

**File Code:** 2400**Date:** MAR 24 2016**Route To:****Subject:** Request for an Additional Insect and Disease Landscape-Scale Area Designations**To:** Chief

Consistent with the 2014 Agricultural Act, commonly known as the Farm Bill, the Governors of Washington and Oregon identified designated acres within the Blue Mountain Forests (the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests) as displayed on the enclosed map.

Many forested areas of the Blue Mountains have been experiencing high levels of beetle-caused mortality over the past decade. Projections of increasing temperatures and drier summers will create forest conditions at higher risk for mortality as the period of summer water deficit lengthens and becomes more severe. Based on these current and expected conditions, we have worked with our State and Private Forestry entomologists and identified additional lands within our three forests we believe are at high risk of insect and disease epidemics. The recommended lands meet two of the possible three criteria specified in the legislation (see enclosed documents).

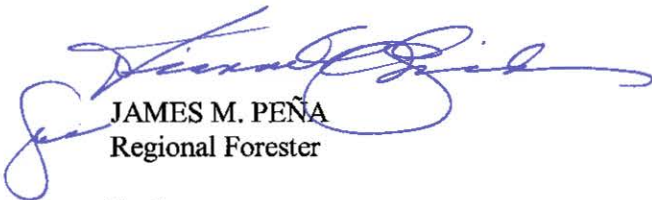
Based on this new information, the Forest Supervisors of the three Blue Mountain Forests, recommend the existing designated areas be expanded as displayed in the attached map. The expanded areas of designation will enable us to proactively take actions to reduce risk of uncharacteristic and/or undesirable insect and disease disturbances.

We enclose the following with this request for an additional designation under Farm Bill Section 8204:

- Justification for additional designation including alignment with the criteria included in the 2014 Farm Bill;
- Map identifying the additional areas proposed for designation under Section 8204 and corresponding 6-Digit Hydrologic Units.

The contacts for this request are:

- Karl R. Dalla Rosa, Assistant Director, State and Private Forestry - 503-808-2913
- Lia Spiegel, Entomologist, Blue Mountains Insect & Disease Service Center- 541-962-6574
- Steve Hawkins, Acting Staff Officer, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest - 541-523-1262
- Alissa Tanner, Forest Silviculturist, Umatilla National Forest - 541-278-3852
- Nathan Poage, Forest Analyst, Malheur National Forest - 541-575-3192



JAMES M. PENA
Regional Forester

Enclosures

cc: Debbie Hollen, Monica Neal, Jacob Donnay, Karl Dalla Rosa, Lia Spiegel, Steven K. Beverlin, Genevieve Masters, Thomas Montoya

