

CFLR 15-year Monitoring Requirements

What's required?

- In the CFLR statute: "MULTIPARTY MONITORING- The Secretary shall, in collaboration with the Secretary of the Interior and interested persons, use a multiparty monitoring, evaluation, and accountability process **to assess the positive or negative ecological, social, and economic effects of projects implementing a selected proposal** for not less than 15 years after project implementation commences." (Emphasis added.)

Guidance for Continued Monitoring and Reporting

- To ensure compliance with this requirement – and provide for the vital opportunity to understand and share actionable learning on the outcomes of CFLRP approaches – all CFLRP projects coming to a close in FY19 and in FY21 will be required to complete the following reporting:
 - o **Ecological:** Ecological Indicator Report (15 Year) – due in 2024 for projects ending in FY19, and in 2026 for projects ending in FY21 (Fire Regime, Watershed, Fish and Wildlife Habitat, and Invasive species). Guidance for the ecological indicator reports can be found in the [Reporting Templates and Guidance/Ecological Indicator folder](#) on the CFLRP Sharepoint site.
 - The report has been and will continue to be designed to allow for locally-driven identification of key monitoring questions.
 - It is not expected that the individual CFLRP projects' key monitoring questions and results will vary over this time. To attain the longer-term, 15 year view, consistency in the questions being posed by individual CFLRP projects and analysis completed is desired.
 - Recognizing that the individuals and entities involved, the funding available, and the capacity to bring to bear may shift after the end of CFLRP, CFLRP groups should identify priority ongoing monitoring questions that address the goals of the Act and local monitoring priorities. The questions selected should allow you to effectively complete an ecological indicator report in FY24 or FY26, respectively.
 - ***NOTE: If a CFLR project thinks it has a better approach for monitoring ecological effects than the ecological indicator reports, they can work with the Regional and National CFLR program contacts to develop an alternative.***
 - o **Socioeconomic:**
 - Economic and community benefits
 - Treatment for Restoration Economics Analysis Toolkit – due annually.
 - Also consider providing a description of community benefits similar to what you've traditionally reported in the annual reports. See Question 4 in the CFLR annual report template.
 - Require reporting on partner investments in the CFLR landscape
 - Projects should track ongoing partner investments in the CFLR landscape.
 - Follow the same instructions for tracking partner investments as current CFLRP projects, with the caveat that estimates of partner investments will suffice. See guidance available at in the [Annual Reports folder of the CFLRP SharePoint site](#).
 - Results can be reported annually but are due to the national office in 2024.
 - NFF Collaboration Survey – planned for 2024 assuming NFF resources allow

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- As in the past, a collaboration survey will be sent out every 5 years with this being the last. The intent is to understand the positive and negative social effects of CFLR implementation after CFLRP comes to an end.
- These are the *minimum national requirements*.
 - Additional monitoring efforts are encouraged for effective adaptive management and learning for the future.
 - WO requests outcomes of other monitoring efforts are shared with the national CFLRP coordinator so we can highlight and leverage those nationally.
 - We also encourage integration of CFLRP monitoring with forest plan monitoring and overall regional monitoring efforts. See specific guidance and resources below.

Relation to the Biennial Monitoring Evaluation Reports (BMERs) for Forest Plans

The 2012 Planning Rule requires units to produce biennial monitoring evaluation reports. The purpose of the biennial evaluation is to:

1. Make the information obtained from monitoring available to the public in a form that is readily understandable; and
2. Transform monitoring data into information supporting adaptive management, so that the Responsible Official may consider making changes to the plan, management activities, or the plan monitoring program itself, or whether to begin a new assessment.

The monitoring evaluation report is therefore used to inform adaptive management of the plan area. Based on new information, monitoring evaluation report(s) must indicate whether or not changes to the Plan, management activities, or the monitoring program, are needed, and whether a new assessment may be warranted. The monitoring evaluation report is not a decision document representing final Agency action, and is not subject to the objection provisions of subpart B of the planning rule (36 CFR 219).

