

University of Idaho

Fact Sheet: Kootenai County Extension

www.uidaho.edu/extension/kootenai/about

Overview: Federal and State Mandate for Extension

University of Idaho Extension is a vital part of the University's core mission as a land-grant institution – a “people's university” – to extend discovery, new knowledge and service to Idaho's citizens.

Extension provides education and opportunities for people, ranging from forest management education, to financial management, health, and nutrition education to community development. Extension programs educate people and communities – like those in Kootenai County – to make changes for the better.

The Smith-Lever Act (1914) established the national Extension system, and in 1917, Kootenai County and the University of Idaho entered into a partnership to provide cooperative Extension programming to local county citizens. Extension services to local constituents come from this **forged partnership that utilizes federal, state and county funding.**

- **For every dollar Kootenai County invests in Extension, there is a return of \$2.71.**
- When the **value of volunteer hours** for Extension is factored in, **the return in Kootenai County is \$4.36** for every dollar invested.

In brief: federal Smith-Lever funds and state-appropriated funds are routed through each state's land-grant university to support Extension; this covers salaries for Extension educators in 42 Idaho counties. Counties provide funds for support staff, local office operations and travel.

- A vibrant higher education system is essential for the state's economic health and for our citizens' quality of life. As part of the University of Idaho's statewide system, Extension programs benefit and touch many lives in positive ways.

Highlighted Extension Impact in Kootenai County:

4-H and Youth Development Programs

- Nearly 700 youth annually gain vital life skills including leadership, citizenship, communications and community outreach with support by over 245 adult volunteers.
- 4-H volunteer leaders give more than 12,200 hours of service annually worth \$200,000.
- A study shows 4-H Youth participants are 50 percent less likely to engage in high-risk behaviors – including drinking, shoplifting, illegal drug use, and property damage – than non-4-H youth, saving substantial juvenile justice related costs.

Extension Nutrition Program

- In 2010, **21,290 Kootenai County residents participated in food stamp programs**, a nearly four-fold increase from 2007.
- In 2011, the **county's Extension Nutrition Program** used \$136,000 in grant funds to **educate 3,100 members of low-income, food stamp-eligible families** to eat healthier and reduce disease risks.
- **In Idaho, nearly 10 percent of adults are affected by diabetes.** The **free Extension program Healthy Eating with Diabetes** has helped over 560 participants since 2000 to self-manage their disease. **Each \$1 invested can cut health care costs by \$8.76.**

- Extension provides the Area Agency on Aging with nutrition services, including senior meal-site menu review and certification and training for food service personnel. In 2010 Extension provided senior meal site managers 500 new menus tailored for diabetics.

Forest Owner and Logger Education

- Over the last two decades, Kootenai County forest owners have been an essential source of supply to local forest products companies. These **forest owners harvest an average of 55.6 million board feet of timber annually worth over \$22 million, supporting living wage jobs here from wood products harvest and manufacturing.**
- A growing number of forest products retailers want to sell forest products that can be certified as harvested from sustainably managed forests. The **Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)**, the forest certification program that most Idaho mills participate in, **requires loggers to be trained in forestry best management practices.** Kootenai County Extension logger training efforts aid Idaho forest product companies’ efforts to **increase Idaho’s share of global markets for certified wood products.**
- Last year, 456 people attended 10 Extension workshops and field days held in Kootenai County for forest owners. In general, more than 80 percent of the participants indicate they will improve specific forest management practices to more sustainably grow wood and biomass to support Kootenai County’s economy, reduce fire risk in wildland urban interface areas, and reduce forest insect and disease issues.

Master Gardeners

- Certified Master Gardener volunteers provide more than 2,800 hours annually, including responding to nearly 3,000 in-office assistance requests by local homeowners. They **trained residents to minimize environmental and water quality impacts thru appropriate use of lawn/garden products.**
- Master Gardeners **support local food banks** by establishing/maintaining community gardens in Coeur d’Alene, Post Falls, Dalton and Hayden which yield fresh produce.
- Master Gardeners **help at-risk youth** develop personal discipline skills through gardening experiences, coupled with how to dress, write resumes and effectively interview. By supporting the Youth Summer Job Program and efforts orchestrated with Rotary, Master Gardeners helped youth get jobs.

By the Numbers

The most recent fiscal year data show the contributions that each partner – County and University – makes and, in addition, the value that Extension-generated grants brought to the community:

Kootenai County

\$161,090

[Does not include utilities and office space contributions]

University of Idaho

\$436,253

[Includes state appropriations and federal Smith-Lever funds – \$266,253 – and University-based Extension grants– \$170,656]

Volunteer Hours Value

\$266,741

[More than 16,000 hours in community gardening, forestry, master gardeners, 4-H, and youth development; dollar values based upon Corporation for National & Community Service methodology]