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Question1: Consider the purchase of conservation easements / development rights similar to the Forest Legacy program that will ensure farmland is kept as farmland in perpetuity--and the property taxed at an agricultural rate. Aim this at smaller family farms and ranches, not large corporate ones as a way to encourage a new generation of farmers.

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: The vast majority of the US population live in communities.

This concentration of people has a significant impact on air and water quality and environmental health. Likewise, the health of these resources has a huge impact on the health of people living there.

Enhancement of the urban and Community Forestry program is a cost-effective way to maximize these benefits--the positive economic and environmental benefits of community trees in improving air and water quality, reduction of energy use and, therefore production, and on human health is well documented. Small communities as well as large benefit from healthy community forests. This is one of the most effective ways to address these issues.

Question5: Absolutely. Promotion of technologies such as biomass fired heating systems for public buildings should continue to utilize a waste product (logging slash, small diameter trees, etc.), increase forest health through thinning, lower incidence of catastrophic wildfires, save individual communities and school districts millions of dollars in energy costs, etc. These win-win technologies ultimately improve air quality, save all levels of government billions of dollars (reduced firefighting costs, increased air quality, energy savings, etc.). These are extremely worthwhile investments.

Question6: Find uses for all parts of agriculture products to maximize resources (biomass utilization). Promote crops grown for energy (biodiesel), etc. Promote through economic incentives--organic farming to reduce use of pesticides to increase water quality and human health. Promote through economic incentives wise forest management for a variety of products--forest products as well as wildlife habitat, recreation, viewsheds, streamwater enhancement, etc.