**Forest Service** 

File Code: Route To:	3400; 2400	Date:	'JUL 18 2017
Subject:	Farm Bill Insect & Disease Treatment Area Designation		
To:	Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region		

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 2017, requesting the designation of additional landscapescale areas on national forests in California 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 meet one or more of the following criteria in Section 602 of the HFRA:

- 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 118 twelfth-level Hydrologic Unit Code watersheds you requested, excluding Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, as a landscape-scale insect and disease area under Section 602(d). Note the difference between your request (2,617,625 acres) and the approved designations (1,235,580 acres) is the result in acreage of conforming your request to National Forest System Proclaimed Land areas, removing non-Forest Service inholdings, and removing wilderness areas. Maps showing the designated areas are enclosed. This letter of designation, the map showing the designated areas, and other documents pertaining to your request will be posted at: <u>http://www.fs.fed.us/farmbill/</u>.

Designation under Section 602 of the HFRA 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 scale 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 <u>jmhiggins@fs.fed.us</u>.

Ker THOMAS L. TIDWELL Chief

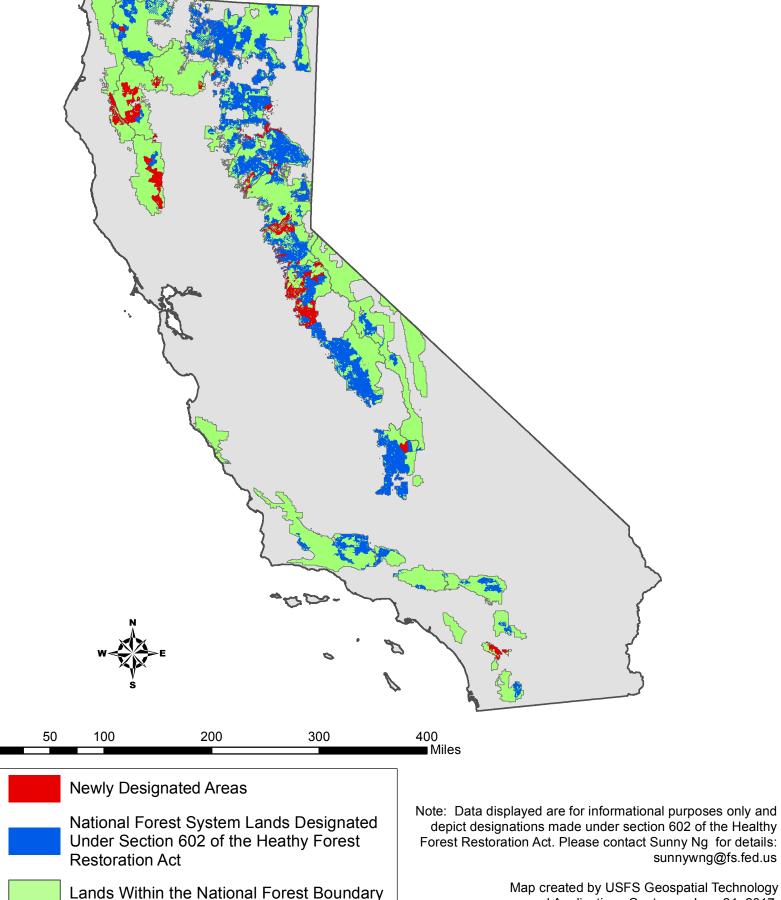
Enclosures (2)







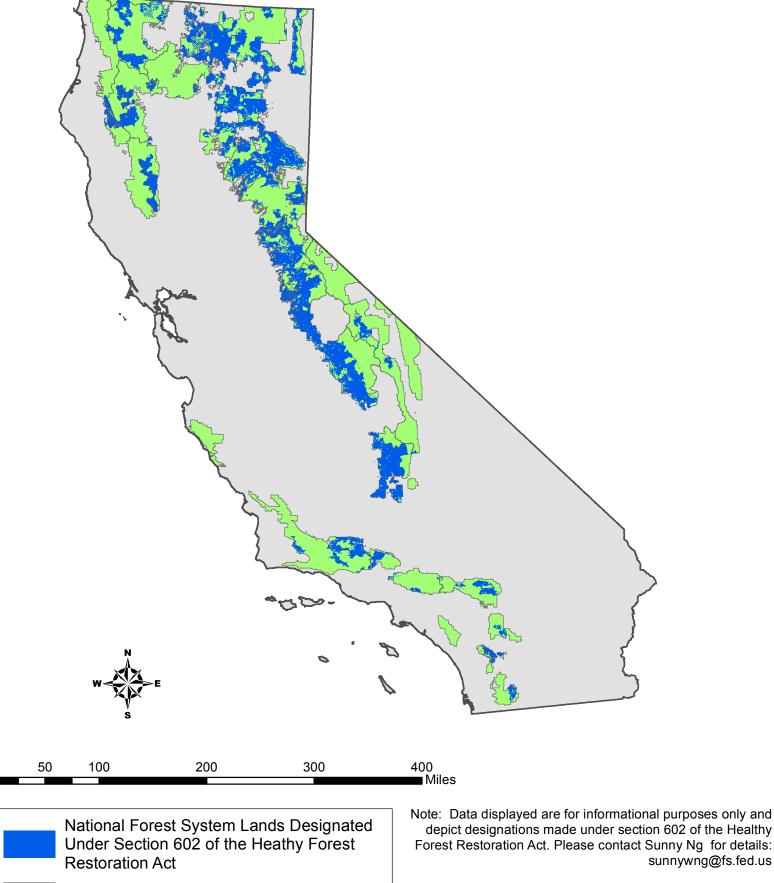
**National Forest System Lands Designated Under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act in California** 



and Applications Center on June 21, 2017.



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



Lands Within the National Forest Boundary

Map created by USFS Geospatial Technology and Applications Center on June 21, 2017.