



August 27, 2008

Forest Service Chief signs Farm Bill Letter

Chief Kimbell signed a Farm Bill letter on August 8th sent to all Forest Service units. The 2008 Farm Bill is very "forestry friendly" and there are several provisions to assist private forest landowners and communities to sustainably manage their forests. A few of the new programs that the Forest Service will be implementing are the Community Wood to Energy Program and the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program.

The letter contains two attachments that should be useful in communicating Farm Bill provisions internally and with partners: 1) A table that summarizes all Forest Service or forestry-related provisions and designates agency leads and 2) a 2-page summary of forestry-related Farm Bill provisions.

You can download the letter and attachments at <ftp://ftp2.fs.fed.us/incoming/wo/FarmBill/>. The ftp site also has a PowerPoint presentation, legislative text of the Farm Bill, and other resources.

Forest Legacy Project Featured in National Geographic Wall Map

The recently released National Conservation Wall Map, produced by the National Geographic Society and NatureServe, tells the story of the changing face of land conservation in the United States and the continuing threats to our nation's open space. One side of the Wall Map is called "the Natural States of America" which highlights important conservation areas and ecosystems in the U.S. The flip side of the Wall Map is titled "Open Space at Risk", and depicts important natural areas and working lands at risk to development. The "Open Space at Risk" map also highlights 12 conservation success stories from across the country, including the Wao Kele O'Puna Forest Legacy Project in Hawaii.

In the shadow of the Kilauea volcano, the 25,000 acre Wao Kele O'Puna Forest Legacy Project protects the last large tract of intact lowland tropical rainforest on the Island of Hawaii. This forest is an important spiritual center for native Hawaiian religious life and contains an extensive cave system with native Hawaiian burial sites. Wao Kele O'Puna is also a critical freshwater recharge area for the island's aquifers and contains habitat for several endangered plant and animal species found no where else in the world.

The National Conservation Wall Map is part of the LandScope America project, a partnership between National Geographic and NatureServe. Planned for release in late 2008, the interactive website will bring together maps, data and stories about natural places and present them in highly dynamic and accessible formats. You can download a copy of the Wall Map and learn more about LandScope America at: www.landscape.org

USDA Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave.,
S.W. Washington, D.C.
20250-1103

www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry

Forest Taxation Network Working Group Meeting

On Tuesday August 5, 2008, the FS Cooperative Forestry office hosted a Forest Taxation Network Meeting, at the Forest Service Headquarters, with Ted Beauvais and Kathryn Conant of the Cooperative Forestry staff leading this initiative. The purpose of this meeting was to share information, review accomplishments, publication updates and availability, and forest taxation issues. Attendees were encouraged to coordinate and form partnerships to accomplish mutual objectives. Presentations were brief and discussions typically outlined the various forest taxation issues they were facing, including recent activities and accomplishments.

On Wednesday, August 6, 2008 tax researchers and specialists meet for a couple of hours, presenters included; John Green, Research Forester, US Forest Service, Bill Hoover, Professor and Assistant Department Head of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University, Mark Batson, Industry Technical Advisor, IRS, Linda Wang, National Forest Tax Specialist, and Neal Bungard, Forest Legacy Specialist, US Forest Service.

The tax researchers and specialists from the USDA Forest Service, Purdue University, and the IRS explained the latest developments in timber tax law and rules, tax legislation from 2007 to 2008, proposed IRS regulation, tax policy and more. For a copy of the research meeting agenda and the PowerPoint presentations go to: www.timbertax.org

The next forum is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2009, held at the U.S. Forest Service Headquarters in the Sidney Yates Building, located at 201 14th Street, SW, Washington, DC. If you are interested in attending 2009 forum please contact Kathryn Conant at 202.401.4072 or Rene Cochise at 202.205.1392

USDA Partners V Meeting

The Forest Service, along with several USDA agencies, participated in the USDA Partners V Meeting on August 6-8, 2008 in Arlington VA. This year's theme was "Building Bridges, Building Hope: Working Together to Strengthen Farming and Rural Communities." This convening provided a venue to focus on the provisions in the Food Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) that most impact the well-being of small, beginning, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and minority farmers, ranchers, landowners, Tribal Governments, rural and urban communities, minority-serving institutions, and other groups. This meeting continued the highly successful conversation model, and included 10 topics.

