

OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST

Administrative Change to the 2005 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan Monitoring Plan

May 2016

This Administrative Change to the 2005 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Ouachita National Forest was necessary to meet the monitoring requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.12). The 2012 Planning Rule allows non-substantive corrections or adjustments to Forest Plans using "Administrative Changes," defined as "any change to a plan that is not a plan amendment or revision."

Administrative Change

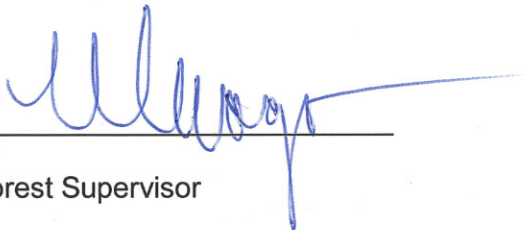
The Monitoring Plan is considered a component of the 2005 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan. This Administrative Change, consisting of minor changes to the Monitoring Plan detailed below, brings that Plan into conformance with the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule. The Monitoring Plan now contains sufficient questions and monitoring elements to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 219.12:

1. Status of select watershed conditions: No Change
2. Status of select ecological conditions including key characteristics of terrestrial and aquatic systems: No Change
3. Status of focal species to assess the ecological conditions required:
 - a. The current monitoring of Management Indicator Species continue because that monitoring addresses all species likely to be named Focal Species and
 - b. A list of Focal Species will be developed, subjected to assessment and public review, but no changes are recommended until the Forest Plan is next revised.
4. Status of a select set of the ecological conditions to contribute to the recovery of federally listed T&E species, conserve proposed/candidate species and maintain a viable population of each species of conservation concern: No Change
5. Status of visitor use, visitor satisfaction, and progress toward meeting recreation objectives: Minor Change – the monitoring question, "How many PAOT days have been utilized?" is removed from the Monitoring Plan because PAOTs merely measure capacity and do not provide a measure of visitor use, visitor satisfaction or insight into progress made toward meeting recreation objectives.
6. Measureable changes within the plan area related to climate change and other stressors that may be affecting the plan area: This is a new requirement, but sufficient monitoring questions that monitor the health of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems exist in the Monitoring Plan that only the following were added:
7.
 - a. The following question will be added to the monitoring plan:
 - What are status and trends of forest health threats on the Forest?

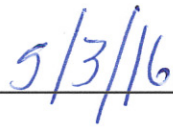
- b. The Forest will also use the regional office broad-scale monitoring strategy for climate change and the following associated questions:
- During this monitoring cycle, where any stressors observed that affected natural resources?
 - What events occurred during the monitoring period (periods of drought; insect or disease infestations)?
 - Is there any measurable evidence that events were related to climate changes?
8. Progress toward meeting the desired conditions and objectives in the plan, including for providing multiple use opportunities: No Change
9. Effects of each management system to determine that they do not substantially and permanently impair the productivity of the land: No Change

This Administrative Change becomes effective on the signature date shown below accompanied by posting on the Forest's website. Administrative changes are not subject to objection (36 CFR 219.50).

This Administrative Change will remain in effect until the 2005 Revised Forest Plan is revised or until said change is modified or replaced by another Administrative Change.



Forest Supervisor



Date