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# MONTANA LOGGING ASSOCIATION

*...from the desk of Keith L. Olson, Executive Director*

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November 25, 2013

Attention: Ms. Faye Krueger  
Regional Forester  
USFS, Northern Region

**RE: Objection to Land Management Plan, 2013 Revision, Kootenai National Forest**

**Objectors Name:** Montana Logging Association  
**Address:** PO Box 1716, Kalispell, MT, 59903-1716  
**Phone #** (406)-752-3168  
**E-Mail:** keith@logging.org  
**Name of Lead Objector:** Keith L. Olson

**Name of the plan revision being objected to and the responsible official**

Land Management Plan, 2013 Revision, Kootenai National Forest  
Responsible Official: Faye Krueger – Regional Forester, Northern Region.

**Statement of issues and or parts of the plan revision to which the objection applies**

**FW-OBJ-TBR-01. Annually offer timber for sale at the estimated predicted volume sold of 47.5MMBF.**

We object to the inclusion of an objective that sets a budget constrained timber sale volume target rather than a timber sale volume that that will allow the Agency to meet the stated desired future condition for the forest.

**Statement explaining the objection and suggestion of how the proposed plan decision may be improved**

The agency has an obligation to the American people to be good stewards of the national forests—and the level of forest mortality on the Kootenai National Forest demands a timber sale program that enables the forest to meet public expectations with respect to desired future conditions.

**Suggestion of how the proposed plan decision may be improved**

Remove FW-OBJ-TBR-01 (and all other budget constrained objectives) from the revised forest plan. If an annual timber sale volume objective is deemed as an essential element, include an objective that best meets the goals of managing the forest to meet the desired future condition as described in the rest of the plan. To do otherwise is to capitulate on your obligation to be the stewards of the forest that the public has every right to demand.

**Link to previously submitted formal comments**

See comments dated May 7, 2012 submitted on behalf of the Montana Logging Association by Keith L. Olson; specifically: “MLA strongly believes that under the National Forest Management Act, your actual timber target should be based on the desired future conditions need rather than being driven solely on estimated budgets.”

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith L. Olson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "O".

Keith L. Olson  
MLA executive director