

**USDA Forest Service
Urban & Community Forestry
Program**



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Farm Bill Status

- Farm Bill hit Senate Floor today
- \$6 billion in proposed cuts to conservation title programs
- Consolidates 23 conservation programs down to 13 programs
- Debate will focus on big targets – Commodities and Food Stamps
- What does this mean for U&CF?
- Imposes new cap on appropriations for existing U&CF Program not to exceed \$50 million
- Sunset deadline on U&CF for next Farm Bill → reauthorization will be required in 2017.

Strategic Tree Planting Initiative - Context

- President's budget 2011 included direction for a \$2 million urban pilot for energy savings and carbon. (not enacted)
- Outstanding model programs exist (SMUD etc.) but barriers to broad transfer or replication.
- A priority recommended by NUCFAC, NASF and the Vibrant Cities Task Force Report (#8).
- Emerging ecosystem service markets, registries, exchanges ... like in California.

Strategic Tree Planting Initiative PILOT

- \$1 million to "test drive" concept
- Demonstrate use of trees for carbon sequestration **and** avoided emissions
- Competitive grants for energy partnerships
- Favors diverse sector partnerships
- Roughly 1/3 of funds reserved for west
- Engages utilities and their customers
- 1:1 Match requirement
- Start up funds to create ongoing, self-sustaining partnerships
- Strong monitoring and science component required

Strategic Tree Planting Initiative PILOT

- USFS will partner with national organization Arbor Day Foundation to manage RFP and re-granting process. NADF will bring additional corporate support.
- RFP /Application details to follow in next 4-6 months.
- 2 Page Fact Sheet is provided on the conference website.
- A potential source of support to jump-start urban protocol applications to Climate Action Reserve?
- Suggest you coordinate your approach as a region through Sandy Macias (USFS) and John Melvin (CAL FIRE) to assemble partners and position in advance for the NOFA.

“At the root of every vibrant city is an urban forest.”

THE REPORT

www.vibrantcities.org



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