

## **Implementation Monitoring**

Implementation monitoring is defined as the field checking and/or collection of data to assess whether a planned management action such as mechanical thinning was done (where, when, how) as specified in a plan and/or contract (from Front Range Roundtable Defined Terms).

Implementation monitoring answers the question: “Did we do what we said we would do?” This monitoring determines whether or not projects and activities are designed and conducted as indicated in Forest Plan direction, NEPA decision, and project design. Implementation monitoring is accomplished during and/or after project implementation.

Common examples of “during project monitoring” include contract inspection and administration and prescribed burn smoke monitoring. The primary question that this type of monitoring would answer would be: was the project’s design criteria met? The results of monitoring might require immediate steps to be taken to meet project design (i.e. skidding logs on steep slopes might require erosion control measures to reduce watershed impacts); or could require changes in preparation future projects (i.e. contract specifications might need to change to better address down-woody material NEPA design criteria).

Implementation monitoring may also include Interdisciplinary Team field trips after completion of the project to determine if design criteria from the NEPA Decision were implemented. The primary questions that this type of monitoring would answer would be: (1) was the project’s design criteria met? and (2) are the project design criteria feasible? This type of monitoring might result in a change to future project preparation (i.e. ensuring that certain design criteria are implemented) or could lead to changes in project design in NEPA if monitoring indicates issues with feasibility or necessity.