



File Code: 1920
Date: May 9, 2016

Dear Interested Party:

The Salmon-Challis National Forest is modifying its forest plan monitoring programs to comply with the Forest Service's 2012 planning rule. The 2012 planning rule (36 CFR 219.12) guides forest plan monitoring across the Forest Service. All forest plan monitoring programs must conform to the requirements of the 2012 planning rule by May 9, 2016.

Both the forest plan monitoring programs for the 1987 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Challis National Forest (Challis Forest Plan) and for the 1988 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Salmon National Forest (Salmon Forest Plan) have been modified to conform to the direction in the planning rule.

On March 28, 2016 I wrote a letter asking for review and comment on the draft monitoring program documents which were made available on the Forest website. A legal notice asking for the public's review and comment was published in the Salmon Recorder Herald on April 7, 2016. The forest plan monitoring program sets out the plan monitoring questions and associated indicators that will inform the management of resources across the Salmon-Challis National Forest. We received one comment on the draft. I am now approving the draft monitoring programs for the Challis Forest Plan and the Salmon Forest Plan as presented in March 2016. The final monitoring programs for the Challis and Salmon Forest Plans are available on the Salmon-Challis Forest website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/scnf/>.

These monitoring programs will be used to develop a set of monitoring protocols used by the Forest to prepare the first biennial evaluation to be published in the spring of 2018 as required by 36 CFR 219.12(d). The biennial report will use the monitoring questions and indicators to assess whether or not a change to the plans, management direction, the monitoring program, or a new assessment may be warranted. The monitoring evaluation will be used to inform adaptive management of the plan area. As the Forest develops these protocols, we will be looking for opportunities to design and carry out multi-party monitoring with federal, state, and local governments and members of the public.

Our first biennial report (2018) will be critical as the Forest begins the plan revision process in 2017. This monitoring information will enable the Forest Supervisor to determine if a change on plan components or other plan content that guide management of resources across the Salmon-Challis National Forest is needed.

Sincerely,

CHARLES A. MARK
Forest Supervisor

