

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Kootenai National Forest 406 293-6211

File Code: 1950

Date: December 3, 2001

The Kootenai National Forest is involved in many programs and activities. Enclosed you will find information about projects for which we have a specific proposal, and are in the process of analyzing as directed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The projects are arranged in a table format and are sorted by Ranger District, by type of project, and by date expected for each decision for each project. There are several points in the planning process during which you can be the most helpful and influential, but exact steps and timing may vary depending on the type and complexity of the project. For example, the whole planning process may only take a few days for small, non-complex projects, or several years for large complex projects such as a major mining proposal. Nevertheless, there are some basic steps we go through for every project. The enclosure labeled "Project Planning Process and Where You Fit In" describes these steps and identifies what you can do to be involved. It is important for you to understand this process so that your participation in these activities, in a timely manner, can promote better decisions by helping us better understand alternatives to our proposals and to evaluate their implications on the land and the adjacent communities.

If you would like more information on a specific project, please contact the district or forest contact person listed for each project.

Sincerely,

BOB CASTANEDA Forest Supervisor

enclosure



DEFINITIONS USED FOR THE QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

If you've received previous editions of this list you'll notice that some projects don't appear anymore. That's because we've finished the analysis, made the decision, and the appeal period (if applicable) has ended. In other cases, we've removed the projects from the list because we're unable to pursue them for various reasons (lack of funding, conflicts with other forest priorities, etc.). Please call the person listed as the "contact" for a project anytime you have a question.

This list is not inclusive. Some projects may come up after publication that requires our immediate attention, and we may complete the decision document before the next edition.

At the top of each table we have listed the Ranger District, their address, and the "Newspaper of Record" (used by the District for legal notices of decisions, and scoping of projects).

The following items describe the column headings and contents in the tables that follow, beginning on the left side of the table.

MAP KEY: Identifies a number that goes with the attached small forest map to show the general location of the project.

TYPE OF PROJECT: Identifies the Resource Program area that's affected. Acronyms used area:

 Mgmt – management
 Exchg - Exchange

PROJECT NAME: Identifies the name of the environmental document. Also included is a general description of the project, such as estimated timber volume, acres proposed for treatment, acres involved with a land exchange, etc. Acronyms used are:

EIS - Environmental Impact Statement BPA - Bonneville Power Administration ORV - Off Road Vehicle MMBF - Million board feet MBF - Thousand board feet RUP-Road use permit WL - Wildlife OSR - Overstory Removal Salv - Salvage LE - Land Exchange CCF-Hundred cubic feet

LOCATION: Identifies both legal land description, and the drainage or other identifying on-the-ground feature. If a project is located within an inventoried roadless area, it is also noted here. Acronyms used are: T - Township R - Range S - Section

NEPA STATUS: Identifies where we are and will be in the NEPA process during the next three months. This corresponds to the table "Project Planning Process". If several items are listed, it means we'll be moving through several stages of the planning process in the next three months. NOI means Notice of Intent that is published in the Federal Register.

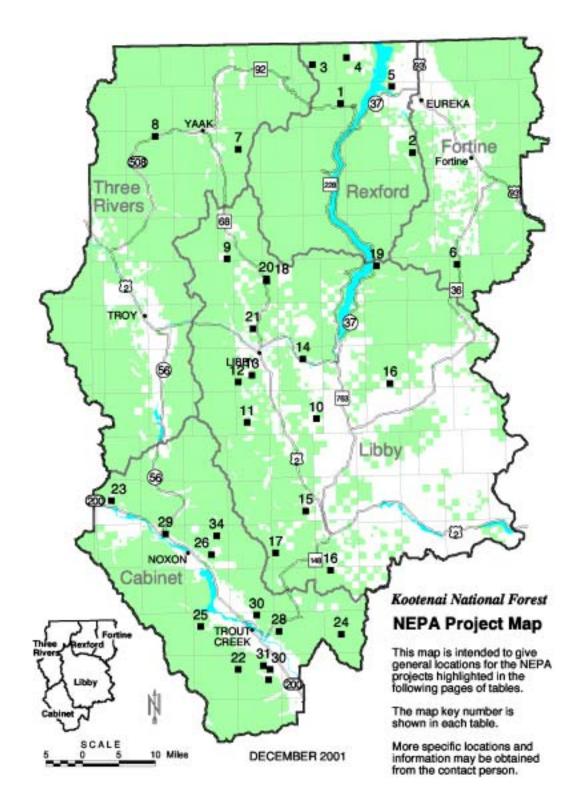
ANTICIPATED DECISION DATE: This is the best estimate of when the NEPA analysis will be completed. Sometimes we're not able to meet the date for various reasons, but the schedule will be validated and updated each time we send it out.

