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Date: MAR 06 2015

The Honorable Bill Haslam  
Governor  
State of Tennessee  
State Capitol  
Nashville, TN 37243-0001

Dear Governor Haslam:

I am writing to update you regarding corrections to your request for Tennessee on the designation of 70 contiguous (12-digit) hydrological units, or watersheds, within the Cherokee National Forest (CNF) as put forth under Section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Tennessee's request included a list of all 70 Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) with their names and 12-digit identification codes, which was based on the 2014 United States Geological Survey (USGS) HUC layers. However, the review and subsequent designation made by the Forest Service was based on the 2012 National Insect and Disease Risk Map, which used the 2010 USGS HUC layer. Unfortunately, some of the 12-digit ID codes changed between the 2010 and 2014 HUC layers prepared by USGS. As such, when referencing the watersheds by their 12-digit identification code, the original designation made by the Forest Service did not include several of the HUCs requested by the State, resulting in much fewer acres being designated than requested. At the State's request, the Forest Service conducted a second review and reconciled the HUC identification codes to properly reflect Tennessee's original request for designation. Based on this review, I have hereby designated an additional 292,807 acres on the CNF for a total of 587,876 acres, which is consistent with the State's initial request.

We look forward to continuing to work with the State of Tennessee as we begin to evaluate and implement specific insect and disease projects within the Cherokee National Forest to address forest health threats on the landscape.

On behalf of the Forest Service, thank you your request to designate these landscape areas as we work to sustain and protect one of our National treasures – the Cherokee National Forest.

Sincerely,



THOMAS L. TIDWELL  
Chief

Enclosure