In addition, the relevant Regional Forester is required to develop a broader-scale monitoring strategy for plan monitoring questions at a geographic scale broader than one Plan area (FSH 1909.12). Biennial evaluations use Plan area and broader-scale monitoring to develop information helping the Responsible Official determine if and where changes are needed in plan components, other plan content, and projects and activities.

CFLRP landscape-scale monitoring and BMER monitoring therefore can mutually support each other, and Regions are encouraged to develop monitoring plans accordingly.

- As we transition to BMER as the standard for Forest Plan reporting, seek to use the same monitoring questions and resulting datasets for both CFLRPs and Forest Plan (BMER) reports.
- We have developed a crosswalk showing the relationship of 10-Year CFLRP monitoring questions to the BMER report template (Comparison_BMER_CFLRP_032620.docx on the [CFLRP SharePoint site here](#)). This is not a concise one-to-match of attributes, but rather shows how CFLRP monitoring can support and complement BMER reports and vice versa.

Additional Guidance and Resources

- [Moving CFLR data to EDW or data.gov](#): The WO EMC Adaptive Management, Resource Information, Social Science, and Economics Group is working with the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) to establish protocols for uploading core CFLRP monitoring attributes to the EDW and/or providing options to move to data.gov. The purpose is to create sustainable data stewardship and we will use an inclusive approach to account for local project needs and capacity. Regions will be asked to assist with developing the data transfer process. If individual CFLRPs or Regions have viable

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alternatives to this option they should work with Jamie Barbour, AD for Adaptive Management with EMC, at roy.barbour@usda.gov.

- Core monitoring questions by Region: In order to promote efficiency, provide a stable database, and overcome potential data losses due to turnover of personnel, the national CFLR program is working with Regions to explore option for standardization of monitoring questions, organized by Regions or broad-areas of the countries. Projects that shifted to monitoring only will not need to change their monitoring questions; however, if they are interested in engaging in the core monitoring questions in their Region, they are welcome to engage. This could be a value add for projects seeking extensions or those who want to better integrate CFLRP and forest plan monitoring.
 - o An example of core monitoring questions can be found at <https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/fs-fm-cflrp/Reporting%20Templates%20and%20Guidance/Forms/AllItems.aspx?viewid=87d6a16f%2D94bf%2D4ea%2D8ee7%2D74e82e76ea44&id=%2Fsites%2Ffs%2Dfm%2Dcflrp%2FReporting%20Templates%20and%20Guidance%2F15%20Yr%20Monitoring%20Guidance%20%26%20Resources> (see *Resources folder*) and called “Regional Direction on CLFRP Project Monitoring in the Next Round_20200129.docx”
 - o Please note these are DRAFT only at this time and have not yet been agreed on.
 - o Any approaches developed will use a collaborative approach and will be built on consensus.
 - o Questions can be directed to Regional ecologist Tom DeMeo at 503-267-3943 or tom.demeo@usda.gov.

- Additional resources:
 - o We encourage projects in the 15-year monitoring phase to attend monthly CFLRP calls and NFF Peer Learning Webinars. Session will continue to focus on monitoring and monitoring requirements.
 - o We’ve placed documents on CFLRP and other relevant monitoring that may be useful to you on the [CFLRP SharePoint site here](#). We encourage you to post helpful resources there as well.
 - o Consider a range of funding opportunities, which may include:
 - Use of KV to support monitoring
 - FS grant programs, such as the [USDA Forest Service Citizen Science Competitive Funding Program](#)
 - Leveraging work with Forest Service Research and Development and external partners, such as The Nature Conservancy and University Challenge Cost Shares.
 - We’ve [created a document](#) that lists funding opportunities/resources we are aware of and we encourage you to update and add to this.

If you have questions on any of this guidance, please contact the Washington Office CFLRP program staff:

- Lindsay Buchanan at lindsay.buchanan@usda.gov
- Jessica Robertson at jessica.robertson@usda.gov