

Opportunities for Forestry and Woody Biomass Energy in the 2008 Farm Bill

Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

COVES Conference

Richmond, VA

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National Priorities for Private Forest Conservation

- Establishes three priorities for CFAA programs – S&PF Redesign Themes
 - Conserve Working Forests
 - Protect Forests from Harm
 - Enhance Public Benefits



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State Forest Resource Assessments

- Requires state assessments within two years
- States will identify priority areas and incorporate existing plans
- Requires a long-term strategy tiered to assessment
- Must coordinate with partners



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Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

- Grants for purchase of community forests
- Program open to Tribes, local government, environmental orgs. – proposals submitted through States or Tribal governments
- Encourages working land, education, requires public access
- Subject to appropriations



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Changes to Forest Resource Coordinating Committee

- Modifies and expands FRCC to include heads of FS, NRCS, FSA, CSREES, and non-fed reps
- FS Chief is chair of the FRCC
- FRCC will:
 - Provide direction and coordination on addressing the 3 national priorities
 - Clarify individual agency responsibilities
 - Provides advice on the allocation of competitive funds



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Changes to State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee

- Adds a member of the State Technical Committee to the State FSCC.
- FSCC Makes recommendations to the State Forester on the State Assessments and Resource Strategies.



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Competition in CFAA Programs

- Allows for a portion of CFAA funds (determined by Sec.) to be competitively allocated
- Priority given to States whose State Assessments best promote the 3 national priorities



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Cooperative Forestry Innovation Partnership Projects

- May competitively allocate up to 5% of CFAA funds for innovative projects
- Funds available to states, Tribes, local government, land-grant, or private entities
- 50% cost-share (includes in-kind)



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Emergency Forest Restoration Program

- Program available to NIPF owners to restore landscapes damaged by fire, drought, flood, & other natural disasters.
- Funding subject to appropriation, funds available until expended. Up to 75% cost share.
- Farm Service Agency lead



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Conservation (Title II)

- Formally opens several Conservation programs (EQIP, WHIP, etc.) to NIPF landowners by defining NIPF land for this Title
- **EQIP –**
 - Continues eligibility of NIPF landowners.
 - Forest stewardship plans can be used for the conservation planning requirements.
- **WHIP –**
 - Provides more opportunities for NIPF owners.
 - Allows for state, regional and national conservation initiatives.
 - Changes cost-share rate



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Conservation (Title II)

- **Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative –**
 - Addresses priorities involving agriculture and NIPF land and to encourage cooperation among producers
- **Conservation Stewardship Program –**
 - New, renamed program
 - Allows, on a national basis, for up to 10% of acreage to be NIPF.
- **Conservation Reserve Program –**
 - Allows for state, regional and national conservation initiatives.
 - Opportunity for cost-sharing thinnings; producing biomass



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Conservation (Title II) cont.

- **Environmental Service Markets –**
 - Provision to aid development of private-sector market-based approaches for environmental goods and services.
 - Carbon markets to be initial emphasis.
- **Chesapeake Bay Watershed –**
 - New initiative to improve watershed health.
 - Authorizes up to \$188 million total in CCC funds.
- **Voluntary public access program –**
 - Grant program for States and Tribes to encourage farm, ranch and forest land to make their land available for wildlife-dependent recreation.
 - Up to \$50 million total in CCC funds.



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Energy (Title IX)

- **Definition – Renewable Biomass** Inclusive of materials from federal lands. This definition applies only to Farm Bill Energy Title
- DOES NOT amend the Renewable Fuels Standard def. in HR6



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Energy (Title IX) cont.

- **Forest Biomass for Energy** –
 - competitive research and development program to encourage use of forest biomass for energy.
- **Community Wood Energy** –
 - Grant program for state and local communities to plan, develop, and acquire community wood energy systems.
- **Biomass Research and Development** –
 - directs research into feedstock development, biofuels and biobased products development, and biofuels development analysis.



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Energy (Title IX) cont.

- **Biomass Crop Assistance Program (FSA)** – assistance for establishment, production, harvest, storage and transport of renewable biomass
- Requires:
 - Establishment of BCAP project areas
 - Producer contracts with USDA: NIPF owners eligible
- Payments:
 - Contract payments to producers in BACP
 - Delivery payments for collect or harvest eligible materials delivered to conversion facility in BCAP project area.



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Other Titles

- **Horticulture and Organic Agriculture (X)**
 - **Pest and Disease Revolving Loan Fund –**
 - Low interest loans to local governments for equipment & contracts to aid in combating invasive species outbreaks.
 - May fund monitoring, removal, and disposal of infested trees.
- **Trade and Tax Title (XV)**
 - **Conservation Easements –**
 - Enhanced tax deduction for contributions of conservation easements extended through 2009



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Other Titles, cont.

- **Trade and Tax (XV) cont.**
 - **Credit for Production of Cellulosic Ethanol**
 - \$1.01/gallon production credit for cellulosic ethanol producers
 - **Comprehensive Study of Biofuels**
 - Directs Treasury to lead a study with USDA, EPA, DOE and the National Academy of Sciences.
 - Report will include a study of available biomass feedstocks from forests and farms.



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