

Inventory & Monitoring Division Core Expectations

After more than 20 years, the Inventory & Monitoring Division has learned, evolved, innovated, and adapted. Today, we are sitting with innumerable analytical opportunities. And the world in which we live is different. The pace of decisionmaking, technological advancements, and changing conditions offer an opportunity to re-establish clarity around our portfolio of work, design manageable workloads, and articulate what is essential for driving impact and delivering accessible, actionable science to parks. We've reached a stage where it makes sense to revisit long-held assumptions, balance our workloads, and, most importantly, ask, "What is it time for now?"

All of this led to the development of Core Expectations for Vital Signs Monitoring. These Core Expectations are a set of minimum program requirements, framed with the intention of upholding strong science integrity and maintaining consistent responsibility to high-quality data and effective distribution of results. They establish a framework for managing a sustainable, impactful, and relevant Vital Signs Monitoring program. Ultimately, what is outlined in the Core Expectations reaffirms our essential commitments for science delivery and provides clarity and accountability for driving impact.

Core Expectations for Vital Signs Monitoring outlines seven expectations. To implement those expectations requires providing guidance for how to achieve them. In 2023, IMD's Extended Leadership Team (the Leadership Team and all 32 network program managers) established 10 workgroups to create that guidance. Some are intended to establish best practices for meeting the Core Expectations for Vital Signs Monitoring. Others aim to identify core expectations for other program components or practices. All are geared toward helping us realize a sustainable and relevant I&M program.