

## OVERVIEW:

This was an effort to resolve an ambiguous county boundary description in state code that effects six of the northern counties of Idaho. In particular it effects the eastern boundary of Kootenai County (common with Shoshone County). John Elsbury, PLS, Latah County Surveyor spearheaded this effort to update state code to reflect a boundary that is anchored in the Public Land Survey System.

Fortunately, almost all the parcels in Kootenai County effected by this proposed amendment are owned by the United States Forest Service or the U. S. Bureau of Land Management. Below is a brief overview and a list of parcels that would be either annexed or de-annexed by this proposed change.

The boundary common to six norther Idaho counties (including the east boundary of Kootenai County) was defined near the time of statehood and prior to the federal government surveys of the public land survey system (PLSS). Since the land had not been surveyed into Township, Ranges and Sections by this time, the legislature opted to rely on natural objects to describe the line in question. The line was, and still is, described as being “a line due north of the mouth of the north fork of the Clearwater River”. This description is problematic on many levels. The physical location of this description can vary over 1000 feet depending on the interpretation used. It has no one definite location on the ground and is basically unenforceable. Because of this, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties have historically used a location which is either 3.25 sections (1/16<sup>th</sup> line) or 3 sections and 1230 feet (based on a 1886 survey) east of the Boise Meridian to determine what parcels or acreages are in which county. Even though this has been the observed method for so many years, it does not necessarily follow the county boundary as defined in state statute.

This is an effort to reconcile this line and define the county line in state statute in a way that is in harmony with the PLSS and how private property is currently being taxed. Shifts in the line that do occur are through federal lands in an effort to follow section and quarter section corners and balance the amount of acreage being transferred.

The process for amending state statute to adopt this new boundary definition is:

1. Commissioners from all six counties will need to approve and sign a joint ordinance adopting the revision to the legal description for the common county boundary.
2. Bills will need to be passed by the state legislature to revise the existing statutes.
3. County tax rolls will need to be updated.

An abbreviated description of the proposed boundary common to Kootenai County and Shoshone County is (see attached Assessor Maps):

From the Northeast Corner of Kootenai County being the northwest corner of section 3 township 52 North, Range 1 East;

Thence south, 12 miles along the section lines to the northwest corner of Section 3 Township 50 North, Range 1 East;

Thence east, 0.5 miles to the north quarter corner of said Section 3;

Thence south, 8 miles along the center section line to the north quarter corner of Section 15, Township 49 North, Range 1 East;

Thence east, 0.25 miles to the north 16<sup>th</sup> corner of said Section 15,

Thence south, 10 miles along the westerly 16<sup>th</sup> line to the line of Section 3, Township 47 North, Range 1 East;

Thence east, 0.25 miles to the north quarter corner of said Section 3;

Thence south 3 miles along the center section line to the northwest corner of Section 22 Township 47 north, Range 1 East and the Southeast Corner of Kootenai County.

The parcels that are effected by the newly described county boundary are (from north to south):

Kootenai to Shoshone		Parcel Number/ AIN	Owner	Assessed Acreage	GAIN/LOSS TO KC based on SEC to 1/16
Township	Section				
52	3	147271	USFS	101	-101
52	3	119838	USFS	40	-40
52	10	121210	USFS	160	-160
52	15	103516	USFS	160	-160
52	22	146881	USFS	120	-120
52	22	101922	USFS	40	-40
52	27	108509	USFS	160	-160
52	34	104426	USFS	160	-160
51	3	134679	USFS	73	-160
51	10	118372	USFS	73	-160
51	15	113412	USFS	73	-160
51	22	133666	USFS	73	-160
51	27	112600	USFS	73	-160
51	34	125654	USFS	73	-160
				<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>-1901</b>

Shoshone to Kootenai		AIN	Owner	Acreage	GAIN/LOSS TO KC based on C 1/4 to 1/16
Township	Section				
50	3	RP50N01E-03-0200A	US	640	160
50	10	RP50N01E-10-0200A	US	535	160
50	15	RP50N01E-15-0200A	US	538	160
50	22	RP50N01E-22-0200A	US	542	160
50	27	RP50N01E-27-0200A	US	544	160
50	34	RP50N01E-34-0200A	US	534	160
49	3	RP49N01E-03-0200A	US	none listed	50
49	3	none listed (mining claim)	none listed	none listed	30
49	3	RP49N01E-03-5200A	US	none listed	80
49	10	RP49N01E-10-2550A	US	none listed	80
49	10	RP49N01E-10-0200A	US	none listed	80
	3	RP47N01E-03-0200A	BOSTON TIMBER	295	80

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47						
47	3	RP47N01E-03-4900A	US	none listed		80
47	10	RP47N01E-10-2500A	US	none listed		80
47	10	RP47N01E-10-4300A	US	74		80
47	15	RP47N01E-15-0700A	US	none listed		160
				<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>1760</b>
						<b>NET -141 ACRES</b>

\*\*Township 49 North (south of Section 10) and 48 North follow the 1/16<sup>th</sup> line which is the current observed boundary. There is no gain or loss.