

Unified Regulatory Plan of the Department of Forestry for State Fiscal Year 2026

Prepared on June 30, 2025

Description of Agency or Boards

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) protects and develops healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians. With 16 million acres of forestland and more than 108,000 Virginians employed in forestry, forest products and related industries, Virginia forests provide an overall economic output of more than \$23 billion annually. Headquartered in Charlottesville, the agency has forestry staff members assigned to every county to provide citizen service and public safety protection across the Commonwealth, which it's been doing now for more than 100 years.

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Action 6707 / Stage 10764	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Proposed Regulatory Reduction Action under Executive Order 19	
Brief Overview This change examines each code section of the Virginia State Forests Regulations and puts forward proposed changes. These include, terminology updates, language clarifications, redundancy eliminations, section consolidations, section eliminations, and section additions. Together these changes will result in a 25% reduction in regulations. Many sections that featured language redundant to existing Virginia law are proposed to be eliminated. Additionally, four new sections are proposed to be added that will address emerging State Forest uses.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☒ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Discretionary Action ☒ Action required by state statute
Deregulatory Component	In order to unencumber citizens from unnecessarily complex or duplicative regulations, DOF has put forth these proposed changes to the State Forest Regulations. These proposed changes should eliminate unnecessary overlap between DOF's regulations and those already established in the Code of

	Virginia, clarify and simply language to increase ease of use, and address new emerging issues which heretofore are unregulated on our State Forests.
Expected Date	The review for this action was completed by the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry on 6/23/25 and is now at the Governor's office for review.