

National Woody Biomass Utilization Policies

ACES Pre-conference Workshop
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Ed Gee, Chair, Interagency Woody Biomass Utilization Group
Presented by John Stewart

National Priorities

- Climate Change – Carbon Sequestration and Mitigation
- Reduce wildland fire risk
- Improve forest health - Insect & Disease Outbreak; prevention & restoration
- Enhance U.S. energy security - tapping domestic renewable energy supply
- Support rural communities and jobs

National Policies

- The Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000
- The 2000 National Fire Plan
- The 2002 Healthy Forests Initiative
- The 2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act
- The Energy Policy Act of 2005
- The Energy Independence Secure Act of 2007
- The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

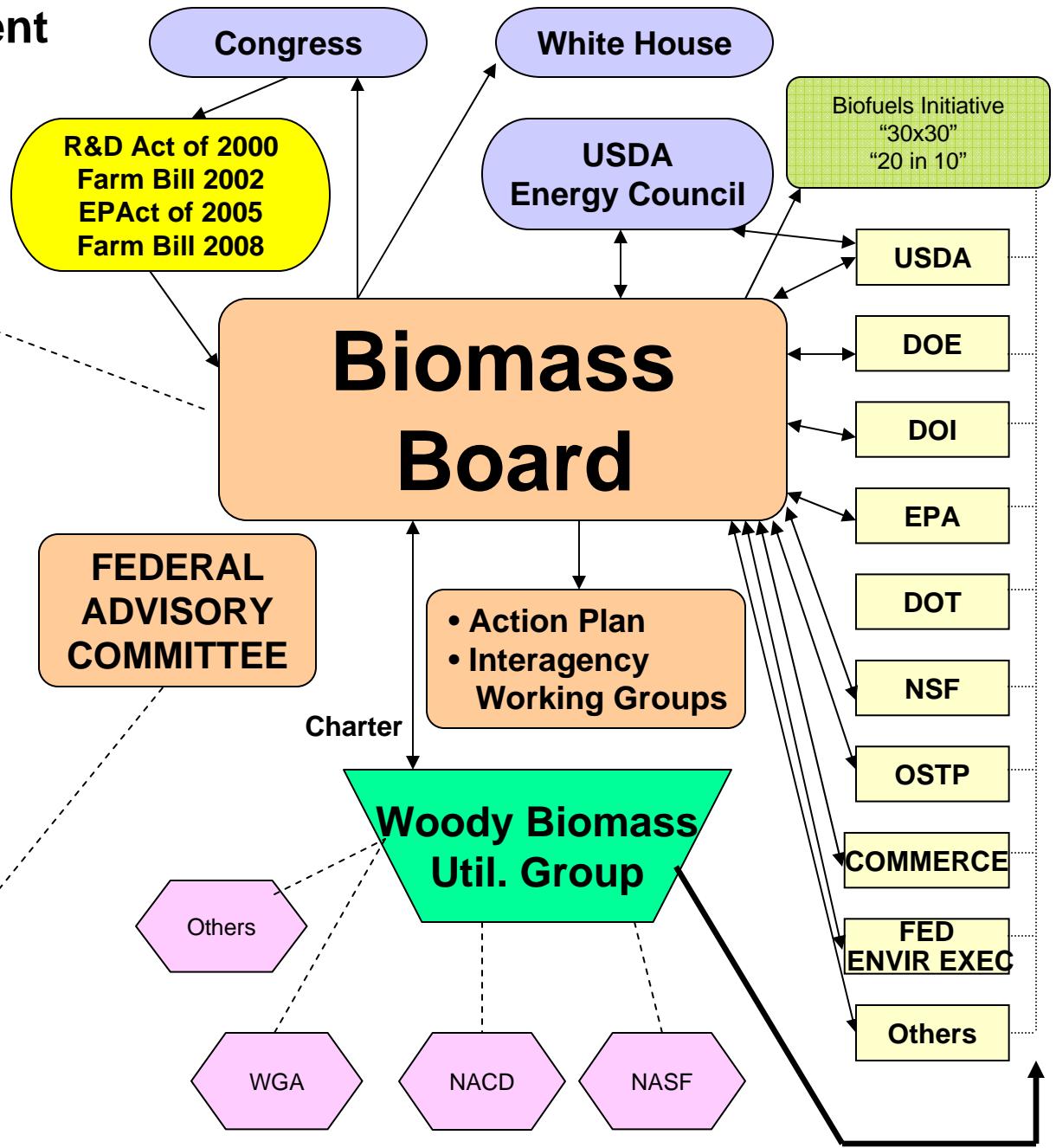
General US Government Biomass Utilization Organization

The Biomass Research and Development Board (the Board), co-chaired by the DOE and the USDA, is responsible for coordinating research and development activities relating to biofuels and biobased products.

