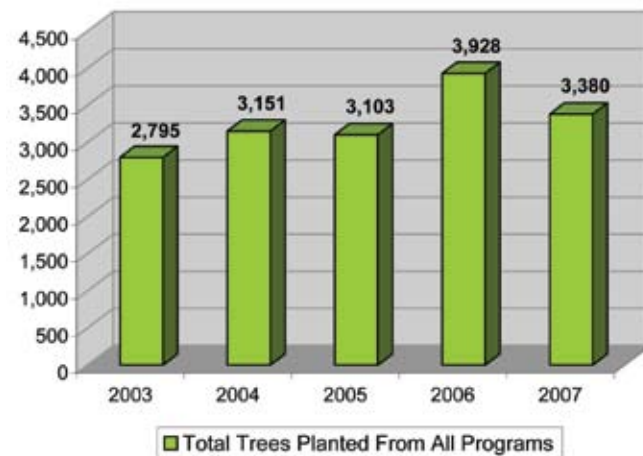
Managing Trees in Urban Environments

Urban forestry is the comprehensive management of trees within a city or town. The UC&F program focuses only on trees on public property that can be collectively managed by local government. Communities must develop the infrastructure necessary to support an urban forestry program. These are the steps a community should take to develop a successful program:

- Adopt an ordinance to set guidelines for tree maintenance.
- Form a citizen-based tree board.
- Commit to sustained tree care through an annual budget.
- Conduct an assessment of all public trees, including an inventory and management plan.

Technical skills and knowledge are essential to implementing a management plan. The U&CF program assists communities with the development of these skills through training, educational material and personal contacts. For a management plan to be successful, the following skills are required:

- Selecting the right trees to plant.
- Knowing proper planting techniques, pruning methods and maintenance requirements.
- Recognizing tree defects.
- Mitigating hazard trees.



Urban and Community Forestry

Municipal Tree Restoration Program

Conflicts between trees and utility lines have long been a significant issue for electric utilities and the communities they serve. A lack of planning in many communities has led to large trees growing under or near overhead utility lines. To provide for uninterrupted service and public safety, it is necessary for the utility company to severely prune or "top" large trees. Gradually, such trees become unsightly, decayed and often hazardous. The only permanent solution is to remove these declining trees and plant small-maturing cultivars in their place.

The Municipal Tree Restoration Program (MTRP) is a cooperative effort among the Division of Forestry, Allegheny Power, Appalachian Power and local municipalities and is dedicated to solving conflicts between trees and utility lines. Allegheny Power and American Electric Power purchase utility-compatible trees. The Division of Forestry provides technical assistance to municipalities concerning hazard tree recognition, planting techniques and future maintenance needs. Communities benefit from the planting of attractive, low-maturing trees, while local policymakers and residents are introduced to urban forestry management concepts involving the "right tree in the right place." The ultimate goal of the MTRP is to have informed communities place a greater value on the appearance and health of their street trees along with correct pruning methods.

In 2007, MTRP projects included:

- \$3,640 for Grafton to plant 16 trees
- \$3,660 for Keyser to plant 17 trees
- \$3,025 for Lewisburg to plant 18 trees
- \$1,965 for Marlinton to plant nine trees

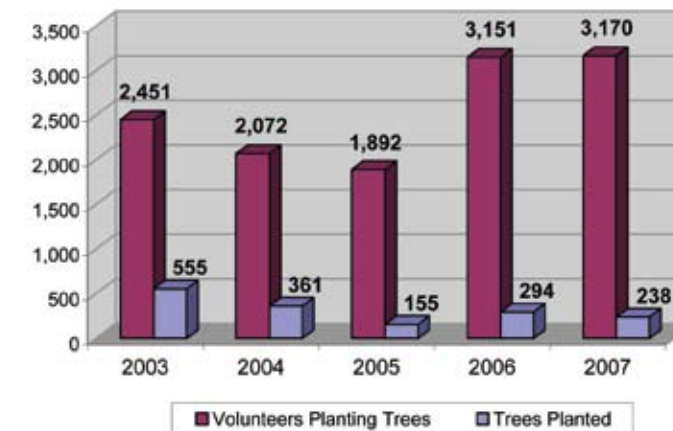
Mountaineer Treeways

Mountaineer Treeways is a partnership among the Division of Forestry, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Highways and the Turnpike Authority. This program provides free tree seedlings to volunteer organizations for planting on public property in West Virginia. Each spring, volunteers plant trees in parks, on school grounds, and along state highways, rest areas and city streets. Signs with the program logo are placed by the Department of Highways at high-profile sites to recognize the organizations involved.

