

**File Code:** 3400; 2400**Date:** MAR 29 2018**Route To:****Subject:** Southern Region Farm Bill Insect & Disease Treatment Area Designation**To:** Regional Forester, Southern Region

Thank you for your letter of December 14, 2017, requesting designation of additional landscape-scale areas on National Forests in North Carolina 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 to be designated under Section 602 meet 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 each of the 113 sixth level Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) watersheds you requested, excluding Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, as a landscape-scale insect and disease area under Section 602(d) on National Forests in North Carolina. Note the difference between your request (415,531 acres) and approved designations (411,793 acres) is from adjusting your request to National Forest System Proclaimed Land areas and removing non-Forest Service inholdings. A map showing designated areas is enclosed. This letter of designation, the map showing 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).

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 Chris French, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, at (202) 205-0830 or [cfrench@fs.fed.us](mailto:cfrench@fs.fed.us)

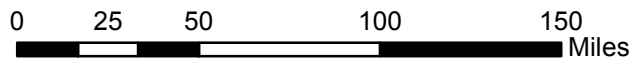
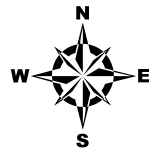
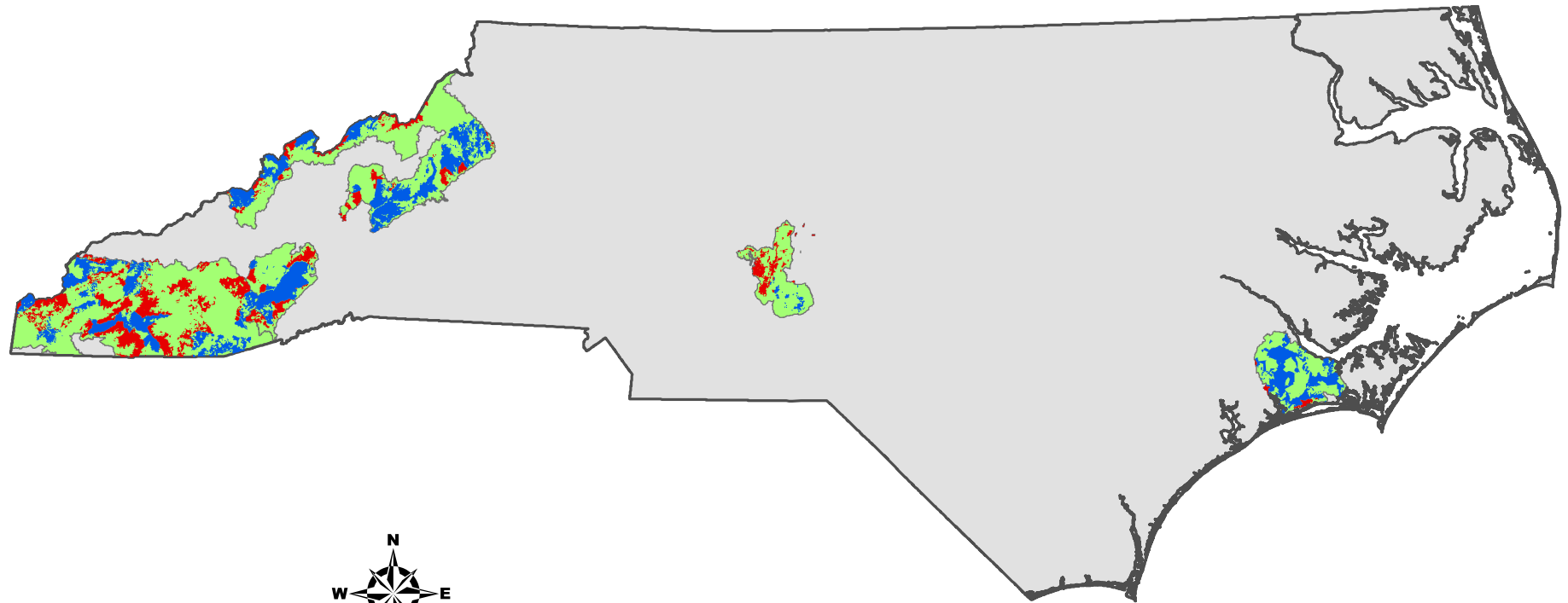
  
VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN  
Interim Chief

Enclosure



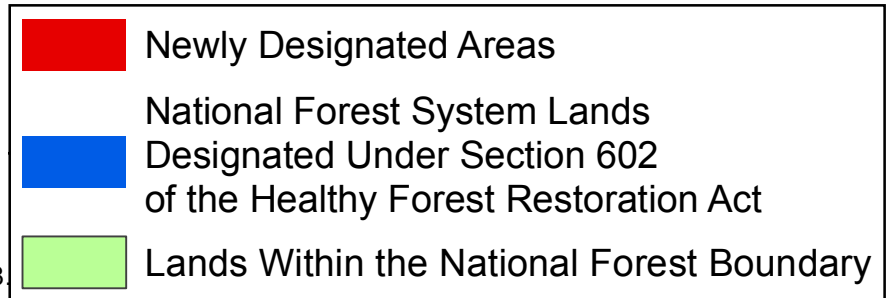


# National Forest System Lands Designated Under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act in North Carolina



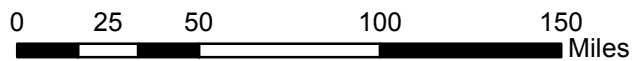
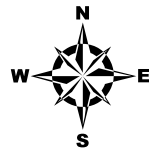
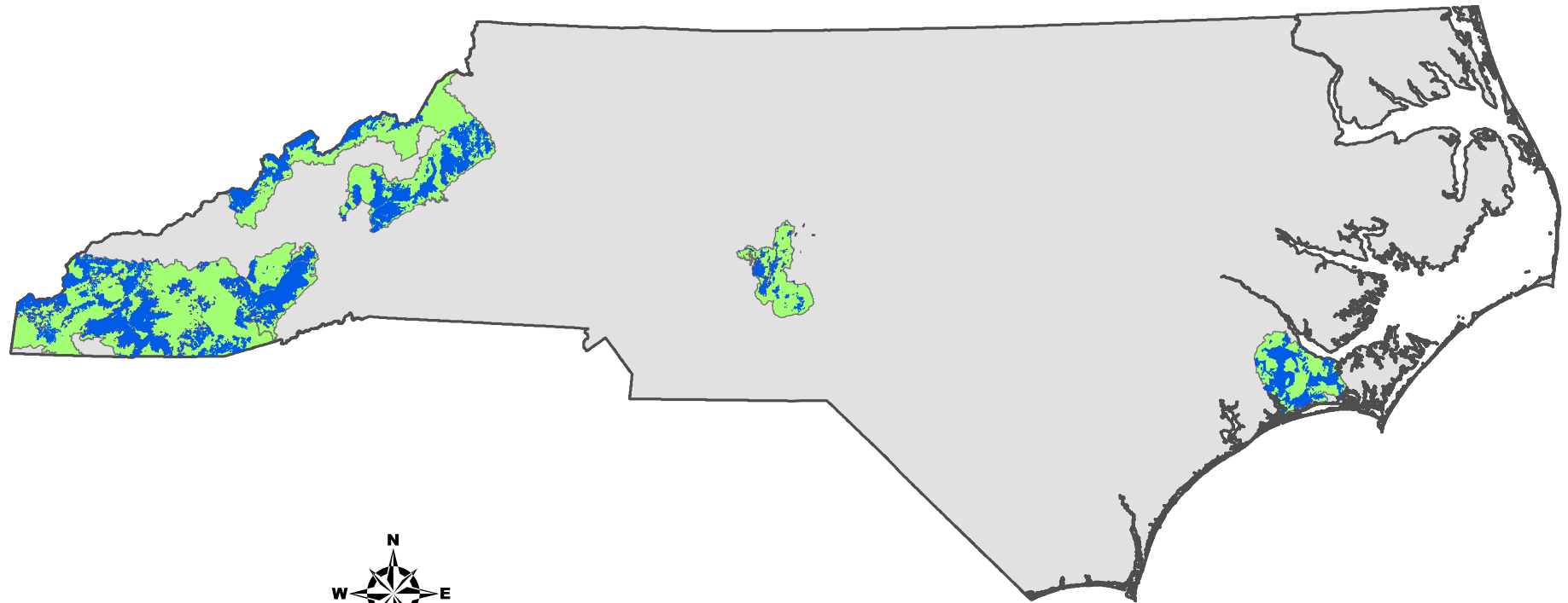
Note: Data displayed are for informational purposes only and depict designations made under section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Please contact Sunny Ng for details: [sunnywng@fs.fed.us](mailto:sunnywng@fs.fed.us)

Map created by USFS Geospatial Technology and Applications Center on January 30, 2018.





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