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The 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219) requires 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 have begun to review our existing Forest Plan's monitoring program, which was revised in 1999

([http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/siuslaw/landmanagement/?cid=fsbdev7\\_007246](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/siuslaw/landmanagement/?cid=fsbdev7_007246)) to determine what modifications are needed to conform to the new monitoring requirements. I am writing to inform you of our plan to transition our monitoring program to comply with the Planning Rule, and to invite you to participate in this effort. If you would like to participate in this effort or have any questions, please notify our Forest Planner Frank Davis at 541-750-7077 or [fdavis@fs.fed.us](mailto:fdavis@fs.fed.us).

The forest plan monitoring program identifies monitoring questions and associated indicators that are designed to measure effectiveness of forest management activities and progress towards goals as identified in the forest plan. Questions and indicators of the revised monitoring program will be based on one or more of the desired conditions, objectives, or other components identified in the forest plan; however not every plan component will necessarily have a corresponding monitoring question.

The revised monitoring program 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 program 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 program 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)).

In order to meet the new monitoring requirements by May 2016, I have tasked my staff to consider the following approach:

1. Review the Forest's existing monitoring plan program to identify what questions should continue and what questions are no longer relevant;
2. Review current broad-scale monitoring efforts to understand how it can be used as an associated indicator for the eight required monitoring items;
3. Correlate the eight required monitoring items with the relevant, existing plan monitoring program questions and broad-scale monitoring efforts;
4. Establish one or more monitoring questions and associated indicators for the eight required monitoring items;
5. Identify if administrative changes or plan amendments are needed to comply with the new monitoring plan program's requirements;
6. Notify the public of the proposed plan monitoring program changes; and,
7. Utilize public input to finalize the Forest's plan monitoring program.

After the transition to the revised monitoring program has been completed, the Forest will develop a monitoring report using this new process. As stated above, we plan to share more specific information about our new monitoring program with the public in the next few months.

We are looking forward to working through this transition and bringing the Forest up to current standards.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jeremiah C. Ingersoll*  
JEREMIAH C. INGERSOLL  
Forest Supervisor