<http://www.biomass.govtools.us/about/biomassBoard.asp>

The Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee) is responsible for providing guidance, advice, and recommendations on the Initiative.

<http://www.biomass.govtools.us/about/advisoryCommittee.asp>



Biomass Board

Interagency Working Groups

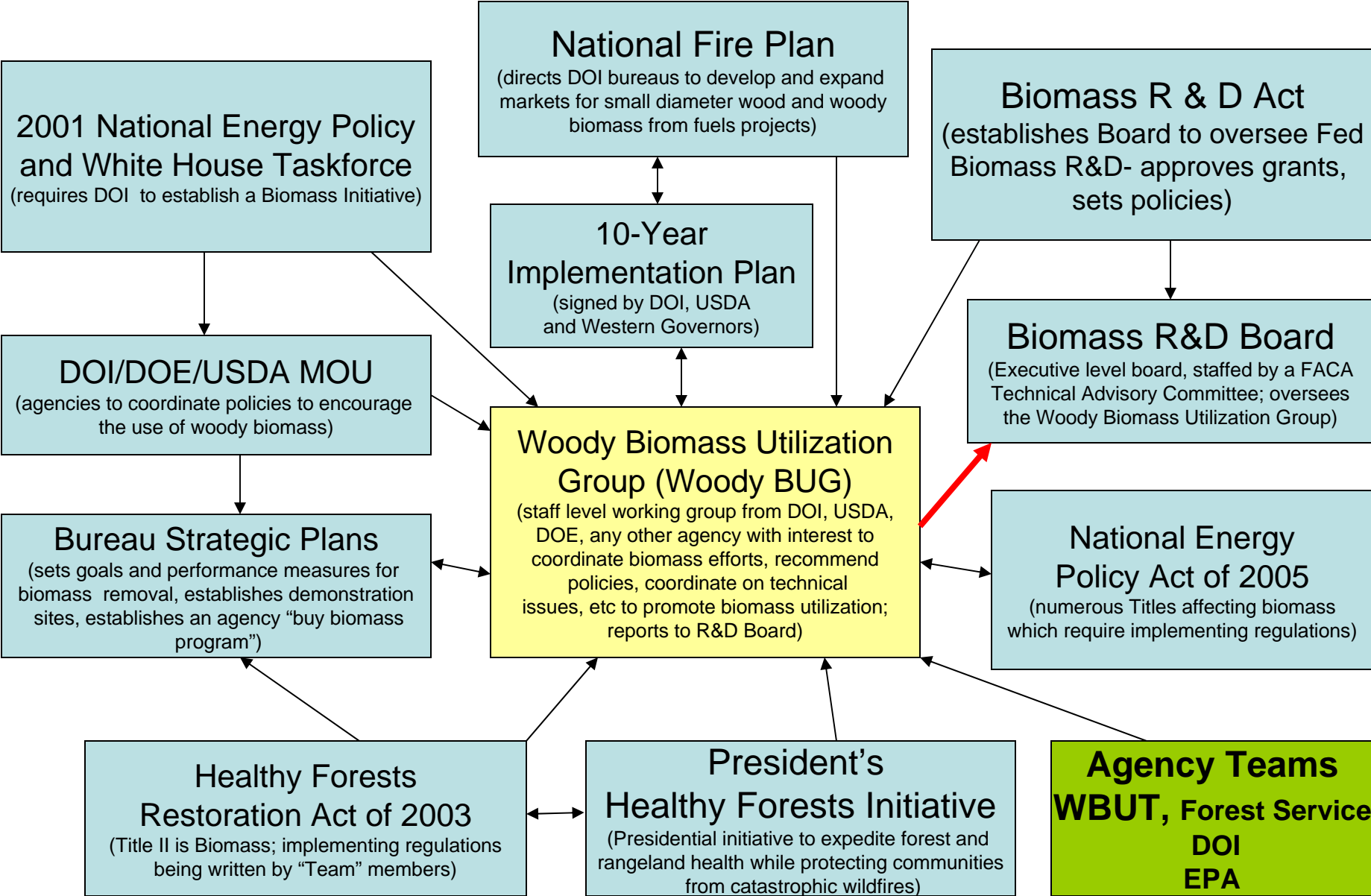
Feedstock Analyses (USDA/DOE) (Report Specific)

- **Availability and Economics Interagency Team**
- **Sustainability Interagency Team**
- **Green House Gases Interagency Team**

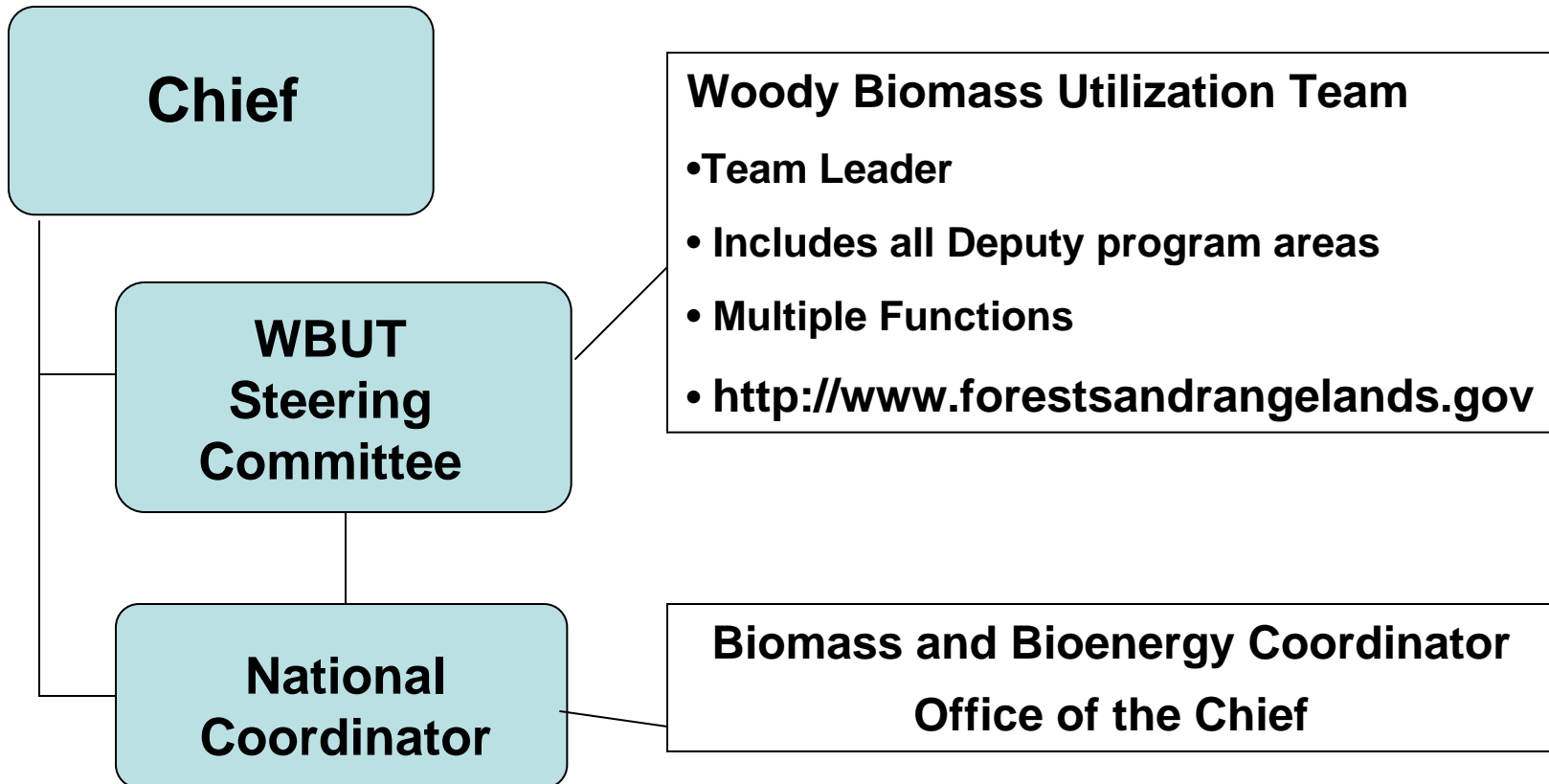
Biofuels Action Plan

1. **Sustainability Interagency Working Group (DOE/USDA/EPA)**
2. **Feedstock Production Interagency Working Group (USDA/DOE-OS)**
3. **Feedstock Logistics Interagency Working Group (USDA/DOE-OBP)**
4. **Conversion Science and Technology Interagency Working Group (DOE)**
5. **Distribution Infrastructure Working Group (DOT)**
6. **Blending Interagency Working Group (EPA/DOE Partnership)**
7. **Environment, Health & Safety Interagency Working Group (DOT)**

