



WELCOME to the Kootenai!

opportunities, water resources, recreational facilities, and a balanced pattern of land use.

A long history of logging reaches back to the days of flumes and river drives. Now a network of roads used for modern logging crosses the forest. Some of these roads are closed immediately after logging to protect sensitive areas, and others remain open for all to enjoy. Reforestation, both natural and artificial, has provided a continuous supply of logs since the forest was created. Some areas have been harvested and regenerated more than three times during this period.

Mining has played an important part in the history of the Kootenai Forest. Old wagon roads and trails made by miners were essential to early travelers throughout the area. Mining still plays an important role in the economic well-being of local communities. Two world-class silver and copper mines are proposed for development within the next few years.

Multiple Use management has been and will continue to be the theme here. In cooperation with many partners, our management activities are visible and ongoing throughout the forest. From fisheries improvement on the Cabinet District, to outfitting and guiding mountain scenery, year-around recreation, wildlife and fisheries, plus mining, logging and grazing.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Originally a part of the Lewis and Clark Forest Reserve, the Kootenai National Forest was established by President Theodore Roosevelt on August 15, 1906. It comprised the area north and west of the Kootenai River and north to the Canadian border. Later additions to the forest increased the area to the east, west and south respectively, encompassing more diverse lands of mountains, valleys, plains and rivers.

Historically, the Kootenai as part of the congressionally mandated Multiple Use concept, has provided a variety of services for a wide range of public needs on a long term basis. It is managed to provide wood products, quality fish and wildlife habitat, mining

COME EXPLORE!

With a variety of landscapes, the Kootenai offers some of the finest recreation opportunities in Montana. Elevations range from 1800 to 8700 feet, and recreation activities are available throughout.

The lower valleys offer water recreation on a multitude of streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. In the northern half of the forest, Lake Kootenai, a 90-mile reservoir on the Kootenai River created by Libby Dam, is an excellent lake for fishing. Trophy lamprologes were planted in Lake Kootenai by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in cooperation with Canada.

Also along the reservoir is Stone Hill, a popular rock climbing wall. Many Montanans and our Canadian neighbors enjoy the well developed and challenging routes of Stone Hill, a unique opportunity for beginning and advanced climbers.

Record-size trout have been taken from the blue ribbon Kootenai River below Libby Dam. For the locals and visitors alike, this river offers fishing at its finest.

The southern edge of the forest contains the Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Reservoir on the Clark Fork River. The Cabinet Gorge Reservoir is home to bass, trout, blue gill, sunfish and pike. Noxon Reservoir boasts bass, trout, perch and other game fish. In cooperation with several partners, bass habitats were created in the reservoir which enhanced the bass fisheries to the point where annual bass tournaments are now held. Another cooperative venture was the 7-acre Triangle Pond at Noxon, which is stocked with trout for children's fishing derbies.

COME EXPLORE!

Still more lakes, streams and rivers offer fishing, boating and swimming opportunities. Many have developed campgrounds for picnics or camping. For those desiring solitude, small lakes and streams provide a scenic backdrop for Libby and the surrounding area. The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness is a long, narrow strip running north-south in the center of the forest. It contains Snowshoe Peak at 8,728 feet, the highest mountain within the forest. Other lesser peaks dominate the landscape, from the moist lower valleys to the widest mountain ridges.

There is a network of hiking trails across the forest with several designated as National Recreation Trails. From lowlands to the tops of high mountain ridges, the Kootenai offers more than 1,200 miles of trails. For the seasoned hiker, the 23-mile Skyline Mountain Trail or the 22-mile Trout Creek Loop Trail offer an endurance challenge to even the most ambitious. Many other trails, such as the one to Little North Fork Falls off the west side of Lake Kootenai are much shorter and are accessible to the disabled.

Snowshoes occur as late as June and as early as September, limiting most backpacking and hiking to the mid-summer months. Due to weather extremes, forest personnel suggest hikers check at the nearest ranger district before hiking into the wilderness. Access to forest roads off U.S. Highway 2 and Montana State Highways 56 and 200. A Cabinet Mountains Wilderness map is available at all Kootenai Forest offices.

A brief glimpse at winter activities includes downhill and cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing and viewing the wonderful that winter brings to the Kootenai National Forest. During the winter, groomed trails await the snowmobile enthusiast. Turner Mountain Ski Area is 22 miles from Libby, and is open weekends during the season. It has been likened to the Swiss Alps for downhill skiing adventure. Maps highlighting trails for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are available at district offices.

Some less intense recreational opportunities include bird watching, wildflower and wildlife viewing, photography, berry picking, and scenic drives. For more information and brochures, visit any of the Forest Service offices listed on this map.

Hunting is a popular pastime. Big game animals including whitetail and mule deer, elk, moose, hognose sheep, black bear and mountain goat inhabit the area. Wild turkeys and upland birds round out the hunting possibilities.

Alpine glaciers shaped much of the present rugged scenery and it is dominated by a high ridge of the Whitefish Mountains. The Therautau Lakes and Blue-

SPECIAL PLACES

CABINET MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS - Designated a Primitive Area in 1935, it became wilderness as part of the Wilderness Act in 1964. This mountainous, rugged terrain covers 94,360 acres and provides a scenic backdrop for Libby and the surrounding area. The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness is a long, narrow strip running north-south in the center of the forest. It contains Snowshoe Peak at 8,728 feet, the highest mountain within the forest. Other lesser peaks dominate the landscape, from the moist lower valleys to the widest mountain ridges.

