

**File Code:** 3400; 2400**Date:** JAN 15 2016**Route To:****Subject:** Farm Bill Insect and Disease Treatment Area Designation**To:** Regional Forester, R-9

Thank you for your letter of August 14, 2015, requesting designation of landscape-scale areas on national forests in Region 9 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 reviewed your request to ensure it meets 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 review, I have hereby designated 158,060 acres out of a total of 241,191 acres (see enclosed map), excluding Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, as a landscape-scale insect and disease area under Section 602(d). This letter of designation, map showing the designated areas, and 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 Brian Ferebee, Associate Deputy Chief, at 202-205-0824 or by email at bferebee@fs.fed.us.

Mary Wagner
FOR THOMAS L. TIDWELL
Chief

Enclosure

