



Mary Fallin
Governor

USDA Forest Service

Attn: Tony Tooke, Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System, 5NW

1400 Independence Ave SW

Mailstop 1106

Washington, DC 20250

April 17, 2014

Mr. Thomas L. Tidwell, Chief of the Forest Service:

The State of Oklahoma in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest, seeks designation of a landscape of forest communities in Le Flore and McCurtain Counties as initial areas of an insect and disease program as outlined in Section 602 (b) (1) of the Agricultural Act of 2014. I hereby request your consideration of the designation of the Southeast Oklahoma Landscape Treatment Area, including National Forest System lands in these two counties, as insect and disease treatment areas within the State of Oklahoma.

This area on the Choctaw, Kiamichi, and Tiak Ranger District is currently showing signs of declining forest health and is at risk of experiencing substantially increased tree mortality due to insects and disease. Not only are these forest areas at risk, but their overstocked and at-risk condition also threatens other private lands adjacent to these forest lands. Additional reasons for this designation are included in the attached proposal.

This request is respectfully submitted for your consideration. Should you have additional need for information or need further explanation of our proposal, please contact George Geissler, State Forester/Director at (405) 522-6158 or by email at george.geissler@ag.ok.gov. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Fallin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Fallin" clearly distinguishable.

Mary Fallin
Governor