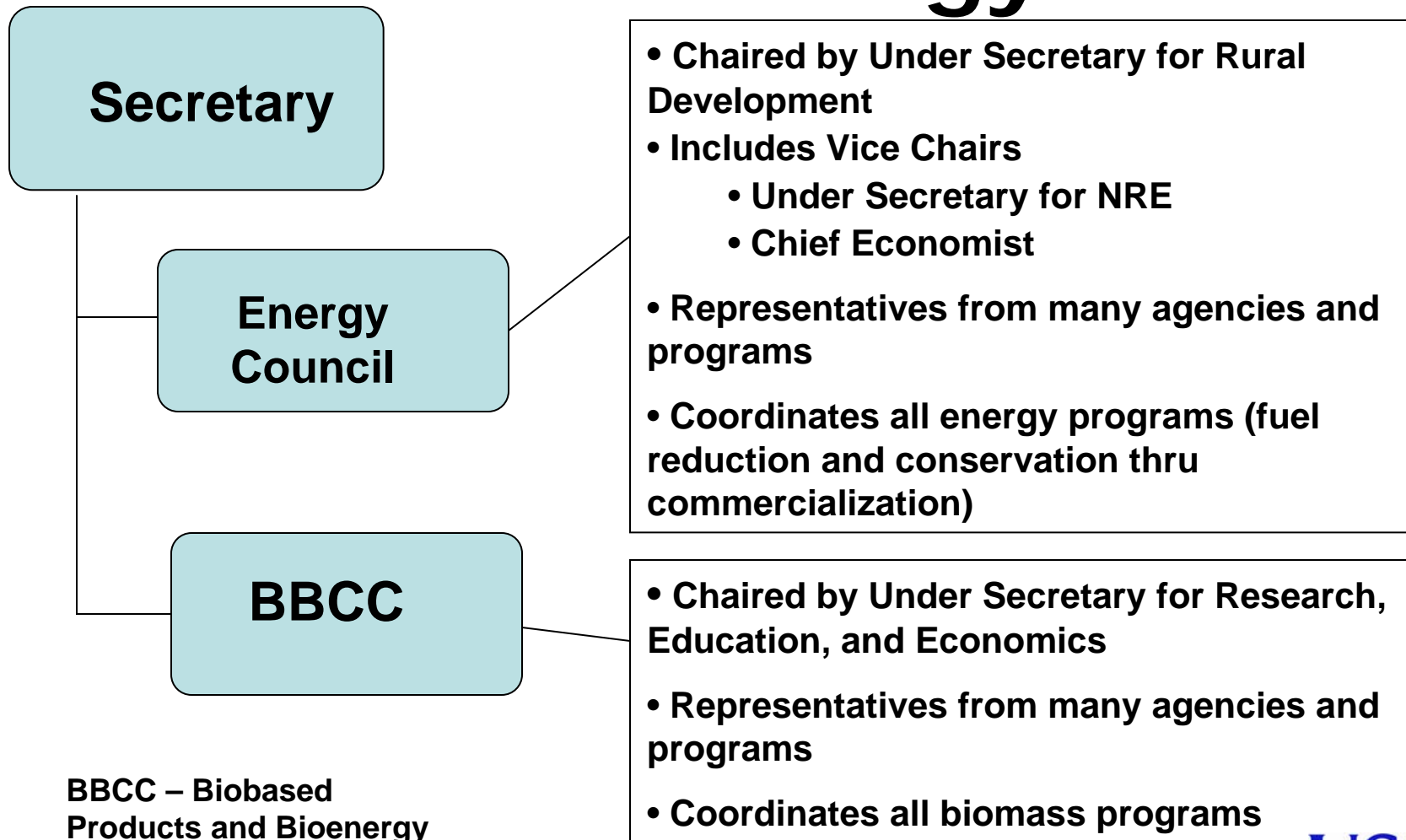
WOODY BIOMASS UTILIZATION GROUP



USFS Organization for Biomass Utilization



USDA Organization For Renewable Energy



BBCC – Biobased
Products and Bioenergy
Coordination Council



The National Fire Plan

- The ***National Fire Plan (NFP)*** was developed in August 2000, amidst a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while ensuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future. The NFP addresses five key points:
 - Firefighting,
 - Rehabilitation,
 - Hazardous Fuels Reduction,
 - Community Assistance, and
 - Accountability.

The 2002 Healthy Forests Initiative

- The ***Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI)*** was launched in August, 2002 with the intent to reduce the risks severe wildfires pose to people, communities, and the environment. By protecting forests, woodlands, shrublands, and grasslands from unnaturally intensive and destructive fires, HFI helps improve the condition of our public lands, increases firefighter safety, and conserves landscape attributes valued by society.

The 2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act

- President Bush signed the [Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 \(P.L. 108-148\)](#) (HFRA) in December 2003. **HFRA**, as it is known, contains a variety of provisions:
- Title I – Hazardous Fuel Reduction on NFS and BLM lands
- Title II – Biomass
- Title III – Watershed Forestry Assistance
- Title IV – Insect Infestation
- Title V – Healthy Forests Reserve Program

Energy Policy Act, 2005

- The biomass grant programs are authorized under sec 210 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58
- 210(a) provides definitions for the section
- 210(b) is the \$20/green ton Biomass Commercial Use Grant Program
- 210(c) is the Improved Biomass Use Grant Program

The Energy Independence Secure Act of 2007

- Renewable Fuel Standard does not allow material removed from public lands in production tax credit for producing advanced liquid fuels;
- EPA has the responsibility of defining which material can be removed from federal lands otherwise excluded in the Act

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

- *The measure we commonly call the “farm bill” is the single most important piece of legislation for improving the quality of life and economic vitality of our rural communities. It is also a food, agriculture, conservation and energy bill that is of critical importance to every American and which has very significant consequences and ramifications around the globe.*
