



File Code: 2400; 3400
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Date: APR 23 2018

Subject: Dixie National Forest Insect & Disease Treatment Area Designation Request
2018

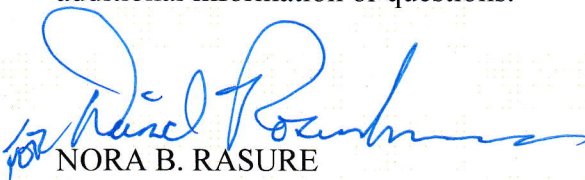
To: Leslie Weldon, Deputy Chief, National Forest System

I am writing to request additional designations of landscape-scale areas on the Dixie National Forest to address insect or disease threats under Section 602 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a), as added by section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, known as the 2014 Farm Bill.

After consultation with the Forest Supervisor and forest staff and review of insect and disease data, we have found that 57 watersheds at the 6th level Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) are in need of designation (shown in Attachment A - Map and Attachment B - Spreadsheet). This area represents approximately 625,857 acres outside of wilderness boundaries. The Dixie National Forest is committed to active restoration using the tools available under this designation.

All proposed watersheds meet one or more of the criteria outlined in the 2014 Farm Bill. These watersheds are; experiencing declining forest health based on annual surveys, at risk of substantially increased tree mortality over the next 15 years due to insect or disease infestation based on the National Insect and Disease Risk Map, and/or contain hazard trees that pose an imminent risk to public infrastructure, health and safety.

For the reasons above, I am recommending these additional watersheds for designation as priority treatment areas under the 2014 Farm Bill. These designations identify focal areas for accelerated restoration efforts across the Dixie National Forest. Please contact Mike Dudley, Director, State & Private Forestry at mdudley@fs.fed.us, 801-625-5253 or Richard Jaros, Ecosystem Staff Officer – Dixie National Forest, at sjaros@fs.fed.us, 435-691-1419 for any additional information or questions.



NORA B. RASURE

Regional Forester

Enclosures

cc: D.Gwaze

