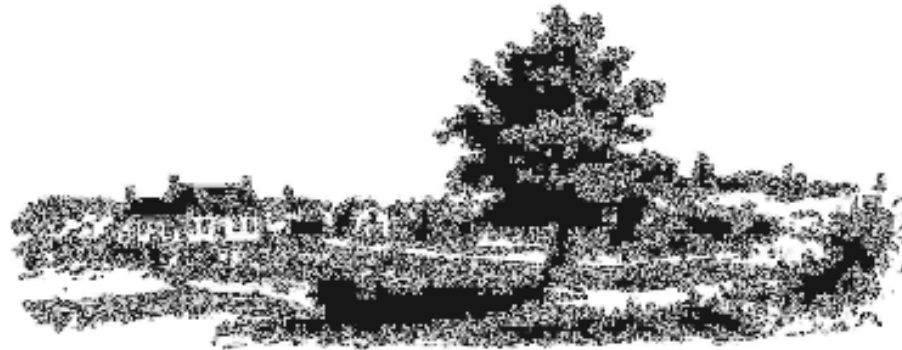


20 VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION QUESTIONS



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

1. Which land trust in Virginia holds the most conservation easements?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

1. Which land trust in Virginia holds the most conservation easements?

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) holds more conservation easements than any public land trust in the nation – more than 2,000 easements on over 350,000 acres.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

2. When was the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) created and what is it?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

2. When was the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) created and what is it?

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation was created by an Act of the Virginia General Assembly (Chapter 18 of Title 10.1) in 1966. The Act has language regarding role and function, but a good summation of the VOF legislative charge is that VOF is steward of the natural and cultural heritage land resources in Virginia on behalf of present and future citizens.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

1. Which land trust in Virginia holds the most conservation easements? Extra Credit - How many easements and how much acreage?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

3. What is at least one major difference between the Open-Space Land Act (1966) and the Virginia Conservation Easement Act (1988)?

The 1966 Virginia Open-Space Land Act may be the strongest conservation easement legislation in the nation while the 1988 Virginia Conservation Easements Act is based on the Model Conservation Easements Act and authorizes private non-profit conservation organizations to hold easements in Virginia.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

4. How many private non-profit land trusts and conservation organizations partner with VOF for protection of natural and cultural heritage land resources?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

4. How many private non-profit land trusts and conservation organizations partner with VOF for protection of natural and cultural heritage land resources?

VOF works collaboratively with more than 30 land conservation entities as well as local governments, other state agencies and federal land conservation partners.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

5. What does the acronym VaULT stand for?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

5. What does the acronym VaULT stand for?

Virginia United Land Trusts is an unincorporated umbrella organization for land trusts in Virginia.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

6. Governor Kaine spoke to the 17th Annual Environment Virginia Symposium on April 20, 2006, and announced that it was the goal of his Administration to permanently conserve how many acres by 2010 to meet and exceed the Virginia obligation under the terms of the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

6. Governor Kaine spoke to the 17th Annual Environment Virginia Symposium on April 20, 2006, and announced that it was the goal of his Administration to permanently conserve how many acres by 2010 to meet and exceed the Virginia obligation under the terms of the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement?

400,000 acres, including over 350,000 acres in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

7. Where does Virginia rank among the 50 states in population growth?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

7. Where does Virginia rank among the 50 states in population growth?

Virginia is the 7th fastest growing state in the union. Alarming, land consumption for development exceeds the population growth rate by 250% (Southern Environmental Law Center – Trip Pollard).



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

8. When the Virginia land preservation tax credit was adopted in 1999 where did Virginia rank among the 50 states in per capita tax expenditures for natural resources?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

8. When the Virginia land preservation tax credit was adopted in 1999 where did Virginia rank among the 50 states in per capita tax expenditures for natural resources?

In 1999 Virginia ranked dead last among the fifty states in per capita expenditures for natural resources – lagging behind Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana (U.S. Census Bureau).