NORTHWEST PEAKS SCENIC AREA - Part of the Selkirk Range, the Northwest Peaks Scenic Area provides primitive recreation opportunities amid lofty peaks and deep valleys. In the northwestern corner of the Kootenai Forest, this scenic area is enhanced by several small lakes nestled in alpine forests at the base of rocky peaks. The Northwest Peak trail offers scenic views of the upper West Fork River drainage and panoramic scenery at its crest. The area is reached by forest roads extending from U.S. Highway 2 and Montana State Highway 508.

ROSS CREEK SCENIC AREA - A group of ancient Western Red Cedars encompassing 100 acres in the southwestern portion of the forest. A paved trail which is accessible to the disabled, winds through the grove providing the opportunity to view these giants which reach up to 8 feet in diameter and 175 feet tall. The trail leads you beside, and bridges take you across the waters of Ross Creek. This clear, fast moving stream is shadowed by the giant cedars and tall ferns. Among other flowers, the bright yellow monkey flower stands out in shallow pools and on the edges of the streambank. Visitors to the Ross Creek Cedars are welcome to picnic at the grove or in the scenic streamside picnic grounds near the parking area. Montana State Highway 56 provides access to the scenic area via a four mile drive on forest road 398, just south of Bull Lake.

TEN LAKES SCENIC AREA - A 100-acre area of alpine lakes and meadows along the northwestern edge of the forest, with Canada bordering one side. Containing 15,700 acres, it is designated for special wilderness evaluation under the Wilderness Study Act.

ROOSEVELT BASIN - A 100-acre area of alpine lakes and meadows along the northwestern edge of the forest, with Canada bordering one side. Containing 15,700 acres, it is designated for special wilderness evaluation under the Wilderness Study Act.

CAMPING

bird Basin area offer spectacular beauty. Forested areas contain a unique mix of conifers, and summer brings an abundance of blooming wildflowers and shrubs. Several trails traverse the area and are easily accessed from Highway 63 via various forest roads.

KOOTENAI FALLS - The Kootenai River boasts the last free-flowing falls on a major river in the Columbia River system. As the broad river flows west from Libby, the canyon contracts into a narrow, rock-floored gorge. At this point the Kootenai River becomes a torrent and cascades over the rocky ledges that form the falls.

Kootenai Falls Overlook with its ample parking is between Troy and Libby on U.S. Highway 2. In a cooperative effort in 1991, Lincoln County Highway Department, Burlington Northern Railroad, Libby Lions Club and the Kootenai National Forest rebuilt the trail and installed an overpass which improved access to the falls area.

Camping is allowed almost anywhere on the forest, and a number of developed campgrounds are available with designated sites, toilets and drinking water. Most developed campgrounds charge a daily fee. Some also provide docks, swimming areas and other amenities. Please limit your stay to two weeks at any site. (A list of recreation sites is shown at right.)

ROAD CLOSURE DEVICES

Refer to Road Access map for specific traffic and date restrictions.

RECREATION SITES

FOREST SERVICE	BOAT LAUNCH	CAMPING	DRINKING WATER	TOILETS	TRAIL	VIEWING PLATFORM	WATER	WILDLIFE
BARBER CREEK								
BIG FISH CREEK								
BONNIE LAKE								
CAMP 22								
CANADIAN								
COPPER CREEK								
GATEWAY BOAT CAMP								
LAKE KOOTENAI								
LIBBY DAM								
LITTLE THERMAULT								
LYONS LAKE								
MARTIN FALLS								
MCCOY CREEK								
MIDDLE MTH LONCHON CREEK								
MCCOY CREEK								
NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS								
SEA MOUNTAIN								
MOUNTAIN MASTERS								
PULLEY MOUNTAIN								
SKYLINE								
WYNNART GLENYER/BOULDER								
NORTH SHORE LAKE								
PECK CREEK								
PETE CREEK								
ROCK TOP								
REDFORD BRANCH								
ROCK LAKE								
ROCKY GORGE								
ROSE LAKE								
SOUTH FLOWER (Conservation)								
TURKEY MOUNTAIN (Overlook)								
SOUTH SHORE LAKE								
SQUAW PEAR LONCHON CREEK								
SUNNYSIDE LAKE								
STIVA LAKE								
TIMBERLAKE (Recreation Only)								
TURKEY FALLS								
TURKEY FALLS								
TURKEY FALLS								
TURKEY FALLS								
VINAL LAKE								
WYNNART GLENYER/BOULDER								
YAKAR RIVER								
YONKINS ISLAND								

POINTS OF INTEREST

POINT OF INTEREST	LOCATION
ANT LAKES	01
BOULDER CITY (GHOST TOWN)	02
BULL RIVER HISTORIC DANGER STATION	03
CABINET MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS	04
CHINA FALLS	05
COPPER FALLS	06
DISNEY LAKE OVERLOOK	07
FISH LAKE	08
HERITAGE MUSEUM	09
HISTORIC VILLAGES	10
MCCOY CREEK (TR. Formation)	11
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