YEAR ACTIVITY TO START ON THE GROUND: This is the best estimate of when ground disturbing activities would occur and/or contracts or permits would be offered.

CONTACT PERSON: This is the person at the Ranger District or Forest to contact for further information regarding the project.

THE PROJECT PLANNING PROCESS & WHERE YOU MIGHT FIT

ANALYSIS STEP	PARTICIPATION OPTIONS
Identify need for project - Forest Service, business or individual suggests a project	Bring need for a project to the attention of Forest Service
Develop detailed project proposal (Forest Service or other project proponent)	Develop project proposal
Scoping - solicit public comment on the proposal (how it might affect forest resources & uses; how the project could be done better). This defines the scope of environmental analysis needed and the range of alternatives that should be considered	Comment on proposal - suggest issues, alternatives or mitigation measures to reduce impacts on the environment
Develop range of alternatives based on the issues raised during scoping. One alternative is to stay with the status quo (No Action)	Suggest variations to the original proposal
Initiate public comment process which includes a 45 day comment period for Draft EIS's and 30 day comment period for EA's and timber sales that can be categorically excluded. A copy of the EIS or EA will be mailed to those who requested a copy and to those who have participated in the environmental analysis process. A legal notice, requesting comments, will be published in the Daily Interlake, Kalispell, MT, which is our newspaper of record (36 CFR 215.5)	Provide comments on the environmental analysis. See 36 CFR 215.6 for description of information to provide
Notice of decision will be published in the newspaper of record. Copies of the decision document will be sent to those who submitted comments on the proposed action either before or during the comment period identified above (36 CFR 215.9)	Review decision: exercise option to appeal through administrative process
Appeal period will be open for 45 days following legal notice of decision in the newspaper except if no one expressed interest and there is no change from the proposed action. (36 CFR 215.10)	File Notice of Appeal (see section 36 CFR 215.14 for contents of an appeal) NOTE: Only those who commented through the process described above or expressed interest will be able to appeal. (36 CFR 215.11)
Implement the project	Contribute labor, equipment or funding
Monitor & evaluate project results	Provide feedback on the project



QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS – December 2001

MAP KEY	TYPE OF PROJECT	NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	NEPA STATUS	ANTICIPATED DECISION DATE	YEAR ACTIVITY TO START ON GROUND	CONTACT PERSON
1	Timber Sale, Prescribed Burning, Thinning, Watershed Restoration	Gold/Boulder/Sullivan	T34-36N, R28, 29W, PMM, Lincoln Co., MT; Gold, Boulder, and Sullivan drainages. May include road decommissioning. Includes Forest Plan Amendments	Preparing Final EIS	December 2001	2001	Ron Komac
2	Timber Sale, Prescribed Burning, Watershed Restoration	Pink Stone EIS	T 34-36N, R27-29W, PMM, Lincoln Co., MT: Pinkham Creek drainage, may include road decommissioning. Includes Forest Plan Amendments.	Decision Issued October 5, 2001	Completed	2001	Ron Komac
3	Timber Sale, Prescribed Burning, Watershed Restoration	Young J	T37N, R29W, PMM, Lincoln Co., MT; Young Creek drainage.	Responding to Public Comment	December 2001	2001	Ron Komac
4	Special Uses	Young Creek FRTA – State Access	T37N, R28W, Sec 17. Young Creek Drainage	Project on Hold	July 2001	2001	Jim Kilroy
5	Special Uses	Ingram Road Access	T36 N, R 27 W Sec 6 Douglas Hill Area	Project on Hold	August 2001	2001	Jim Kilroy

REXFORD RANGER DISTRICT, 1299 Highway 93 North, Eureka, MT 59917 - Phone: 406-296-2536, Fax: 406-296-2588 NEWSPAPER OF RECORD: DAILY INTERLAKE, Kalispell, MT

