

## **KIPZ Summary of Starting Option Rationale**

A Starting Option was developed by the Forest Plan revision Interdisciplinary Team with support and modification by the Leadership Teams for the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. This Starting Option reflects both public comments and Forest Service policies and legal responsibilities.

This Starting Option is where we would like to begin our discussions. We expect and welcome refinements and adjustments based on public interaction and feedback.

The following information is a summary of KIPZ's Rationale for the Starting Option. The information is presented randomly, not in order of importance. The Starting Option:

- Provides for a balanced approach to summer and winter motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities while maintaining most of our current motorized opportunities.
- Results in the optimum ecological and social balance, in accordance with law, regulation and policy, for ecological, economical and social sustainability.
- Considers and makes improvements to management under the existing forest plans (ie redesigned management areas and new direction based on current science); recognizes the need for change and seeks to change management that is not working under the existing plans.
- Maintains timber management opportunities, potentially at current levels, through implementation of active vegetation restoration and fuels reduction activities while providing recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat.
- Allows for and "advocates" fuels reduction and fuels management in the WUI (wildland urban interface) and across the forest.
- Provides opportunities for restoration and rehabilitation of altered landscapes through active management versus relying simply on natural processes.
- Allows fire to play its natural role (wildland fire use), where applicable and necessary.
- Represents a significant movement toward restoration (watershed and vegetation trending toward HRV- historic range of variability) and less intensive timber management.
- Maintains and improves old growth and other habitat conditions for all, including threatened and endangered, plant and animal species.
- Maintains high scenic values.
- Responds to the public's desire for the identification of additional proposed wilderness, SIAs (special interest areas), RNAs (research natural areas) and wild and scenic river (WSR) segments while maintaining existing IRAs (inventoried roadless areas) acreages, wilderness study areas (10 Lakes, Grandmother Mtn.), SIAs, RNAs and WSRs.
- Recognizes private land boundaries and the expanding subdivisions and urban areas by proposing management areas in the WUI that allow for fuels reduction and other restoration activities.
- Allows for active and aggressive treatment of invasive weeds species.
- Is consistent with management proposals on adjacent forests.
- Is responsive to local communities and their desires for both resource utilization (ie timber, minerals, grazing, biomass) and protection (ie identification of proposed wilderness).

**Summary of the Summary:** The Starting Option reflects public comment, Forest Service policies and legal responsibilities, and is within our decision space. It provides for the best mix of goods and services on a sustainable basis.