

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS

2007 Farm Bill: Summary of Recommendations

“Keeping Forestland Forested”

The recommendations of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) for development of the 2007 Farm Bill are based upon the premise that ***society places value on the perpetuation of sustainable forested landscapes*** and the ability of private landowners to successfully manage their forests for diverse purposes. NASF recommends an approach to the Farm Bill that encourages stronger public and private partnerships, sustainable forests, enhanced interagency relationships, and improved services to landowners to promote the retention, protection, and sustainable management of their forestland. **NASF estimates that an annual investment of \$500 million is necessary to achieve these objectives in the 2007 Farm Bill.** Recommendations are summarized by the sections contained within Farm Bill Titles for Forestry, Conservation and Energy.

FORESTRY TITLE

- Section 1. Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Plan: An assessment and collaborative planning process to identify Critical Forest Resource Areas and develop strategic direction for targeting and implementing programs supported by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act.
- Section 2. Forestland Disaster Recovery Assistance Program: A comprehensive and efficient disaster recovery program to provide rapid recovery and restoration of small as well as large private forestlands from losses due to large scale landscape-level disasters.
- Section 3. Forest Resource Planning Assistance to Local Governments: Technical assistance to local governments to augment land use planning and decision making that may influence the conservation, health, and management of forested landscapes.
- Section 4. Sustainable Forests Market Program: An enhanced program to encourage the perpetuation, expansion and development of markets for forest resource products and services including ecosystem benefits.
- Section 5. Watershed Forestry Assistance Program: Appropriations to fund currently authorized grants program to promote best management practices and conservation of forestland within selected watersheds.

CONSERVATION TITLE

- Section 1. Forestland and the Conservation Security Program (CSP): Amendments to the Conservation Security Program to expand opportunities for forestland and forest management practices to qualify for CSP benefits.
- Section 2. Forestland and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Amendments to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to expand opportunities for forestland and forest management practices to qualify for EQIP benefits.

ENERGY TITLE

- Woody Biomass Renewable Energy Program: A grant program to facilitate the development of sustainable markets and technologies to produce “energy” crops and utilize wood biomass for energy production including cellulosic ethanol.
- NASF will pursue all authorities that promote utilization of woody biomass resources to the benefit of the family forest landowner.