- **My focus: Forestry Title and Energy Title**

Forestry Title

- **ESTABLISHES NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR ASSISTING PRIVATE FOREST CONSERVATION:** These priorities include:
 - conserving and maintaining working forest landscapes for multiple uses;
 - protecting forests from threats to forest health; and
 - enhancing public benefits from private forests.
- **ESTABLISHES A NEW COMMUNITY FOREST AND OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM**
- **STRENGTHENS AUTHORITIES TO PREVENT ILLEGAL LOGGING PRACTICES**
- **DIRECTS FOREST SERVICE CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COOPERATION**
- **ASSISTS EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION**

Energy Title

- **PROMOTES BIOMASS CROP PRODUCTION, HARVESTING, PROCESSING**
- **PROVIDES BIOMASS LOAN GUARANTEES**
- **SUPPORTS RURAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**
- **ASSISTS CONVERSION TO BIOMASS ENERGY**
- **ENCOURAGES PRODUCTION OF ADVANCED BIOFUELS**
- **EXPANDS BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**
- **CONTINUES BIODIESEL FUEL EDUCATION INITIATIVE**
- **STRENGTHENS THE FEDERAL PROCUREMENT AND LABELING PROGRAM FOR BIOBASED PRODUCTS**

Obstacles to Wood Biomass Utilization

- Agency incentives – double counting acres
- Some is saleable; some must be handled as waste disposal problem
- Largest quantities to be removed may have least economic value
- Industry not located near biomass supplies
- high transportation costs
- Large scale energy facilities – dispersed fuel supplies

Needs-to expand Wood Biomass Utilization

- Focus on climate change issues
- Forest health and watershed restoration projects to expand resilience under changing climate
- Investors need long-term (10+ year) reliable fuel supplies
- Forest Service contracting needs different model from historical timber approach i.e. stewardship contracting & long-term timber sale
- Need interagency, State, Tribal, and private landowners collaborative approach
- Need to get communities and businesses involved
- R&D needed on collecting, processing, utilization.

In Summary: Key Woody Biomass National Policies

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