



File Code: 1940
Date: July 7, 2022

Dear Interested Party:

The Cherokee National Forest has formed an interdisciplinary team (IDT) to review the Forest monitoring plan which was designed to assess whether projects and programs are effectively meeting the desired conditions, goals, and objectives in the 2004 Revised Land and Resource Monitoring Plan (RLRMP). The monitoring plan is comprised of a set of monitoring questions and associated indicators which are evaluated and synthesized in the Biennial Monitoring and Evaluation Report (BMER).

The goal of the review is to identify where changes are needed and update the monitoring plan to generate meaningful data that is relevant to the management of resources on the Cherokee National Forest. This will allow the Forest to produce streamlined BMERs that are meaningful and inform management decisions.

The review and revision process requires significant input and involvement from IDT members. As a result, publication of the 2020-2021 biennial monitoring and evaluation report will be postponed for one year to November 2023. Chapter 30 of Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 – Land Management Planning states “The monitoring evaluation report may be postponed for 1 year in case of exigencies, but notice of the postponement must be provided to the public prior to the date the report is due for that year (§ 219.16(c)(6)).”

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Wood, Forest Environmental Coordinator, at Laura.Wood@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A WRIGHT
Acting Forest Supervisor

cc: Laura Wood

