

Possible Recommendations For The 2007 Farm Bill
Compiled from organizations that have provided public statements
Not In Priority Order

Inclusion does not indicate Forest Service endorsement

○ **Forestry Title Of The Farm Bill - General**

- Capture a national vision that resolves into regional goals and, with further refinement, translates into local action. (Farm Bill Reauthorization: New Approaches, Flexibility Needed For Western Agriculture. Western Governor's Association Policy Resolution, June 22, 2004)
- Maintain and/or improve existing conservation and environmental preservation and enhancement programs so that gains made through years of work are not reversed or hindered. (Farm Bill Reauthorization: New Approaches, Flexibility Needed For Western Agriculture. Western Governor's Association Policy Resolution, June 22, 2004)
- Shift the focus of conservation resources from a program-driven to an outcome-driven strategy. (2007 Federal Farm Bill: Concepts For Conservation Reform In The Chesapeake Bay Region. Chesapeake Bay Commission, November 2005)
- Increase flexibility within programs in order to allow for funding and implementation of alternative, innovative practices. (2007 Federal Farm Bill: Concepts For Conservation Reform In The Chesapeake Bay Region. Chesapeake Bay Commission, November 2005)
- Provide increased, targeted support for market development, renewable energy applications, and risk management. (2007 Federal Farm Bill: Concepts For Conservation Reform In The Chesapeake Bay Region. Chesapeake Bay Commission, November 2005)
- Increase emphasis on incentives as opposed to regulations. (Summary Of Recommendations For Farm Bill 2007. Southern Group Of State Foresters. 2005.) For instance, provide incentives to non-federal forest landowners to restore their forestlands and to cooperate across ownership. (2007 Farm Bill Talking Points: Achieving Conservation And Environmental Goals. Communities And Forests, Winter 2006)
- Support forest conservation projects that slow fragmentation and parcelization while keeping forests intact for natural values, forestry, and recreation. (Northern Forest Alliance Sign-On Letter To The 2007 Farm Bill. December, 2005)
- Focus federal assistance programs to rural areas on programs that integrate the economy, the environment, and the social framework to ensure that the rural way of life is sustained. (Comments On The 2007 Farm Bill. Society Of American Foresters, December 30, 2005)
- Encourage, given limited capacity, the use of prioritization based on restoration and social goals to determine where and to whom technical assistance and resources should go using a collaborative process. (Comments To Be Used In Developing USDA Recommendations For The 2007 Farm Bill. Rural Voices For Conservation Coalition, December 30, 2005)
- Direct funding and resources for forests where they can have the greatest impact on forest conservation and management, and should deliver measurable results. Funding should be directed at priorities, should encourage multiple landowner

cooperation across landscapes and watersheds, and should address issues on a scale that will make a difference on the ground. (Request For Public Comments To Be Used In Developing USDA Recommendations For The 2007 Farm Bill. American Forests, et al., December 23, 2005) In other words, implement a landscape approach in assistance programs so investments in family forestland make a difference on the landscape scale. (Family Forests Facing Increasing Risks. National Association Of State Foresters)

- Incorporate monitoring and evaluation into program implementation. (USDA Farm Bill Forum Comment Summary And Background. March, 2006)
 - Retain and strengthen several features from the Forestry Title of the 2002 Farm Bill, including: 1) flexibility to allow customization of the program to meet state and local conservation needs; 2) inclusion of all three critical program components – technical, financial, and educational assistance – while providing for state discretion regarding allocation of each of these resources proportionate to state and local needs; 3) state and local prioritization to maximize program effectiveness in addressing resource issues; 4) protection and enhancement of multiple resource categories under a single program; 5) program development and implementation in the context of a long-term strategic plan that addresses multiple resource priorities across the landscape; 6) utilization of a simple, landowner-friendly process; 7) support for private sector providers and local economic development; and 8) involvement of a wide cross section of public and private partners in program development and implementation. (Comments On Upcoming 2007 Farm Bill. Council Of Western State Foresters, December 30, 2005)
 - Ensure forest landowners are equally eligible, and fairly treated, in the development and implementation of all the Farm Bill's conservation programs. For example, in many of the 2002 Farm bill's conservation programs, forest lands were only eligible when determined to be "incidental" to agriculture operations. (Comments On Upcoming 2007 Farm Bill. Council Of Western State Foresters, December 30, 2005) Increase the distribution of farm bill program benefits to forest landowners. They have benefited least from these programs while forest lands provide more environmental benefits enjoyed by the general public than any other land use. (USDA Farm Bill Forum Comment Summary And Background. March, 2006)
- **Forestry Title Of The Farm Bill – Specific**
- Increase funding for cost share assistance to non-industrial private landowners and clarify intended recipients of existing legislation. (Comments To Be Used In Developing USDA Recommendations For The 2007 Farm Bill. Rural Voices For Conservation Coalition, December 30, 2005)
 - Support community-owned forests. (2007 Farm Bill Talking Points: Achieving Conservation Goals. Communities And Forests, Winter 2006)
 - Eliminate the death tax. One of the biggest threats to the family forest today does not come from foreign competition or big business, but from the U.S. Tax Code. (NTU Provides Official Comments On The 2007 Farm Bill. Kristina Rasmussen And Pete Sepp, December 14, 2005)
 - Develop options and opportunities to prevent and control the spread of invasive species, especially forest pests and especially on private forest land. (Previewing A

