



FY 2025 SMART Implementation Monitoring Guidance

Plan Monitoring Background

The intent of the USFS Forest Stewardship Program’s plan implementation monitoring effort is to reliably assess the extent to which current Forest Stewardship Management Plans are being implemented. In collaboration with states, national guidance was developed to get meaningful, statistically reliable results, while not placing an unreasonable burden on state partners.

The information provided to the Forest Stewardship Program feeds into State and Territory accomplishments reporting data – complementing existing monitoring protocols. Several states have other programs, such as tax programs, which require plan implementation monitoring and include periodic site inspections. When a property is inspected through such a program, the results from the site inspection can be used to fulfill Forest Stewardship Management Plan monitoring requirements, without another visit to the site.

SMART’s Role in Monitoring

State and Territory plan monitoring samples will be generated each year from SMART’s database. Monitoring results can be recorded in SMART but *must* be entered into the Forest Stewardship Program’s annual Plan Monitoring Survey123 application.

Only management plans that are designated as Forest Stewardship plans, and which are “active” and “approved” in the SMART database, can be selected for monitoring. If a plan is inactive for any reason or “In Progress” in SMART (i.e. in the process of being updated), it cannot be selected for monitoring. The following sections summarize the implementation monitoring process within SMART. Please see our Survey123 Guide for more information on how to record monitoring results in that application.

Early in the Federal Fiscal year (after Oct. 1st), a SMART National Administrator commences the annual monitoring process by flagging plans nationwide in SMART. A National Administrator will then notify state and national Forest Stewardship coordinators that Plans have been selected for monitoring, and the Survey 123 Plan Monitoring Guidance document and the SMART Plan Monitoring Guidance document will be circulated.

SMART State Administrators will then be able to download a comprehensive report of their state’s flagged plans from the Implementation Monitoring page in SMART’s Administration module. This report shows which plans have been flagged for their state, as well as the monitoring status of the plans. The report will show all plans that have been selected for monitoring in the current fiscal year, and depending on the flagging date, the previous year as well. The report has the following fields: Plan ID, Plan Name, Preparer’s Name, Monitoring Status, Date Flagged, State, and County. The default implementation status for Plans is “Not Monitored”, and this status will change in SMART to either “Implemented” or “Not Implemented” as the plans are checked off. Once the monitoring status within



SMART changes, the content of the flagging report will change. We recommend downloading the state flagging report periodically to follow the progress your state is making.

How to commit a plan's monitoring status in SMART

SMART users who are listed as *Plan Preparers* of the flagged plans will be able to mark the plans as *implemented* or *not implemented*.

1. The Plan's Preparer logs into SMART. A *Plans flagged for monitoring* widget will be visible on their home page. **Click plan name.** An alternative to using the widget is to search for each plan from the SMART home page. Tip: you can use the state Flagging Report to check off plans as you go.

Plans flagged for monitoring (1 to 2 of 2)	
Name	Date Flagged
tree5	11/20/2014
tree7	11/20/2014

2. The Plan Summary Page will come up and a red flag will be shown above the mapping interface. **Click the red flag button.**

3. **Click the appropriate button – Implemented or Not Implemented – and click Submit.**



A SMART tool is available for State Administrators that facilitates locating and managing flagged plans. State Administrators access the tool from their Administrator module's Plan Management page (see image below). Using the Pending Implementation Monitoring filter, flagged plans can be viewed and managed by clicking on the blue Plan ID hyperlinks. Additionally, flagged plans can be reassigned and set inactive from this page.

Caveat: the results will show ALL plans that have been selected for monitoring that have *not yet been marked as Implemented or Not Implemented*. This means that if your state did not take action on flagged plans in SMART in previous years, they will show up on this page as pending implementation monitoring. In the end, do not assume that all the plans that show up on this page will need to be monitored in the current year. Please check the annual Plan Monitoring Survey123 application for the most up-to-date list of plans to be monitored.

Bulk Plan Management

Logged in as Josh Baldwin (CO) | Home | ForMAP Home | Help

Export
Plan Management
Funding
Landowner Accomplishments
Implementation Monitoring
SMART
USDA
UAS

In Bulk / Plan ID / Spatial

Search Plans In Bulk

Pending Implementation Monitoring

Select a filter...

