

2008 Farm Bill Forestry Title:

Protecting and Sustaining Healthy Forests

- **Protects the future of our forests**
 - Sets new national private forest conservation priorities
 - Directs states to conduct assessments of current forest resources
 - Requires states to develop a long-term strategy for forest resource management
- **Creates new opportunities for non industrial private forestland owners through various programs**
 - Helps owners implement conservation initiatives and rebuild habitat on private forestlands in the conservation title
 - Explores the development of new energy feedstocks and other uses for forest biomass in the energy title
- **Increases efficiency in existing forestry programs**
 - Improves cooperation between the government, private landowners and the conservation community in the newly renamed Forest Resource Coordinating Committee
 - Reauthorizes the Office of International Forestry, which promotes sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation internationally
- **Preserves open space in developed areas by authorizing the Community Forest and Open Space Program**
- **Improves biodiversity, improves the environment and protects endangered species**
 - Provides \$39 million over 10 years for the successful Healthy Forest Reserve Program, which helps private forestland owners protect endangered species
 - Continues the Emergency Forestry Conservation Program, which helps eligible landowners and operators restore and enhance forestland damaged by natural disasters, including hurricanes, for non-industrial forest lands
- **Helps the nation become more energy independent**
 - Reauthorizes Rural Revitalization Technologies to address the use of forest biomass in energy production
- **Creates new opportunities for socially disadvantaged workers**
 - Establishes a grant program to recruit and train Hispanics and underserved groups for careers in forestry and related fields
- **Improves cooperation between the U.S. Forest Service and Indian tribes who have native interests on public lands**

Farm Bill Forestry Program Facts:

- Government funds first went to forestry issues to study western forests in the 1877 Agriculture Appropriations Act.
- The Division of Forestry was established in the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1881, but the Forest Service was not created until 1905.
- Forests provide a broad array of environmental services to the American people, most notably clean air and water, wildlife habitats, pleasant scenery, and renewable energy as well.
- The economies of many rural communities have depended on the use of forest resources, whether it be in finding, extracting, processing, or selling the products.