

POLICY POSITIONS

13. FORESTRY PROVISIONS IN THE 1985 FARM BILL

The U.S. forestry industry is a major part of the national economy and the projected demand for softwood in the United States is expected to exceed supply at the current price levels. There are now millions of acres of eroding marginal crop and pastureland which will reduce the overall productivity of our agriculture and forestry land base; the planting of trees can yield a greater average annual rate of return to the landowners, and tree planting reduces erosion and improves water quality from eroding marginal crop and pastureland.

Recommendations

The Southern Legislative Conference supports the inclusion of a forestry section in the 1985 Farm Bill. This section should provide federal incentives for planting trees on marginal crop and pastureland, particularly those which are eroding at accelerated rates and those which will yield a greater economic return to the landowner if planted to trees.

Adopted at the Southern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting on August 15, 1984, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

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