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# VIRGINIA STATE BUDGET

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2017 Session

## Budget Bill - HB1500 (Chapter 836)

Bill Order » Office of Agriculture and Forestry » Item 101

Department of Forestry

Item 101	First Year - FY2017	Second Year - FY2018
<b>Forest Management (50100)</b>	<b>\$31,734,533</b> <b>\$31,625,028</b>	<b>\$32,466,232</b> <b>\$33,514,311</b>
Reforestation Incentives to Private Forest Land Owners (50102)	\$3,676,449	\$3,676,449 \$4,289,809
Forest Conservation, Wildfire & Watershed Services (50103)	<del>\$23,480,801</del> \$23,371,296	\$24,212,500 \$23,697,219
Tree Restoration and Improvement, Nurseries & State-Owned Forest Lands (50104)	\$3,852,283	<del>\$3,852,283</del> \$4,627,283
Financial Assistance for Forest Land Management (50105)	\$725,000	\$725,000 \$900,000
Fund Sources:		
General	\$17,969,536 \$17,860,031	\$18,700,323 \$18,383,948
Special	\$8,793,225	\$8,794,137 \$10,144,137
Trust and Agency	\$106,538	\$106,538
Dedicated Special Revenue	\$89,535	\$89,535
Federal Trust	\$4,775,699	\$4,775,699 \$4,790,153

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Authority: Title 10.1, Chapter 11, and Title 58.1, Chapter 32, Article 4, Code of Virginia.

A. The State Forester is hereby authorized to utilize any unobligated balances in the fire suppression fund authorized by § 10.1-1124, Code of Virginia, for the purpose of acquiring replacement equipment for forestry management and protection operations.

B. In the event that budgeted amounts for forest fire suppression are insufficient to meet forest fire suppression demands, such amounts as may be necessary for this purpose may be transferred from Item 476 of this act to the Department of Forestry, with the approval of the Director, Department of Planning and Budget.

C. The department shall provide technical assistance and project supervision in the aerial spraying of herbicides on timberland on landowner property. In addition to recovering the direct cost associated with the spraying contract, the department may charge an administrative fee for this service.

D. The Department of Forestry, in cooperation with the Department of Corrections, shall increase the use of inmate labor for routine and special work projects in state forests.

E. The department shall report by December 15 of each year on the progress of implementing the silvicultural water quality laws in Virginia. The report shall be submitted to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and

Senate Finance Committees.

F. The appropriation in Reforestation Incentives to Private Forest Land Owners include \$1,833,239 the first year and \$1,833,239 the second year from the general fund for the Reforestation of Timberlands Program. ~~This appropriation matches the anticipated revenue from the forest products severance tax as provided in Section 58.1, Code of Virginia, and meets the provisions of Section 10.1, Code of Virginia.~~ *This appropriation shall be deemed sufficient to meet the provisions of Titles 10.1 and 58.1, Code of Virginia.*

G. Out of this appropriation, \$1,292,956 the first year and \$2,126,126 the second year from the general fund is included for the purchase of forest fire protection equipment through the state's master equipment lease purchase program.

H. The department is authorized to enter into agreements with private entities for the active operational life of the tower located at 900 Natural Resources Drive in Albemarle County, Virginia. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any revenues received from such agreements shall be retained by the department and used for forest land management.

I.1. The State Comptroller shall continue the Virginia State Forest Mitigation and Acquisition Fund and the Long Term Mitigation Fund as established in Item 102, Chapter 806, 2013 Acts of Assembly. All moneys in these funds shall be used as provided for in this Item and in Item 102, Chapter 806, 2013 Acts of Assembly, and Item 98, Chapter 665, 2015 Acts of Assembly.

2.a. With the exception of the amounts prescribed in paragraph I.2.b. of this item, the Virginia State Forest Mitigation and Acquisition Fund shall be used solely for forest land or conservation easement acquisition.

b. The Long Term Mitigation Fund shall be used solely for long term management of the Cumberland State Forest Stream Buffer Preservation Stewardship Plan.

3. For any such future mitigation projects, no state forest land shall be used to provide compensatory mitigation for wetland or stream impacts of any public or private project until such time as due consideration has been given to the availability of mitigation credits available from private sources. State forest land means all sites, roadways, game food patches, ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, beaches, and lakes to which the Department of Forestry holds title for use, development, and administration.

*J. The department is authorized to sell properties and timber located at the following: 16520 Five Forks Road, Amelia, Virginia, 23002; 26401 Blue Star Highway, Emporia, Virginia, 23847; 11260 Jessie Dupont Memorial Highway, Kilmarnock, Virginia, 22482; 152 Maury River Road, Lexington, Virginia, 24450; and 2080 Sowers Road NE, Floyd, Virginia, 24091. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the net proceeds of these transactions, estimated at \$340,000, shall be deposited into the general fund.*