

**File Code:** 3400; 2400**Date:** MAR 01 2016**Route To:****Subject:** Farm Bill Insect and Disease Treatment Area Designation for the Northern Region**To:** Regional Forester, Northern Region

Thank you for your letters requesting designation of additional landscape-scale areas for the Westside project on the Bitterroot National Forest and for the Radnor Resource Project on the Flathead National Forest. These additional landscapes will help us 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 have determined the areas 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 hereby designate each of the areas, excluding Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, as a landscape-scale insect and disease area under Section 602(d). Please note the difference between your request and the approved designations results is from adjusting your request to National Forest System Proclaimed Land areas and removing non-Forest Service inholdings. A map showing the designated areas is enclosed. This letter of designation, the map showing the designated areas as well as other documents pertaining to your request will be posted at <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 in your region. If you have any questions about the designation, please contact Brian Ferebee, Associate Deputy Chief, at 202-205-0824 or by email at bferebee@fs.fed.us.

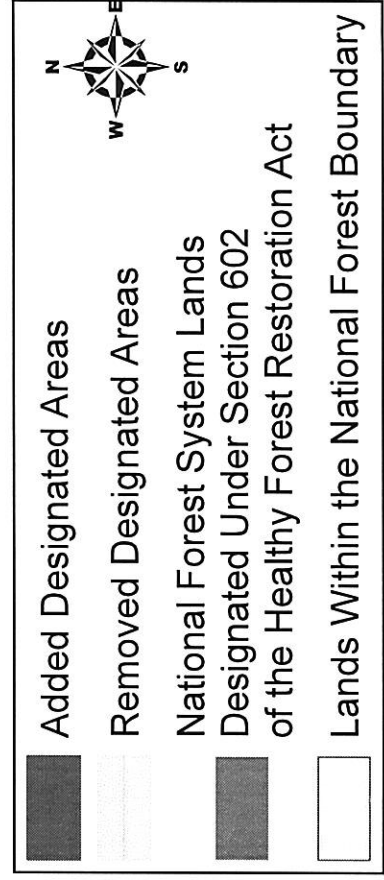
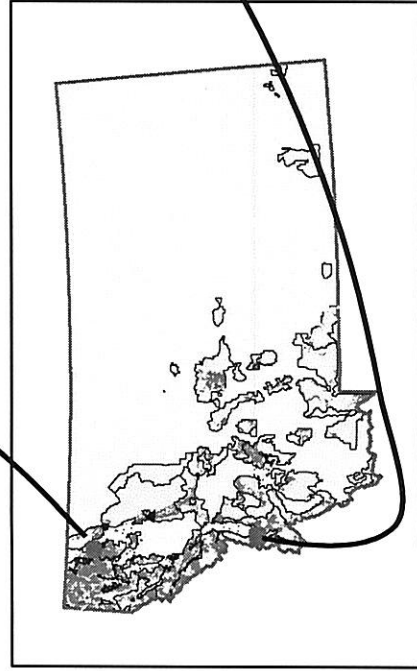
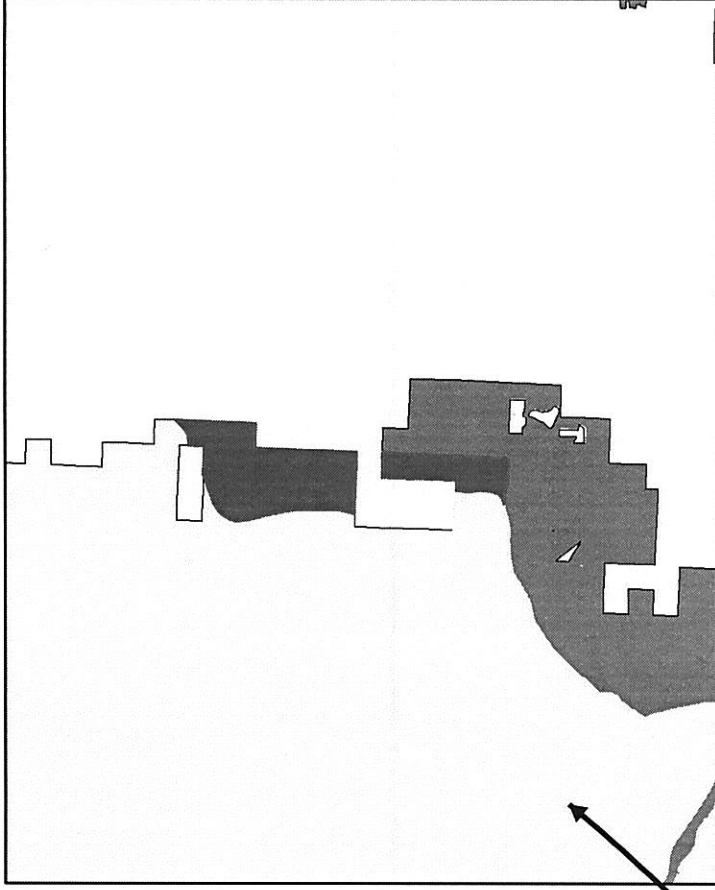
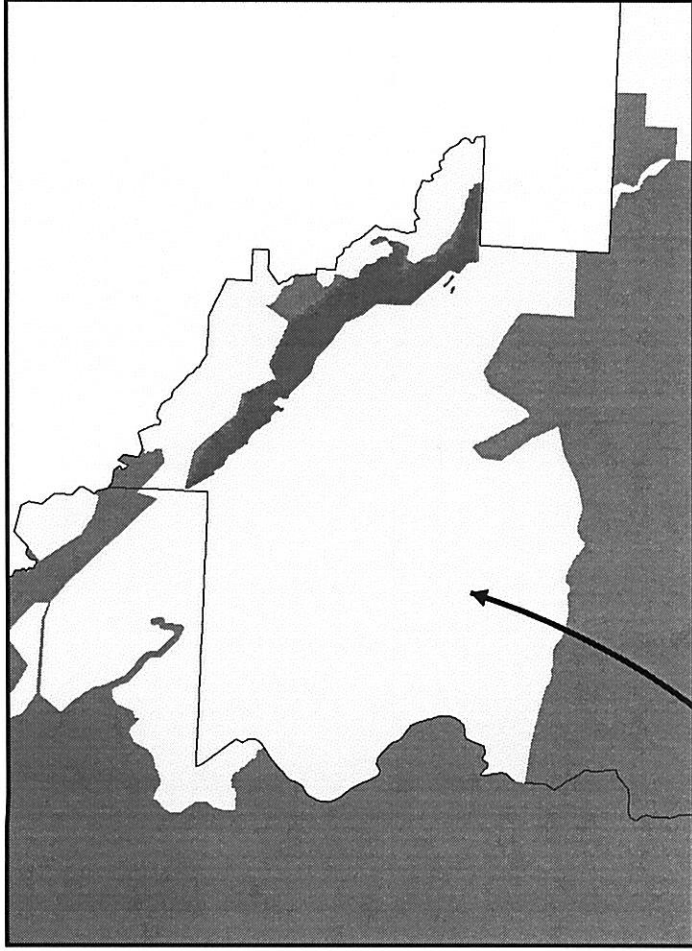
THOMAS L. TIDWELL
Chief

Enclosures (2)





