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Interested Forest User:

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests completed their revised Land Management Plan in 2015 under the requirements of the U. S. Forest Service's 1982 Planning Rule. The U.S. Forest Service's 2012 Planning Rule (2012 Rule) requires forests that had revised their Land Management Plans under a previous rule to update their monitoring strategy to comply with standards laid out in the 2012 Rule. The 2012 Rule also prescribes public involvement in changes to the monitoring strategy. On April 19, 2016, we requested public comment on a set of proposed changes to our monitoring strategy. At that time, we published a draft white paper that documented the proposed changes and described how they would bring the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Land Management Plan monitoring strategy into compliance with the 2012 Rule. During the public comment period we heard from 14 commenters and made some important changes to our proposed update as a result of the insights that you provided. We have now completed the process of updating our monitoring program and are publishing an Administrative Change to the Land Management Plan for the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Along with this document we provide a Response to Comments and a revised and final white paper.

Approval of Administrative Change

This Administrative Change is a modification of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Monitoring Strategy found in Chapter 5 of the Land Management Plan for the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. We made changes to certain elements in the Monitoring Strategy, added new elements where necessary, and made minor changes to the Glossary and list of Commonly Used Acronyms. This modification brings the Plan into compliance with the 2012 Planning Rule. After considering public comments we received on the proposed administrative change, I am approving the enclosed Administrative Change to the Land Management Plan for the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

If you have any questions concerning this Administrative Change or would like more information about the Land Management Plan, please contact Tom Greene, our Forest Planner (thomasgreene@fs.fed.us; 928-333-6268).

Sincerely,

/s/ M. Stephen Best

M. STEPHEN BEST
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Calvin Joyner, Matt Turner, District Rangers, Staff Officers, Tom Greene