- In 2007, 20 communities and volunteer organizations planted 3,200 seedlings and 64 large trees across West Virginia.



Volunteers and Trees





Urban and Community Forestry



Cool Community Grants

The Division of Forestry's Cool Community Grant program is funded through a partnership with the Energy Efficiency Program of the West Virginia Development Office. Grant funds are utilized to plant trees on public property to improve the energy efficiency of surrounding buildings by providing shade and helping slow winds.

- In 2007, Cool Community Grants were awarded to Parkersburg and Morgantown. These Cool Community projects totaled \$56,280 and resulted in the planting of 88 trees.

Demonstration City Grants

Demonstration City Grants create and support comprehensive urban forestry programs by providing communities with funding for street tree inventories, management plans, training, hazard tree mitigation and tree planting. In FY 2007, the overall budget was significantly reduced, resulting in a suspension of the Demonstration City Grant program. In the current fiscal year, Demonstration City Grants totaling \$22,000 will be awarded. The program is targeting communities with the greatest need for tree inventories, management plans and related computer software.

Tree City USA

The Tree City USA Award is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and recognizes cities and towns with a long-term commitment to caring for public trees. To qualify, a community must have the following:

- An active tree board to make decisions concerning public trees.
- An ordinance to set standards for planting, maintaining and protecting trees on public property.
- An adequate budget to meet the tree planting and maintenance goals.
- An Arbor Day celebration and proclamation.

West Virginia had 12 communities receive the Tree City USA Award for 2006 – Bath/Berkeley Springs, Charles Town, Follansbee, Hinton, Lewisburg, Moorefield, Morgantown, Parkersburg, Petersburg, Philippi, Ronceverte and Williamstown.

Tree City USA Growth Award

The Tree City USA Growth Award is provided by the National Arbor Day Foundation to recognize higher levels of tree care in Tree City USA communities. This award is designed not only to recognize achievement, but also to communicate new ideas and help the leaders of all Tree City USA communities plan for improved tree care. There are two requirements for eligibility. First, a community must have received the Tree City USA Award for at least two consecutive years. Second, the community must have spent at least as much on community forestry as it did the previous year.

To qualify, the community must have completed several activities from four general categories, including education and public relations; partnerships; planning and management; and tree planting and maintenance. Under each category there is a list of urban forestry activities, each worth a varying number of points. A community must accumulate at least 10 points for a given year to receive the award.

Qualifying communities receive a Tree City USA Growth Award banner for their road signs. The community also receives a plaque with its name and the year the award was achieved. West Virginia had four communities qualify for the Growth Award for 2006: Bath/Berkeley Springs, Hinton, Parkersburg and Ronceverte.

Tree City USA

CITY	SINCE
Bath/ Berkeley Springs*	2005
Charles Town	2005
Follansbee	1995
Hinton*	2000
Lewisburg	2002
Moorefield	2002
Morgantown	1997
Parkersburg*	1998
Petersburg	2005
Philippi	1992
Ronceverte*	2001
Williamstown	1984

* Growth Award

Communications



The communications program disseminates information statewide to the public about forest protection, fire prevention, cooperative forest management, economic development, water quality, conservation education, urban and community forestry and other issues regarding forestry and the Division of Forestry.

Public Information

The Division of Forestry uses a variety of methods to disseminate information to the public and media about its programs, including press releases, brochures and other publications, informational displays and exhibits, "Forestry Today" and the Internet.

Among the many informational brochures produced in 2007, the Division of Forestry introduced the third in a series of publications on the agency's programs entitled "Fire in the Mountain State." This eight-page folder focuses on the Forestry Division's Fire Protection Program, describing the agency's efforts to prevent, prepare for and suppress wildfires in West Virginia. Work is underway on the series' fourth publication that will focus on state forests. The first two publications, completed in 2006, address the LSCA and the economic importance of West Virginia's forests.

