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Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4: Achieving the conservation and environmental goals of clean air and water, wildlife habitat, forest products, vibrant rural economies, recreational opportunities, and other ecosystem services can best be realized by a 2007 Farm Bill that places a high priority on conserving working rural lands, whether forest, farm, or ranch. The greatest threat to America's forests ? the conversion of forests to development ? is also facing farmers and ranchers. The 2007 Farm Bill offers all those who are concerned about conserving our rural working landscape an opportunity to improve on work of the previous Farm Bills.

Farm Bill programs that address or include forestry should include a well-structured prioritization mechanism so that forest management and conservation efforts yield the greatest benefit to society. This prioritization should begin at the state level and include State Foresters and other stakeholders.

Successful Farm Bill forestry and conservation programs should deliver positive benefits across the landscape by focusing on landscape-level outcomes and encouraging landowner cooperation. Delivery of these programs on a watershed or other landscape scale will enhance the effectiveness of these programs. It will also be easier to quantify program outcomes and results when focusing on a particular landscape.

Successful delivery of Farm Bill forestry and conservation programs will require better coordination between the Forest Service, NRCS, and State Foresters. While this coordination cannot be easily mandated legislatively, better interagency and intergovernmental coordination is crucial.

Many existing conservation programs are designed to achieve improvements in environmental quality, including cleaner air and water, improved wildlife habitat, and other conservation benefits which can only be achieved by implementing these programs across a landscape or watershed scale. Success at this scale will require including forests along with farms and ranches in this conservation landscape. Much good conservation work has been accomplished through current Farm Bill conservation programs, but there is room for improving the inclusion of forestland in these programs.

While funding for federal forestry and conservation programs is essential to help landowners provide ecosystem services and other goods and services to society, much can be gained by bring the resources of the private sector to the table. Farm bill forestry and conservation programs should encourage the participation of the private sector to

increase the effectiveness of the federal investment.

Question5:

Question6: New markets for biomass utilization and bioenergy are developing across the country. Bioenergy, as part of a portfolio of renewable energy alternatives, has the opportunity to lower emissions of greenhouse gasses and lower the demand for foreign sources of energy. It is important that Farm Bill programs not overlook the contribution woody biomass from trees and forests can make to meeting these goals. Farm Bill programs should encourage the development of new and innovative markets for forest biomass, as well as research to support these new market opportunities and uses.