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

9. Which state has a better private land conservation tax inducement than Virginia?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

9. Which state has a better private land conservation tax inducement than Virginia?

No state in the nation has a better private land conservation tax inducement than Virginia. This helps balance the statistic cited in response to the previous question.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

10. The Virginia Land Conservation Incentives Act of 1999 represents the merger of what two well established Virginia (Jeffersonian) traditions?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

10. The Virginia Land Conservation Incentives Act of 1999 represents the merger of what two well established Virginia (Jeffersonian) traditions?

The Virginia reliance on private land stewardship is based on our strong reverence for private property rights and a keen sense of personal land stewardship.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

11. What percentage of VOF's easements have been recorded in the last five years and why?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

11. What percentage of VOF's easements have been recorded in the last five years and why?

More than 50% of all Virginia easements and VOF easements have been recorded in the last five years and the primary motivating factor was the aforesaid land preservation transferable state income tax credit.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

12. Where does Virginia rank among the 50 states in terms in terms of rate of loss of prime farmland?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

12. Where does Virginia rank among the 50 states in terms in terms of rate of loss of prime farmland?

Virginia ranks 16th among the 50 states in the rate of loss of prime farmland according to the American Farmland Trust.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

13. The Chesapeake Bay has been recognized as one of the world's most productive estuarial systems. What percent of Virginia's land mass contributes to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

13. The Chesapeake Bay has been recognized as one of the world's most productive estuarial systems. What percent of Virginia's land mass contributes to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed?

Approximately 60% of Virginia's land is in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

14. What is the leading industry in Virginia in terms of employment, sales, and economic benefits?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

14. What is the leading industry in Virginia in terms of employment, sales, and economic benefits?

Agriculture/forestry is Virginia's leading industry employing tens of thousands of Virginians and accounting for more than \$64 billion in annual sales and economic benefits (Tim Kaine, 4/20/06).



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

15. What industry ranks second? What do they have in common?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

15. What industry ranks second? What do they have in common?

Tourism is Virginia's second ranking industry. Virginia is among the top ten tourist destinations in the United States. Thirty-six million folks visited Virginia in 2004 and tourism represents more than a \$15 billion investment in our economy on an annual basis (Tim Kaine, 4/20/06).



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

16. The most recent Virginia Outdoors Plan recommends that for environmental health that tree canopies should represent at least what percentage of a region's spatial area?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

16. The most recent Virginia Outdoors Plan recommends that for environmental health that tree canopies should represent at least what percentage of a region's spatial area?

The Virginia Outdoors Plan recommends at least 40% tree canopy cover for environmental health, but between 1973 and 1997 tree canopy decreased 30% in the Chesapeake Bay Region, 64% in the Washington Metropolitan Region, and 24% in the Roanoke Region.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

17. What is the average size of forested tracts in Virginia?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

17. What is the average size of forested tracts in Virginia?

The average size of forested tracts in Virginia is now less than 30 acres. The Virginia Department of Forestry recently found that over three million acres of commercial timberland can no longer be considered rural enough to permit the sustainable management of forest products.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

18. How much forest land is typically being lost in Virginia each year?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

18. How much forest land is typically being lost in Virginia each year?

More than 20,000 acres of forest land are typically lost each year according to the Virginia Department of Forestry.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

19. Virginia ranks in the top ten among all states in globally rare plants and animals, but of the 425 globally significant conservation sites identified in our state what percent remain unprotected?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

19. Virginia ranks in the top ten among all states in globally rare plants and animals, but of the 425 globally significant conservation sites identified in our state what percent remain unprotected?

In 2003, more than 60% Virginia's globally significant conservation sites were unprotected. Today, some progress has been made, but well over 50% of these irreplaceable sites are still unprotected.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

20. What percentage of Virginia's productive wetlands have been destroyed since John Smith first set foot on Virginia soil almost 400 years ago?



Virginia Outdoors Foundation

20. What percentage of Virginia's productive wetlands have been destroyed since John Smith first set foot on Virginia soil almost 400 years ago?

As we prepare to celebrate the founding of Jamestown 400 years ago, we must note with regret that more than 50% of the extraordinarily productive wetlands that existed in 1607 will be gone in 2007.



Virginia Outdoors Foundation