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USDA FOREST SERVICE



Forest Plan Revision News

Proposed Land Management Plans Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests

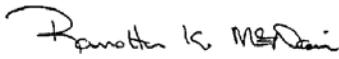
Dear Interested Land Management Plan Participant:

As you know, in May we released our Proposed Land Management Plans (LMPs) for the Kootenai (KNF) and Idaho Panhandle (IPNF) National Forests for review and comment. At this time, we would like to clarify some information in the Proposed Plans and share with you some issues and discussions that have surfaced since we released our Proposed Land Management Plans.

- Currently, we are in the 90-day comment period which ends August 10, 2006 (see addresses on the back). There will be no changes to the Proposed Plans or any components of the Plans during the comment period. As during the whole revision process, we continue to encourage collaborative discussions during the comment period to work on issues that the public may want to discuss. A few examples might include discussions about recommended wilderness, timber suitability, and wildland urban interface.
- The Final Plans will contain changes based on **ALL** public comments (local and national) that are received.
- The KNF Proposed Plan includes a wild land management area (MA1d) for which management activities and uses are the same as for those in recommended wilderness. Activities such as timber harvest, road building, and snowmobiling are generally not suitable. This MA protects wilderness characteristics, allowing for future consideration of these lands for wilderness designation.
- The Proposed Plan maps display MA allocations. MAs identify a desired condition for motorized and non-motorized use. This desired condition sets the stage for travel management planning. An environmental analysis completed for travel management planning will disclose potential effects to resources and social impacts resulting from the desired motorized or non-motorized condition. Therefore, the Proposed Plan will not open or close roads or trails; it only identifies the desired motorized/non-motorized condition.
- Fuel treatment activities (i.e. prescribed burning and mechanical fuel treatment), are a priority within the wildland urban interface (WUI). Vegetation treatment activities (i.e. timber harvest) contribute to reduction in fire risk, both within and outside the WUI. Areas within MA5 (backcountry) that are also within the WUI are included as high priority acres for vegetation treatments, which will be based on certain circumstances that occur in that area, such as reducing the risk of wildfire effects.
- Each Forest expects to do vegetative treatments (timber harvest, thinning, prescribed burning, noxious weed treatments, etc.) on approximately 16,000 acres per year, or 250,000 acres over the life of the Plan. The Plans propose to offer timber for sale at levels similar to current. Long-term sustained yield capacities (LTSYC) were developed to reflect sustainable levels without agency consideration of budget as a limiting factor.
- Information in the Proposed Plans is supported by our Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER). The CER includes information such as conditions and trends from vegetation management; amount of jobs and income generated by forest activities and projected changes to these; management area allocation of Roadless Areas; and detailed maps of Special Interest Areas. Documentation also includes details on social and economic conditions and trends, vegetation information, and development of timber growth and yield tables. The CER is found on our website at:
www.fs.fed.us/kipz/documents/plmp/CER/index.php.

If you would like a copy of the Proposed Land Management Plans, contact Jodi Kramer at (208-765-7235) or Kirsten Kaiser at (406-283-7659).

We appreciate your patience and continued interest in the revision of our Land Management Plans. Please continue to visit our web site for additional information, public meeting announcements and more! We look forward to continuing to work together in finalizing our new Land Management Plans.



IPNF Forest Supervisor



KNF Forest Supervisor

Forest Plan Revision Timeline

May 12 – August 10, 2006

Release of Proposed Land Management Plans on 5/12 for 90-day comment period ending 8/10/06.

Fall/Winter 2006

Release Final Land Management Plans. Begin 30-day Objection Period.

Spring/2007

Issue Decisions upon Resolution of Objections.

For More Information and How to Contact Us

KIPZ Forest Plan Revision Website:

www.fs.fed.us.kipz

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

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