

## **FOREST COMMUNITY NEWS: THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

**No. 12**

**July 21, 2006**

### **FROM THE EDITORS**

Clearly, the summer heat holds no prejudices, as it has made its searing and steamy presence known in every part of the country over the last few weeks. In some places, this has exacerbated large-scale wildfires – in other areas, flooding. Wherever you are, we hope you are able to take a few minutes to stop, cool down, and read this newsletter (perhaps with a cold beverage in hand!) We'd also like to take this opportunity to wish Paige McClanahan (one of the fearless FCN editors over the past year) well, as she says goodbye to the Pinchot Institute to attend graduate school. Good luck, Paige, and thanks for your good work!

### **FROM CAPITOL HILL**

#### **APPROPRIATIONS**

The Senate passed a \$26.1 billion FY 2007 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Areas receiving an increase from FY 2006 enacted levels include the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, forest products, hazardous fuels reduction, and fire suppression. Additionally, a number of programs received a decrease from FY 2006 enacted levels, including the Forest Stewardship Program, the Forest Legacy Program, and the Urban and Community Forestry Program. For more information and to view a copy of the bill, please visit <http://appropriations.senate.gov/index.cfm>.

#### *Past Hearings*

June 29, 2006

Washington, DC

Senate Committee on Appropriations – Committee approves Energy and Water Appropriations bill

June 29, 2006

Washington, DC

Senate Committee on Appropriations – Committee approves Interior spending bill

#### **COUNTY PAYMENTS**

The House of Representatives approved the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act of 2006 (H.R. 4761) on June 29<sup>th</sup>. This bill contains an amendment added by Representatives Walden (R-OR) and DeFazio (D-OR) that directs \$250 million from Outer Continental Shelf oil drilling to fund the Secure Rural Schools program. The amendment allocates \$50 million to the program per year for the next five years. For more information, visit [www.house.gov/Welcom/shtml](http://www.house.gov/Welcom/shtml) and

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[http://walden.house.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.View&ContentRecord\\_id=285](http://walden.house.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.View&ContentRecord_id=285)

## **FARM BILL**

### *Upcoming hearings*

July 22, 2006

Marshall, MN

House Committee on Agriculture - Field hearing to review federal Farm Policy

July 24, 2006

Ankeny, IA

Senate Committee on Agriculture - Field hearing on federal farm policy

July 24, 2006

Scottsburg, IN

House Committee on Agriculture - Field hearing on federal farm policy

July 27, 2006

Washington, DC

House Committee on Agriculture - Review of Conservation Issues

July 31, 2006

Wall, SD

House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management - Field to review federal farm policy

July 31, 2006

Sioux Center, IA

House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture - Field hearing to review federal farm policy

## **HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT**

The Forests and Forest Health Subcommittee of the House Resources Committee held an oversight hearing on the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Testimonies were given by Interior Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett and Agriculture Under Secretary Mark Rey. For more information, please visit

<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/welcome.htm>.

## **RENEWABLE FUELS**

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the House Agriculture Committee held a full committee meeting to discuss agriculture and its role in the renewable fuels market, specifically how agricultural commodities can contribute to the nation's energy supply. Witnesses included Mr. John Burke, III, president of the Virginia Forestry Association, who testified on the role of forest

resources as renewable fuels. For more information and to read opening statements, visit <http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/statements.html>

## **SOFTWOOD LUMBER AGREEMENT**

At the World Trade Organization talks in Geneva last month, the U.S. and Canada agreed to the text of a softwood lumber agreement, ending all standing litigation over softwood lumber. This agreement calls for unrestricted trade when prices are over \$355 per thousand board feet, a provision that has been in and out of place over the last several years.

Additionally, the agreement provides for the development of Canadian policy reforms on export charges and quotas, along with measures for long-term dispute resolution. For more information, please visit

[http://canada.usembassy.gov/content/textonly.asp?section=can\\_usa&subsection1=trade&document=trade\\_softwoodlumber\\_070106](http://canada.usembassy.gov/content/textonly.asp?section=can_usa&subsection1=trade&document=trade_softwoodlumber_070106)

For the White House statement, please visit

[http://canada.usembassy.gov/content/textonly.asp?section=can\\_usa&subsection1=trade&document=trade\\_softwoodlumber\\_wh070106](http://canada.usembassy.gov/content/textonly.asp?section=can_usa&subsection1=trade&document=trade_softwoodlumber_wh070106)

## **FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

### **NUCFAC**

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the selection of six members to USDA's National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC). There are four new members, and two are reappointed. The four new members are Carl Nordstrom, executive director, New Jersey Nursery & Landscape Association, Lawrenceville, NJ; Dan Lambe, vice president, programs, National Arbor Day Foundation, Lincoln, NE; Stephen Shurtz, landscape and forestry manager, Baton Rouge, LA; and James Kielbaso, professor emeritus, urban forestry, Okemos, MI. Two members have been reappointed to serve a second term: Brenda M. Allen, associate professor and extension specialist, Auburn University, Tuskegee, AL; and Joseph Wilson, executive director, Greening Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI. Mr. Wilson was re-appointed the Chair of NUCFAC.

More information on NUCFAC is available at [www.treelink.org/nucfac/](http://www.treelink.org/nucfac/) and at [www.fs.fed.us/ucf/](http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/).

### **ROADLESS**

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved petitions from the governors of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia to develop state-specific rules for managing roadless areas in the three states. The Forest Service will now work with the governments of those states to develop proposed rules that address the management requirements set forth in the petitions. The state-specific rulemaking process will include any required National Environmental Policy Act analysis; public input will be welcomed during a notice and comment period. The USDA will make the determination on the adoption of any final federal rule.

For more information, visit [www.roadless.fs.fed.us](http://www.roadless.fs.fed.us).

