

## **Fact Sheet: Wilderness and the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition**

- We believe there is room for all values on the 2.2 million acres of the Kootenai National Forest. Because of this, we support designating additional wilderness areas in several special, pristine places on the Kootenai National Forest that are worthy of protection as formal Wilderness Areas.
- Only Congress has the authority to create a Wilderness Area. These KFSC wilderness recommendations to Congress were built upon decades of local work, collaboration and planning.
- The Kootenai National Forest presently has one Wilderness Area, the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness that was designated by Congress in 1964.
- The KFSC recommends that several roadless areas around the Cabinet Mountain Range be added to the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness.
- The KFSC also recommends that the Scotchman Peaks west of the Bull River be defined as a Wilderness Area. (This would complement proposed Wilderness on the Idaho side of the mountain range as well).
- The KFSC also recommends that Roderick Mountain in the Yaak Valley be designated a Wilderness Area, along with Grizzly Peak, Saddle Mountain and Gold Hill West. Presently, there are no formal Wilderness Areas in the Yaak.
- Wilderness Areas are popular with many people for providing challenging, traditional recreation such as hunting, camping, fishing, hiking and horseback riding. Motorized activities and industrial development are not allowed.
- Wilderness Areas are also important for providing clean water and wildlife habitat for many rare and sensitive fish and wildlife species.

**Source: Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition. To contact us or for more information, visit [www.kootenaifuture.org](http://www.kootenaifuture.org)**