



**File Code:** 1940  
**Date:** June 4, 2025

Greetings,

This memo serves to invite you to comment on proposed monitoring program changes for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests. Monitoring programs (Chapter 4 in each Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, or Forest Plan) consists 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 Forest Service resource specialists 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.

Both Forest monitoring programs have recently been reevaluated to determine how well monitoring questions are providing information to understand if management activities are adequately addressing Forest Plan components and associated resource trends can be evaluated. All questions have been reviewed to ascertain whether they are meaningful, feasible, cost effective, and scientifically sound. The review has resulted in proposed changes to monitoring questions to better meet monitoring program intent.

Monitoring programs are subject to the 2012 National Forest System Land Management Planning regulations at 36 CFR 219. Substantive changes to monitoring programs made outside of the process for plan revision or amendment may be made only after notice to the public of the intended change and consideration of public comment. Final versions for the monitoring questions can then be reflected by updating Chapter 4 for each Forest Plan. Proposed changes to monitoring questions 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>.

I am interested in hearing from you about any suggestions to improve the proposed monitoring question changes that meet the intent of the monitoring programs for each Forest. Please provide your written comments **by July 7, 2025**. Include the following information in your comments:

- Your name, address and telephone number or email address
- The specific question(s) you are commenting on
- Specific suggested improvements to the question(s)

Written comments should be submitted by the July 7, 2025, deadline via one of the following methods:

- Mail: USDA Forest Service, c/o Jay Strand, 99 Ranger Road, Rochester, VT 05767
- Email: [comments-eastern-green-mt-finger-lakes@usda.gov](mailto:comments-eastern-green-mt-finger-lakes@usda.gov)

Comments received in response to this invitation, including name and address of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this effort and will be available for public review.



For questions regarding the proposed monitoring program changes and/or the commenting process, you may contact Jay Strand by phone at (802) 767-4261 ext. 5522 or email at [jay.strand@usda.gov](mailto:jay.strand@usda.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. A. Sinclair', with a stylized, flowing script.

JOHN A. SINCLAIR  
Forest Supervisor