

## Background

A diversity of policies have been initiated to meet climate-related goals, but movement towards an all-lands approach is still needed.

Since 2004, fourteen different biomass definitions have been incorporated into federal law or the tax code.

### Ten Sections of Federal Law that have incorporated different ‘Renewable Biomass’ Definitions (Prior to 2004)

Source: K. Bracmort, Biomass: Comparison of Definitions in Legislation

#### The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007  
Title II – Section 201(1)(1)

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007  
Title XII – Section 1201

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007  
Title XII – Section 1203(e)(z)(4)(A)

Energy Policy Act of 2005  
Title II – Section 203(b)(1)

Energy Policy Act of 2005  
Title II – Section 206(a)(6)(B)

Energy Policy Act of 2005  
Title II – Section 210(a)(1)

Energy Policy Act of 2005  
Title IX – Subtitle C - Section 932(a)(1)

Energy Policy Act of 2005  
Title XIII – Subtitle A - Section 1307 – Section 48(c)(4)

Energy Policy Act of 2005  
Title XV – Subtitle A – Section 1512(r)(4)(B)

## The Multiple Definition Problem

Multiple definitions of renewable biomass fragments the management of landscapes by ownership class – producing sub-optimal environmental and economic outcomes.

## Example: The Energy Independence and Security Act’s (EISA) Renewable Biomass Definition

EISA’s renewable biomass definition determines what types of feedstock qualify for Renewable Identification Numbers (RIN).

**What are RINs?** Credits generated by renewable fuel producers and sold to obligated parties (gasoline producers) to comply with the Renewable Fuel Standard.

### Benefits:

- Adds value to renewable biomass
- Provides biofuel producers economic incentive to produce biofuel

### What types of feedstock qualify for RINs?

- Planted crops
- Planted trees
- Animal Waste
- *Slash and pre-commercial thinnings from non-federal forestlands*
- Algae
- Separated yard waste

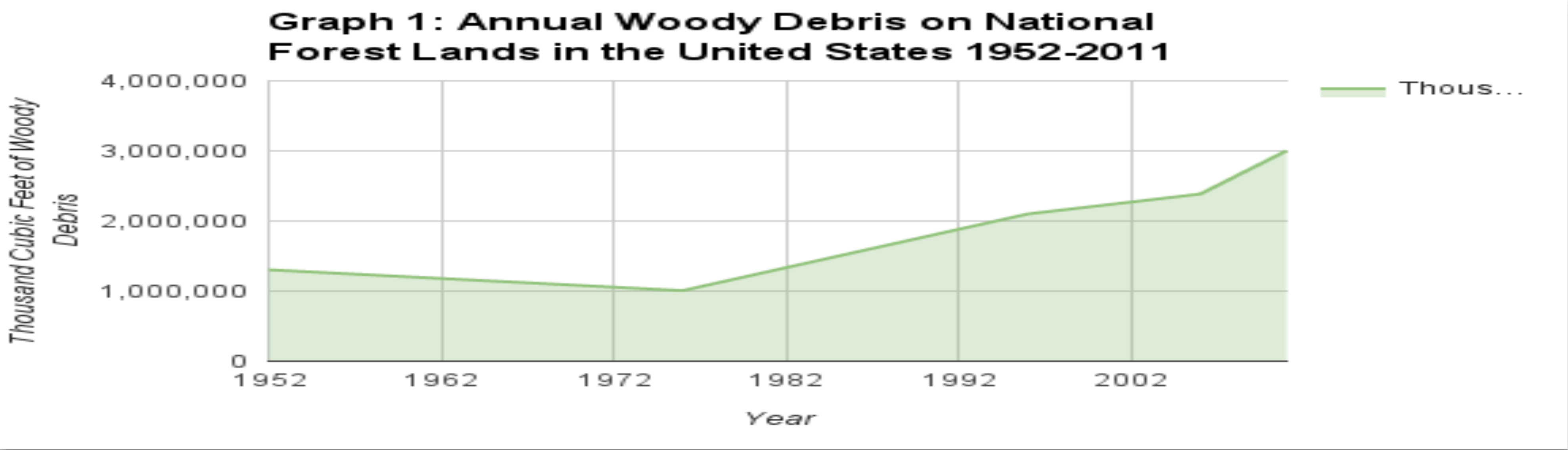
### What is the problem with this definition?