"Forestry Today"

The Division of Forestry works with the West Virginia Library Commission to produce "Forestry Today," a 30-minute, monthly television program that airs on seven cable systems across West Virginia, reaching more than 534,000 residents.

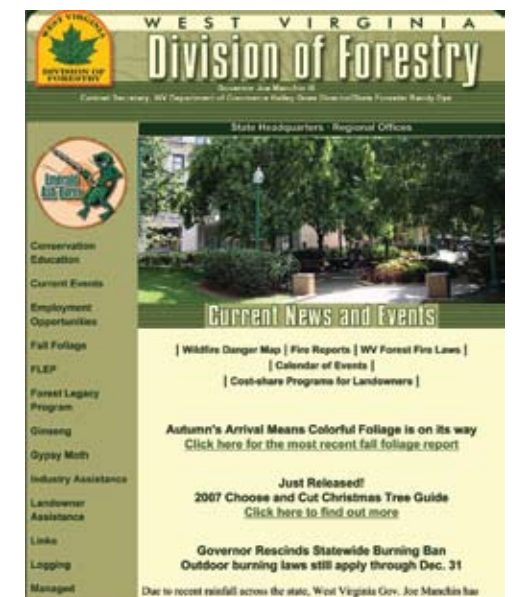
The goals of "Forestry Today" are to promote the Division of Forestry's programs, provide viewers with scientific information about forestry, and inform the public about forestry issues and how those issues affect them.

In 2007, the Division of Forestry produced 10 shows that aired on the Library Commission Network. Show topics included:

- Invasive species
- New personnel introductions, including deputy state forester, regional forester, forestry investigative unit supervisor and fire staff assistant
- Division of Forestry program updates
- Fall foliage
- Tree risk assessment

Web Site

The Division of Forestry's Web site, www.wvforestry.com, continues to be an outstanding resource delivering information to citizens about the agency, and the programs and services the Division of Forestry provides. The public can learn about water quality regulations, landowner assistance programs, wood products manufacturers, outdoor burning regulations and many other important forestry-related topics on the site. The Forestry Division's Web site has an average of nearly 500 visitors per day, with each visitor spending an average of eight and a half minutes per visit.



www.wvforestry.com



Authorization for the conservation education program comes from West Virginia Code §19-1A-4: "The Division director may exercise all powers necessary or appropriate...to pursue research and education related to forest resources and their multiple use, including conservation, management, and utilization, ..."

The Conservation Education Program works to educate and inform the people of West Virginia about forestry issues. By presenting scientific facts, the program helps increase public awareness, dispel misinformation and enable the citizens of the state to make sound, informed decisions about forestry issues.

Smokey Bear

Smokey Bear continues to be the Division of Forestry's main ally in the fight to prevent forest fires. The beloved national symbol for wildfire prevention can be seen at schools, fairs, festivals, parades and other events reminding residents that "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires."

In 2007, the Division of Forestry displayed its six-foot tall, portable Smokey Bear statue at the State Fair of West Virginia and the West Virginia Hunting & Fishing Show.



Summer Camps

Summer camps are excellent opportunities to educate the youth of West Virginia about the state's abundant natural resources. The Division of Forestry partners with state, federal and private organizations each year to support the rich tradition of conservation camps, taking learning outside the traditional four-wall setting and into the "outdoor classroom." In 2007, the Division of Forestry supported the following week-long summer camps:

- West Virginia State Conservation Camp

More than 100 teenagers, 14-18 years old, attended the 66th year of this annual camp. Topics taught included Forest Management, Fire Prevention and Forest Products/Harvesting. To date, more than 14,000 campers have participated in this program since it began in 1941.

- Junior Conservation Camp

Approximately 218 campers, ages 11-14, attended Junior Conservation Camp this year. Campers attended classes on a wide range of environmental topics in the mornings, and spent the afternoons participating in activities, including crafts, archery, boating and swimming. This year marked the 27th year for Junior Conservation Camp. Since 1980, a total of 5,000 campers have attended Junior Conservation Camp.

- Ted Harriman Forest Industries Camp

Ted Harriman Forest Industries Camp, formerly known as West Virginia Forest Industries Camp, celebrated its 52nd anniversary in 2007. Campers, ages 16-20, experienced five days of rigorous forestry training.



