

State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

April 8, 2014

Mr. Tony Tooke
Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Mailstop 1106
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Tooke,

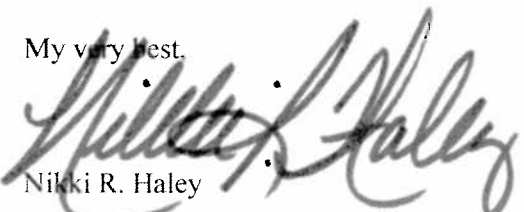
Last month, my office received notice that recent amendments to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 allow governors to request that forest areas at high-risk for insect and disease damage be designated accordingly by the United States Forest Service. I write today to request that the following three areas within South Carolina's National Forests be designated for landscape scale insect treatment:

Enoree Ranger District, Sumter National Forest lands within Laurens, Newberry, and Union Counties;
Long Cane Ranger District, Sumter National Forest lands within Abbeville, Edgefield, and McCormick Counties; and
all of the Francis Marion National Forest, located within Berkeley and Charleston Counties.

These areas combined represent thousands of acres of dense pine stands, placing them at high-risk for southern pine beetle infestation and were selected in part based on their National Insect and Disease Risk Map (NIDRM) rating. Implementing timber management strategies to reduce the risk of insect infestation now will reverse the declining forest health of the targeted region and greatly reduce the risk of infestation to the private lands that border these National Forests. With proactive management, we look to avoid a repeat of the damage to South Carolina's timber crop during the southern pine beetle outbreak that lasted from 2001 – 2003.

Thank you for your service to our nation's forests and your attention to this matter. If I may be of further assistance on this issue, please contact Joshua Baker in my office at 803.734.5153 or joshbaker@gov.sc.gov. God bless.

My very best,


Nikki R. Haley

NRH/jdb