

File Code: 1920
Date: May 15, 2024

Dear Interested Party,

I am pleased to certify the combined 2020 and 2022 White River National Forest Monitoring Report. This report reflects the implementation of the forest plan monitoring program that was approved in 2016, as guided by the 2012 planning rule and consistent with 36 CFR 219.12(a)(5). The biennial monitoring evaluation report is designed to help the public, Tribal entities, stakeholders, and federal, state, local governments anticipate key steps in the overall monitoring program. The biennial monitoring evaluation report is also intended to help people better understand reported results in relation to past monitoring reports, future monitoring reports, and the broader-scale monitoring strategy that is issued at the Forest Service regional level. The forest plan monitoring report is available for public review at https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/whiteriver/landmanagement/?cid=fsbdev3_001228

The forest plan is a dynamic document, subject to change based on biennial monitoring and evaluation as we implement. Through monitoring, the forest determines whether the plan is sufficient to guide management for the subsequent year or whether the plan or our management actions should be modified. I have reviewed the 2020-22 monitoring and evaluation report for the White River National Forest. I believe the monitoring and evaluation requirements in chapter 4 have been met. While there are uncertainties in trends for macroinvertebrates, amphibians, snowpack-precipitation and heritage resources, this is mainly due to lack of data to predict stable, positive or negative trends over the corresponding timeline. Forest monitoring for cutthroat trout has shown a decline across the planning area. The forest has committed to increase bioassessment monitoring to biannually for Conservation Population Streams, to include MMI and TIV indices to better assess cutthroat trout trends. The forest will also need to increase the priority and scope of conservation and restoration projects to maintain species viability within the planning area.

The Forest welcomes your comments and feedback on this biennial forest plan monitoring report. The goal is to receive constructive feedback on how the Forest can utilize limited Forest Plan monitoring resources and take advantage of existing datasets and monitoring information. The monitoring program welcomes public participation per the Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1909.12_42.14) "to obtain public feedback on what the monitoring information suggests about the effectiveness of the land management plan."

The Forest is also interested in how members of the public feel that the Forest Supervisor should incorporate this information into decision making. Comments can be submitted within 30 days of this letter to the public comment portal from the monitoring transition project page listed above. Individuals and organizations are strongly encouraged to submit feedback.



The forest will continue to provide biennial forest plan monitoring reports as soon as data becomes available and is assessed by program resources.

If you would like further information regarding the combined 2020 and 2022 biennial monitoring report, please contact Cary Green, NEPA Coordinator/Forest Planner at cary.green@usda.gov or at 970-390-3234.

Sincerely,

(for) 

HEATHER NOEL
Acting Forest Supervisor

cc: Cary Green, Erika Szonntag, Alison Foster