

**File Code:** 6270; 2400**Date:** JUL 19 2019**Route To:****Subject:** Southern Region Farm Bill Insect and Disease Treatment Area Designation**To:** Regional Forester, Southern Region

Thank you for your letter of February 5, 2019, requesting the designation of additional landscape-scale areas on the Apalachicola and Osceola National Forests to address insect or disease threats under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a), as added by section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

I have determined the areas that 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 an additional 676,506 acres based on 788,448 acres requested on the Apalachicola and Osceola National Forests. This increases the total designated acres in Florida from 197,654 acres to 874,160 acres. The difference between the requested acres and the approved designations is from adjusting your request to National Forest System Proclaimed Land areas, removing non-Forest Service inholdings and excluding Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. A map showing the designated areas is enclosed. This letter of designation, the map 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 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 Chris French, Deputy Chief, at (202) 205-0830 or [chris.french@usda.gov](mailto:chris.french@usda.gov).



VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN  
Chief

Enclosure

