



## Kootenai National Forest Fall Prescribed Burns 2007



Fall is here and the Kootenai National Forest will begin to implement their fall prescribed burn programs.

The Kootenai National Forest uses prescribed burning as a very important resource management tool to reach their management objectives. Some of the most common objectives of prescribed burning are: fuel reduction, site preparation for reforestation, improvement and creation of wildlife habitat and regulation of stand composition. All prescribed burns on the Kootenai National Forest must comply with air quality regulations, guided and monitored by the Montana/Idaho State Airshed Group. Burns will occur when air dispersion and weather forecasts are predicted to be favorable. We understand that smoky conditions are not always the most pleasant experience. We will strive to minimize the smoke effects and reduce impacts to the public, but there may be some short periods of smoky conditions.

We would like to thank the local communities for being supportive of our fuels treatment programs in the past and value your continued support. Please keep in mind that fuels treatments will help make our forests healthier and help reduce hazardous fuels.

The Kootenai National Forest may be treating up to ? acres this fall with understory prescribed burning. Most of these burns will be reducing slash generated from harvest activities. ? acres of excavator piles will also be burned. Some of these treatments are in close proximity to private property, homes and the local communities and the valley may experience some periodic smoky conditions.

Although these areas will be impacted the most by short term smoke created by the prescribed burns, the effects of fuels treatments in these areas will have long-term benefits.

Please travel cautiously through smoky areas and reduce your speed. Visibility may be limited and people and equipment may be present in the smoke. If you have any questions about the prescribed burns or would like to be contacted prior to any burning in your area, please call the Cabinet Ranger District 406-827-0736, Libby Ranger District 406-293-7531, Fortine Ranger District 406-882-4451, Rexford Ranger District at 406-296-2536, or Three Rivers Ranger District 406-295-7478.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION**