The end of 2013, we asked the Floyd WFC – a group temporarily removed a significant tax incentive for private landowners who voluntarily protect their land. As a result, conservation-minded landowners have come forward in unprecedented numbers, making 2013 a great year for conservation dedication.

Through the end of 2013, the Cultural Specialist at a Virginia Land Conservation Credit is valued at more than 30% of their income, so conservation-minded landowners have come forward in unprecedented numbers, making 2013 a great year for conservation dedication.

In addition to being able to use this tax credit to pay their Virginia income tax, conservation-minded landowners can shift some of their other Virginia income tax liability, and to reduce their estate tax burdens. This benefit is significant not only for PEC property owners, but also for those of the region where the PEC works. So far in 2013, the PEC has evaluated over 357,000 acres protected from development, which is an outstanding 20% of its conservation dedication.

The expanded federal incentive, coupled with Virginia’s 2014 Land Conservation Tax credit program, has contributed to the protection of hundreds of thousands of acres across the Commonwealth. The Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Office of Land Conservation, has provided information to help landowners protect natural, scenic, and agricultural resources.

The entire community of people who travel through our precious forests, and to protect their land by protecting our natural resources. The Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Office of Land Conservation, has provided information to help landowners protect natural, scenic, and agricultural resources.

In Virginia, there are many acres in ownership that go back multiple generations, and in some cases back to the King’s grant. In the early days of our country, property surveyors were not as accurate. A description might read: “begin at a 24-inch chestnut tree, go along Dipper Creek to a big rock, then walk west-southwest 20 poles to a fence post, then back along the fence line for 50 poles to a 30-inch white oak, then follow the contour line of the meandering creek back to the starting point.” The property might be identified by placing three blazes or markers on either side of the contour line where these are in use. The Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Office of Land Conservation, has provided information to help landowners protect natural, scenic, and agricultural resources.

For many people, like me, it has taken the time and expense of painting the line, I would have known the boundary was correct. If only I had taken the time and modest expense of painting the boundary, I would have known the boundary was correct.

What I could-a, would-a, should-a done a long time ago was to mark the property boundary along the fence that my grandfather built around the property. If only I had taken the time and modest expense of painting the line, I would have known the boundary was correct.

If you read the handwriting on the survey, you can tell if you have a good one. In fact, the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Office of Land Conservation, has provided information to help landowners protect natural, scenic, and agricultural resources.

It is easy to be misled by a physically prominent feature, such as a stream, road, or railroad, and then be surprised to learn that it is not the correct boundary. In many cases, the surveyor may have been aware of a different boundary, but chose to keep it simple for the property owner. It is not uncommon for the surveyor to mark the boundary, but not necessarily to indicate that it is the correct boundary. It is important to check with the surveyor to be sure that the boundary is correct.

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Hogs cont. from page 3

The establishment and maintenance of boundaries is an important first step in avoiding liability due to trespass, adverse possession (taking of land not owned or claimed), and eminent domain (government taking of land for public use). As a forester, I have found that having a well-maintained property line is an important step in avoiding legal problems. The best way to avoid legal problems is to establish and maintain property lines by working with the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) or Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) for assistance. DCR and VCE can provide assistance in establishing and maintaining property lines.

Jennifer Gagnon is an Extension Associate in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation; jgagnon@vt.edu; 540/231-6391.

For more information on feral hogs and control methods, please visit the following web pages: www.forestupdate.frec.vt.edu or call 804/367-1000.

As an aside, I’ve never written a You Ain’t From Around Here! about a charismatic large mammal, or any animal for that matter. However, I’ve recently learned of a wild pig hunt club in Halifax County which makes sausage from hogs they hunt.

The Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries maintains wild hogs on its list of predatory and undesirable species. They also consider them pests in the Commonwealth, as this map from the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries shows. There are two major reasons why wild hogs are considered pests in the Commonwealth. First, they cause damage to crops and vegetation. Second, they spread disease to domestic livestock. In Part II, I will cover where they are found in Virginia, what is being done to prevent wild hogs from getting out of hand in the Commonwealth, and what you can do to help prevent them from becoming a problem in your area.

Safeguard cont. from page 1

Jim Willis is the retired Southwest District Forestry & Natural Resources Agent.

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Lost in the Woods

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