



File Code: 3400; 2400
Route To:

Date: SEP 13 2017

Subject: Farm Bill Insect and Disease Treatment Area Designation

To: Regional Forester, Northern Region

Thank you for your letters requesting the designation of additional landscape-scale areas for the Idaho Panhandle National Forest 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 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, Wilderness Study Areas, inventoried roadless areas, and non-Forest Service inholdings as a landscape-scale insect and disease area under Section 602(d). The difference between your requested designation and the approved designation is from adjusting your request to the National Forest System administrative boundary for Idaho and the National Forest System proclaimed boundary for Washington and Montana. A map showing the designated areas is enclosed. This letter of designation, the map showing the designated areas, and 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 Jeanne Higgins, Acting Associate Deputy Chief, at 202-205-0824 or by email at jmhiggins@fs.fed.us.

For
TONY TOOKE
Chief

Enclosures