National 4-H Forestry Invitational

The Forestry Invitational was established in 1980, and has been hosted at Jackson's Mill since its inception. This year, representatives from 17 states attended. The competition gives each individual a chance to show their competency in forestry with categories such as Tree Measurements, Forest Evaluation, Insects and Disease, TopoMaps, Compass and Pacing segments. Representatives also are tested on general forestry knowledge.



Envirothon

The West Virginia Envirothon was held in April 2007 at Canaan Valley. Several Division of Forestry employees worked with teams from various schools and other groups across the state to help them prepare for the competition, which tests their knowledge in the areas of forestry, aquatics, wildlife, soils and a special environmental topic. Many agencies and organizations around the state work together to put on this annual competition. Winning teams move on to the national competition.

West Virginia Project Learning Tree Program

West Virginia Project Learning Tree (WVPLT) continues to develop partnerships with state and private organizations across the state. In 2007, training workshops were conducted in conjunction with programs at West Virginia State University, Shepherd College, West Virginia Farm Bureau's Agriculture Institute in Morgantown and the West Virginia State Science Teachers' Conference at Stonewall Jackson. In addition, specific PLT workshops and teachers' workshops were held in Morgan County at Cacapon Resort State Park.

WVPLT assisted the National PLT Office in putting on a training session for the Appalachian Trail Club at the National Conservation Training Center at Shepherdstown, participated in the West Virginia Environmental Educators Conference and revived its newsletter "The Acorn" to maintain contact with current facilitators and instructors, and past participants.

West Virginia Environmental Educators Conference

Wheeling's Oglebay Institute pursued a grant to form a statewide association to bring together environmental educators from various agencies and organizations from around the state and unify them into the West Virginia Environmental Educators Conference (WVEEA). Forestry Division personnel introduced the group to PLT during a special break-out session designed to inform group members about nationally-recognized environmental education programs. WVEEA will be the representative organization to the North American Association for Environmental Education.

Mid-Atlantic Conservation Education Group

The Division of Forestry continues to be an active member of the Mid-Atlantic Conservation Education (MACE) group, which is made up of conservation education specialists from state forestry agencies in West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and Washington, D.C. The group's goal is to learn from one another and to work together on joint projects that benefit forestry education efforts in the Mid-Atlantic states. In the past, MACE members assisted each other with efforts in Project Learning Tree, the Envirothon, educational CDs, posters, workshops and other activities and projects. The group generally meets twice a year to share ideas and plan projects. The fall 2007 meeting was at King's Gap State Park in Pennsylvania and topics included the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education, using the Nonformal Guidelines for Excellence to develop quality environmental education programs, what makes an environmental educator, and key characteristics of quality environmental education materials.

