

# Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

**November 2024**

## Featured Events

### Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- Nov. 1 – Simple Tools to Measure Your Forest Part 2
- Nov. 15 – A Forester Can Provide A Clear View of Your Forest – Part 2 – Selling Your Timber
- Watch archived videos on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube Premier](#)

### 2025 Landowner Woods & Wildlife Conferences

- February 22 (Yes – they are both on the SAME date)
- Blacksburg
- Culpeper

### Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat

- March 28-29
- [Holiday Lake 4 H Educational Center](#), Appomattox
- Agenda & registration available in January

Visit the [Events Calendar](#) for details!

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Good morning Forest Update Subscribers,

In the wake of the damage caused by Hurricane Helene, I wanted to use this edition of the e-Update to focus on information that may be useful to those of you who have suffered losses to your forests. I know a lot of links, publications, and resource pages have been shared, and I have some of those listed below. But I also realize that sorting through all that information can be overwhelming. So here are some practical tips from Bill Worrell, Virginia Cooperative Extension's Southwest District Forestry & Natural Resource Agent:

1. Visit your local [Farm Service Agency Office](#). If you have damage to your timber, get a Farm Number (this is free) from the Farm Service Agency. A farm number allows you to apply for disaster assistance (such as the [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](#)). If you purchased land, it might already be established with FSA and have a farm number. If your operation is incorporated or an entity, they may need proof of your signature authority and legal ability to sign contracts with USDA.
  - **Make an appointment.** Please call or email your Service Center to set up an appointment to ensure quick service. Offices may be particularly busy right now.
  - **Prepare.** Ask what documents you will need to help to make the most of your appointment. Examples could include:
    - Proof of identity: driver's license or social security card



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- **Virginia Department of Forestry**
- **Virginia Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee**
- **Virginia Tree Farm Foundation**
- **Virginia Forestry Association**
- **Forest Stewardship Program**
- **USDA Forest Service**

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- Copy of the property deed, survey plat, rental or lease agreement of the land
  - Official tax identification (Social Security number or employer ID) and business documents
  - **Think about what questions you have and make a list.**
2. Take lots of pictures of the damage and record the dates of the photos (most smart phone cameras automatically include a time stamp in the metadata).

Below are selected programs and resources that seem most relevant, but this is by no means a comprehensive list. Many thanks to all the folks in Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of Forestry, North Carolina State University, and other agencies for sharing these. These resources can also be found on the [Virginia Forest Landowner Update website](#).

### **1. Programs with Funds for Restoring Damaged Forests**

- [Disaster Assistance Programs](#)
- [Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentive Program \(NRCS EQIP\)](#)
- [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](#) – may be up to 75% cost share. Includes practices such as:
  - Debris removal, such as down or damaged trees,
  - Establishment of new stands (planting) or provide for natural regeneration
  - Site preparation
  - Planting materials and labor to replant forest stand
  - Restoration of forestland roads, fire lanes, fuel breaks, or erosion control structures
  - Fencing, tree shelters, and tree tubes to protect trees from wildlife damage

- Wildlife enhancement to provide cover openings and wildlife habitat

## **2. Considerations for Cleaning up your Land After the Hurricane**

- [Recovering from a Disaster: Things Forest Landowners Should Consider](#)
- [Chainsaw Safety After the Storm](#)

## **3. Resources for Filing Your 2024 Taxes**

- [Timber Casualty Losses](#)
- [Forestry Income Tax Series: Frequently Asked Questions about Timber Casualty Losses](#)
- [Can You Claim Timber Damages from Hurricane or Fires on Your Taxes?](#)

## **4. Comprehensive Listings of Resources**

- [Virginia Department of Forestry Disaster Relief](#)
- [Flood aftermath: Where to find help, how to help - Cardinal News](#)
- [Virginia Cooperative Extension Hurricane Resources](#)
- [NC Disaster Information Center | NC State Extension](#)

## **5. Be Aware of Frauds and Scams**

- [Beware of Potential Disaster Recovery Scams | NC State Extension](#)

Please feel free to reach out if you have specific questions and concerns.

We've officially completed our in-person woodland owner events for 2024. And we are busy planning for 2025. We'll have more dates and programs scheduled soon. In the meantime, please check out our [Events Calendar](#) and see below for upcoming educational opportunities.

**[Fifteen Minutes in the Forest](#)**

The award-winning Fifteen Minutes in the Forest video series features a wide-array of topics and are shown every other Friday at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube Premier](#)

- November 1 – Simple Tools to Measure Your Forest Part 2
- November 15 – A Forester Can Provide A Clear View of Your Forest – Part 2 – Selling Your Timber
- After a short break, Fifteen Minutes in the Forest will return in January 2025 with more new videos!
- [Watch 100+ Fifteen Minutes in the Forest videos on our YouTube Channel](#)

### **2025 Landowner Woods & Wildlife Conferences**

Join landowners, natural resource professionals, and other outdoor lovers for day-long tours that explore a variety of sustainable forestry and wildlife management practices. Tours visit private, public, and industry-owned lands.

- February 22 (Yes – they are both on the SAME date)
- [Squires Student Center, Virginia Tech](#), Southwest Virginia – Blacksburg
- [Daniel Technology Center, Germanna Community College](#), Northern Virginia – Culpeper
- Agendas and registration available in December

### **Landowner Retreats**

Landowner Retreats are co-hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension. Retreats provide information on hardwood and pine forest management, legacy planning, management planning, and more. They combine classroom, field trip, and hands-on activities to teach concepts of sustainable woodland and wildlife management.

- Central Virginia – Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
  - March 28-29
  - [Holiday Lake 4 H Educational Center](#), Appomattox
  - Agenda & registration available in January
- Southwest Virginia – Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
  - Dates coming soon
  - Southwest Virginia location coming soon

- Southeast Virginia - Beyond the Basics: Advanced Woodland Owner Retreat
  - Dates coming soon
  - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge

### **Virginia Forestry Summit**

- May 7-9
- [Hotel Roanoke](#), Roanoke
- Registration opens Spring 2025

**Visit the Blue Ridge PRISM website for programs on nonnative invasives**

*All the best!*

*Jennifer*

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