- Unfair distribution of added benefits that can be received from woody feedstock extracted from non-federal vs. federal lands
- Creates barriers for cellulosic development, fuel reduction on federal lands, and cross-land partnerships

## Future Research: Exploring how a policy change can create cascading benefits

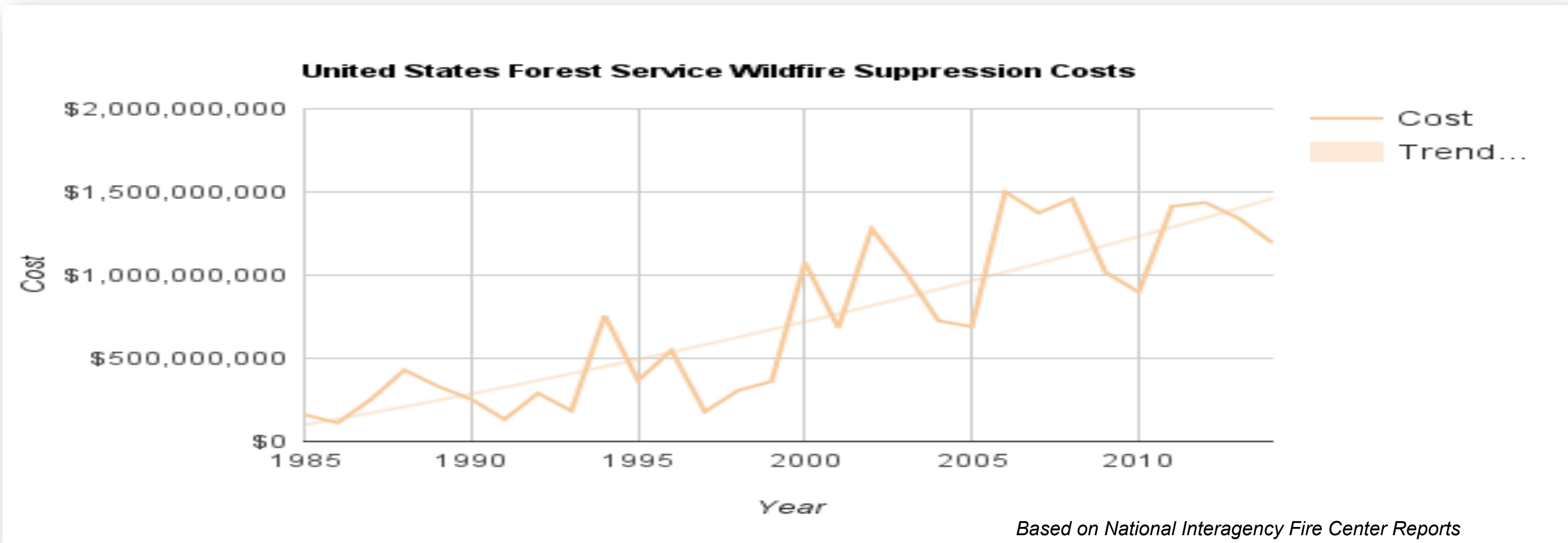
**Proposed Policy Change:** Unifying EISA’s renewable biomass definition of slash and pre-commercial thinnings, by exchanging “...*must be harvested from non-federal forestlands*” to “...*from forestlands, including those on public lands.*” (H.R. 4956)