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **WEYERHAEUSER**

The Supreme Court announced that it would consider the appeal of a case in which a jury decided that Weyerhaeuser, the world's largest forest products company, intentionally overbid for alder saw logs in order to inflate prices and overwhelm competing companies. In 2003, a jury in Portland, OR awarded the plaintiff in the case, Ross-Simmons Hardwood Lumber Company, nearly \$80 million under federal antitrust laws. U.S. companies and corporate trade groups oppose the ruling, saying that it makes companies vulnerable to lawsuits when they aggressively bid for raw materials and other supplies. The Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case during its next term, which starts in October.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **GRANTS FOR MINORITY PRODUCERS**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that nearly \$1.5 million in grant funds is now available to help small minority producers develop business plans, conduct feasibility studies or create marketing plans. Under the Small Minority Producer Grant program, grant funds are available to minority cooperatives or minority associations of cooperatives whose governing board and/or membership is comprised of at least 75 percent minority members. The funding will be used to assist eligible small minority producers including farmers, ranchers, loggers, agricultural harvesters, and commercial fishermen.

Applications must be postmarked and mailed no later than **July 28, 2006**, to be eligible for FY 2006 grant funding. Full details are available in the June 13 Federal Register. Application guides and materials are available at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/smpg/smpg.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/smpg/smpg.htm) or by contacting any USDA Rural Development state office.

## **CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, & OTHER EVENTS**

**Who Will Own the Forest? 3, September 11-13, 2006, Portland, OR.** Forestry companies are selling their timberland throughout the United States and the world in response to increasing pressure for shareholder return, competition in the global market place and consolidation in the industry. Such changes have huge ramifications for the forest products industry, forest-dependent communities, and the forests themselves. Exploring these issues has become a regular event at the World Forestry Center in Portland, Oregon, where the "Who Will Own the Forest?" Summit series runs every other year. Forest industry analysts, timber investment organizations, forestry leaders, land management communities and

conservation groups are invited to attend. To get more information or to register online, visit <http://wfi.worldforestry.org/wwotf3/>.

## **RESOURCES**

The following is a list of items—Web sites, books, reports, etc.—that have come across our desks over the past month and that we thought you might find useful or interesting. Have a look!

### **REPORTS**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released a report on the threat that invasive species pose to U.S. forestland. The report, titled **“Invasive Forest Pests: Recent Infestations and Continued Vulnerabilities at Ports of Entry Place U.S. Forests at Risk,”** details the status of the government’s efforts to eradicate several current invasive pests and highlights the ways in which the country remains vulnerable to the arrival and spread of invasive species. To download a copy of the report, visit [www.gao.gov/new.items/d06871t.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06871t.pdf).

The GAO has released a report titled **“Wildland Fire Suppression: Better Guidance Needed to Clarify Sharing of Costs between Federal and Nonfederal Entities.”** The report recommends that state and federal agencies clarify their financial responsibilities for wildland fire suppression, especially in the case of fires that cross multiple jurisdictions. To download the report, visit [www.gao.gov/new.items/d06896t.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06896t.pdf).

Researchers at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry have written a report on the outcomes of lawsuits brought against the USDA Forest Service over a 13-year period. The report, titled **“Forest Service Land Management Litigation, 1989-2002,”** was published in the June issue of the Journal of Forestry. To download the report, visit [www.safnet.org/periodicals/Journal\\_of\\_Forestry\\_LitigationStudyJune2006.pdf](http://www.safnet.org/periodicals/Journal_of_Forestry_LitigationStudyJune2006.pdf)

Dovetail Partners has released a report on how governments might use forest certification programs to improve their compliance with standards set by groups such as the World Trade Organization and the International Organization for Standardization. The report, which is titled **“International Standards and Trade Barriers,”** can be downloaded at [www.dovetailinc.org/documents/DovetailTradeStandards0606.pdf](http://www.dovetailinc.org/documents/DovetailTradeStandards0606.pdf).

The Department of Agriculture has released the second in a series of theme papers on policy alternatives for the 2007 Farm Bill. The newest theme paper, titled **“Conservation and the Environment,”** addresses natural resource issues and conservation programs administered by the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service. To read the theme paper, visit [www.usda.gov/wps/portal/lut/p/s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_1UH?navid=FARM\\_BILL\\_ANALYSIS](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/lut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1UH?navid=FARM_BILL_ANALYSIS)

## NEWSLETTERS/UPDATES

To sign up for American Forests' 'Policy News and Updates' or 'Farm Bill Listserve', please e-mail Laura Schweitzer at [lschweitzer@amfor.org](mailto:lschweitzer@amfor.org).

To sign up for The Pinchot Institute's quarterly publication, *The Pinchot Letter*, send an email request to [subscribe@pinchot.org](mailto:subscribe@pinchot.org). The document is available both electronically and in hard-copy format.

## GENERAL RESOURCES

**American Forests.** Visit their website at [www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org)

**Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress.** Visit their website at [www.communitiescommittee.org](http://www.communitiescommittee.org)

**National Network of Forest Practitioners.** Visit their website at [www.nnfp.org](http://www.nnfp.org)

**Pinchot Institute for Conservation.** Visit their website at [www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org)

**The National Community Forestry Center,** Northern Forest Region, offers numerous community forestry-related documents available for free downloading. Check it out at [www.ncfcnfr.net](http://www.ncfcnfr.net)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to *Forest Community News: The National Perspective*, please email Laura Schweitzer at American Forests ([lschweitzer@amfor.org](mailto:lschweitzer@amfor.org)).

Questions and suggestions should be emailed to Laura Schweitzer and/or Naureen Rana at the Pinchot Institute ([nrana@pinchot.org](mailto:nrana@pinchot.org)).

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