

VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER UPDATE

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Two New Faces: Virginia's RC&D Forestry Program Expands

By: Anna Cahoon, *Eastern RC&D (DOF) Forester* and David Richert, *Western RC&D (DOF) Forester*

This summer, the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) hired two foresters to assist Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils with forestry-related projects. For at least the past 20 years, RC&D foresters have been assisting with: tree-care workshops, logging safety and business management workshops, tree identification trails, environmental education projects, timber bridge workshops, and a quarterly newsletter. This personnel change marks an important milestone, however; it is the first time in recent years that VDOF has been able to secure funding for two, full-time foresters.

Located in Dinwiddie, Anna Kroyer Cahoon is the new RC&D Forester for Eastern Virginia. Anna Cahoon is a graduate of North Carolina State University with a B.S. in Forest Management (2003) and a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife Science (2003). Anna served as the VDOF area forester for Prince George and Surry Counties since 2004. Prior to that, Anna worked with the US Fish and Wildlife Service at Alligator River, NCSU Department of Natural Resources State Forests and Christmas Tree Genetics Program, and Squires Timber Company. Anna will serve the Eastern Shore, Old Dominion, South Centr  Corridors, South Hampton Roads, and Tidewater RC&D Councils.



Located in Wytheville, David Richert is the new RC&D Forester for Western Virginia.

David Richert is a graduate of Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Forestry (1998) and a M.S. in Forestry (2001). David served as the VDOF area forester for Bland, Buchanan, and Tazewell Counties since 2005. Prior to that, David worked for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation in Southwest Virginia as a natural areas steward since 2001. David will serve the Black Diamond, New River-Highlands, and Shenandoah RC&D Councils.

Readers familiar with the RC&D forestry program may wonder where the former RC&D foresters have gone. The most recent RC&D forester, Bill Worrell, accepted a position with Virginia Cooperative Extension last year as a Forestry and Natural Resources Agent. Another former RC&D forester, Anne Ulrey, is now managing US Department of Defense lands in Eastern Virginia. These RC&D foresters and others have formulated ideas, initiated projects, and set standards of achievement that Anna and David will continue.

Virginia's RC&D Forestry Program is successful because of its partnership with the VDOF. Area Foresters and Forest Technicians provide on-site technical assistance for RC&D forestry projects and VDOF Central Office staff coordinate statewide programs that fund RC&D projects. But perhaps the most important component in this partnership are the RC&D foresters—who spend nearly all their time working with Virginia's RC&D Councils. Anna and David will have a full work load this year—prioritizing forestry projects, coordinating forestry projects already underway, and assisting with RC&D Councils' community forestry outreach and education efforts.

Editor's Note: The RC&D Foresters' Column will be a regular feature of the *Update*. Anna Cahoon can be reached at anna.cahoon@dof.virginia.gov; 804/469-4781; David Richert can be reached at david.richert@dof.virginia.gov; 276/228-2879