

Monongahela National Forest

Summary of Changes

Chapter IV Monitoring and Evaluation Monongahela National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan to Comply with the Forest Service's 2012 Planning Rule

The Monongahela National Forest (MNF) made changes to our Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to comply with the Forest Service's 2012 Planning Rule.

Chapter IV of the Forest Plan has been updated to bring our monitoring program into compliance with the monitoring requirements specified in the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.12(a)(5)). The following is a summary of the changes that include questions that were dropped, reworded, modified, or updated to clarify the monitoring question or better comply with the Planning Rule. In addition, the 2012 Planning Rule changes the publication of the Monitoring and Evaluation Report from an annual to biennial publication.

The following two questions were deleted from the monitoring program:

1. *Question 2. How close are projected costs to annual costs?*

Justification for deletion: The initial rationale for this question was the 1982 Planning Rule, which has been replaced by the 2012 Planning rule. Further, the Forest Plan does not contain 'projected costs' making the comparison of projected with actual costs impossible.

2. *Question 10. To what extent is Forest management moving toward desired habitat conditions for MIS and species associated with MIS habitats?*

Justification for deletion: This question is no longer valid as written because there are no MIS under the 2012 Planning Rule.

The 2012 Planning Rule requires that each monitoring program contain indicators associated with the monitoring questions in the Forest Plan Monitoring Matrix. A column has been added to the revised Monitoring Matrix titled "Indicator" that identifies what is measured to answer each question.

Tables IV-3a and IV-3b have been combined to form one Table identified as Table IV-3. The 2012 Planning Rule requires a biennial evaluation of monitoring information; thus, the "Evaluation and Reporting Frequency" column was removed. The "Monitoring Driver" column was also removed from the table.

Question 31 was reworded to reflect the 15% soil productivity threshold is no longer used. Question 38 was modified to better comply with 2012 Planning Rule monitoring components. Questions 24, 32, 34, and 46 have been updated to clarify the monitoring question.

Public Review and Comment

The public was invited to review and comment on the proposed monitoring program changes for 30 days from March 23 to April 22, 2016. Two comments were received that were considered by the Forest Supervisor but did not result in further changes to the monitoring program.

Administrative changes as defined in the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.13(c)) include the following:

- 1) Corrections of clerical errors to any part of the plan, including plan components,
- 2) Any changes to plan content, including plan components, when necessary to conform the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements, and
- 3) Changes to other content of the plan (36 CFR 219.7(f))

This action is not subject to administrative review as it is considered an administrative change to the Forest Plan and administrative changes are not subject to the objection process (36 CFR 219.50)