NEWSPAPER OF RECORD: DAILY INTERLAKE, Kalispell, MT FORTINE RANGER DISTRICT, P.O. Box 116, Fortine, MT 59918 - Phone: 406-882-4451, Fax: 406-882-4835 YEAR ANTICIPATED NEPA ACTIVITY TO CONTACT MAP **TYPE OF PROJECT** NAME OF PROJECT LOCATION DECISION KEY STATUS START ON PERSON DATE GROUND T33N, R26W, Sec. 21-22, 27-29, 31-35; T32; T32N, 2003 6 Timber Sale Fortine Timber Sales and Developing September 2002 Joleen Proposal Associated Activities EIS; R28W. Sections 3-11, 14-36; T32N, R27W, Sections 1-2, Dunham 22000-46000 CCF (9-19 11-14, 23-26; T31N, R26W, Sections 3-5, 8-10, 15, and MMBF) 16.

THREE RIVERS RANGER DISTRICT, 1437 N. Highway 2, Troy, MT 59935 - Phone:406-295-4693, Fax: 406-295-4142 NEWSPAPER OF RECORD: DAILY INTERLAKE, Kalispell, MT

MAP KEY	TYPE OF PROJECT	NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	NEPA STATUS	ANTICIPATED DECISION DATE	YEAR ACTIVITY TO START ON GROUND	CONTACT PERSON
7	Timber Sale, Planting, Watershed Improvement	Kelsey-Beaver	Portions of T35N, R32W; T35N, R31W; and T36N, R30W; Lincoln County, Montana. Also includes planting in Mt. Henry Roadless Area. May include Forest Plan Amendment, openings over 40 acres, and road decommissioning	FEIS/ROD pending	December 2001	2002	Mike Giesey
8	Special Use Permit/Easement	Cool Creek Access	T35N, R32W, Secs. 2, 3, 4, Lincoln County, Montana; across Yaak River from town of Yaak.	Analyzing Effects	April, 2002	2002	Mark Natale

MAP KEY	TYPE OF PROJECT	NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	NEPA STATUS	ANTICIPATED DECISION DATE	YEAR ACTIVITY TO START ON GROUND	CONTACT PERSON
9	Timber Sale	Pipestone 13,170 CCF (5.4 MMBF). May include Forest Plan ORD amendment. Includes prescribed burning in the Gold Hill West Roadless Area, 65 miles of road decommissioning, .47 miles of road construction on FS lands by Plum Creek, 2.18 miles of reconstruction on FS lands by the FS and private landowners, 1000 feet of snowmachine trail construction, and .60 miles of temporary road construction.	T34N, R32W, Section 36; T34N, R31W, Sections 11,14,15,21-36; T34N, R30W, Section1; T33N, R32W, Sections 1,12,23-5,36; T33N, R31W, Sections 1-36; T33N, R30W, Sections 18-20,29-33; T32N, R32W, Sections 1,12-13,24,25,36; T32N,R31W, Sections 1-36; T32N, R30W, Sections 5-10,15-21,29-32; T31N, R31W, Sections 1-22,29,30; T31N, R30W, Sections 4- 9,17,18. Pipe Creek area.	Analyzing Effects	March 2002	2002	Tim Charnon
10	Timber Sale	South McSwede 5975 CCF (2.45 MMBF). Includes 590 acres of precommercial thinning, 3 miles of temp road construction, private land access, and 9 miles of road decommissioning.	T29N,R30W, Sections 28,29,32-34; T28N,R30W, Sections 1,2,9-15,22-27,33-36; T28N, R29W, Sections 7,8,18; T27N, R30W, Sections 4,5,9.	Seeking Public Comment	April 2002	2002	Tim Charnon
11	Fuels Reduction	Treasure Interface Fuels Reduction. Approximately 282 of commercial thinning to reduce fuel loads along Granite Lake Creek road and adjacent subdivisions.	T30N, R31W, Sections 22, 27, 28 and 33-35. Granite Lake Road area	Analyzing Effects	February 2002	2002	Tim Charnon
*	Silviculture	Tree pruning	Libby District	Analyzing Effects	March 2002	2002	Tim Charnon
12	Minerals	Prospect Hill. Minerals exploration. Project includes opening of a closed road, construction of <1mi. of road and the reopening of 2 closed mine portals.	T30N, R31W, Section 33,32,29	Seeking Public Comment	April 2002	2002	Bobbie Lacklen
*	Minerals	Mineral Material Sources. Expansion and reclamation of 79 existing gravel pits.	Libby Ranger District	Analyzing Effects	January 2003	2002	Bobbie Lacklen
13	Recreation	Flower Creek parking lot expansion.	T30N, R31W, Section 21. Flower cross country ski area.	Decision 9/14/01	Completed	2001	Jon Jeresek
14	Recreation/ Minerals	Re-Reg. Mineral removal associated with boat ramp, parking and restroom construction.	T30N, R30W, Section 10. Adjacent to Highway 37 at the 8.7 mile post.	Analyzing Effects	January 2002	2003	Bobbie Lacklen
15	Recreation	Bear Creek X-C Ski Trail maintenance.	T29N, R31W, Section 13. Bear Creek cross country ski area.	Seeking Public Comment	June 2002	2002	Jon Jeresek
16	Special Uses	Installation of 7 miles of fiberoptic lines where existing lines occur. May include road improvements.	T25N, R29W, Sections 11,12; T25N, R30W, Sections 5,6; T26N, R30W, Sections 33, 34, 35, 36; T26N, R31W, Sections 17,18, 19, 30; T30N, R27W, Section 34; T30N, R28W, Sections 2,3,4,5,12. Dunn Creek, Canyon Creek and Silver Butte areas.	Decision 9/01	Completed	2001	Dick Harlow
17	Special uses	Bear Lakes access request. Livestock use of existing trail and 200 feet of associated trail construction accessible to livestock. Trail accesses private lands.	T26N, R30W, Section 30. Silver Butte area.	Seeking Public Comment	March 2002	2002	Dick Harlow

