

Forest Landowner Update Winter 2006, Volume 20, No. 1

Landowners: Don't Forget - Riparian Forest Buffer Protection for Waterways Tax Credit is Available

- A non-refundable tax credit
 - For individuals or S corporations who
 - own land on which timber is harvested and abuts a waterway
 - forebear timber harvesting on certain portions of their land for 15 consecutive years.
 - have a stewardship plan in place
 - have a minimum tract size of 10 acres (including buffer)
 - equal to 25% of the value of timber retained in the buffer up to \$17,500
- The riparian buffer must:
 - be at least 35 feet, no greater than 300 ft
 - remain in place for at least 15 years
 - be on a perennial or intermittent stream (as defined by the U.S. Geological Survey)
 - have at least 50% of the basal area remain intact
 - have at least 50% of the timber removed from the adjacent harvested area
- To apply, submit:
 - on-line application at www.dof.virginia.gov
 - \$100 application fee
 - copy of VDOF approved stewardship plan
 - proof of value of timber
 - map of buffer (on-line mapper available)

For more information, visit the Department of Forestry website at www.dof.virginia.gov