



File Code: 1940

Date: May 21, 2026

Greetings,

I am pleased to notify you the monitoring program changes for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests are finalized. Monitoring programs (Chapter 4 in each Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, or Forest Plan) consist of questions designed to evaluate whether plan components are effective and appropriate, how well management activities are meeting plan direction, and identification of notable resource trends on national forest lands. Monitoring questions and associated measurement indicators are based on one or more Forest Plan component (goals, objectives, desired future conditions, and standards and guidelines). Evaluation of information collected to answer monitoring questions provides me with the basis to determine whether changes are needed to Forest Plan components. Evaluation of monitoring information may also provide the basis for design changes to management activities to better meet Forest Plan direction.

Monitoring programs are subject to the 2012 National Forest System Land Management Planning regulations at 36 CFR 219 (planning rule), and modifications can be made with Administrative Changes to Forest Plans after public notification. Multiple suggestions were received during the public comment period for monitoring question changes proposed in June 2025. I have reviewed the public input, and we have made modifications to some questions accordingly.

There were ten monitoring questions selected to address the eight resource monitoring elements required by the planning rule (36 CFR 219.12(a)(5)). Other monitoring questions have also been retained to assist in determining how well management activities are meeting Forest Plan direction. While none of these other questions have been selected to address any of the required elements, Forest Service staff can use them to supplement the Monitoring Program to improve the Forest Plan or refine management activities. Together, the required and other monitoring questions meet the intent of the monitoring and evaluation plan (Forest Plan, Chapter 4).

The final monitoring questions (2025 Monitoring Guide), revised Chapter 4 for both Forest Plans, Response to Public Input to the Proposed Changes, and other relevant information can be accessed on the Forest Planning website (Monitoring and Evaluation link) at:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/gmfl/planning>.

For questions regarding the final monitoring program changes, you may contact Jay Strand by phone at (802) 767-4261 ext. 5522 or email at jay.strand@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. SINCLAIR
Forest Supervisor

