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Date: May 11, 2015

On February 2, 2015, I wrote to let you know that the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219) required the Siuslaw National Forest to establish a forest plan monitoring program by May 9, 2016, or as soon as practicable, that is consistent with the new Planning Rule's monitoring requirements. We reviewed our existing Forest Plan's monitoring program, which was revised in 1999

(http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/siuslaw/landmanagement/?cid=fsbdev7_007246) to determine what modifications were needed to conform to the new monitoring requirements.

We have completed a draft monitoring plan to comply with the Planning Rule. I invite you to review the draft. The document is 48 pages in length. Therefore, I am only enclosing the document in this letter to those that responded to my February letter. However, the document is posted on our website for your review at

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/siuslaw/landmanagement/?cid=fsbdev7_007246. If you would like to comment on this draft or have any questions, please notify our Forest Planner Frank Davis at 541-750-7077 or fdavis@fs.fed.us.

The draft 2015 forest plan monitoring plan identifies monitoring questions, goals/desired conditions, evaluation questions, type of monitoring and monitoring indicators, sampling methods, threshold of variability, responsibility and reporting period that are designed to measure effectiveness of forest management activities and progress towards goals as identified in the forest plan.

The revised monitoring plan will be coordinated and integrated with relevant broader-scale monitoring strategies to ensure that monitoring is complementary and efficient, and that information is gathered at scales appropriate to the monitoring questions. A broad scale monitoring example would be the Northwest Forest Plan monitoring of the Northern Spotted Owl. As stated by the Regional Forester, this effort should "capitalize on the good work that is already occurring in the Region, build on that only where needed, reduce the complexities of existing efforts, and reduce duplication" (February 27, 2014).

Our primary focus for this monitoring plan revision will be on the eight monitoring requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule found at 36 CFR 219.12(a)(5). The Forest's new monitoring plan must contain one or more monitoring questions and associated indicators addressing each of the following monitoring requirements.

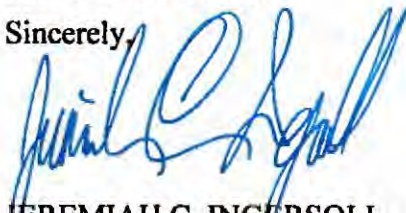
- i. The status of select watershed conditions.
- ii. The status of select ecological conditions including key characteristics of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- iii. The status of focal species to assess the ecological conditions required under §219.9.



- iv. The status of a select set of the 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.
- v. The status of visitor use, visitor satisfaction, and progress toward meeting recreation objectives.
- vi. Measureable changes on the plan area related to climate change and other stressors that may be affecting the plan area.
- vii. Progress toward meeting the desired conditions and objectives in the plan, including for providing multiple use opportunities.
- viii. The effects of each management system to determine that they do not substantially and permanently impair the productivity of the land (16 U.S.C. 1604(g)(3)(C)).

When the Forest embarks on Forest Plan revision, the monitoring plan will be revisited and updated to fit the revised Forest Plan. At this time, the Siuslaw National Forest has not initiated Forest Plan revision.

Sincerely,



JEREMIAH C. INGERSOLL
Forest Supervisor