2007 Farm Bill. CRS Report For Congress. Jasper Womach, August 16, 2005)
Take a more comprehensive approach to invasive species. (Summary Of
Recommendations For Farm Bill 2007. Southern Group Of State Foresters. 2005)
Increase incentives and tax credits for management of land to control invasive
species and favor native species. (USDA Farm Bill Comment Summary And
Background. March, 2006)

- Support the development and protection of non-timber forest products. (USDA Farm Bill Forum Comment Summary And Background. March, 2006)
- Provide a portion of farm bill funding towards family forest issues. (USDA Farm Bill Forum Comment Summary And Background. March, 2006)
- Have the Forest Service, rather than NRCS or other agriculture-focused agencies, deliver forestry programs. (USDA Farm Bill Forum Comment Summary And Background. March, 2006)

○ **Forestry Title Of The Farm Bill – Technical And Financial Assistance**

- Target educational, technical, and financial assistance that addresses priority societal resource concerns while meeting landowner objectives (Family Forests Facing Increasing Risks. National Association Of State Foresters) and uses integrated delivery mechanisms to achieve sustainable forestry. (Working Paper On Farm Bill Forestry Title Priorities. National Council On Private Forests)
- Provide adequate funding for technical assistance and staff to ensure program objectives are not compromised. (Farm Bill Reauthorization: New Approaches, Flexibility Needed For Western Agriculture. Western Governors' Association Policy Resolution, Jun 22, 2004)
- Increase funds to support additional field-based professionals who provide on-the-ground assistance in designing site specific, best management conservation measures to address identified needs. (2007 Federal Farm Bill: Concepts For Conservation Reform In The Chesapeake Bay Region. Chesapeake Bay Commission, November 2005)
- Provide technical and educational assistance to non-industrial private forest owners, using peer-to-peer mentoring and collaborative efforts to prioritize needs based on restoration and social goals. (2007 Farm Bill Talking Points: Achieving Conservation And Environmental Goals. Communities And Forests, Winter 2006)
- Increase the amount of educational, technical, and financial assistance available to private woodland owners from the federal government. (The 2007 Farm Bill And Sustainable Family Forests. Comments Based On The Wingspread Conference On "The Future Of Family Woodlands In The United States," November 11-13, 2005)
- Increase the eligibility of family forest owners for a range of education, technical assistance, and incentive programs, thus improving land stewardship, slowing the rate of parcelization, and increasing economic returns from these woodlands. (The 2007 Farm Bill And Sustainable Family Forests. Comments Based On The Wingspread Conference On "The Future Of Family Woodlands In The United States," November 11-13, 2005)
- Modify existing Farm Bill programs to provide for increased education and technical assistance to family forest owners and for financial incentives to

develop and implement inventory-based management plans, such as Forest Stewardship Plans. (The 2007 Farm Bill And Sustainable Family Forests. Comments Based On The Wingspread Conference On “The Future Of Family Woodlands In The United States,” November 11-13, 2005)

- Provide financial assistance on par with farmers and ranchers as forest landowners provide substantial conservation benefits and public goods. (Working Paper On Farm Bill Forestry Title Priorities. National Council On Private Forests)
- Expand professional assistance and cost-share incentives on nonfederal forest lands to help ensure these lands are well managed, protected, and used to produce goods and services for a growing America, while maintaining private landowner objectives in nonregulatory ways. (Working Paper On Farm Bill Forestry Title Priorities. National Council On Private Forests)
- Give USDA agencies, including the Forest Service, NRCS, and CSREES, clear authorities and capacity to provide technical and educational assistance to landowners and encourage peer-to-peer mentoring for those landowners wishing to participate. (Comments To Be Used In Developing USDA Recommendations For The 2007 Farm Bill. Rural Voices For Conservation Coalition, December 30, 2005)