LIBBY RANGER DISTRICT: Canoe Gulch RS, 12557 HWY 37, Libby, MT 59923 Phone: 406-293-7773, FAX: 406-293-5758 NEWSPAPER OF RECORD: DAILY INTERLAKE, Kalispell, MT

LIBBY RANGER DISTRICT: continued YEAR ANTICIPATED ACTIVITY MAP TYPE OF NEPA CONTACT NAME OF PROJECT LOCATION DECISION TO START PERSON KEY PROJECT STATUS DATE ON GROUND T32N, R31W, Section 14. Pipe Creek area. May be 2002 18 Special uses Beebe road request. Includes Analyzing June 2002 Dick Harlow included in Pipestone decision. reconstruction of 400 feet of existing Effects road on FS lands. 19 Special uses Spring Creek road access. T32N, R28W, Section 5. Volcour Gulch area. June 2002 2002 Dick Harlow Seeking Includes 1/4 mile road construction. Public Comment 20 Special uses Burrier road request. Includes T32N, R31W, Section 14. Pipe Creek area. May be Analyzing June 2002 2002 Dick Harlow reconstruction (widening) of 200 feet of included in Pipestone decision. Effects existing road on FS lands. T31N, R31W, Section 21. Pipe Creek area. May be 21 Special uses Young road request. Includes June 2002 2002 Dick Harlow Analyzing reconstruction of 1.2 miles of existing included in Pipestone decision. Effects road on FS lands. Formerly known as Pipe Creek private road.

CABINET RANGER DISTRICT, 2693 Highway 200, Trout Creek, MT 59874 - Phone: 406-827-3533, Fax: 406-827-3203 NEWSPAPER OF RECORD: DAILY INTERLAKE, Kalispell, MT