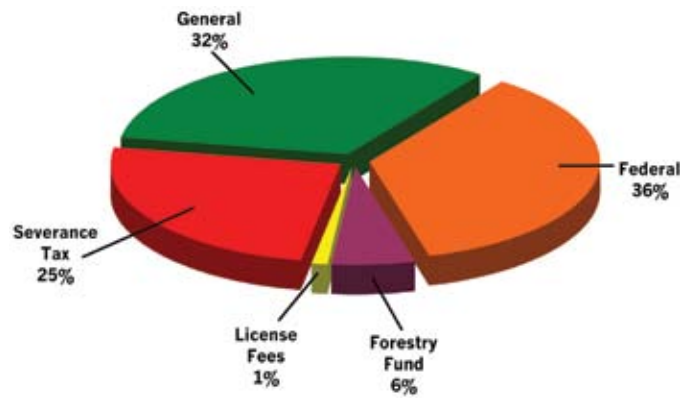




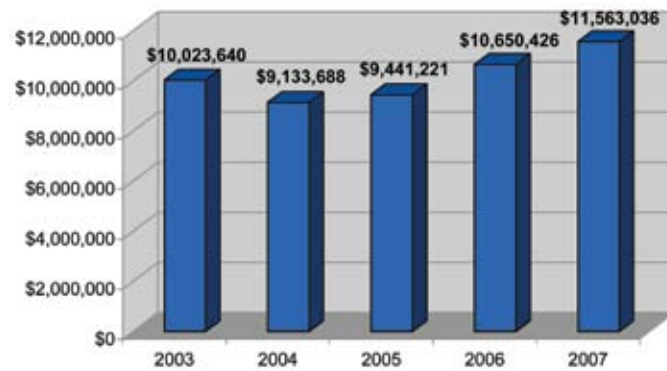
Budget History and Funding

In FY 2007, the Division of Forestry's total operating budget was \$11,563,036. The agency's budget history is summarized in the following graph. The Forestry Division's total budget comes from five sources: federal grants, general revenue, severance tax, license fees and forestry fund. The demands on the state's forest resources by all of its users have increased dramatically the past decade. As those demands have increased, so have the responsibilities placed upon the Division of Forestry.

Fiscal Year 2007 Forestry Funding Sources

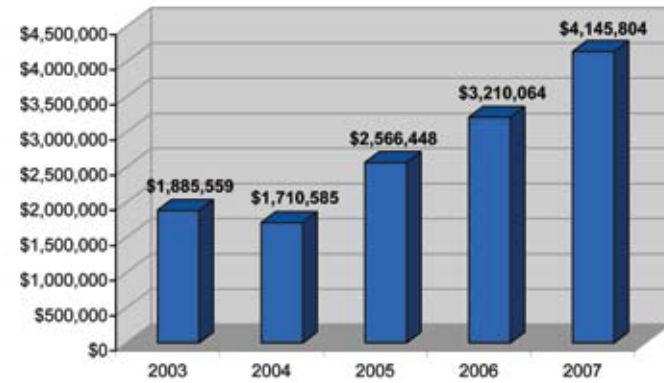


Total Budget History



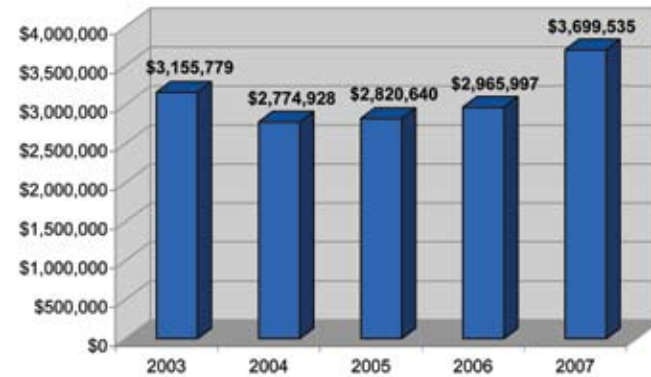
Federal Funding

Federal grants pay for many forestry programs. Cooperative fire assistance, volunteer fire assistance, forest stewardship, rural development and urban and community forestry are made possible by federal assistance. These programs assist towns and communities across West Virginia.



General Revenue

This funding comes directly from the Legislative budget. The funding from this account is used to employ 64 full-time employees and pay liability insurance and some general operating costs.