Select a filter...
Yes
No

Pending Implementation Monitoring : Yes

Results per page: 50
0 of 37 selected

Reassign
Set Plan(s) Inactive

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan ID	Plan Name	Lifecycle	Approval	County	Preparer Name	Active Date	Plan Expires	Pending Implementation Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/>	007_BIGA_2006	Gallo	Active	In Progress	Archuleta County	Eric Eden	5/22/2006	5/22/2021	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	007_DAMU_2004	Murphy	Active	In Progress	Archuleta County	Eric Eden	9/1/2004	9/1/2019	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	007_JAGR_1992	Grewal	Active	Approved	Archuleta County	Eric Eden	10/1/2005	10/1/2025	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	007_JAVI_2009	VinZant	Active	Approved	Archuleta County	Eric Eden	5/1/2009	5/1/2019	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	007_LADU_2016	Ducker/McC...	Active	Approved	Archuleta	Eric Eden	9/26/2016	9/26/2026	Yes



Frequently Asked Questions

Will SMART generate a random sample and track plan monitoring results?

Yes. A SMART National Administrator will generate a randomly-selected plan monitoring sample for each state each year, and the state will record monitoring results within SMART. Only active and approved Forest Stewardship plans will be selected for monitoring.

How will plan monitoring information be used?

This information will be used to better describe the impact of the Forest Stewardship Program to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget. The results are tied your state's Forest Stewardship allocation calculation.

Which Plans are eligible for monitoring? How is the sample pool allocated?

The sample population is made up of all current Forest Stewardship plans that are in the SMART database. Plans must be "active" and "approved" in SMART. A plan can be selected for monitoring only once during a 5 year period. Plans with a property boundary of 1,000 or more acres will be selected each year, but once they are selected they cannot be selected again for two years. New plans (those that were entered in during the current fiscal year) are not part of the sampling pool.

Who can/should monitor plans? Can the plan writer also be the plan monitor?

Any capable natural resource professional can monitor plans. It would be preferable if the monitor is someone other than the plan writer, but that will not always be feasible. This decision ultimately rests with the state.

If my state has a program that requires management plan implementation and site inspection for participation, can this substitute for FSP plan monitoring?

The intent of the Forest Stewardship Program plan implementation monitoring effort is to identify the extent to which the writing of Forest Stewardship Plans is leading to on-the-ground management. In order to create a method of monitoring that does not place an undue burden on states, states are being asked to monitor only a sample of their plans. Because of this, the sample must be random and representative. A number of states have other programs, including tax programs and Tree Farm, which require monitoring and include periodic site inspections. When a property is inspected through such a program, the results from the site inspection can be used for Forest Stewardship monitoring, without requiring another visit to the site.

If a plan on the SMART list was recently monitored do we have to monitor it again?



If the plan was inspected in the last 2 years it does not need to be inspected again – you can simply mark it as *Implemented* or *Not Implemented* in SMART. If it has been longer than 2 years, it will need to be inspected.

Do plans over 1000 acres need to be monitored?

Yes. Forest Stewardship Plans that cover 1,000 or more acres are to be monitored once in a five year period. For fiscal years prior to 2018, states fulfilled this requirement outside SMART. Starting in fiscal year 2018, SMART automatically selects 1,000+ acre plans for monitoring. If SMART selects a 1,000+ acre plan that your state has inspected (because of a SMART selection or a non-FSP inspection) within the last 2 years, it does not need to be inspected again. If it has been longer than 2 years, it will need to be inspected.

If a plan selected for monitoring is assigned to a different Plan Preparer, will we still be able to mark the plan as implemented?

Yes, the flag icon will be visible – regardless of Plan Preparer.

What happens if my state doesn't use the plan monitoring procedures set up in SMART or Survey123?

The implementation monitoring information collected by SMART and Survey123 is sent to the USDA Forest Stewardship Program. If a state neglects to enter their information into SMART or Survey123, this will be reflected in the state's year-end accomplishments report.

Can new or different plans be chosen for monitoring?

No, as of Federal Fiscal Year 2024, the Forest Stewardship Program is no longer allowing “replacement” plans. Instead, the monitoring pool for each state has increased roughly 10%.

I marked the wrong implementation status in SMART. What can I do?

You can simply go to the plan in question in SMART and change its implementation status.

What is the cut-off date to update the implementation status of a plan in SMART?

Plan status – Implemented or Not Implemented – can be updated through the end of federal fiscal year, September 30.