



File Code: 3400; 2400
Route To:

Date: FEB 07 2018

Subject: Farm Bill Insect & Disease Treatment Area Designation

To: Regional Forester, Southern Region

Thank you for your letter of November 13, 2017, requesting the designation of additional landscape-scale areas on the Ozark-St. Francis 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 963,443 acres on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests based on 131 twelfth level Hydrologic Unit Code watersheds provided. Note 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. Two maps showing the existing and newly designated areas are enclosed. This letter of designation, the two maps showing the designated areas, as well as other documents pertaining to your request will be posted at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/farm-bill>.

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, Associate Deputy Chief, at (202) 205-0830 or cfrench@fs.fed.us.

For

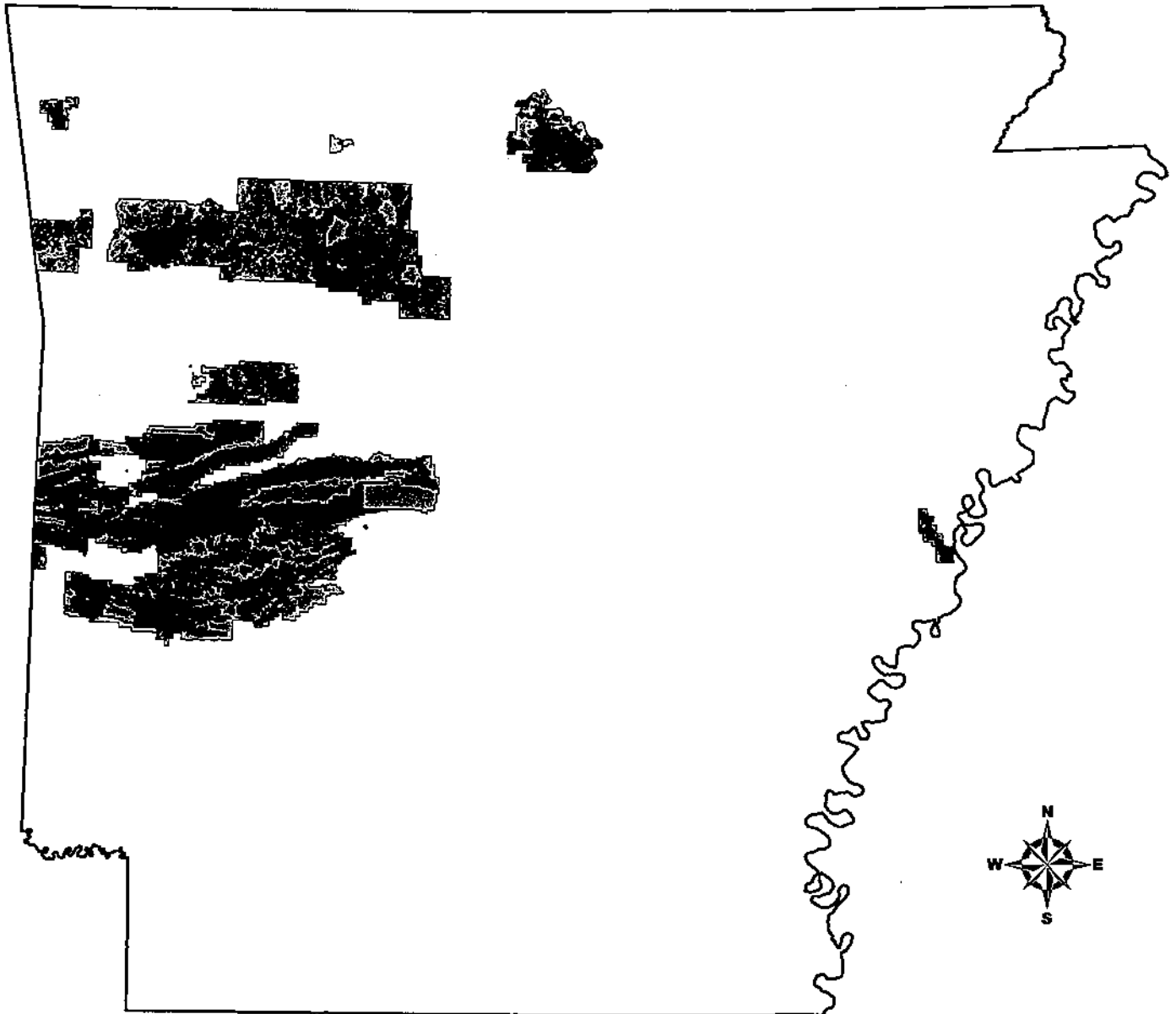
TONY TOOKE
Chief

Enclosures (2)