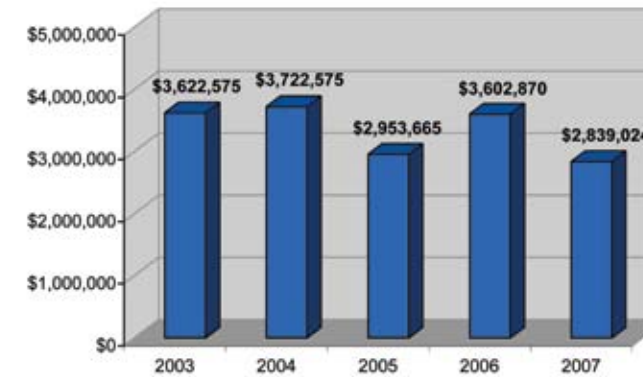


Budget History and Funding



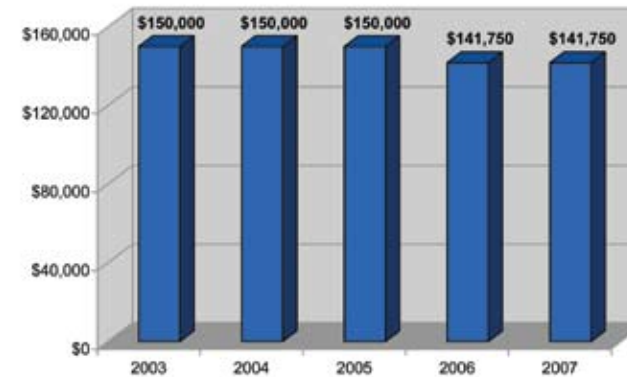
Severance Tax

Effective Dec. 20, 2006, the severance tax rate was reduced from \$3.22 per \$100 to \$1.22 per \$100. This rate is applied at the time the tree is severed and delimbed (cut down). West Virginia is the only state in the Northeast with such a tax based on the value at the time of harvesting. This tax is an important source of funding for the Division of Forestry.



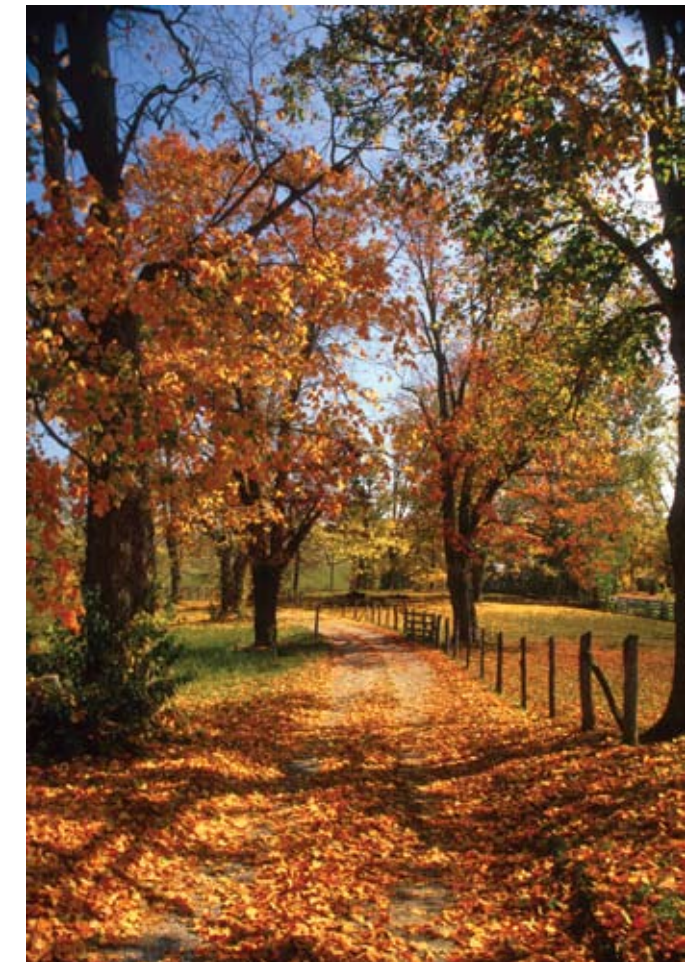
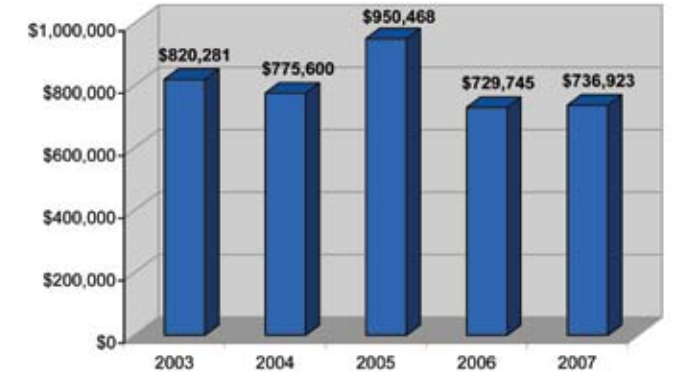
License Fees

Certified loggers and timber operators in West Virginia pay an annual fee of \$50 for each license. The license is required before any logging operation can begin in the state. The money generated from the license fee is used for logger training courses conducted throughout the year and also helps with the costs of completing logging inspections by the Division of Forestry.



Forestry Fund

The Forestry Fund comes from the following five sources: nursery seedling sales, sale of surplus property, State Forest timber sales, grants from DEP and miscellaneous collections. The money from this fund goes toward nursery operations, forest fire patrol and suppression, and water quality programs.





