



File Code: 1920
Date: April 27, 2016

Dear Interested Citizen:

I am approving administrative changes to the Fishlake National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan's (LRMP) Monitoring and Evaluation Program in order to comply with the Forest Service 2012 planning rule.

Background. The 2012 planning rule, codified at 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 219 (36 CFR 219), guides forest plan monitoring across the Forest Service. All forest plan monitoring programs are required to conform to the planning rule by May 9, 2016. The strategy we used to identify the modifications focused on addressing the purpose of the forest plan monitoring program as described in 36 CFR 219.12(a)(1), which includes the need for monitoring information that will enable the responsible official to determine if a change in plan components is necessary. In addition, each forest plan monitoring program must contain one or more monitoring questions and associated indicators addressing each of eight requirements, which are listed in 36 CFR 219.12(a)(5).

This administrative change is a modification to monitoring elements found on pages V-2 through V-13 of the Fishlake LRMP. We retained those elements of the original monitoring program that address the eight requirements noted above and developed new elements where needed to address the eight requirements. We removed elements that do not address the eight requirements: Under the 2012 planning rule, the forest plan monitoring program will consist of only monitoring questions and associated indicators to evaluate if plan components are effective and appropriate and if management is effective in maintaining or achieving progress toward desired conditions and objectives for the plan area.

Additional information for implementing the forest plan monitoring program may be documented in a separate monitoring guide that would, for example, identify methods for data collection, how the data are stored, and responsibilities for managing monitoring information. The monitoring guide would not be part of the forest plan and could be changed as needed if, for example, more efficient methods of gathering data are developed.

The forest plan monitoring information will be evaluated every two years. The monitoring evaluation report must indicate whether or not a change to the plan, management activities, the monitoring program, or a new assessment, may be warranted based on the new information. The monitoring evaluation report must be used to inform adaptive management of the plan area. The expected publication date of the first biennial monitoring evaluation report is expected to be no later than two years from the date of this letter of approval.

Public Comment. The Fishlake National Forest provided a 30-day public comment period for this proposed administrative change to the LRMP. The 30-day public comment period began with publication of a legal notice requesting comments that was published in *The Richfield*



Reaper on March 10, 2016. A letter describing the proposed monitoring realignment plan was posted to the Fishlake National Forest website as well.

No comments from the public were received by the Fishlake National Forest as a result of this opportunity.

Approval of Monitoring Modification. Based on the proposed realignment discussed in our March 2016 newspaper notice, and incorporating changes suggested by planning specialists at the Intermountain Region office in Ogden, Utah, and an interdisciplinary team on the Fishlake National Forest, I approve the administrative changes for the monitoring plan modification. Specifically, the Monitoring and Evaluation Program found on pages V-2 through V-13 of the 1986 Fishlake LRMP is hereby stricken. The language is replaced by the table found as an attachment to this letter.

If you have questions about the administrative change or would like more information, please contact Dan Child at dchild@fs.fed.us. Thank you for your interest in the management of the Fishlake National Forest.

Sincerely,



MEL BOLLING
Forest Supervisor

Attachment