



# Opportunities for Forestry and Woody Biomass Energy in the 2008 Farm Bill

Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

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ACES Conference  
Naples, FL  
December 2008



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# National Priorities for Private Forest Conservation

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- Establishes three priorities for Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) programs – State and Private Forestry Redesign Themes
  - Conserve Working Forests
  - Protect Forests from Harm
  - Enhance Public Benefits



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# State Forest Resource Assessments

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- Requires state assessments within two years
- States will identify priority areas and incorporate existing plans
- Requires a long-term strategy tiered to assessment
- Must coordinate with partners



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# Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

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- Grants for purchase of community forests
- Program open to Tribes, local government, environmental orgs. – proposals submitted through States or Tribal governments
- Encourages working land, education, requires public access
- Subject to appropriations



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# Changes to Forest Resource Coordinating Committee (FRRC)

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- Modifies and expands FRCC to include heads of FS, NRCS, FSA, CSREES, and non-fed reps
- FS Chief is chair of the FRCC
- FRCC will:
  - Provide direction and coordination on addressing the 3 national priorities
  - Clarify individual agency responsibilities
  - Provides advice on the allocation of competitive funds



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# Cooperative Forestry Innovation Partnership Projects

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- May competitively allocate up to 5% of CFAA funds for innovative projects
- Funds available to states, Tribes, local government, land-grant, or private entities
- 50% cost-share (includes in-kind)



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# Emergency Forest Restoration Program

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- Program available to Non-Industrial Private Forest (NIPF) owners to restore landscapes damaged by fire, drought, flood, & other natural disasters.
- Funding subject to appropriation, funds available until expended. Up to 75% cost share.
- Farm Service Agency lead



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# Conservation (Title II)

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- Formally opens several Conservation programs (EQIP, WHIP, etc.) to NIPF landowners by defining NIPF land for this Title
- **EQIP –**
  - Continues eligibility of NIPF landowners.
  - Forest stewardship plans can be used for the conservation planning requirements.
- **WHIP –**
  - Provides more opportunities for NIPF owners.
  - Allows for state, regional and national conservation initiatives.
  - Changes cost-share rate



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# Conservation (Title II)

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- **Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative –**
  - Addresses priorities involving agriculture and NIPF land and to encourage cooperation among producers
- **Conservation Stewardship Program –**
  - New, renamed program
  - Allows, on a national basis, for up to 10% of acreage to be NIPF.
- **Conservation Reserve Program –**
  - Allows for state, regional and national conservation initiatives.
  - Opportunity for cost-sharing thinning; producing biomass



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# Conservation (Title II) cont.

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- **Environmental Service Markets –**
  - Provision to aid development of private-sector market-based approaches for environmental goods and services.
  - Carbon markets to be initial emphasis.
- **Chesapeake Bay Watershed –**
  - New initiative to improve watershed health.
  - Authorizes up to \$188 million total in CCC funds.
- **Voluntary public access program –**
  - Grant program for States and Tribes to encourage farm, ranch and forest land to make their land available for wildlife-dependent recreation.
  - Up to \$50 million total in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds.



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# Energy (Title IX)

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- **Definition – Renewable Biomass** Inclusive of materials from federal lands. This definition applies only to Farm Bill Energy Title
- DOES NOT amend the Renewable Fuels Standard def. in HR6- Energy Independence and Security Act



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## Energy (Title IX) cont.

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- **Forest Biomass for Energy** –
  - competitive research and development program to encourage use of forest biomass for energy.
- **Community Wood Energy** –
  - Grant program for state and local communities to plan, develop, and acquire community wood energy systems.
- **Biomass Research and Development** –
  - directs research into feedstock development, biofuels and biobased products development, and biofuels development analysis.



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## Energy (Title IX) cont.

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- **Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) (FSA)** – assistance for establishment, production, harvest, storage and transport of renewable biomass
- Requires:
  - Establishment of BCAP project areas
  - Producer contracts with USDA: NIPF owners eligible
- Payments:
  - Contract payments to producers in BACP
  - Delivery payments for collect or harvest eligible materials delivered to conversion facility in BCAP project area.



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# Other Titles

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- **Horticulture and Organic Agriculture (X)**
  - **Pest and Disease Revolving Loan Fund –**
    - Low interest loans to local governments for equipment & contracts to aid in combating invasive species outbreaks.
    - May fund monitoring, removal, and disposal of infested trees.
- **Trade and Tax Title (XV)**
  - **Conservation Easements –**
    - Enhanced tax deduction for contributions of conservation easements extended through 2009



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# Other Titles, cont.

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- **Trade and Tax (XV) cont.**
  - **Credit for Production of Cellulosic Ethanol**
    - \$1.01/gallon production credit for cellulosic ethanol producers
  - **Comprehensive Study of Biofuels**
    - Directs Treasury to lead a study with USDA, EPA, DOE and the National Academy of Sciences.
    - Report will include a study of available biomass feedstocks from forests and farms.



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