

**File Code:** 2400**Date:** APR 19 2019**Route To:****Subject:** Request for Additional Insect and Disease Landscape-Scale Area Designations**To:** Chief Victoria Christiansen

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill), Section 8204 provided the opportunity for State Governors to request areas for special designation that were experiencing, or at risk of, insect or disease epidemics on National Forest System lands by amending Title VI of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003, Section 602 (Designation of Treatment Areas). This amendment also allows the Forest Service to pursue additional designations to these areas to address emerging insect or disease threats as needed.

The Deschutes National Forest currently has areas within the 2014 Farm Bill insect and disease landscape-scale area designation and the Forest has successfully used this authority to prioritize and accelerate Forest management activities within these areas. However, when the areas were initially selected for inclusion, several priority management areas on the northern end of the Sisters Ranger District, which have been determined to be at moderate-to-high risk of experiencing damage by insects and diseases in the near future, were not included.

Therefore, we would like to request an additional designation that would include approximately 158,000 acres within the Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest. In addition to this letter, we have enclosed the following:

- Justification for the additional designation of these areas in accordance with the criteria and guidance provided by the Regional Forester's Office, Region 6;
- Maps identifying the requested additional areas and displaying the 2013-2027 National Insect and Disease Risk Map results for these areas;
- GIS geodatabase/shapefile of the boundary of the additional areas outlined in this request.

The contacts for this request include:

- Ian Reid, Sisters Ranger District - District Ranger: 541-549-7701
- William Brendecke, Sisters Ranger District - District Silviculturist: 541-549-7712

GLENN P. CASAMASSA
Regional Forester

Enclosures (2): HFRA_SistersRD_Shapefile, HFRA_SistersRD_Justification_Final



cc: Debbie Hollen, Rick Cooksey, David Gwaze, Iral Ragenovich, Blakey Lockman, Robbie Flowers, Brent Oblinger, Karl Dalla Rosa