



File Code: 3400; 2400
Route To:

Date: AUG 24 2018

Subject: Farm Bill Insect & Disease Treatment Area Designations

To: Regional Forester, Intermountain Region

Thank you for your recommendations to designate additional landscape-scale areas of National Forests in Region 4 to address insect or disease threats under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a), as amended by section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

I have determined the areas you requested for designation under Section 602 meet one or more of the following criteria in Section 602:

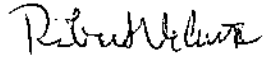
- The area is experiencing decline of forest health based on annual forest health surveys;
- The area is at risk of substantial tree mortality over the next 15 years based on the National Insect and Disease Risk Map; or
- The area is one in which hazard trees pose imminent risk to public infrastructure,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

Based on this determination, I hereby designate an additional 1,524,504 acres on the Sawtooth, Salmon-Challis, and Boise National Forests in Idaho and an additional 621,206 acres on the Dixie National Forest in Utah. This increases total designated areas from 4,597,452 to 6,121,956 acres in Idaho and from 1,748,099 to 2,369,305 acres in Utah. These designations exclude Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, and non-Forest Service inholdings. The difference between your requested designation (1,540,151 in Idaho and 625,857 in Utah) and the approved designation is due to adjustments made to the National Forest System administrative boundary in Idaho and the proclaimed boundary in Utah. This letter of designation, maps 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 Section 602(d). I appreciate your awareness of the current expiration of part of this authority on September 30, 2018, and knowing you are planning accordingly. It appears some polygons include areas modeled as fire regimes 4 and 5. Based on the pattern of these as regimes across the landscape it makes sense to identify designation areas at the landscape level as you have done. Project level planning can ensure compliance with the Idaho Roadless rule and address other concerns with proposed actions that may arise.



Again, thank you for your request to designate landscape areas experiencing declining forest health in your Region. If you have any questions about the designation, please contact Chris French, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, at (202) 205-1523 or cfrench@fs.fed.us.



for VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Interim Chief

Enclosures