



File Code: 2400

Date: **MAY 20 2014**

Honorable Mark Dayton
Governor of State of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

Thank you for your letter of April 17, 2014, requesting the designation of landscape-scale areas on national forests in Minnesota to address insect or disease threats under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a), as added by section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

The Secretary delegated the authority to designate landscape-scale insect and disease areas under Section 602 to me. Your letter requested that all lands within the boundary of the Chippewa National Forest and all eligible portions of the Superior National Forest be designated under Section 602. I have determined that only a portion of the Chippewa National Forest and all national forest system lands on the Superior National Forest meet one or more of the following criteria in Section 602:

- The area is experiencing decline of forest health based on annual forest health surveys;
- The area is at risk of substantial tree mortality over the next 15 years based on the National Insect and Disease risk Map; or
- The area is one in which hazard trees pose imminent risk to public infrastructure, health or safety.

Based on this determination, I have hereby designated each of the areas, excluding Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, as a landscape-scale insect and disease area under Section 602(d). A map showing the designated areas is enclosure. This letter of designation, the map showing the designated areas as well as other documents pertaining to your request will be posted on <http://www.fs.fed.us/farmbill/>.

Designation under Section 602 will allow us to further evaluate these landscape areas for potential treatments to reduce the risk or extent of, or increase resilience to, insect or disease infestation in accordance with Sections 602(d).

Again, thank you for your request to designate landscape areas that are experiencing declining forest health and for your continued interest in the management of the national forests in Minnesota. If you have any questions about the designation, please contact Tony Tooke, Associate Deputy Chief, at (202) 365-5648 or by email at ttooke@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

THOMAS L. TIDWELL
Chief

Enclosure

