

Inventory and Assessment of Old-Growth Forests to Support the 500-Year Forest Foundation

Restoration of old-growth forest is crucial for sustainable forest management. The 500-Year Forest Foundation (500YFF) seeks to conserve mature forests and the biologically diverse species they nurture, in partnership with private landowners, to help ensure forests are protected in future. To assist the 500YFF in the goals of old growth preservation and restoration, we will develop a simple protocol and conduct baseline forest inventories at several 500YFF forests in Virginia. Each inventory will include tree density, species (native and non-native), abundance of coarse woody debris, scrub, and herbaceous species, diameter, average stand age, and observation/assessment of human disturbance. These inventories will be designed to be replicated on a schedule that will allow for forest assessment and maintenance by the Foundation over the long term. We will also explore options to incorporate future forest inventories as part of the Randolph Environmental Studies & Science curriculum, in an ongoing partnership.



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