



Pre-decisional Notice for 5-Year Recomputation

File Code: 2430

Date: December 1, 2025

To Kootenai National Forest Timber Purchasers and Interested Parties:

Under provisions of the Small Business Timber Sale Program, Forest Service and Small Business Administration policy provides for recomputation of the small business share of National Forest timber sale offerings every five years.

We have, after consultation with the Small Business Administration, summarized sawtimber purchase on the Kootenai Market Area for the five-year period October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2025. Based on the data and guidance provided in Forest Service Handbook 2409.18, Chapter 90, we have recomputed a small business share.

The current market share is 47 percent. The proposed share for the Kootenai Market Area of the Kootenai National Forest has been determined to be 43 percent. In addition, deficit 10,756 ccf volume will be carried forward. This new share becomes effective for the period beginning October 1, 2025.

With this notice, I am requesting your review and comments on the proposed small business share. Comments may address the information used by the Forest Service for the recomputation or any information you believe should have been considered. The information used in the recomputation analysis is available for review at the Forest Supervisor's headquarters located at: 31374 US HWY 2, Libby, Montana.

Written comments should be sent to the Contracting Officer at the email or address given below, and must be postmarked by **December 31, 2025** which is 30 days from date of this letter. Following consideration of written comments, a final decision will be made by the Forest Supervisor and sent to those receiving this pre-decisional notice within 15 days after the end of the comment period.

Small business share decisions may be appealed under 36 CFR 223.118 which governs the appeal process for small business timber sale program share recomputations. Only those timber sale purchasers, or their representatives, who are affected by the recomputation of the small business share of timber sales **and** who submit written comments to this notice may appeal the final decision made by the Forest Supervisor. To preserve your right to appeal in the event the final decision differs from this proposal, you must comment on this pre-decisional notice, even if you are in agreement with both it and the information provided. If your comments are only submitted through an association to which you belong but not individually, you may be ineligible to appeal the decision or file comments on an appeal.

The Forest Service administers the Small Business Timber Sale Program under provisions outlined in Forest Service Manual FSM 2439 and the Timber Sale Preparation Handbook, FSH 2409.18, Chapter 90. You may obtain information on the recomputation from the Forest Supervisor's Office or the Small Business Administration Representative:

Contracting Officer, Kootenai NF
Attn: Brian Robbins
31374 US HWY 2
Libby, MT 59923
Email: brian.r.robbins@usda.gov
406-283-7750 phone

SBA Timber Program
Email: timber@sba.gov

Sincerely,

Chad Benson
Forest Supervisor

