TWO SIDES OF THE FOREST
Read a comparison of Canadian conservation authorities and community forests. These two community-based management approaches have unique attributes.
By Ryan Bullock
Research

1. The Value of Integrated CEAP-ARMS Survey Data in Conservation Program Analysis
   D. Lambert, G. Schaible, R. Johansson, and U. Vasavada

10. The Cost of Cleaner Water: Assessing Agricultural Pollution Reduction at the Watershed Scale
    S. Secchi, P.W. Gassman, M. Jha, L. Kurkalova, H.H. Feng, T. Campbell, and C.L. Kling

21. Change in Filter Strip Performance Over 10 Years
    M.G. Dosskey, K.D. Hoagland, and J.R. Brandle

33. Floodplain Influence on the Cost of Riparian Buffers and Implications for Conservation Programs
    E.A. Frimpong, J.G. Lee, and A.L. Ross-Davis

40. Phosphorus Contributions from Pastured Dairy Cattle to Streams of the Cannonsville Watershed, New York
    E. James, P.K.A. Kleinman, T. Veith, R. Stedman, and A. Sharpley

    D.W. Israel, D.L. Osmond, and J.C. Roberts

55. Crop Management Effects on Water Infiltration for Claypan Soils
Is “renewable” the right word?
I found the article “A Matter of Balance: Conservation and Renewable Energy” in the July/August 2006 Journal very interesting and enlightening. On the way to developing new sources of energy, we must keep in mind the potential impact on the environment lest we repeat past errors.

However, I wonder about the use of the term “Renewable Energy” not only by the authors, but by many others involved in this field. The authors were talking about the use of biomass which is a product of photosynthesis that depends on energy from the sun. That energy is transformed or stored in plant material. When that plant material is used as a fuel, the energy is released and is gone as far as we are concerned. The only way to replace the biomass is to grow a new crop, which again stores more of the sun’s energy.

To me, the word renewable means to make new again, or to bring back to like new condition. But, when the sun’s energy is released from biomass it will never be available to us again. What we’re really doing with biomass energy is storing new energy rather than restoring the previous energy. We’re charging the battery again, but with new energy, not recycled energy.

Frankly, I don’t have a word in mind to replace “renewable”, but I’m concerned that the use of the term tends to give the wrong impression of just what we’re actually doing.

—Daniel F. Kesselring, President Michigan Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society

Readers are invited to express their views on land and water management.

Please make your letter less than 150 words. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Send to Editor:
swcs@swcs.org
fax 515-289-1227
Journal of Soil and Water Conservation,
945 SW Ankeny Road,
Ankeny, Iowa 50023

Errata:
JSWC 61(5)258:
M. B. Zeiman should be M. Buckley-Zeiman.