

LAND AND RESOURCES

SOME CONTEXT...

- The rural economy has diversified since 1970 - while agriculture, forestry, and fishing accounted for 13% of employment in high-density rural areas and 23% in low-density areas, it was only 6% and 12%, respectively, in 2007 (“Strengthening the Rural Economy,” 2010)
- “Steps to promote clean energy are likely to have a particularly important impact on rural areas by increasing the demand for biofuels and encouraging renewable energy generation...” (“Strengthening the Rural Economy,” 2010)
 - EPA estimates that the increase in renewable fuel production will result in \$13 billion increase in net U.S. farm income in 2022 (“Strengthening the Rural Economy”, 2010)
 - The ARC estimates that Central Appalachia could generate 52,000 new jobs in wind/solar/biomass (McIlmoil and Hansen, 2010)
- “Central Appalachia has a wealth of low-carbon, clean energy resources that can be developed and can provide new sources of jobs and tax revenues, including wind, solar, low-impact hydro, and sustainable biomass.” (McIlmoil and Hansen, 2010)
- In addition, the popularity of nature-based activities is increasing and Appalachia has great outdoor areas which can generate other economic development
 - In last 20 years, Americans 12 and older participating in some form of outdoor recreation grown from 188 million to 229 million (“Appalachia”, 2004)

Sources: “Appalachia: Turning Assets into Opportunities.” Appalachian Regional Commission, Oct 2004. Web. 26 May 2010; McIlmoil, Rory and Evan Hansen. “The Decline of Central Appalachian Coal and the Need for Economic Diversification.” Downstream Strategies, 19 January 2010. PDF File. 26 May 2010; “Strengthening the Rural Economy.” Executive Office of the President - Council of Economic Advisors, April 2010. PDF File.

FROM THE FIELD...

Challenges

Opportunities