○ **Forest Stewardship Program**

- Revitalize the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) and fund it at a higher level. (USDA Farm Bill Forum Comment Summary And Background. March, 2006)
- Provide incentives to non-federal forest landowners to restore their forestlands and cooperate across ownerships by: 1) developing a process for prioritizing allocation of cost-share funds based on criteria and needs agreed to by a diverse and collaborative group; 2) develop tiered incentives for forest landowners, wherein the more they do to restore and sustainably manage their lands, the more resources they receive; 3) provide incentives to participate in sustainable forest certification programs; and 4) encourage the development of markets on private forestlands for ecosystem services similar to markets developing for carbon credits. (2007 Farm Bill Talking Points: Achieving Conservation And Environmental Goals. Communities And Forests, Winter 2006)
- Deliver forest landowner assistance programs on a competitive basis to landowners rather than on a "first come, first served" basis. Targeting program attention and funds to a tier of prioritized landscapes will ensure that a higher level of public benefits are secured by expanding public funds, as would a ranking system that prioritized certain landowner activities that enhance ecosystem services. (Prepared For USFS Discussion On Landowner Assistance Programs. Southern Environmental Law Center And Environmental Defense, June 6, 2005)
- Strengthen forest landowner assistance programs by incorporating some consideration of spatial or landscape context. By focusing limited dollars on the highest priority landscapes, program outcomes will be better demonstrated. (Prepared For USFS Discussion On Landowner Assistance Programs. Southern Environmental Law Center And Environmental Defense, June 6, 2005)
- Quantify forest landowner assistance program results in a more effective way by better monitoring of program delivery and measurement of targeted program

outcomes. (Prepared For USFS Discussion On Landowner Assistance Programs. Southern Environmental Law Center And Environmental Defense, June 6, 2005)

- Support the FSP, the FIP, and the SIP. (Recommendations Concerning Farm Bill Conservation Programs. International Association Of Fish And Wildlife Agencies, December 5, 2001)
- Address both the cost-share and incentive needs of those already practicing forest management as well as the education and technical assistance needs of those not currently managing. Tools such a peer-to-peer outreach and utilization of non-profit organizations will be necessary to stretch tight federal dollars and maximize impact. (The 2007 Farm Bill And Sustainable Family Forests. Comments Based On The Wingspread Conference On “The Future Of Family Woodlands In The United States,” November 11-13, 2005)

○ **Other Forestry Title Programs**

- Continue and/or expand the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP). (New York State Forester’s Comments On The 2007 Farm Bill) The Farm Bill's Forestry title (in conjunction with the Energy title) should better address forest health, climate change, forest fuel reduction, ecosystem services, carbon sequestration strategies and technology transfer as a means of providing additional incentives for landowners to maintain and enhance their forest lands for wood production and other environmental services consistent with a working forest landscape. Increase FLEP funding significantly while improving it to ensure it works in concert with the state programs it complements. (Farm Bill Opportunities For Resources Agency Departments. California State Resources Agency, February 21, 2006) The perceived "failure" to fulfill the "promised" FLEP funding is likely to be a major part of the forestry debate in the next Farm Bill. (Previewing A 2007 Farm Bill. CRS Report For Congress. Jasper Womach, August 18, 2005)
- Include the Conservation Reserve Program, FLEP, EQIP, and other existing cost-share programs in the next farm bill. However, each program should be examined to reduce complexity and clearly define the public benefits. Ranking formulas should account for potential contribution to public benefits. (Summary Of Recommendations For Farm Bill 2007. Southern Group Of State Foresters. 2005)
- Change the design of EQIP, FLEP, CSP, and CRP to better provide education and outreach assistance as well as financial incentives. This would result in millions of additional acres of family forest land coming under sustainable management as well as the conversion of marginal farmland to sustainable forest land. (The 2007 Farm Bill And Sustainable Family Forests. Comments Based On The Wingspread Conference On “The Future Of Family Woodlands In The United States,” November 11-13, 2005)

○ **Biomass And The Farm Bill**

- Initiate and support a new National Wood Products Utilization Strategy. In conjunction with this Strategy, continue investing in natural resource-based companies in rural communities. (New York State Forester’s Comments On The 2007 Farm Bill)
- Invest in research, especially in biotechnology, renewable fuels, and value-added processing, which makes products more marketable to trade partners,

incorporating changes based on consumer demand. (Farm Bill Reauthorization: New Approaches, Flexibility Needed For Western Agriculture. Western Governors' Association Policy Resolution, June 22, 2004)

