



File Code: 2400  
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Subject: Region 8 Request for Additional Farm Bill Insect and Disease Designations  
To: Deputy Chief, National Forest System

Per section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, I am requesting the designation of 84,575 acres of the Andrew Pickens Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest to address Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) threats. The designation would give the district the ability to address insect and disease under section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a). Additional designation is needed because the original 2014 designation for South Carolina focused on Southern pine beetle and did not focus on the threat posed by HWA which is present within eighteen sixth-level watersheds. The designation would address the following criteria in section 602:

Criteria 1: The area proposed for designation is experiencing decline of forest health from HWA. A compilation of recent articles and documents about HWA is located at:  
<http://search.usa.gov/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=usfssouthernresearchstation&query=Hemlock+woolly+adelgid&commit=Search>

A map displaying affected counties is located at:  
[http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/hwa/maps/2015\\_HWA\\_Infestation\\_Map\\_20160502.pdf](http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/hwa/maps/2015_HWA_Infestation_Map_20160502.pdf)

Criteria 2: HWA "has the potential to remove a major ecological component from eastern forests that is important for maintaining clean water and supporting wildlife."  
[http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/hwa/pubs/other\\_info/2014-18%20HWA%20National%20Initiative%20Strategic%20Plan\\_FINAL.pdf](http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/hwa/pubs/other_info/2014-18%20HWA%20National%20Initiative%20Strategic%20Plan_FINAL.pdf)

Criteria 3: The HWA threat is affecting public health and safety. HWA related tree mortality is creating dead limbs and snags inside recreation areas and along trail corridors. As the number of dead trees increase, the risk and intensity of fires will increase.

The Sumter Forest Supervisor's Request for Farm Bill Designation Acreage with an area map is included as supporting documentation. Supporting GIS files can be found on the T drive by following this path:  
T:\FS\NFS\FrancisMarion\Project\FSSO\OtherProject\20160825\_APHemlockRestoration\_JKnibbs

For additional information, please contact Peter Gaulke, Southern Region Planning Director, at 404-347-3183, or email at [pgaulke@fs.fed.us](mailto:pgaulke@fs.fed.us).

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Enclosures

