

# Forests in Virginia



# What is Forestry Technology?

- Two-year program
  - A.A.S. – Associate in Applied Science
- Hands-on training
  - 40% - 60% outdoor lab activities



# **Dabney S. Lancaster Community College (DSLCC)**

- Forestry Technology Program
  - Initiated in 1969
- First graduating class
  - 1971
- Since 1988, DSLCC has graduated 181 forestry students, averaging about 11 per year.

# Forestry Graduates

- Many graduates have entered the workforce at the state and federal level.
- Most will become technicians with private forest product companies, often working under the supervision of professional forestry graduates.
- About 30% will enter forestry programs obtaining a Bachelor of Science at universities such as VA Tech, NC State, WVU, East Tennessee State, University of Alaska, etc.

# Forestry Jobs for Graduates

- Jobs for forestry technician graduates have been excellent for the past 5 years.
- Private sectors
- Ratio of jobs to graduates
  - About 3 (jobs) to 1 (student)
- Salaries
  - Up to \$35,000 per year



# Forest's Values are Immeasurable

- Air quality
- Water quality
- Economics
- Wildlife
- Mountain vistas
- Natural reserves



# Facts about Virginia Forests

- Virginia has 15.8 million acres of forestland
- 62% of Virginia is forested
- 300,000 landowners control 77% of our forestland
- 16 state forests encompassing a total of 50,000 acres

# **Upgrading Forestry Technology at D. S. L. C. C.**

- In 2005-2006 we will be replacing outdated sawmill technology with state of the art thin Kerf Band technology and support equipment.
- The new equipment will enable us to train on modern computerized equipment currently used in the forestry industry.













