



## February 2007 Update

### USDA FARM BILL PROPOSAL INCORPORATES MARKET-BASED CONSERVATION

The USDA 2007 Farm Bill proposals were released on January 31 during a televised presentation by Secretary Mike Johanns. Secretary Johanns outlined key elements from over 65 proposals, highlighting changes and improvements to existing Farm Bill policy. Title II proposals seek to improve and increase funding of USDA conservation programs. One of the Title II proposals provides USDA authority to support and promote markets for enhanced environmental benefits from the Nation's private farms, ranches, and forests. The proposal sets forth recommendations for USDA to create infrastructure needed to build credibility, validity, and confidence in the environmental marketplace. The market-based approach will supplement public investments and traditional conservation tools.

✦ A summary of the Title II Farm Bill proposal on market-based conservation is available at [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill).

#### Did you know?

The Forest Service is helping to make **Super Bowl XLI** and the **2007 Pro Bowl** carbon neutral events. Our Partnership Office is working with NFL and State and local partners to offset expected greenhouse gas emissions through the planting of native tree seedlings. NFL is also purchasing renewable energy certificates and planning for souvenir recycling and donations of unpurchased food.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**ECOSYSTEM SERVICE MARKETS: EVERYONE'S BUSINESS, HOUSTON TX, FEBRUARY 27:** The Texas Forest Service and its partners will bring industry representatives, private landowners, government leaders, academics, and non-profit organizations together to a day-long discussion about practicable market-based approaches to ecosystem services. Conference agenda and registration information are available at [tfsweb.tamu.edu/ecoserv](http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/ecoserv).

### EMERGING ISSUES ALONG URBAN/RURAL INTERFACES II, ATLANTA GA, APRIL 9-12:

This conference will focus on emerging issues, concerns, and opportunities related to land-use change along urban/rural interfaces. Discussions will highlight the human dimensions of ecosystem change, integrating socioeconomic and ecological research to inform future action. Learn more at [www.sfws.auburn.edu/urbanruralinterfaces](http://www.sfws.auburn.edu/urbanruralinterfaces).

### THE NEXT DECADE OF BANKING, ST. LOUIS MO, APRIL 10-13:

The National Mitigation Banking Association (NMBA)'s 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference will provide regulatory and legal updates and serve as a forum for discussion about the future of banking. Speakers will review mitigation banking projects from around the country and share tools and lessons from a variety of perspectives. See [www.nationalmitigationconference.com](http://www.nationalmitigationconference.com).

✦ Visit our website to learn about other upcoming events...

### RESOURCES

#### JUST RELEASED — SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS, IPCC'S FOURTH ASSESSMENT REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE, V1:

The World Meteorological Organization and the UN Environmental Programme established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988 to assess the scientific basis for human-induced climate change, its potential impacts, and options for mitigation and adaptation. The first volume of the 2007 assessment reviews current global warming observations and presents strong evidence of human-induced change. The *Summary for Policymakers* is now available online.

[www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)

#### GOING CARBON NEUTRAL — UNDERSTANDING THE VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET:

A number of reports published in recent months reflect a growing interest in the retail carbon offsets market. Various articles review existing retailers and assess market needs. A new book by Bayon, Hawn, and Hamilton (Earthscan, 2007) presents the ins and outs of the voluntary carbon market, exploring its relation to regulatory markets and potential contributions to climate change mitigation.

[www.fs.fed.us/ecosystems-services/carbon](http://www.fs.fed.us/ecosystems-services/carbon)