

# FACT SHEET

No. 43

## Timber & Timber Harvesting in West Virginia

February, 2002

### Helpful Organizations

West Virginia Division of Forestry. The DOF has responsibility for forest fire protection activities; management of the state-owned forests; implementation of the logging sediment control act, including the licensing of loggers and timbering operators; management of the managed timberland tax incentive; management of the federal-state forest stewardship program; and for providing technical forestry assistance to non-industrial private forestland owners, among others. The division is located in building 13 at the Guthrie Agricultural Center off route 21 north of Charleston. The phone number is 304-558-2788.

West Virginia Forestry Association. The WVFA is a non-profit organization of more than 1,000 members promoting public interest in forestry within the State. It is also the official sponsor of the American tree farm program in West Virginia. It maintains a cash reward for information leading to the apprehension and prosecution of arsonists setting forest fires and sponsors and conducts industry safety programs and technical short courses in log and lumber grading, among others. The WVFA operates with an Executive Director, forester and staff from its own building near Ripley, WV. The phone number is 304-372-1955.

U. S. Forest Service. The USFS owns and manages more than one million acres in West Virginia. Most of the acreage is in three National forests, the Monongahela, Jefferson and George Washington. The Monongahela is located entirely within the State and is headquartered at Elkins, phone number 304-636-1800. The USFS maintains a center at Morgantown which includes state and private forestry assistance including forest management, forest health including gypsy moth, economic development activities, and wooden bridge engineering. The phone number is 304-285-1500. Forest inventory and analysis for West Virginia is managed from a regional office located near Philadelphia, phone number 610-975-4075. The USFS also maintains visitors centers at Seneca Rocks in Pendleton County and on the top of Kenninson Mountain in Pocahontas County near the terminus of the Scenic Highway and Cranberry Bogs.

National Park Service. The NPS is a bureau in the U.S. Department of Interior. It is charged with preserving and protecting areas of superlative natural, historic and recreational value. There are 384 national parks totaling more than 83 million acres in the nation. The National New River in southern West Virginia is nearing 90,000 acres.

West Virginia State Board of Registration for Foresters. The law providing for the registration of professional foresters was initially passed in 1963 and last amended in 2000. This amendment provided for a code of ethics, for the registration of college-trained forest technicians and for continuing education at both levels. More than 600 professionals have been registered. The law is administered by a board of five members appointed by the Governor from a list submitted by the West Virginia Chapter of the Society of American Foresters.

Association of Consulting Foresters of America. The ACF is an organization of fulltime professional consulting foresters organized to advance professionalism, ethics and the interests of professional forestry. Membership is predicated on at least five years of consulting experience, professional degrees and continuing education. The ACF focuses on providing competent forestry advice and services to landowners for a fee.

West Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association. The CTGA is comprised of about 200 members who raise and sell Christmas trees, at either the wholesale or retail levels. The organization has a newsletter, regularly conducts educational meetings and seminars on the growing, protecting, harvesting and marketing of Christmas trees and hosts an annual meeting.

Department of Natural Resources. The WVDNR is a state agency charged with the protection, management and conservation of the state's fish and game; the beautification of the state's highways; and the development of lands, minerals, waters and other natural resources. The WVDNR Parks and Recreation Section oversees the activities on the State Parks and Recreation Areas. The WVDNR Wildlife Resources Section administers programs related to the game and nongame wildlife, fish and hunting and fishing regulations. The state WVDNR office is located in Charleston, WV. The phone number at the state office is 304-558-2754.

Department of Environmental Protection. The WVDEP is a state agency charged with implementing and enforcing regulations to protect water, soil and mineral resources. The state WVDEP office is located in Nitro, WV. The phone number is 304-759-0515.

Natural Resources Conservation Service. The NRCS is a federal agency that provides technical assistance and cost-share funds to forest landowners to plan and apply resource management systems and conservation practices; and to control non-point source pollution of surface and groundwater. The agency develops and publishes soil survey maps; collects data on erosion, land use, and land cover; and is involved with conservation education programs for both youth and adults. The State NRCS Forester can be reached at 304-284-7576.

West Virginia Soil Conservation Districts. The CD's are the local arms of the West Virginia Conservation Agency. There are fourteen Conservation Districts in the state. Districts may offer programs and services such as: adult and youth education programs, erosion and sediment control planning, flood reduction projects, grassland and

pasture management assistance, private landowner stream access permitting, and work crews to assist in implementing practices. The activities in each District are coordinated by the District Administrative Assistant.

American Tree Farm System. The American Tree Farm System is a national program that recognizes forest landowners, for the stewardship and sustainable forest management practices they perform on their land. Founded in 1941, it has grown to include 65,000 forest landowners and more than 25 million acres. The American Tree Farm System is operated at the national level by the

American Forest Foundation and at the state level by the West Virginia Forestry Association. The Tree Farm Program offers technical assistance, field tours and educational workshops that assist private forest landowners.

West Virginia University Division of Forestry. The WVU Division of Forestry offers bachelor, masters and doctorate degrees in forest management, wildlife and fisheries, recreation and parks and wood industries. The Division's enrollment includes 400-500 undergraduate and 90 graduate students. The division is accredited by the Society of American Foresters. The division is administered by a director who also has responsibility for the Appalachian Hardwood Center (AHC.) The AHC, which is located at the College, provides technical assistance to forest landowners and the wood industry.

Glennville State College Forest Technology Program. Glennville State College offers associate degrees in the areas of Forest Technology, Land Surveying and Environmental Technology. Additionally, these students can extend their education through enrollment in a 2+2 program that culminates in a bachelor's degree in business management or biology. Total enrollment in all three programs usually approaches 150. The College is located in Glennville, WV. The phone number is 304-462-7361.

West Virginia Department of Agriculture. The WVDA offers technical assistance to forest landowners in the identification and control of noxious forest insects and tree diseases. The Commissioner of Agriculture is also chairman of the WV Conservation Agency which manages the Soil Conservation Districts.

Woodland Owners Association of West Virginia, Inc. The Woodland Owners Association (WOA) is a nonprofit membership organization is a nonprofit organization comprised of independent West Virginia woodland owners. The sole membership requirement is an interest in improving privately owned West Virginia forest land.

Farm Service Agency. The FSA is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The FSA offers several cost-share programs that assist landowners in implementing conservation practices on their land as an effort to improve water quality, erosion control and wildlife habitat. Some of the programs the FSA administers include: CRP, CREP, ECP and EQIP. The state FSA office is located in Morgantown, WV. The phone number is 304-291-4351.

West Virginia Farm Bureau. The WVFB is a private, non-profit organization comprised of more than 12,000 member families. It works to promote legislation and policies that are of benefit to rural landowners. The WVFB is involved with educational workshops and tours that inform and demonstrate to landowners the importance of sustainably managing their forest land. The WVFB is headquartered in Buckhannon, WV. The phone number is 1-800-398-4630

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