

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

- The Kootenai National Forest has some of the most diverse and productive timber-producing lands in the northern Rockies. The KFSC believes that resource should be actively managed in a sustainable manner.
- Our recommendations treat more acres of the forest, but log them less intensively.
- Our timber objectives are focused within lands designated as suitable for timber harvest and result in a regularly scheduled, sustainable timber harvest program of 70 – 90 million board feet of annual harvest of saw timber. Current harvest levels produce approximately 50 million board feet annually.
- This level of logging is sustainable and would provide security and predictability that the timber industry and local communities need.
- Our guidelines were reviewed by an independent analyst (Mason, Bruce, and Girard) and shown to be implementable and meet our goals of a more robust, yet sustainable timber program.
- Implementing our guidelines would lead to a healthier, more resilient forest in a faster time frame by attaining desired future conditions faster than the current schedule of Forest Service activities.
- In the guidelines, forest management is designed to imitate historic disturbance patterns such as the periodic forest fires, insect and disease activity while, improving wildlife habitat and protecting old growth, soils, and streamside areas.
- The guidelines were developed by and meet the needs of conservationists, timber industry, local government, local residents, and recreation enthusiasts.
- While fires will always be a part of life in the northern Rockies, these forest management guidelines will help protect communities and private property during active fire seasons by reducing fuel loading and improving opportunities for suppression activities to be successful.
- The forest guidelines are not meant to replace forest management laws that protect resources like clean water and habitat for threatened or endangered wildlife.

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