



File Code: 2400; 2470; 3400
Route To:

Date: JAN 17 2018

Subject: Review Process for Healthy Forest Restoration Act Section 602(c), Additional Insect and Disease Landscape-Scale Area Designation

To: Chief

I am requesting an additional designation under Section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, known as the 2014 Farm Bill, of an area that is at risk of or is currently experiencing an insect or disease epidemic. Forest cover on the Shoshone National Forest has been severely impacted by recent bark beetle and spruce budworm epidemics. A review of the 2012 National Insect and Disease Forest Risk Assessment data has determined that 167 watersheds that were not originally designated as insect and disease areas per section 602(c) of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act have experienced or are at risk of experiencing significant loss of forest cover. These watersheds meet all three criteria for additional designation. Enclosed is the following:

- The justification for additional designation per the criteria in the 2014 Farm Bill;
- Forest Health Protection Insect and Disease Activity map showing cumulative insect mortality on the Shoshone National Forest 2006-2016;
- A map showing predicted tree mortality by 6th level Hydrologic Unit Code watershed based on National Insect and Disease Forest Risk Assessment data;
- List of watersheds and the predicted tree mortality by percentage of basal area loss and the supporting spatial data (see attribute field "L48_WS_11").

I recommend that 128 watersheds on the Shoshone National Forest that currently exceed or are predicted to exceed 25 percent loss of tree cover and 39 adjacent watersheds predicted to exceed 20 percent loss be designated as Insect and Disease Landscape-Scale areas excluding areas previously designated in 2014, Wilderness Areas, and Wilderness Study Areas.

If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Regional Forester Jacque Buchanan at 303-275-5448 or jabuchanan@fs.fed.us.

BRIAN FEREBEE
Regional Forester

Enclosures (5)

cc: Jake Donnay, David Gwaze, Steve Lohr, Roy Mask, Jeffrey Underhill, Sharon Paul, Randy Spiering, Steve Schacht, Mike LaFrentz, Susan Stresser, David Loomis