- Encourage appropriate energy and value-added uses of woody biomass associated with both public and private forest restoration. Use woody biomass for sustainable development. (2007 Farm Bill Talking Points: Achieving Conservation And Environmental Goals. Communities And Forests, Winter 2006)
 - Encourage the use of forestry biomass as an alternative fuel source (bioenergy) through enhanced rural development and investment efforts. (Summary Of Recommendations For Farm Bill 2007. Southern Group Of State Foresters. 2005.
 - Improve Energy Title provisions to develop opportunities for biomass production. Funding programs should specifically be developed to support technology transfer and market development for production of cellulosic ethanol, bio-fuels, and other products associated with biomass/sawlog utilization. This would provide for projects that encourage the development of markets for small logs, carbon, biofuels, and bio-energy. (Farm Bill Opportunities For Resources Agency Departments. California State Resources Agency, February 21, 2006)
- **Ecosystem Services And The Farm Bill**
- Develop an Ecosystem Services Security Program, administered by the Forest Service, which provides appropriate compensation to individual owners managing their forest lands to a consistently high stewardship level. This is essential to secure a continuing flow of public services for the benefit of all citizens. (New York State Forester's Comments On The 2007 Farm Bill)
 - Target funds to maximize environmental benefits and ecological services. In doing so, provide incentives that reward and encourage producers for good environmental stewardship. Measure and document results. (2007 Federal Farm Bill: Concepts For Conservation Reform In The Chesapeake Bay Region. Chesapeake Bay Commission, November 2005)
 - Create markets for ecosystem services using the Forest Legacy Program, which could provide long-term assurance of protection of enrolled lands to investors. (2007 Farm Bill Talking Points: Achieving Conservation And Environmental Goals. Communities And forests, Winter 2006)
 - Require federal agencies to provide leadership in the development of markets for ecosystem services, particularly acknowledging the importance of those services that are achieved through cooperative landscape-level management by: 1) developing a process for prioritizing the allocation of cost-share funds based on criteria and needs agreed to by a diverse and collaborative group; 2) developing tiered incentives for forest landowners, wherein the more they do to restore and sustainably manage their lands, the more resources they receive to assist them with their efforts; 3) providing, within the cost-share incentive programs, incentives for non-industrial private landowners to participate in sustainably forestry certification programs that involve multiple landowners; and 4) encouraging the development of markets for ecosystem services. (Comments To Be Used In Developing USDA Recommendations For The 2007 Farm Bill. Rural Voices For Conservation Coalition, December 30, 2005)

- Incorporate consistent provisions in each of the 2007 Farm Bill's conservation programs which address critical forest ecosystem issues such as: 1) restoration and maintenance of healthy forest ecosystems; 2) reduction of catastrophic wildfires and large-scale insect infestations; 3) restoration of ecosystems following wildfire and insect damage; 4) protection of life, property, and forest ecosystems in the WUI; 5) protection of critical watersheds, including public and tribal lands in proximately to non-industrial private forests; 6) protection of habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species under the Endangered Species Act; 7) support for long-term retention and active management of non-industrial private forest lands to maximize public environmental and economic benefits, including carbon sequestration; 8) support for forest-related rural economic development; and 9) support for agro-forestry conservation practices which protect soil and water resources and improve wildlife habitat. (Comments On Upcoming 2007 Farm Bill. Council Of Western State Foresters, December 30, 2005)
- **Carbon Sequestration And The Farm Bill**
 - Devise carbon markets that provide incentives for forest managers to manage lands in ways that either sequester additional carbon dioxide or prevent its release in the atmosphere. (Forests Face New threats: Global Market Changes, Jerry F. Franklin And K. Norman Johnson, Issues In Science And technology, Summer 2004)
 - Explore opportunities in pollution credit trading, including the potential for benefit from carbon sequestration. (Farm Bill Reauthorization: New Approaches, Flexibility Needed For Western Agriculture. Western Governors' Association Policy Resolution, June 22, 2004)
 - Authorize a Carbon Market Trading System to stimulate investments in reforestation, streamside forest buffers, and healthy forest practices that provide ecosystem services. (2007 Federal Farm Bill: Concepts For Conservation Reform In The Chesapeake Bay Region. Chesapeake Bay Commission, November 2005)
 - **Markets And The Farm Bill**
 - Develop market-based approaches to forest conservation that allow for both public and private investments in public goods from family forests. (Family Forests Facing Increasing Risks. National Association Of State Foresters)
 - Realize that as potential returns from wood products decline, economic recognition of other forest values, including the creation of markets, could provide incentives for forest stewardship. Two of these alternative values are watershed protection and carbon sequestration. (Forests Face New threats: Global Market Changes, Jerry F. Franklin And K. Norman Johnson, Issues In Science And technology, Summer 2004)
 - Develop new approaches to water valuation, including treating water as a fully tradable commodity and using market incentives to increase the efficiency of water use and allocation. (Forests Face New threats: Global Market Changes, Jerry F. Franklin And K. Norman Johnson, Issues In Science And technology, Summer 2004)
 - Provide funding for Value-Added Market Development Grants. (2007 Federal Farm Bill: Concepts For Conservation Reform In The Chesapeake Bay Region. Chesapeake Bay Commission, November 2005)