## Impact 1. Increase in supply can increase renewable energy production



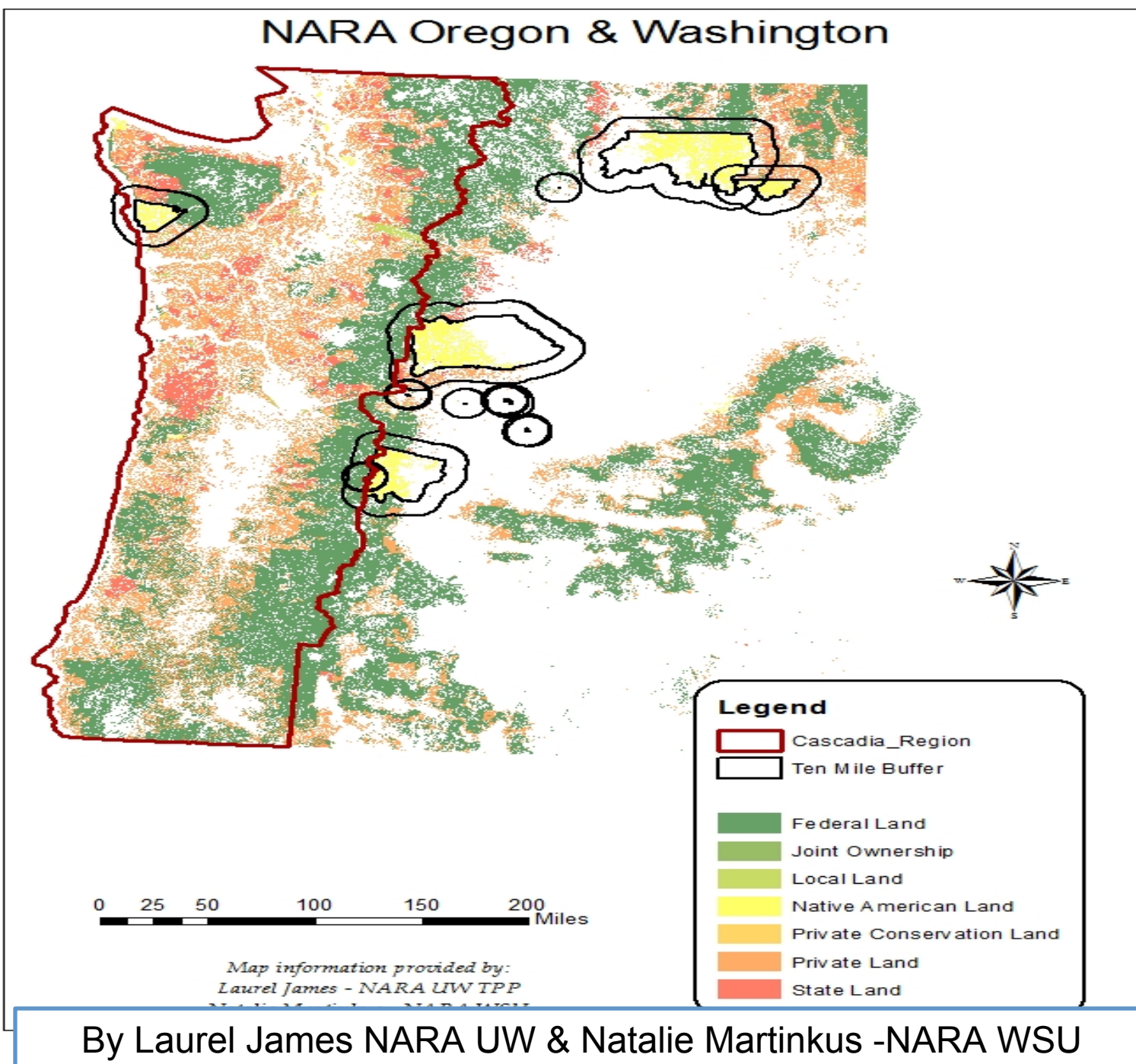
**Current reality:** The growing rate of hazardous fuels on federal lands offers an abundance of woody biomass that could reduce supply risk.

## Impact 2. Increase in RIN access can increase non-federal funding



**Current reality:** The increase in wildfire suppression costs requires a need for additional outside funding to help mitigate the wildfire problem.

## Impact 3. Increase in both supply and RIN access can promote Nation-to-Nation partnerships



**Current reality:** Over 3,000 miles of tribal lands border USFS lands, but a lack of viable wood markets and budgetary constraints have hindered Nation-to-Nation partnerships.

