

Society of American Foresters

Incentives for Woody Biomass for Forest Landowners

Portland, OR
October 26, 2007

2002 Farm Bill

- EQIP – Started in the 1996 Farm Bill. Since 2002 NRCS has used \$2.8 B of which 2.4% has been approved for forestry practices.
- Forestry has received as much as 13.6% (NH) and as little as 0.03%(NC)

2002 Farm Bill

- WHIP - NRCS has used 13.5% of the total funds for forestry practices.
- State have approved up to 46% (AR) and as little as 0.08% (NY)
- Overall, WHIP is friendly to forestry activities.

2002 Farm Bill

- CRP has been active since 1985 Farm Bill and is the largest program in 2002 Farm Bill, almost \$2B per year.
- Limited to 39.2 million acres and managed by FSA.
- 3.4 million acres in trees, some with their 3rd 10 year contract

2002 Farm Bill

- CRP – Has a special initiative for Bottomland Hardwoods – 500,000 ac. LA has done more than all others States combined.
- CREP – Currently 32 States with 40 contracts. Most are forestry friendly with riparian plantings.

Emergency Legislation

- Emergency Forestry CRP – for 5 States impacted with 2005 Hurricanes.
- First time forestry has had specific funding through CRP.
- First time existing forest land was eligible for 10 year annual rental payments.
- Managed by FSA.

Farm Bill web sites

- To work with NRCS or FSA on the programs they manage, contact the local USDA service center.
- <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>
- All program activities start at the local offices.

2007 Farm Bill

- US House of Representatives has passed their version.
- <http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/2007FarmBill.html>
- USDA has information on their web site for Farm Bill activities. The final bill will also be posted on this site.
http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usdafarmbill?navid=FARM_BILL_FORUMS

2007 Farm Bill - House

- CRP – House version makes no major changes. Very well accepted agriculture and social program. Senate is not expected to make many changes.
- EQIP – House version makes it a larger program, consuming several smaller programs like FLEP. Scheduled to be funded up to \$2B per year.

2007 Farm Bill - House

- WHIP – Currently a stand alone program with a considerable increase in funding.
- HFRP – Currently a stand alone program with proposed considerable growth. Only active in 3 States, AR, ME, MS.

2007 Farm Bill

- Senate will have to pass their version
- There will be a joint committee to work out the differences.
- We are expecting an extension of the current Farm Bill for up to one year. This is not unprecedented.
- Watch the USDA site for the final.

2007 Farm Bill

- If the NRCS programs receive the proposed funding levels many places will be looking for ways to spend the money.
- Many State Forestry Agencies and forestry interests have not been active on State Technical Committees. If forestry is not active on these committees, forestry will not be funded.

2007 Farm Bill

- Now is the time to make a new effort to get more involved with how these funds are spent.
- Forestry is more prominent in the House Farm bill language in all programs.

2007 Farm Bill

- House has an Energy Title, IX with references to forest products for feed stock and funding for bioenergy plants & research.
- Provides \$75M within USDA and Energy to create a program for use of woody biomass for bioenergy production.
- Extends the Biomass Research and Development Program through 2012.

2007 Energy Bill

- The US House of Representatives has passed an Energy Bill.
- http://www.rules.house.gov/110/text/110_hr3221.pdf
- Section 9008 is Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000. Forestry is listed everywhere agriculture is listed.
- Major step for the woody biomass.

2007 Energy Bill

- Chief of the Forest Service said in a recent talk that more woody biomass would be coming from national forest.
- Impetus for this is language in this Energy Bill.
- Bill calls for a full spectrum of woody biomass utilization nation wide.

2007 Energy Bill

- Section 9006 is Rural Energy for America Program.
- Allows feasibility studies as well as funding for renewable energy electric generation systems.
- Funding through CCC. \$40M in 2008 up to \$150M in 2012.

2007 Energy Bill

- Section 9006 funding will go through USDA.
- USDA Rural Development currently has about \$200M a year to fund rural electric generation. They are interested in renewable energy including wood.

Other Sources

- 25x25 is a coalition of individuals, organizations, corporations, legislators and others working toward 25% of US energy from renewable sources by 2025.
- The State Forestry Agencies are active in each State with technical expertise in forest management and woody biomass.
- <http://stateforesters.org/>

Other Sources

- American Forest Foundation received \$150M and US Endowment for Forestry and Communities received \$200M from settlement with Canada.
- <http://www.affoundation.org/>
- <http://www.usendowment.org/home.html>

Other Sources

- Fuels for Schools has been more active in the West close to National Forest. Help develop information on heating and electricity units for schools and similar size units.
- <http://fuelsforschools.org/>

Other Sources

- The US Forest Service has the Forest Products Lab in Madison, WI. This serves as our biomass center.
- <http://ww.fpl.fs.fe.us/tmu>
- The lab has information including grant opportunities for woody biomass.

Other Sources

- National Wild Turkey Federation – Interested in better forest management through woody biomass utilization.
- <http://nwtf.org/>
- National Association of Conservation Districts has a forestry page on their web site with lots of different information
- <http://forestry.nacdnet.org>

Other Sources

- The Hidden Treasure: Forest and Woody Biomass
- The first 100,000 of these comic books went out in a few weeks.
- NACD has the book on their web site. Copies can be printed from there.
- Funding was secured for an additional 300,000 copies.

Other Sources

- Many local RC&D offices promote woody biomass utilization. You can find your local office through their web site.
- <http://www.rcdnet.org/index/php>
- National Woodland Owners has State affiliate offices. Many are engaged in forest management and biomass.
- <http://www.woodlandowners.org/>

Other Sources

- Many States have specific programs through their State Forestry and State Energy Departments.
- These can be a very good first source for information. The State Forester web site has contact information for each State.

Any Questions

- Hal Brockman
- 202-205-1694
- hbrockman@fs.fed.us