

20 SEP 2005

Dear USDA,
Here are comments on your 6 questions of policy you have asked for
public input.

I have had experience from both landowner and public official views on government programs. I have worked around agricultural and environmental systems in Europe for a year also. All of your questions hinge on the same terms: 1) what is a necessary function of government that cannot or will not (usually because of economics) be provided by the private market and also doing does not compete with or become a barrier to private enterprise. 2) If it is a necessary function, how much funding is justified and how are taxpayers taxed to pay for it.

Europeans pay bold agricultural welfare because they have definite expectations such as: 1) high quality food (American quality is much lower) 2) the farm landscape is critical to tourism, to employment, to the mental health of hectic urban populations, to environmental benefits, and provides 2 elements of national security to self-sufficiently feed nations and hedge against times of hunger and chaos that is a retreating memory from desolate world wars (Americans in contrast go to highly developed recreational towns or Disney world for example, Americans just want cheap food and don't care anymore if it is home grown, US grown, or brought from Mars, Americans don't think about ever being hungry like my Mom was in the Depression, and environmentalists here want to shut down all human activity including farming to live in their jungle Utopia).

So you do not misread these arguments for government's role in agriculture understand this: TODAY Government in the U.S. is not the solution to agricultural matters, GOVERNMENT IS THE PROBLEM, the cause of fewer and fewer farm families, the cause of massive 2 million per year invasion of our country initiated by aborting 43 million babies and placing all the former farm labor on welfare at some government check and then supporting the importation of "cheap" labor by agencies "protecting" an insect or plant or animal - 42% of all land in the U.S. is now government with the rest regulated, the cause of urban sprawl as city taxes rise, interest rates are low and real estate speculates drives farm land appraisals to 10-20+ times their cash flow value, government forces farmers plant houses instead of cotton trees; government has passed NAFTA-CATTA and whatever else to wipe out tariffs open up markets but gain nothing for our sales, and the most ridiculous welfare programs besides commodity payments, CPR payments, etc for NOT growing crops is the tobacco lawsuit settlement and buying programs. Tobacco farmers have gotten billions for growing a crop that harms peoples health (lawyers got billions for harming everyone too, and people voluntarily smoked themselves to death like my Mom)

but the tobacco money was supposed to pay for smokers health costs
not pay farmers more money for growing a crop - double dipping. Now
farmers get a third huge payment & the payout to grow the same
crop they can continue to grow and sell. What's really a DISGRACE
is that many an allotment "owner" is getting paid (about
\$19,000 per acre) even if they haven't grown, been, touched a plant
in half a century and already multimillionaire farmers are receiving
MILLIONS in buyout money. Next year they will grow more - as the smaller
competitors give up. Government policy & programs are a disaster - and
again they pay farmers who sign up for disasters real or not. They pay
landowners to plant pine trees back to millions of acres that just got
wiped out by Southern Pine Beetle which everyone knows is a cyclic
pest everyone knows how to prevent but don't take management actions
on their own, and much of the pine that died was cost shared before
maybe 20 years ago at Shenandoah is on National Forest Park - Other
land and was not harvested/managed to begin with by a useless
government bureaucracy.

What I have seen over and over and over is tax money wasted,
government agencies being a worse example of Un-American employment
to promote NOT the most qualified workers but promoting feminism,
racism, unequal standards, diversity instead of productivity. Landowners
truly want to deal with government representatives as little as
possible because the employees represent an agenda and it is NOT
farming or forestry, it is socialist engineering, it is modern pagan division
taking private property rights, it has become just another dependency line
for landowners by another time and name than the Depression soup kitchen
work camps.

So what does USDA NEED to do to itself and NEED to do for America, yes we
are talking about this country, the land, the people who eat and grow food, the forest
and land resources [mostly RENEWABLE] we should be using, producing, selling at
maximum (optimum) productivity?

1. #1 priority should be to help this country feed itself, do so efficiently,
profitably, and with little "harm" to the environment.

A. Every homeowner should be able to grow something edible whether from a
small garden, arbor, greenhouse, fruit and nut trees, etc. This should not be a
prelude to a soviet style pravavolska programma (food program - if you want to
eat grow it yourself or s (varve)

B. Get all the government agencies and regulators off private property. They are
impediments to free enterprise, to innovation and initiative, they are like a
pack of dogs fighting for the same bone. EPA should be abolished. The Endangered
Species Act - Clean Water-Clean Air Acts virtually repealed, license-contamination
etc. pol. & buro "requirements" swept away. Private property rights and private
property should be protected from any & all government acquisitions.

