

October 2005

Issue 7
R1-04-76

www.fs.fed.us/kipz

USDA FOREST SERVICE



Forest Plan Revision News

Collaboration Meetings Brought Changes to the Starting Option Map Now Referred to as the “Draft Forest Plan Map”

The Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests have released the Draft Forest Plan Map, which is a modification of the Starting Option map that was released this past summer to the public. We were pleasantly surprised at the number of people that consistently came to our collaborative meetings that started in July and ended in September of this year. Our goal for these meetings was to have a diverse group of people come together to discuss the Starting Option map, to validate the maps, as well as identify potential changes, and strive to reach agreements where possible. As you can imagine, there were many challenges to this task because people have many different and sometimes opposing opinions about how we should manage their national forests. Some groups were able to reach agreements while others had good discussions with no resolution. All in all, some relationships were built or strengthened, and a better understanding of other peoples values and the challenges the Forest Service faces in trying to provide a wide range of opportunities while managing for many other resource objectives was accomplished. Across the zone, we did hear discussion about some consistent topics, which included:

- Where and when (summer/winter) motorized and non-motorized recreation should generally be allowed, especially in Backcountry and Recommended Wilderness areas;
- How Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) should be managed, especially when large scale natural disturbance events occur there;
- How much Recommended Wilderness people thought was appropriate and how those areas should be managed; and
- Where timber harvest (both regulated timber production and removal of timber for other multiple use purposes); and road construction are generally suitable.

District Rangers reviewed collaborative groups suggested changes, along with modifications from district specialists, and brought these management suggestions forward to the planning team and respective Forest Supervisor. The Forest Supervisors finalized the Draft Forest Plan Map, using input from collaborative groups, district rangers, the planning team, American Indian Tribes, elected officials, and agencies. The results of all this work can be seen on our Draft Forest Plan maps.

The intent of releasing this Draft Forest Plan Map now, instead of waiting to release it with the Draft Forest Plan in February, is to provide information to our public regarding how the Starting Option map changed. It's important to understand that [this is not a comment period](#). The release of the Draft Forest Plan in February of 2006 will initiate a 90-day comment period. The Draft Forest Plan will include information such as desired conditions, objectives, and guidelines that will provide a better understanding of the proposed management for each Forest.

The following documents can be found on our KIPZ website, www.fs.fed.us/kipz:
1) Draft Forest Plan maps, 2) Management Area (MA) descriptions, and 3) MA acreages

If you do not have access to the website, you can pick up these documents at your local Forest Service office or call Jodi Kramer at 208-765-7235 or Kirsten Kaiser at 406-283-7659.

The Framework for the “KOOTENAI” Draft Plan Map “Management Areas (MAs)”

For more details about the MAs, such as Descriptions and the Generally Suitable Activities and Uses, please visit our website at www.fs.fed.us/kipz, call your local District Ranger, or see Contacts on back page.

Management Areas (MAs)

- 1a = Congressionally Designated Wilderness**
- 1c = Congressionally Designated Wilderness Study Area (WSA)**
- 1d = Wild Lands**
- 2b = Eligible and Suitable Wild, Scenic, Recreational Rivers (W&SRs)**
- 3 = Special Interest Areas (SIAs)**
- 4a = Established and Proposed Research Natural Areas (RNAs)**
- 5a = Backcountry: Non-motorized summer and winter**
- 5b = Backcountry: Motorized summer and winter**
- 5c = Backcountry: Non-Motorized summer, Motorized Winter**
- 6 = General Forest**
- 7 = Primary Recreation Areas**

Primary Changes to the Draft Forest Plan Map from the Starting Option Map: (See Management Area Descriptions on the website for more details)

- Consolidated the General Forest Management Areas 6a (low intensity), 6b (moderate intensity), and 6c (high intensity) into one General Forest Management Area (MA6).
- Addition of a Backcountry Management Area (MA5c), which would allow motorized recreation in the winter but not in the summer. MA5a would allow only non-motorized recreation year-round and MA5b would allow motorized and non-motorized recreation year-round.
- Changed areas allocated to Management Area (MA1b), which is Recommended Wilderness to Management Area (MA1d) titled Wild Lands. Areas allocated to MA1d include: Whitefish Divide area; Areas adjacent to the Cabinet Wilderness; Scotchmans Peak area; and Roderick Mountain.
- Expanded two Special Interest Areas—Northwest Peaks and Ten Lakes Scenic Areas. Existing uses would continue in these areas, however detailed management plans for these areas will be developed after the Forest Plan is revised.
- Other changes to Management Area allocations across the Forest (See map on website).

The Framework for the "IDAHO PANHANDLE" Draft Plan Map "Management Areas (MAs)"

For more details about the MAs, such as Descriptions and the Generally Suitable Activities and Uses, please visit our website at www.fs.fed.us/kipz, call your local District Ranger, or see Contacts on back page.

