



File Code: 1920

Date: August 3, 2015

If you are interested in changes to the monitoring plan that accompanies the Chippewa National Forest Plan, please read on.

During the upcoming months, the Chippewa National Forest will be making some changes to our Forest Plan monitoring program for a couple of reasons:

1. To comply with new planning regulations, and
2. To update our existing monitoring plan.

New regulations, referred to as the 2012 Planning Rule, required revising our National Forest Land Management Plans. Although the Chippewa NF will not undertake a revision of the Forest Plan for a few years, the Planning Rule does require that we identify how we will monitor eight elements (listed below). The 2012 Planning Rule (Section 219.9) requires that we monitor:

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.
4. The status of a select set of ecological conditions that 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 (16 USA 1604(g) (3) c)).

As a result, we will be identifying monitoring to address ecological conditions and climate change and re-assessing how we are monitoring the other elements.

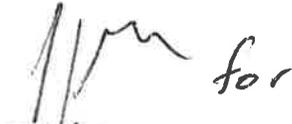
In addition, the Forest plans to review our exiting monitoring plan found in Chapter 4 of the Forest Plan (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/chippewa/landmanagement/planning>). Our focus will be on identifying the monitoring that would be most helpful and meaningful, and that is within our capabilities to do technically and with the funding we receive. We anticipate dropping some monitoring that is no longer relevant, costly to monitor, or requires an expertise and funding level we do not have.



If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Sharon Klinkhammer at 218-335-8660, or sklinkhammer@fs.fed.us. We anticipate having our proposed changes which will be posted on our website available for public comment and review sometime next winter.

Thank you for your interest in the Chippewa National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DL" followed by a flourish and the word "for".

DARLA LENZ
Forest Supervisor