



File Code: 4000
Route To:

Date: November 3, 2022

Subject: Corrective Actions and Timeline Regarding RMRS-GTR-422

To: Station Director, Rocky Mountain Research Station

An independent panel was constituted under the Data Quality Act, following USDA's Information Quality Guidelines, regarding a Request for Reconsideration submitted on April 29th, 2022, to the U.S. Forest Service relating to:

Graham, Russell T.; Battaglia, Mike A.; Jain, Theresa B. 2021. *A scenario-based assessment to inform sustainable ponderosa pine timber harvest on the Black Hills National Forest*. Gen. Tech. Rep. **RMRS-GTR-422**. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 61 p. February 2021.

The independent panel examined the original request, response document, information provided by the USDA Forest Service and USDA Websites, and the information provided in the Request for Reconsideration. Panel members were comprised of three timber and statistical modeling experts from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and one research forester from the Forest Service (FS) in order to formulate an independent review. The panel's activities have been concluded, and they have issued a response to the requestors. A copy of this letter is attached and publicly available on the Forest Service website, under "[Requests for Reconsideration Received by the Forest Service](#)".

The panel found no compelling evidence to support the request to retract (withdraw) GTR-422, however, after full consideration and thorough review, the panel referred certain corrective actions to the Forest Service Deputy Chief of Research and Development. The panel left the mode of publishing the correction action (GTR revisions, addendum, or erratum) and the timeline for issuing the corrective action to the discretion of the Forest Service Deputy Chief of Research and Development.

Upon consideration, I leave the choice of using a revision or addendum to address the corrective actions up to the RMRS Station Director. The corrective actions specified by the panel need to be addressed in a publicly available draft by December 15, 2022, through posting on a website, with the understanding that there will need to be additional time for editing and layout before a final document of the corrective actions will be posted.



This is the final step in the administrative process under the Data Quality Act and USDA's Information Quality Guidelines.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C West", is written over a solid horizontal line.

CYNTHIA WEST
Acting Deputy Chief
Research and Development