

# Herseht Sandlin Bill (H.R. 1190) Turns Biofuels into Dirty Fuels

Current law ensures the Renewable Fuel Standard's five-fold increase in biofuels results in *better* fuels, not just different dirty fuels. The Herseht Sandlin bill would strike critical safeguards established by the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) and turn an important step forward into a counterproductive leap backward. Without its current land safeguards, the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) would lead to wholesale loss of wildlife habitat, natural forests, and grasslands, and the degradation of our public lands.

**The proposed rollbacks would:**

- Eliminate essential RFS protections for wildlife habitat
- Eliminate all RFS protections for old-growth and late successional forests on non-federal lands
- Eliminate all RFS protections against conversion of non-federal natural forests and native grasslands
- Eliminate critical protections that keep our public forests from becoming fuel farms

**Current Law Provides Necessary Biofuels Safeguards**

Current law provides for plentiful biofuel feedstocks while ensuring that sensitive lands, important wildlife habitat, and our public resources are protected. Investing in a sensible renewable energy future demands keeping these important areas off the chopping block and out of our gas tanks.

Global loss of forests and intact ecosystems represents one of the greatest threats to biodiversity and is a significant contributor to global warming. Twenty percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions come from global deforestation. Natural forests provide habitat for 90 percent of the plant and animal species that live on land. The RFS must not create perverse incentives that accelerate the loss of forests here or abroad due to either direct harvest or conversion.

Turning our national forests into biofuel farms makes no economic or ecologic sense. "Fuel treatments" would provide only a drop in the biofuels bucket—perhaps 600 million gallons overall, or roughly 1 percent of the RFS mandate. But to get this, we'd have to decrease these forests' carbon sequestration, increase ecological damage, risk more fires, subsidize thinning, and create unsustainable industrial demand for the commercial exploitation of public resources. Current law already encourages biomass thinning right around homes, where it makes the most sense and reduces fire risk.

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