C. The government now "owns" 42% of all the land in the US. This is, tyrannical, socialism/communism, totally UNAMERICAN. All agencies should cease acquisitions and over the next 50 years return all but the most essential/urgent to private individuals/family ownership. This is NOT an African land distribution ~~Fräsc~~. First priority should be given to descendants of the original owners when the government "bought" or took the land. This NOT an urban official resettlement scam so 2nd phase should be issuance of equivalent fractional shares to every 3rd generation American born citizen of the total available acres (sum of BLM, USFS, USF&W, DOI, state lands, USPS, etc, etc). These shares then should be tradable in a strictly facilitated market after the shares are assigned specific locations (w/ equal-acre, variable-use). Use of the land can be restricted by deed to the top 2 highest best uses which could either permit urban development where presently none is or require the opposite thus real long-term land use planning can be assured.

D. All government agencies involved with agro-forest should put every action to increase productivity or if productivity is unchanged then efficiency must be improved (less inputs/less cost). All cost share should ONLY be available if the landowner can prove that productivity or efficiency increases. Soil amendments should be available to every landowner per soil test and only to a max equivalent 10% w/ the land value per year. Road construction or other permanent improvements should have a \$10,000/year/owner max, be done w/ BMP agro-forest standards, remain 2.5 years without landuse conversion or total repayment and penalty levied. Examples beside logging or row-crop roads include manure

20 captive & recycled burning facilities, farm direct to public
sales facilities, stream recovery and stabilization, fish ponds,
micro hydro - wood(chip) furnace → other energy capturing
systems, fencing to protect crops from wild game predation or
fencing the part of a wild game farm to produce marketable
meat, planting hawthorn as a hedge to increase recreational lease
opportunities, etc). Gov't sole proprietor. Richards.
At this point let me add the federal wildlife management
areas are out of control, starting land, a political police-money machine
that have biology, but wildlife population was very remote interest
and small. They should have serious cuts of power, cuts of money from
army bases, closing, fees, open hunting seasons, allow
all wild animals to be sold in open markets
resumed E. Get the illegal aliens off our farms and country. Cheap labor
is no excuse. Put welfare recipients on the farms they work
benefits. The reported 15% unemployment is not credible but 50%
could be on a farm. Monocultures are. And another 50% is not
called living in welfare but digging up property by other means are
still there. Agriculture should in noway be an accomplice to invasion
F. 87% of U.S. Forest is functionally off limits for harvesting because
modern hydro's. This is contrary to the Congressional Act that
created it, contrary to California's, the use of the National
Forests, contrary to healthy economies, contrary to the healthy
environments that forests manage, therefore don't timber. Quit
washington bill, don't burn it up. Quit whining, fighting fires
and fill with girl scouts. Get the dogs and heavy machinery out and
put the dammed fires out, but take responsibility for the

Fools who build homes in the midst of potential in forests and take no surrounding precautions. End the useless debate about what "natural" ecosystems used to look like, that depends upon time 100 years ago, 300 years ago, 1000 or 10,000 years ago. It does not matter one bit. Manage the landscape economically, efficiently, with the best science & technology to give a desired result now and in the future recognizing God has put natural processes in perpetual dynamic motion not in stasis. Cut timber, Fight fires. Quit stacking the employment roles with predetermined classes of citizens. It has wrecked government, businesses, our society and defies the will and consent of most citizens, it is oligarchic socialism, not Constitutional G. In Europe farmer income has been supplemented by agro-tourism (bed and breakfast type) cost share ventures. This does not directly improve individual operation nor national production so do not wander off the tangent programs to keep federal payroll numbers. Roughly speaking half of all USDA employees should be cut. The so-called expense of all research farms and grants to municipalities, so called natural resource organizations, and universities also have a very poor pay back, are financial black holes. Tennessee State University here at home is a prime example more because of the ineptitude of staff, it's not the lands fault, and I sure is not because of inadequate funds. It is an exemplary joke to show real farmers. End the "pork" grants.

H. What should the employees in USDA then be doing after deleting the welfare FSA payments, the tobacco scam, the dividends, the "grants", the mandatory "farm plans", the preferential-discriminatory class employment and non-conforming employees? Get their boats on, go to the farm and help the farmer, go to the woods and help the tree farmer grow the best crop he can grow and make the most money he can for his effort. No more getting paid NOT to do something or getting paid to do something for "social" benefits that produce nothing. No more farming by maps and numbers and manuals at the office. Go do something! Soil profiles for example are disappearing rapidly with construction development. This data is being forever lost. Although new county soil maps have been created in the last 10 years for some countries - there is no consistency from old to new maps, no consistency from county to county, and the 5-10 acre mapping scale units are terribly different in accuracy for intensive land use planning. Particularly raw crop yield information may be current with today's technology and management methods, but timber or other plant productivity tables are obsolete.

Government should establish the highest and best use indices for landscapes and where land is optimum for agro-forest eliminate all taxation to maintaining such use, reciprocating with penalty where land use changes. The survival of farms & forest is first an issue of profits, second the will of the American spirit, & third the minimization of government involvement. Examine the Food closely that is being imported. When our surplus is exported make sure it is for real profit or products. Until then let them

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