



NEWS RELEASE

United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Nez Perce National Forest
Route 2, Box 475
Grangeville, Idaho 83530

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 4, 2004

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Welcome Hunters

Grangeville, Idaho – Less daylight and cooler weather signal the arrival of fall and Idaho's much-anticipated hunting season. Many hunters look forward to this season as a chance to explore the local mountains in search of trophy game, to bring home meat for the family, or just to spend quality time with friends. Whatever your personal goals are for this hunting season, be aware of other hunters in the area and keep safety in mind when heading to the woods.

The Clearwater, Slate Creek, Red River and Moose Creek Ranger Districts of the Nez Perce National Forest are geared up and ready to answer your area hunting questions. Campgrounds are available on each district although water has been turned off for the winter months and fees have been reduced. Camping is still limited to 14 days in one spot. A reminder to hunters that firearms are not allowed in federal buildings. Most Forest Service offices are open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday to obtain maps, brochures, firewood permits, and big game regulations for 2004-2005. You can purchase topographic maps at the Grangeville Book Shoppe.

All-terrain vehicle (ATV) use during hunting season has increased dramatically. While ATVs have made access to some backcountry areas and big game retrieval easier for many hunters, their increased use has created some problems. ATV users are urged to stay on designated roads and remember please respect that there is "no motorized use" in the wilderness.

When taking stock into the backcountry, feed your stock weed-free-hay and pellets. Your animals are important, if they wandered off, you'd have a heavy load on your shoulders. Decide how you will keep your

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animals properly secured when unattended.

Hunters with disabilities can request special road access permits. Please contact the Red River Ranger District for information about available areas and to obtain access permits.

Coolwater Road #317, Fog Mountain #319 and Indian Hill #290 on the Moose Creek District will be closed to vehicles on November 5, but will still be open to stock, foot and ATV travel. A reminder that the Falls Point Road #443 is closed to all motorized vehicles except motorcycles and ATVs. This restriction is to provide for public safety until roadway damage can be repaired. Mackay Bar Road #222, on the Red River District is very muddy and possibly impassable for the last two miles.

All roads are potentially slick given the past weeks rain, and wash-outs are possible. Snow has been sighted on the Nez Perce Forest. Bring gear that will allow you to survive winter-like weather. Please call the Red River District before traveling the Magruder Corridor Road due to snow.

Use common sense and be conservative. Getting into the mountains is only half the battle; you still need to get home safely.

For a complete listing of campground and facilities on the Nez Perce National Forest, obtain a free copy of the Clearwater/Nez Perce Travel Planner from any forest office or access it on the internet at:

www.fs.fed.us/nezperce. For further information, contact the Nez Perce National Forest Headquarters Office at (208) 983-1950. HAPPY HUNTING!

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