Management Areas (MAs)

- 1a = Congressionally Designated Wilderness**
- 1b = Recommended Wilderness**
- 1c = Congressionally Designated Wilderness Study Area (WSA)**
- 1e = Primitive Lands**
- 2a = Congressionally Designated Wild, Scenic, Recreational Rivers (W&SRs)**
- 2b = Eligible and Suitable Wild, Scenic, Recreational Rivers**
- 3 = Special Interest Areas (SIAs)**
- 4a = Established and Proposed Research Natural Areas (RNAs)**
- 4b = Experimental Forests**
- 5 = Backcountry**
- 6 = General Forest**

Primary Changes to the Draft Forest Plan Map from the Starting Option Map: (See Management Area Descriptions on the website for more details)

- Consolidated the General Forest Management Areas 6a (low intensity), 6b (moderate intensity), and 6c (high intensity) into one General Forest Management Area (MA6).
- Consolidated the Backcountry Management Areas MA5a and MA5b into one Backcountry Management Area (MA5).
- Addition of a Management Area (MA1e) titled Primitive Lands. These areas will be managed to protect the wilderness characteristics that will still allow for future consideration for wilderness designation but are not being recommended for wilderness at this time. These areas will provide primitive recreation opportunities as well as motorized winter recreation and mountain bike opportunities.
- Boundaries and Management Area allocations changed for portions of the Scotchman Peaks and Selkirk recommended wilderness areas (additions and deletions); and portions of the Grandmother Mountain Wilderness Study Area.
- Changes to the Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area and Wild and Scenic River recommendations.
- Other changes to Management Area allocations across the Forest (See map on website).

Generally Suitable Uses and Activities

For each Management Area, there is a Description and a list of the Generally Suitable Uses and Activities allowed within that Management Area. This complete document can be found on our website, at our Forest Service offices or by calling Jodi Kramer (208-765-7235) or Kirsten Kaiser (406-283-7659). For example, following is the information for MA1a—Congressionally Designated Wilderness:

Management Uses/Activities	Suitable	Exceptions/Comments
Wildland Fire Use	Yes	Follow the criteria identified in the Fire Management Plan.
Prescribed Burning	Yes	
Timber Harvest	No	
Special Forest Products and Firewood	Yes	Personal use only; no commercial use.
Integrated Pest Management	Yes	Biological control is emphasized.
Noxious Weed Management	Yes	
Grazing	No	Allotments do not occur in designated wilderness.
Motorized (Summer)	No	
Motorized (Winter)	No	
Non-motorized (Summer)	Yes	Party size is limited to 12 heartbeats.
Non-motorized (Winter)	Yes	
Motorized Tools	No	
Road Construction/Maintenance (Permanent and Temporary)	No	
Trail Construction /Maintenance	Yes	
Building Construction/ Maintenance	No	Existing structures may be maintained or reconstructed.
Special Use Authorization	No	Only existing authorizations or new authorizations that meet wilderness characteristics are permitted.
Minerals (Locatable, Leasable, Salable)	No	Subject to valid existing rights.
Utility Transmission Corridors	No	
Aircraft Operations	No	Emergency use is permitted with Forest Supervisor approval.

The Draft Forest Plans – A New Look

Chapter 1: Vision

Provides forest-wide management direction; describes forest-wide and geographic area desired conditions of the land; and describes the monitoring questions that will be measured to achieve these desired conditions.

Chapter 2: Strategy

Describes how the forests intend to achieve desired conditions through the Resource Objectives. It also includes the Management Areas (MA) and activities/uses that are generally suitable in that MA and management direction for special area designations (ie. wilderness).

Chapter 3: Design Criteria

Provides the technical and scientific specifications that must be met when developing a project at the site-specific level. It includes Guidelines and references to additional applicable management guidance.

Forest Plan Revision Timeline

October, 2005	Release Draft Plan maps for information only. THIS IS NOT A COMMENT PERIOD.
February, 2006	Release Draft Forest Plans; Informational meetings about the Draft; Begin 90-day Comment Period
Fall, 2006	Release Final Forest Plans; Begin 30-day Objection Period
Winter 2006/2007	Issue Decisions and Final Forest Plans upon Resolution of Objections



How to Contact Us:

Contacts: **Idaho Panhandle National Forests - Jodi Kramer**
Phone: (208) 765-7235 Fax: (208) 765-7307

Kootenai National Forest - Kirsten Kaiser
Phone: (406) 283-7659 Fax: (406) 283-7709

Website: **www.fs.fed.us/kipz**

Email: **r1_kipz_revision@fs.fed.us**

Postal Mail: **KIPZ Forest Plan Revision, Attn: Jodi Kramer**
 3815 Schreiber Way
 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

Note: Names of individuals commenting on Forest Service proposals may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.



USDA Forest Service
ATTN: KIPZ Revision Team
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815