The Forest Service provided three presenters from the National Office: Conversation no. 1: Conservation and Forestry Programs (Ted Beauvais, Acting Director, Cooperative Forestry Staff and Agency Farm Bill Coordinator; and, Fred Clark, Director, Office of Tribal Relations). **Conversation no. 5: Energy/Renewable Energy Programs** (Paul Johnson, Energy Coordinator, Minerals & Geology Staff). These two conversations were in the Equitable Access to Programs and the 2008 Farm Bill part of the program. Also, soloist James Mobley, Financial Management Staff, National Office, provided a musical performance, prior to Secretary Edward T. Schafer's keynote address. Four other Forest Service employees, including the Southern Region, participated as moderator, facilitator, evaluator, and reporter.

Urban Forest Health Monitoring in the Northeastern Area

The Forest Health Protection (FHP) and Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Programs of the Northeastern Area are developing a comprehensive Urban Forest Health Monitoring (UFHM) program that will provide new tools for the early detection of invasive pests in the urban forest and enhance the use of local tree inventory information to assess the risk of invasive pests and determine the appropriate management response. Specific elements of this effort are to:

- Finalize development of the IPED pest detection module within the i-Tree software suite (<http://www.itreetools.org>);
- Collaborate with the National Plant Diagnostics Network (NPDN) so that both NPDN and Forest Service tools (such as the i-Tree software) are fully utilized through both organizations' efforts;
- Develop a data repository platform to consolidate and summarize local tree inventory information beyond the local level;
- Work with both State Forestry and Cooperative Extension to both expand citizen monitoring and increase the use of i-Tree tools and the local inventory repository in citizen monitoring efforts.

Jessica Call has been brought on as a one year detailer to provide overall project leadership, oversight, and facilitation. For further information on the NA effort, please contact Jessica Call at 202-205-1056 or by email at jessicacall@fs.fed.us

Green Infrastructure

- July 9, 2008 -- Urban & Community Forestry participated in a web cast host by the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP). NALGEP presented the Emerging Green Infrastructure Community of Practice, the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition, and work of the Mid-America Regional Council in Kansas City in applying green infrastructure network design and practices for sustainable development and water management. Presentations can be found at NALGEP's website, <http://www.nalgep.org>.
- July 17, 2008 -- The U.S. Forest Service hosted speakers who discussed restoring ecosystem function into urban landscapes and using indicators and measures to monitor and improve sustainable management of forested parks and urbanizing landscapes. Guest speakers included: 1) Andy Lipkis, Executive Director and Founder of Tree People, 2) Maureen Hart, President of Sustainable Measures, and Don Outen, Natural Resources Manager.
- July 23, 2008 -- Members of the Green Infrastructure Community of Practice (CoP) met to discuss progress made on several tasks and to generate next steps in networking partners and advancing green infrastructure planning and project implementation. The meeting took place in Washington, DC at the office of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and included a presentation and tour of the building's green roof. The CoP then discussed five working group topics including: vision and organization, the nature and role of a federal working group, website development, creating and sharing an introductory green infrastructure webcast, building a science working group, and the possibility of organizing a national conference.

More information can be found online at www.greeninfrastructure.net or by contacting Dana Coelho, dcoelho@fs.fed.us.

Peggy Harwood Retires

Peggy Harwood is retiring with over 30 years of land management and environmental planning experience in state and federal government. Peggy's most recent assignment was a member of the Urban and Community Forestry staff in the Washington Office. Since 1999, Peggy has coordinated and nurtured USDA's commitment to develop a green infrastructure training program in partnership with The Conservation Fund, other interested organizations, and a number of federal and state agencies.

She has been instrumental in developing a community of practice around green infrastructure with other federal agencies and conservation associations. She will also be remembered for her efforts to develop the Community Accountability Reporting System (CARS) used to track program accomplishments. CARS support the goals of the Forest Service strategic Plan and the agency Performance Accountability System.