



File Code: 1940
Date: September 25, 2017

Dear Interested Stakeholder

In April 2016, the White Mountain National Forest updated the Monitoring Plan in our Land and Resource Management Plan as required by the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR §219.12(c)(1)). That update ensured our monitoring program addresses each of eight required resource monitoring elements in a way that is scientifically credible and provides the information needed to guide Forest management efforts into the future. Based on that update, we know the WMNF monitoring program is up-to-date, within our technical and fiscal capabilities, and providing us the information we need for effective, sustainable management.

When we updated our Monitoring Plan, we changed from summarizing recent monitoring in an annual monitoring evaluation report to doing so biennially. The Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.12(d)(1)(ii)) requires that the first biennial monitoring evaluation report be completed no later than two years after a Monitoring Plan is updated to be consistent with the Planning Rule's requirements. It also allows the first report to be postponed for one year as long as the public is notified within the two-year timeframe (219.12(d)(1)(iii)).

The letter announcing the availability of the Forest's updated Monitoring Plan indicated our first biennial report would be completed in 2017, well within the two-year timeframe. Unfortunately vacancies in our staff and other management priorities have limited our ability to summarize the relevant information in a meaningful way without adversely affecting our monitoring program or implementation of critical projects and program work. Therefore the White Mountain National Forest's first biennial monitoring evaluation report will be postponed for up to one year and will be completed in 2018. That report will summarize monitoring done in 2015-2017.

Monitoring is a critical component of our management. We remain committed to identifying what is working well in our programs and what isn't, sharing the results, and learning from all that we do. If you are interested in knowing more about our monitoring efforts, please contact Stacy Lemieux at slemieux@fs.fed.us or (603) 536-6222. Past monitoring reports are on our Forest website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/whitemountain/maps-pubs/?cid=STELPRDB5187780>.

Thank you for your continued interest in management of the White Mountain National Forest.

Sincerely,

CLARE R. MENDELSON
Forest Supervisor



cc: Doug Chaltry

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