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Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service



Kootenai and  
Idaho Panhandle  
National Forests

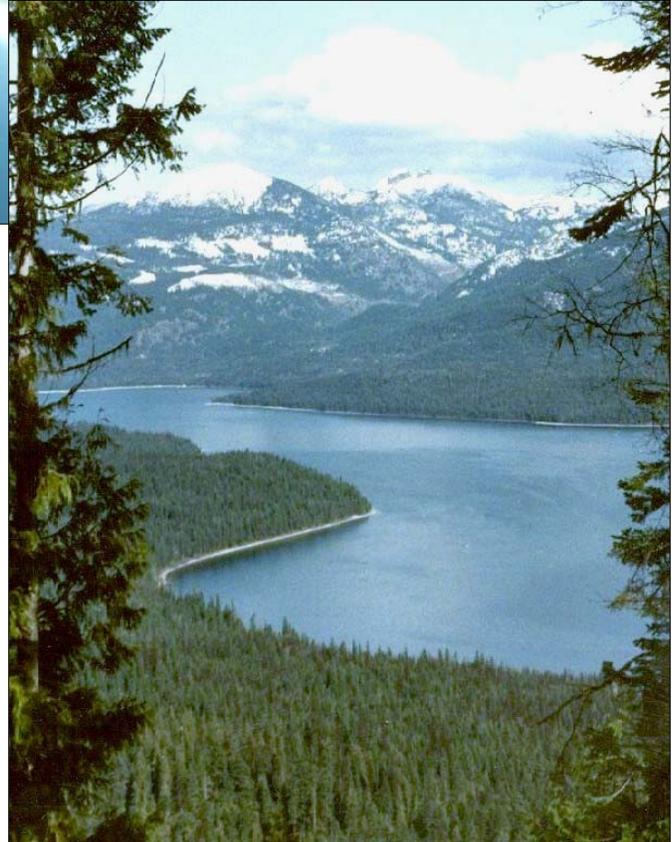
# **TECHNICAL REPORT**

## **Analysis of the Management Situation for Revision of the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle Forest Plans**

**March 2003**



*Kootenai River near Libby, Montana*





**Analysis of the Management Situation for Revision  
of the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle Forest Plans  
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## Preface

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### **Purpose of the Analysis of the Management Situation Technical Report**

Two reports have been prepared to present the results of the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) process. The first is a shorter report titled Analysis of the Management Situation for Revision of the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle Forest Plans, March 2003. This document is referred to as the AMS and focuses on what needs to change from the 1987 Forest Plans. It is suggested that all readers start with that document.

For people wanting more detailed information, this Technical Report has been prepared. The Technical Report provides additional information on the seven Revision Topics, including historic and existing conditions and trends, and the results of public involvement activities. As the title of this report implies, the information is more technical and detailed than in the AMS. The information relative to the Revision Topics will continue to be developed as additional analysis is completed for the DEIS.

The introductory and background information presented in the AMS is not repeated in this technical report. See the AMS for more information regarding the planning zone, purpose of the AMS, planning process, and the ecological, social and economic context.

## **CHAPTER 1 –REVISION TOPICS**

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Revision topics are broad categorizations of the significant issues that have been identified where resource conditions, technical knowledge, or public perceptions of resource management have created a potential “need for change.” They have been identified through monitoring and evaluation, current science and assessments, and our daily contacts with the people who work in and recreate on our national forests. Revision topics may cover one or more significant issues identified on the forest.

If the 1987 Forest Plans were not being revised, resolution of any one of these topics would generally result in a significant amendment for the following reasons:

- Changes in resource management could result in significant changes in the mix of goods and services the forest is producing.
- Changes in resource management could indicate that the 1987 Forest Plan direction needs change over large areas of the forest.
- There appears to be no clear public consensus on how to resolve the topics.

This Chapter describes the seven Revision Topics, which are listed below:

- 1) **Vegetation**
- 2) **Fire Risk**
- 3) **Timber Production**
- 4) **Wildlife**
- 5) **Watersheds and Aquatic Species**
- 6) **Inventoried Roadless Areas and Proposed Wilderness Areas**
- 7) **Access and Recreation**

Each Revision Topic is described using the following outline:

- **Need for Change** (Describes how resource conditions have changed and the need to change Forest Plan direction.)
  - Laws and Regulations
  - Forest Service Strategic Plan
  - The Forest Plans and Monitoring and Evaluation
- **Planning Questions for each Revision Topic**
  - Planning questions have been developed to provide context for each Revision Topic. These questions are followed by a description of the historic and current condition and form the baseline to compare the effects of the alternatives. Additional analysis will be completed for the DEIS to more fully address these questions. This information will provide the decision maker with the knowledge necessary to understand the issue and make a decision.
  - Planning Question – “What are the implications of continuing under current management direction?” This information describes what would happen if we continue to manage under the 1987 Forest Plans and substantiates the need for change.