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First name: Wayne
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Organization: Kootenai Forest Stakeholders
Title:
Comments: Dear Nate,The Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Collaborative (KFSC) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Swamped Project on the Libby District of the Kootenai National Forest. KSFCsupports the project's integrated approach to improving forest health and resilience, reducing hazardous fuels, providing sustainable forest products, and supporting the economy andcommunities of the area.As you know, the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Collaborative (KFSC) is a group comprised of individuals from the conservation community, timber industry, various recreational groups andlocal political and community leaders. It is our charter to be a partner with the Kootenai National Forest in the assessment and successful implementation of well planned and balanced projectsacross the forest.In review of the proposed Swamped project, much of the project area is within the wildland urban interface (WUI) and due to a lack of disturbance in the project area, tree density is at alevel that the agency deems management is necessary to mitigate fire danger. Also, we noted that the Swamped Project is similar to that of the nearby Ripley Project and we hope that therecent court decisions are helpful in the design of this project.We also endorse the agencies management activities to include both commercial and noncommercial treatments including pre-commercial thinning, slashing and the re-introduction of afire regimen into the ecosystem.In closing, we are aware that the agency is proposing to treat a large percentage of the project area. We appreciate your willingness to include the KFSC team as a working group on thedevelopment of this project. We feel we can offer input that is valuable and enhances the project given it's location and proximity to Libby. KFSC would like to express our appreciation to yourteam for preparing a excellent project .