

Chapter 1 – Area of Analysis

Introduction

The Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests are working jointly to revise their respective Land Management Plans. This Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER) includes the analysis and evaluation of conditions and trends for both Forests under the existing plans and documents the need for changing the 1987 Forest Plans. This CER also describes the conditions and trends from proposed changes to both Forests Plans and describes the probability of meeting the Desired Conditions (DC).

The CER is part of the Plan Set of Documents for each Forest Plan. As explained in the Preface, the CER will be updated at least every five years. Any subsequent updates to the CER will be performed by each individual Forest and not as a joint or zone undertaking.

Analysis Area

The Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle Plan Revision Zone (KIPZ) is located in northern Idaho and northwestern Montana (see figure 1). Collectively, the two national forests encompass more than 4.6 million acres.

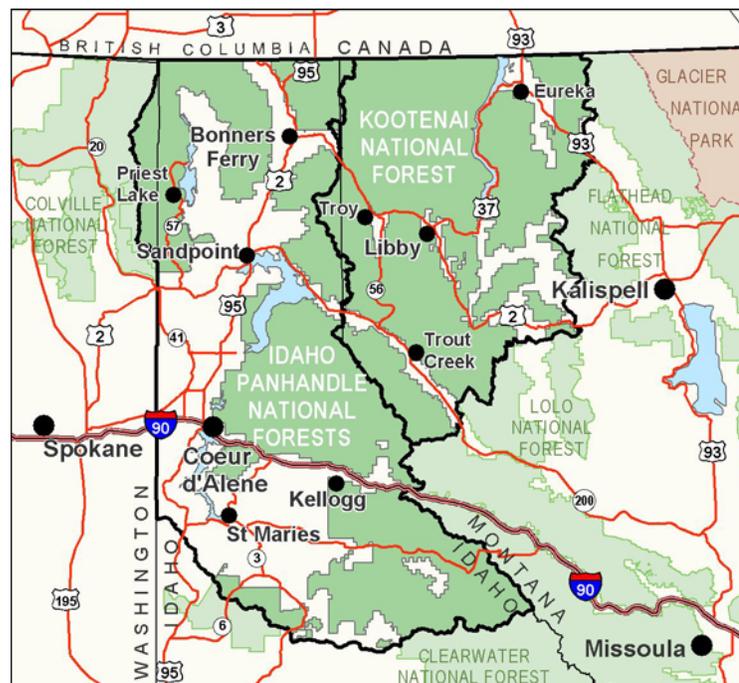


Figure 1 Vicinity Map

The Kootenai National Forest (KNF) is responsible for resource management of over 2.2 million acres in the northwestern corner of Montana on two proclaimed national forests. The KNF administers the entire Kootenai National Forest and a portion of the Kaniksu National Forest. The Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) consists of three individual national forests – the Kaniksu, the Coeur d'Alene, and the St. Joe, which were combined in 1973 to be administratively managed as one national forest. The IPNF is responsible for resource management of more than

2.4 million acres of land in northern Idaho, with small areas extending into eastern Washington and western Montana.

To provide context and evaluation of how these National Forests fit within a larger system, the analysis area was extended beyond the NFS land boundaries for many of the analyses, varying by resource. Analyses for the physical and ecological resources extended to the boundaries of major watersheds (4th code hydrologic units), incorporating approximately 7.2 million acres. While analyses for the social and economic environment extended to include seven counties for analysis of direct effects and an additional 11 counties for regional context.