



File Code: 1920

Date: August 15, 2016

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a copy of the new Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Monitoring Program. It is also posted on our website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/bdnf/landmanagement/planning>). By my signature, I am adopting administrative changes to the previous monitoring plan, which was included as Chapter 5 of the 2009 Forest Plan, in order to comply with the 2012 Planning Rule, specifically the monitoring section at 36 CFR 219.12. Administrative changes are not subject to the objections process (36 CFR 219.50) and become effective immediately. The first biennial monitoring evaluation is expected in 2018 [36 CFR 219.12(d)]. Based on the available information the monitoring evaluation will indicate whether or not a change to the plan, management activities, or monitoring program or a new assessment may be warranted.

Substantive changes to the monitoring program made outside a forest plan revision or amendment process require notice to the public of the intended changes and consideration of public comments (36 CFR 219.13(c)(1)). A Draft Plan Monitoring Program was released for a 30-day public comment on May 31, 2016. No comments were received. The Final Monitoring Program remains the same as the draft. I considered the financial and technical capabilities of the Agency when setting the scope and scale of the Plan Monitoring Program, as stated in 36 CFR 219.12(a)(4)(ii).

Future administrative changes may be necessary as circumstances change and new information is available. In addition, the Beaverhead-Deerlodge is deferring action on one requirement: species of conservation concern. The requirement to monitor the status of ecological conditions to maintain viable populations of species of conservation concern is located at 36 CFR 219.12(a)(5)(iv). Once these species and their associated ecological conditions have been identified by the Regional Forester and Forest, relevant monitoring questions will be added or modified as necessary. The public will be notified of any substantial administrative changes and would have the opportunity to comment at that time (36 CFR 219.13(c)(1)).

Questions on the Forest Plan Monitoring Program can be directed to Pam Fletcher via email, pamfletcher@fs.fed.us, or phone, 406-494-0231.

MELANY GLOSSA
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

