

File Code: 2400 (8097250)

Date: MAR - 6 2015

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor
State of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Governor Inslee:

Thank you for your letter of April 8, 2014, requesting the designation of landscape-scale areas on National Forests in the State of Washington 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. I apologize for the delayed response.

Agriculture Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack has delegated the authority to designate landscape-scale insect and disease areas under Section 602 to me. I have determined that each of the treatment areas within the boundary of the Okanogan-Wenatchee, Colville, Umatilla, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests that you requested to be designated under Section 602 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). Note that the difference between your request (i.e. 719,150 acres) and the approved designated areas (i.e. 711,457 acres) is from adjusting your request to NFS Proclaimed Land areas and removing non-Forest Service land inholdings. In addition, any Inventoried Roadless Areas that were included in your initial request were removed based on the concerns and considerations raised by your collaborators identified in your initial request last fall. A map showing the designated areas is enclosed. I encourage you to view the letter of designation, the map showing the designated areas as well as other documents pertaining to your request at the Forest Service Web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/farmbill/areadesignations.shtml>.

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 your National Forests in Washington.

Sincerely,



THOMAS L. TIDWELL
Chief

Enclosure

