

Forest Service

File Code: 3400; 2400 **Route To:**

Date: SEP 2 8 2016

Subject: Region 8 Farm Bill Insect & Disease Treatment Area Designation

To: Regional Forester, Southern Region

Thank you for your letter of June 30, 2016, requesting the designation of additional landscape-scale areas on the Daniel Boone National Forest 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 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 each of the areas, excluding Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, as a landscape-scale insect and disease area under Section 602(d). Note the difference between your request (452,834 acres) and the approved designations (170,640 acres) results from adjusting your request to National Forest System Proclaimed Land areas, removing non-Forest Service inholdings for the London, Stearns, and Cumberland Ranger Districts, and removing non-Forest Service inholdings for the Redbird Ranger District. Maps showing all designated areas and relationships between the initially and the newly designated areas are enclosed. This letter of designation, the maps, as well as other documents pertaining to your request will be posted at the <u>Forest Service 2014 Farm Bill website (http://www.fs.fed.us/farmbill/</u>).

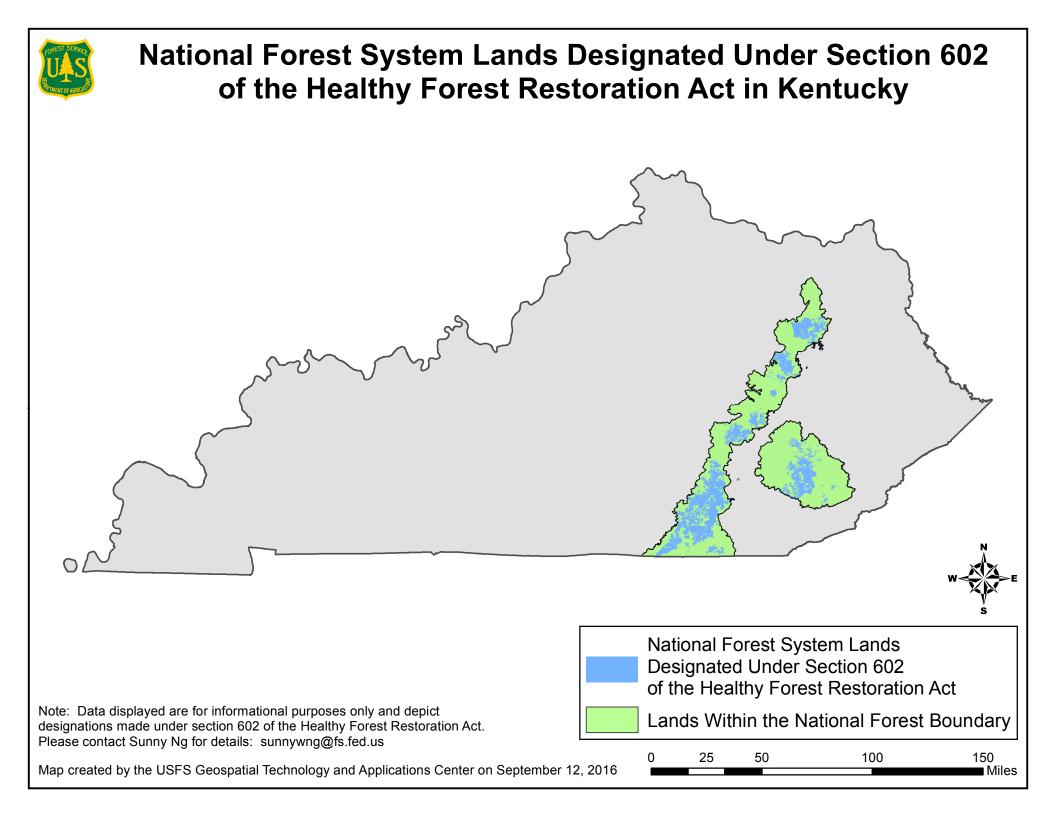
This designation will allow us to further evaluate these landscape areas for potential treatments to reduce the risk or extent of, or increase resilience to, insect or disease infestation in accordance with Sections 602(d).

Again, thank you for your request to designate landscape areas that are experiencing declining forest health in your region. If you have any questions about the designation, please contact Brian Ferebee, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, at (202) 205-0824 or <u>bferebee@fs.fed_us.</u>

Enclosures (2)



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