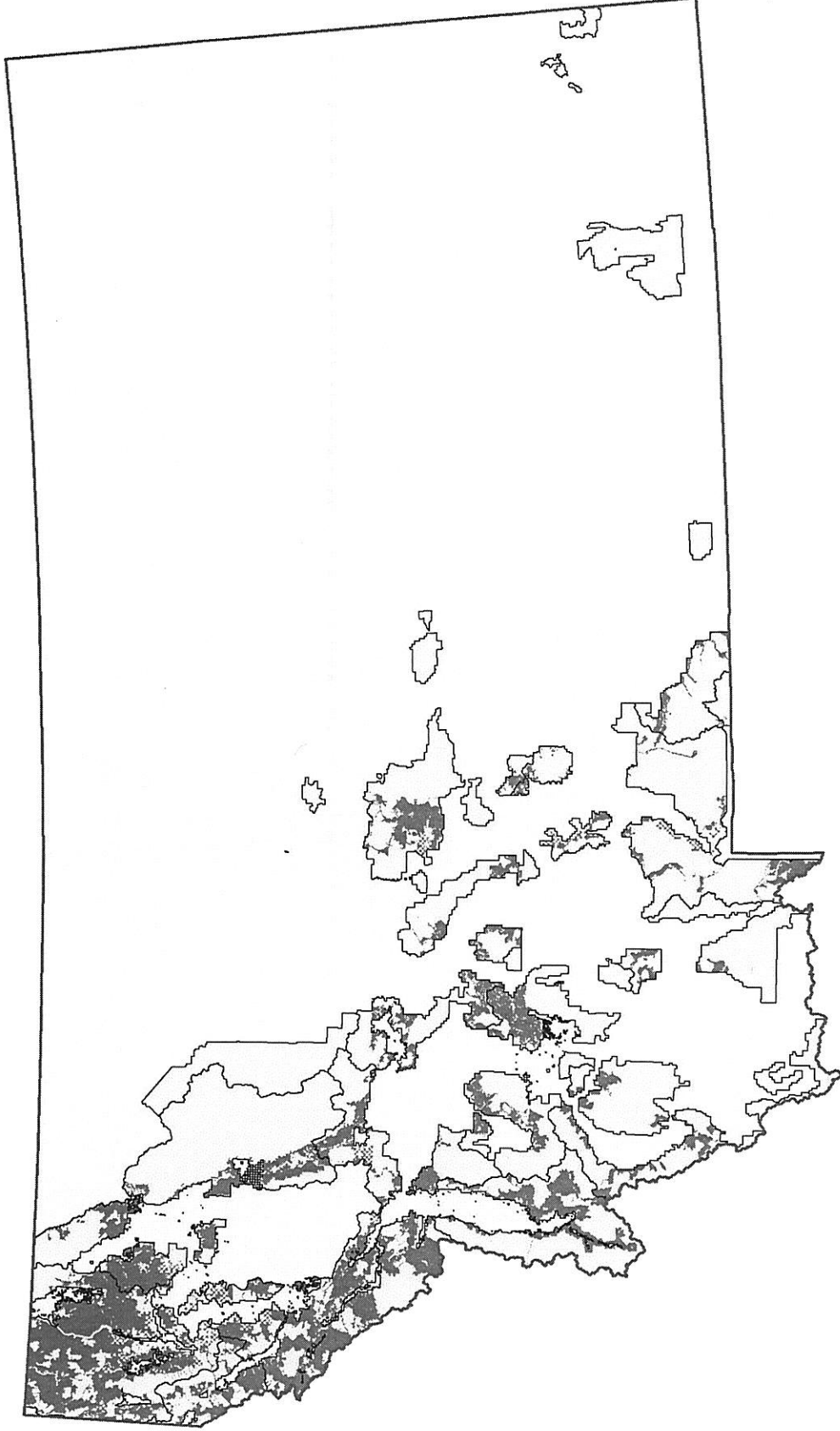
National Forest System Lands Designated Under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act in Montana



Note: Data displayed are for informational purposes only and depict designations made under section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Please contact Brian Ferebee for details: bferabee@fs.fed.us



National Forest System Lands Designated Under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act in Montana



National Forest System Lands Designated Under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act

- National Forest System Lands Designated Under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act
- Lands Within the National Forest Boundary



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Map created by the USFS Geospatial Service and Technology Center on February 3, 2016