MAP KEY	TYPE OF PROJECT	NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	NEPA STATUS	ANTICIPATED DECISION DATE	YEAR ACTIVITY TO START ON GROUND	CONTACT PERSON
22	Timber Sale	Whitepine Creek EIS 33,000 CCF (15MMBF). Project includes up to 52 miles road decommissioning. Possible Forest Plan amendments for management of old growth, open road densities, cavity nesting habitat. May include Regional Forester approval of openings over 40 acres. NOI published April 23, 1999.	T22N, R32W, Sec 4,5: T23N, R31W, Sec 3-11, 14-24, 27- 30: T23N, R32W, Sec 1-3, 10-17, 20-29, 31-34: T24N, 31W, Sec 31-33: T24N, R32W, Sec 24-26, 35, 36. Whitepine Creek Drainage south of the town of Trout Creek.	Draft EIS expected December 2001	May 2002	2003	John Gubel
23	Timber Sale	Fat Blue Eddy EA	T27N, R34W, Sec 7-10, 15-18, 21-23, 24,25; Blue Cr., and Big Eddy Cr. drainages near Heron, MT	Developing Proposed Action	September 2002	2003	John Head
*	Pre-commercial Thinning	Cabinet District Pre-commercial Thinning FY01 DM	Various locations across the District. Approximately 1139 acres.	Decision Memo signed 9/01	Complete	2001	Gene Newell
24	Prescribed fire	Upper Vermilion Elk Habitat Improvement DM	T24,25 N; R29W; Sec. 35,1,2,9,10,11,14,15,16,21,22	Scoping and analysis of effects	Feb 2002	2002	Steve Johnsen
25	Stream Improvement	Trout Creek Riparian Revegetation DM	T24N; R32W; Sec. 24	Scoping and analysis of effects	Jan 2002	2002	Doug Grupenhoff

26	Stream Improvement	Rock Creek Sediment Abatement DM	T26N; R32W; Sec. 27	Scoping and analysis of effects	Jan 2002	2002	Doug Grupenhoff
27	Recreation	East Fork Trout Creek Trail Improvement	T23N; R32W; Sec 18-19	Analyzing Effects & scoping	April 2002	2002	Bruce Haflich
28	Recreation	Water Hill Trail Improvement	T24N; R31W; Sec 23, 24 T24N; R30W; Sec 19	Analyzing Effects & scoping	April 2002	2002	Bruce Haflich
29	Recreation	Bull River Campground Improvement	T26N; R32W; Sec 3, 10	Analyzing Effects & scoping	Jan 2002	2002	Bruce Haflich
30	Lands	Cox Land Exchange	T22N; R30W; Sec 5 (NFS land) T23N; R31W; Sec 11 (private)	Scoping	June 2002	2002	Bruce Haflich
*	Timber stand improvement	Whitepine Pruning Project	Various plantations (call for details)	Analyzing Effects	March 2002	2002	Gene Newell
*	Timber stand improvement	Seed Production Area Maintenance Project	Various plantations (call for details)	Analyzing Effects	March 2002	2002	Gene Newell
*	Timber stand improvement	Vermilion Mistletoe Sanitation Project	Various plantations in the Vermilion River drainage (call for details)	Analyzing Effects	March 2002	2002	Gene Newell
31	Special Uses	Whitepine Telephone Line DM	T23N, R31W; Sec. 16	DM signed 9/18/01	Complete	2001	Bruce Haflich

KOOTENAI SUPERVISORS OFFICE, 1101 US Hwy 2 West, Libby, MT 59923 - Phone: 406-293-6211, Fax: 406-293-6418 NEWSPAPER OF RECORD: DAILY INTERLAKE, Kalispell, MT

MAP KEY	TYPE OF PROJECT	NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	NEPA STATUS	ANTICIPATED DECISION DATE	YEAR ACTIVITY TO START ON GROUND	CONTACT PERSON
32	Minerals	STERLING; Copper/ Silver MIne	T26N, R32W; Rock Creek. Includes FP amendments	FEIS released 9/14/01 Preparing ROD	December 2001	2002	John McKay
*	Fuels	Forestwide Fuels Reduction	Forestwide (site specific locations available upon request)	Responding to Comments	December 2001	2002	Joe Krueger (406-283-7774)
*	Grizzly Bear Forest Plan Amendments	Forest Plan Amendments For Access Management in Grizzly Bear Habitat Within Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Recovery Zones.	Portions of Lolo NF, Idaho Panhandle NF, and Kootenai NF.	Draft EIS Public Comment Period ends 12/31/01	February 2002	2002	Rob Carlin (406-882-4451)
*	Northern Rockies Lynx Amendment	Forest Plan Amendments for Lynx	18 National Forests in Regions 1, 2 and 4.	Beginning Public Scoping Scoping period ends 12/10/01	July 2002	2002	John Haber (406-329-3399)