

File Code: 1950

Date: June 1, 2016

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is in the process of updating our Forest Plan monitoring program to be consistent with requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219). The updated monitoring program builds upon the previous monitoring issues identified in our 1990 forest plan and will serve as an interim program until the forest plan is revised. A forest plan revision date has not yet been scheduled for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The purpose of the Forest Plan is to protect ecosystem resources and provide the sustained production of goods and services for the benefit of the American people; monitoring is done to ensure the Forest Plan is effective in providing for these objectives. Monitoring is continuous and provides feedback for the planning cycle by testing relevant assumptions, tracking relevant conditions over time, and measuring management effectiveness. Regular monitoring reports summarize the Forest's monitoring activities and ensure that the Forest Plan is implemented as intended, determines whether the plan is achieving its intended objectives, and provides information needed to improve the plan.

In order to implement the new forest plan monitoring program, the Forest will replace the existing monitoring program with a Final Monitoring Program to be developed after consideration of public comment. Within two years following finalization of the monitoring program, we will complete a forest plan monitoring report using the new monitoring questions and indicators. We invite you to comment on these proposed administrative changes and the specific monitoring questions and indicators contained in the monitoring program available for review at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mbs/landmanagement/planning>.

We appreciate your input on the modified monitoring program. Although this is not a conventional scoping period, we would like your comments by July 5, 2016. Comments may be submitted by email to comments-pacificnorthwest-mtbaker-snoqualmie@fs.fed.us, or by mail to Lorena Wischart, Forest Environmental Coordinator, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, 2930 Wetmore, Ave., Suite 3A, Everett WA, 98201.

Thank you for your interest in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Sincerely,


JAMIE KINGSBURY
Forest Supervisor