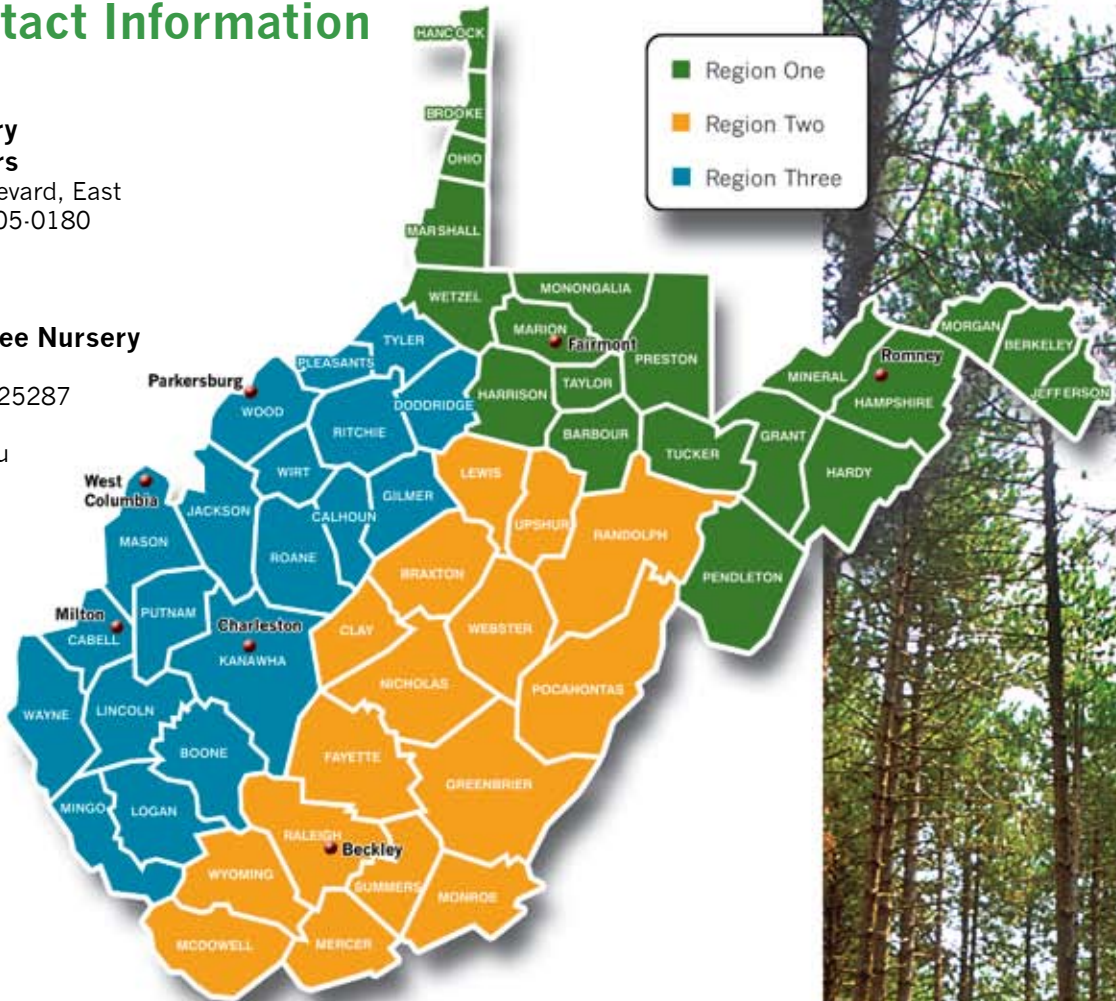
Contact Information

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Clements State Tree Nursery

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(304) 675-1820
clements@wvnet.edu



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 Fairmont Office

Route 2, Box 1100
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(304) 367-2793
wvdofone@ma.rr.com

Region 1 Romney Office

1 Depot Street
Romney, WV 26757
(304) 822-4512
romneydof@citlink.net

Region 2

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Region 2 Headquarters Beckley Office

330 Harper Park Drive, Suite J
Beckley, WV 25801
(304) 256-6775
wvdofiv@wvnet.edu

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.

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