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Dear Interested Party,

The Superior National Forest has completed a Monitoring and Evaluation Report covering information compiled from 2009-2017. It is available on the [Superior National Forest website Monitoring page](#).

The report is a comprehensive compilation of monitoring and evaluation described in the Forest Plan. The report provides summaries of data collected, and complete evaluations of the data. The evaluation process determines whether the observed changes are consistent with Forest Plan desired conditions, goals, and objectives and identifies adjustments that may be needed. Continuous updating and evaluation of monitoring data provides a means to track management effectiveness from year to year and to show the changes that have been made or are still needed.

Key information displayed in the Monitoring and Evaluation Report includes:

- Forest accomplishments toward achieving multiple use objectives for providing goods and services.
- The degree to which on-the-ground management is maintaining or making progress toward the desired conditions and objectives for the plan
- The effects of the various resource management activities within the plan area on the productivity of the land
- Conclusions and recommendations regarding the need to adjust monitoring or change the Forest Plan
- Status of other agency/institution cooperative monitoring
- Update of research needs
- Documentation of any monitoring that has not been completed and the reasons and rationale (budget or staffing limitations or unexpected conditions, such as a severe fire season)

Since the Record of Decision was signed for the 2004 Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Reports were published for years 2005 through 2009. These reports are also available on the [Superior National Forest website Monitoring page](#).

While the Superior National Forest has not published a Monitoring and Evaluation Report since the 2009 report, the Forest has conducted annual and regular Forest-wide monitoring. Data and evaluation of the monitoring efforts are maintained in Superior National Forest files. Information from monitoring efforts informs ongoing project analyses, decision making, and Forest Plan implementation.

In 2012 the requirements for monitoring changed from the 1982 rule to the [2012 Planning Rule](#), thus the monitoring program on the Superior National Forest changed due to the monitoring transition. The Superior National Forest monitoring program was developed to be consistent



with the 2012 rule and is available on the Forest's website, [Superior National Forest Administrative Change - Chapter 4 Monitoring and Evaluation](#).

Section 5.0 Monitoring Results of the report contains recommendations for each resource area discussed. The recommendations for each resource area highlights and discusses potential changes in monitoring and management methods. No recommendations recognized a need to revise or amend the 2004 Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

Monitoring results for past, ongoing, and future resource management and Forest Plan implementation included general recommendations for:

- Considering resource management options for moving toward or meeting Forest Plan objectives and desired conditions.
- Improving monitoring methods used in addressing the Forest Plan Chapter 4 Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Ensuring continued compliance with Forest Plan standards and guidelines.
- Continuing to use resource management and monitoring methods effective in meeting Forest Plan objectives and desired conditions.
- Managing monitoring data collected responding to monitoring questions and indicators.
- Identifying potential research and coordination with researchers to inform resource management and Forest Plan implementation.
- Continuing to do the management activities, monitoring, and evaluation that is successful in Forest Plan implementation, and continuing to look for ways to refine efforts that can be improved.

The recommendations in this report are numerous and wide ranging. Considering the finite amount of funds, personnel, and other resources available to the Superior National Forest, it is unlikely that the Superior National Forest will be able to adopt all of the recommendations made in the report. Available funds, resources, staffing and partnerships will be key considerations in addressing and adopting recommendations.

If you have questions regarding the report and monitoring on the Superior National Forest, please contact Michael Jiménez, Forest Planner, by email at michael.jimenez@usda.gov, or by phone at (218) 626-4383.

Sincerely,



CONSTANCE CUMMINS
Forest Supervisor