



AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To provide for National Forest System restoration
and fuels reduction projects.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. _____

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural
and other programs of the Department of Agriculture
through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. BENNET, Mr. Schiff,
Mr. Lujan

Viz:

1 At the end of part I of subtitle B of title VIII, add

2 the following:

3 **SEC. 82. NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM RESTORATION AND**

4 **FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) DECOMMISSION.—The term “decommis-
7 sion” means, with respect to a road—

8 (A) reestablishing native vegetation on the
9 road;

10 (B) restoring any natural drainage, water-
11 shed function, or other ecological processes that

1 were disrupted or adversely impacted by the
2 road by removing or hydrologically dis-
3 connecting the road prism and reestablishing
4 stable slope contours; and

5 (C) effectively blocking the road to vehic-
6 ular traffic, where feasible.

7 (2) ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY.—The term “eco-
8 logical integrity” has the meaning given the term in
9 section 219.19 of title 36, Code of Federal Regula-
10 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
11 Act).

12 (3) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION
13 PROJECT.—The term “hazardous fuels reduction
14 project” means an activity, including the use of pre-
15 scribed fire, to protect structures and communities
16 from wildfire that is carried out on National Forest
17 System land.

18 (4) RESTORATION.—The term “restoration”
19 has the meaning given the term in section 219.19 of
20 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
21 the date of enactment of this Act).

22 (5) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT.—The
23 term “vegetation management project” means an ac-
24 tivity carried out on National Forest System land to
25 enhance the ecological integrity and achieve the res-

1 toration of a forest ecosystem through the removal
2 of vegetation, the use of prescribed fire, the restora-
3 tion of aquatic habitat, or the decommissioning of an
4 unauthorized, temporary, or system road.

5 (6) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term
6 “wildland- urban interface” has the meaning given
7 the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Res-
8 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

9 (b) APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts other-
10 wise available, there are appropriated to the Secretary for
11 fiscal year 2027, out of any money in the Treasury not
12 otherwise appropriated, to remain available until ex-
13 pended—

14 (1) \$3,600,000,000 for hazardous fuels reduc-
15 tion projects on National Forest System land within
16 the wildland-urban interface;

17 (2) \$300,000,000 for vegetation management
18 projects on National Forest System land carried out
19 in accordance with a plan developed under section
20 303(d)(1) or 304(a)(3) of the Healthy Forests Res-
21 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542(d)(1) or
22 6543(a)(3)); and

23 (3) \$100,000,000 to provide for environmental
24 reviews by the Chief of the Forest Service in satis-
25 fying the obligations of the Chief of the Forest Serv-

1 ice under the National Environmental Policy Act of
2 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

3 (c) RESTRICTIONS.—None of the funds made avail-
4 able by paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) may be used
5 for any activity—

6 (1) conducted in a wilderness area or wilderness
7 study area;

8 (2) that includes the construction of a perma-
9 nent road or motorized trail;

10 (3) that includes the construction of a tem-
11 porary road, except in the case of a temporary road
12 that is decommissioned by the Secretary not later
13 than 3 years after the earlier of—

14 (A) the date on which the temporary road
15 is no longer needed; and

16 (B) the date on which the project for
17 which the temporary road was constructed is
18 completed;

19 (4) inconsistent with the applicable land man-
20 agement plan;

21 (5) inconsistent with the prohibitions of the rule
22 of the Forest Service entitled “Special Areas;
23 Roadless Area Conservation” (66 Fed. Reg. 3244
24 (January 12, 2001)), as modified by subparts C and

1 D of part 294 of title 36, Code of Federal Regula-
2 tions; or

3 (6) carried out on any land that is not National
4 Forest System land, including other forested land on
5 Federal, State, Tribal, or private land.

6 (d) PRIORITIZATION.—In carrying out projects de-
7 scribed in subsection (b)(1), the Secretary, acting through
8 the Chief of the Forest Service, shall prioritize projects
9 that—

10 (1) focus on removing small diameter trees, for-
11 est thinning, strategic fuel breaks, and prescribed
12 fire to modify fire behavior, as measured by the pro-
13 jected reduction of uncharacteristically severe wild-
14 fire effects for the forest type (such as adverse soil
15 impacts, tree mortality, or other impacts);

16 (2) maximize the retention of large trees, as ap-
17 propriate for forest type, to the extent that the trees
18 promote fire-resilient stands; and

19 (3) ensure that the harvesting system used is
20 selected based on its effectiveness in achieving the
21 hazardous fuels reduction objectives of the project,
22 rather than on maximizing dollar return or timber
23 output.

24 (e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—For each year
25 that the funding provided by this section remains avail-

1 able, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
2 culture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
3 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
4 ate a report detailing the projects funded under subsection
5 (b)(1).

6 (f) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this section shall be
7 interpreted to authorize funds of the Commodity Credit
8 Corporation for activities under this section if such funds
9 are not expressly authorized or currently expended for
10 such purposes.