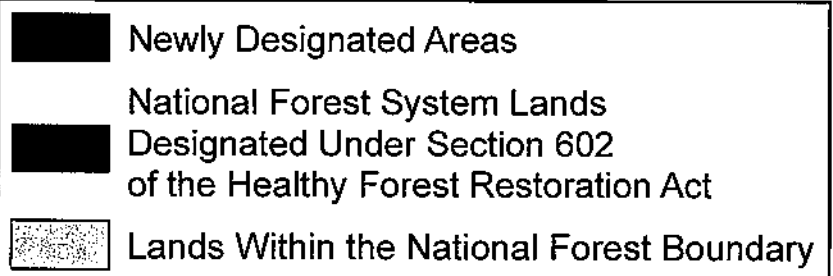




National Forest System Lands Designated Under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act in Arkansas

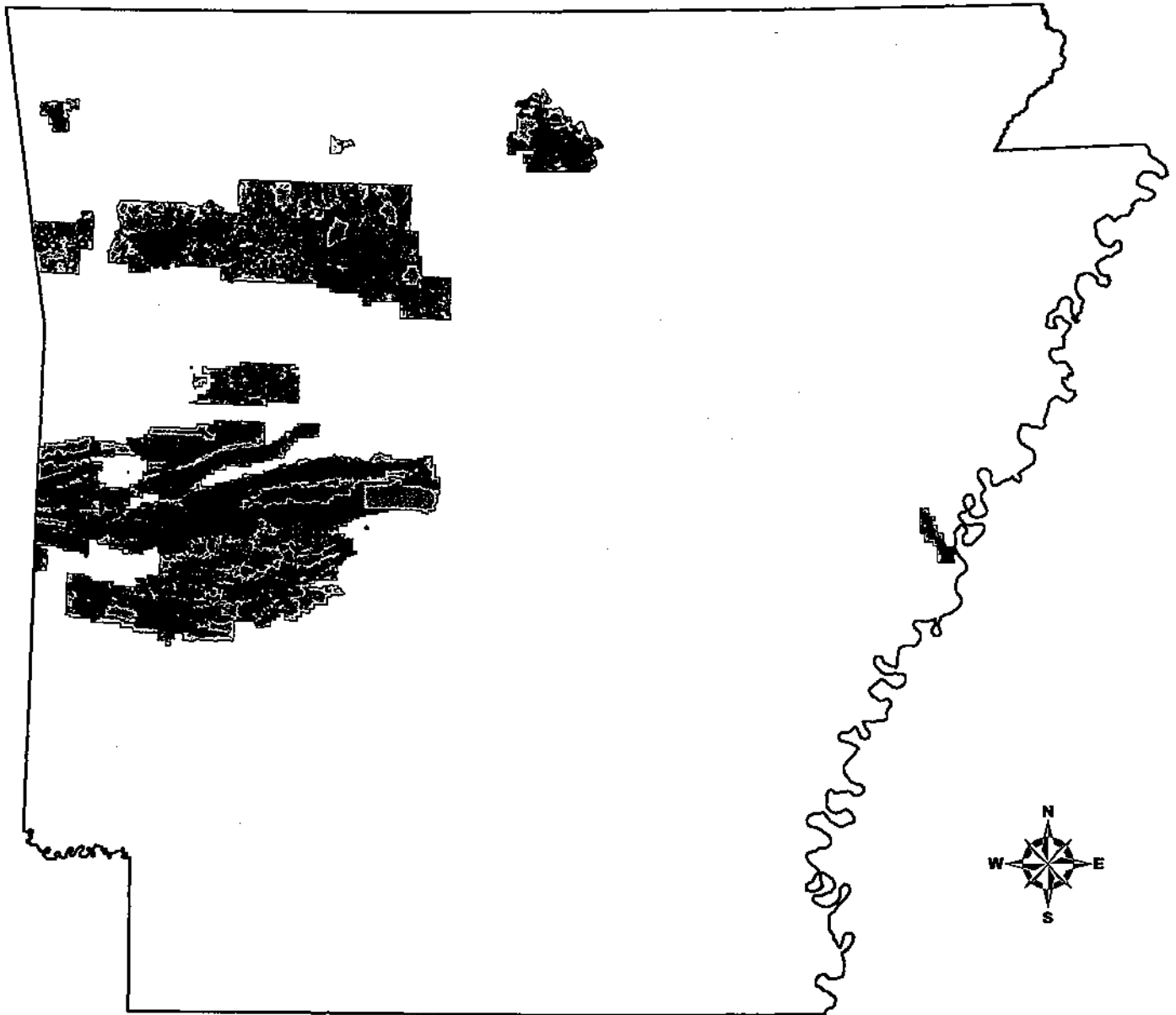


Note: Data displayed are for informational purposes only and depict designations made under section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Please contact Sunny Ng for details: sunnywng@fs.fed.us







National Forest System Lands Designated Under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act in Arkansas



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-  National Forest System Lands Designated Under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act
-  Lands Within the National Forest Boundary

Map created by USFS Geospatial Technology and Applications Center on December 19, 2017.