

From: "marcia@treesatlanta.org%inter2" <marcia@treesatlanta.org>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 10/17/2005 03:03 PM CDT
Date Sent: 10/17/2005 03:03:36 CDT
Date Received: 10/17/2005 03:05:25 CDT

Email: marcia@treesatlanta.org

FirstName: Marcia

LastName: Bansley

Address1: Trees Atlanta

Address2: 96 Poplar Street, N.W.

City: Atlanta

State: Georgia

zipcode: 30303

Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: The Urban and Community Forestry Program of the Forest Service is vital to environmental preservation of the Urban Forests.

There is almost no other entity focusing on preserving the forests in our urban areas -- those forests are vital to improving air quality and cleaner water.

The Research people like Nowak do with the value of trees to clean the air is extremely valuable to policy makers in cities and towns and helps give a measurable economic reason for conservation of the urban forests.

In the South, more and more forests are becoming new home developments.

If we are going to preserve the ecosystems of forests, we must assure that a reasonable amount of Forest is preserved as Green Space.

The Forest Service is the first line of public information for citizens who want to conserve portions of the forests for water quality and air quality.

There is no other agency in the government focused on the value of our forests and on making the decision makers aware of the value of our forests.

Citizen Groups in cities and towns greatly appreciate the information the Forest Service supplies regularly through their information centers such as the one in Athens Ga.. The every other year national urban forestry conferences are places where citizens learn the latest research about the benefits of trees and network with other practitioners and researchers around the country. The Urban Forestry Section of the USDA does an excellent job of partnering with the major Non-profit Urban Forestry focused entities in advancing urban forestry in a cost effective way. I would like to see the continuation of the research on the social values of urban forestry as well as the air quality values and cleaner water values.

Also, the work the Forest Service does with exotic pests such as the Asian Long Horn Beetle are vital to the health of our ecosystems in the US and the commercial and National forests. Even though it is difficult and expensive, that must be continued.

Also, from a human point of view, restoring the tree canopy to the areas hit by Katrina and Rita will go a long way toward the citizens' recovery. The non-profit tree groups are ready and very willing to partner with the USDA in making that happen. Similar work was done after Hugo hit in the South Carolina area.

While Urban Forestry is not a "squeaky wheel" in the funding area, increasing funding for its program will advance the betterment of society in an exponential way.

I have been working with a citizens non-profit tree organization for 20 years and the US Forest Service has been a vital partner in helping us do our job of planting and conserving urban trees and of informing the public about the importance of trees. I hope the committee will recognize the value of the service the USDA Forest Service provides all around the country.

Question5:

Question6: