

**Green Mountain National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan)**

**Administrative Change 5
May 6, 2016**

Changes to Forest Plan: Chapter 4, Monitoring and Evaluation

Administrative changes as defined at 36 CFR 219.13(c) in the 2012 Planning Rule, are not plan amendments or revisions, do not require the preparation of a document under Forest Service National Forest Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures, and may be made at any time following public notice (219.1(c)(6)).

Administrative changes include the following:

1. Corrections of clerical errors to any part of the plan,
2. Changes to ensure conformance with new statutory or regulatory requirements, and
3. Changes to other content in the plan (217.7(f))

Background

National Forest System Land Management Planning regulations published in 2012 (36 CFR 219) changed Forest Plan monitoring program requirements. The rule requires that every National Forest's monitoring plan will be updated by May 9, 2016 to address eight resource monitoring elements with at least one or more monitoring questions and associated indicators (36 CFR 219.12(a)(5)). The eight monitoring elements or topics are:

1. The status of select watershed conditions.
2. The status of select ecological conditions including key characteristics of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
3. The status of focal species to assess ecological conditions under § 219.9.
4. The status of a select set of ecological conditions required under § 219.9 to contribute to the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species, conserve proposed and candidate species, and maintain a viable population of each species of conservation concern.
5. The status of visitor use, visitor satisfaction, and progress toward meeting recreation objectives.
6. Measureable changes on the plan area related to climate change and other stressors that may be affecting the plan area.
7. Progress toward meeting the desired conditions and objectives in the plan, including for providing multiple use opportunities.
8. The effects of each management system to determine that they do not substantially and permanently impair the productivity of the land per the National Forest Management Act (16 USA 1604(g)(3)c)).

An interdisciplinary team of Forest Service specialists reviewed the current monitoring questions and indicators, past monitoring results, and available science to determine whether an existing question and indicator appropriately addresses one or more of the required elements. Based on the review, ten

questions and their indicators were selected to address the eight monitoring elements required by the Planning Rule. Only one element, which related to focal species, required a completely new question to be developed. All other elements are addressed by existing questions in their original version or were modified to improve their efficiency and efficacy.

Changes to the Forest Plan, Chapter 4

The selected monitoring questions and associated indicators are specifically incorporated into the Green Mountain National Forest Monitoring Plan (Forest Plan, Chapter 4). Information, references and monitoring questions pertaining to the previous Planning Rule that are no longer required or pertinent under the 2012 Planning Rule have been removed. Background information on the purpose and types of monitoring and on the components of the Green Mountain National Forest monitoring program (Monitoring Plan, Monitoring Guide, Annual Monitoring Schedule, and Biennial Monitoring and Evaluation Reports) was consolidated to eliminate redundancy and simplify the discussion.

Specific changes to the Forest Plan, Chapter 4 include:

- Replace the Green Mountain National Forest Monitoring Plan in its entirety
- Modified Chapter 4 is attached

/s/ Steve Roy

May 6, 2016

for JOHN A. SINCLAIR
Forest Supervisor

Date