

NezPerce News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees



Volume 1, Issue 3, October, 2003

Fire Season 2003 Wrapup

by Ken Castro, Fire Management Officer



The 2003 fire season started out slowly this season with below average number of fires and acres for the months of June and July. The first part of August saw the beginning of a series of lightning storms that ignited multiple wildland fires in the Red River District, Moose Creek Districts of the Nez Perce as well as the Powell District of the Clearwater National Forest. Significant lightning also started fires on the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests as well as other areas in Western Montana. This overall situation led to a draw-down of available firefighting and Incident Management Team resources over the next month and a half. From August 11 to September 12 there were 10 incident management teams on the Clear/Nez Zone.

Due to the shortages of available firefighting resources the Forest and the Zone had to prioritize which fires posed the most significant threat to life, communities, property and resources. Those fires that posed the greatest risk, received limited firefighting resources to suppress fires. In some cases, firefighting resources were used to control or contain portions of fires to protect critical resources. In other cases they were used to simply monitor fires in backcountry or wilderness areas. These fires were managed under a confinement suppression response or where appropriate, under a Wildland Fire Use for Resource Benefits Fires (WFURBís).



Beaver Ridge Lookout, Powell R.D. Clearwater N.F.



Slims Fire, Moose Creek R.D., Nez Perce N.F.

Significant fires that occurred on the Nez Perce National Forest included:

- Slims Fire on Moose Creek District for 12,011 acres
- Poet Fire on Red River District for 2,574 acres
- Sapp Fire, originated on the Payette NF and burned onto the Red River District for 9,686 acres
- Fiddle Fire on the Slate Creek District for 696 acres
- Pettibone Creek on the Moose Creek District for 8,346 acres

Other wildland fire activity on the Nez Perce National Forest include (includes fires noted in previous paragraph):

- 213 wildland, lightning caused fires for 38,097 acres
- 12 human caused wildland fires for a total of 13.5 acres
- 15 Prescribed fires for a total of 1,845 acres
- 17 Wildland Fire Use for Resource Benefit Fires (WFURBís) for 5,587 acres

Staffing on the Nez Perce National Forest was accomplished at the following levels:

- Funded at the 95% preparedness target level
- 105 Firefighters hired
- 12 Engines staffed
- 4 Prevention Technicians staffed
- 16 Leadership Positions staffed or filled during the season



Nez Perce N.F.
Route 2, Box 475
Highway 13 East
Grangeville, ID 83530
Tel: 208-983-1950
Fax: 208-983-4099

Back Country Horsemen

The Back Country Horsemen of America has been around since 1973 working to perpetuate the historic use of recreational stock in the back country. They have assisted the government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of land resources. That is just what the Twin Riverís Back Country Horsemen of Lewiston has provided to the Nez Perce National Forest.



Rod Parks & Bob Shelton

In July 2003 with the combined efforts of the Nez Perce National Forest and the Twin Riverís Back Country Horsemen of Lewiston, Trail #351 in the Gospel Hump Wilderness has been opened and tread work has been accomplished. This will allow hikers and horsemen to enjoy a loop from Moores Guard Station to Johnís Creek, up Johnís Creek to Taylor Meadow and back to Moores by the way of the Kentucky Creek Trail #315. Trail #351 was last cleared in 1995 and travels through some very isolated and interesting territory. It is an excellent hiking and horseback riding trail with access from multiple locations.

The following Twin Riverís Back Country Horsemen volunteered their hard work and expertise of clearing and opening trails for public use. Dave Favor, Don Uhlman, Larry Taylor, Rod Parks, Bob Shelton and Bill Correll.

The Nez Perce National Forest provided the great food while the Back Country Horsemen provided the labor. Forest Service personnel also involved in the project were Don Eckford, Trails Specialist and John Fantini, Recreation/Trails and Rivers coordinator of the Salmon River Ranger District and Gene Lloyd, Trails Inspector, Clearwater Ranger District. Thanks to everyone.

If you would like to find more information about the Back Country Horsemen of America you can log onto: <http://www.backcountryhorsemen.com/>

A Cooperative Effort in Horse Safety

By Cindy Schacher, Archaeological Technician

On June 25th the Backcountry Horsemen of North Central Idaho and the Nez Perce National Forest Safety Committee co-hosted a Defensive Horse Safety Course at Fenn Ranger Station along the Selway River. Sixteen people participated in the course including Forest Service employees and volunteers as well as Idaho State Fish and Game conservation officers.

The course fulfilled the horse safety policy adopted by Region One in 2000 requiring all volunteers and employees who work around or ride stock to take an eight-hour Defensive Horse Safety Course. A four-hour refresher course is required every three years. The Backcountry Horsemen (BCH) provided excellent instruction on the basics of horse safety including, catching, haltering, saddling, and loading horses as well as tips on horse psychology and centered riding. Both equine and human first aid instruction was also provided. A brief demonstration on packing and low impact horse camping was presented at the end of the day. A big thank you to BCH members, Beth Wykle, Roger and Janice Inghram, Don and Lorraine McPherson, Jim Renshaw, and Steve Didier for organizing the course and sharing with us their expertise and experience.



Alissa McCulley halters a horse

Forest Health in the Upper South Fork Clearwater Drainage

Well, it's certainly been a busy summer with priority projects, field trips, public meetings, fire season and all the other things we're involved in.

We want employees to keep up-to-date on the status of priority projects and forest health in the Upper South Fork Clearwater Drainage.

Rather than including both lengthy documents in this newsletter, we want to remind you that you can access the Current Status of Project Work in Red River and the Response to Six Action Items from May 10th Forest Health Meeting at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/>

Both documents are also linked to Senator Craig's website at: <http://craig.senate.gov>. The priority projects and action items were updated September 15th and will be updated by the Forest monthly.

For further information, please call Laura Smith at 983-5143 or drop by the Supervisor's Office for a visit.



American and Crooked River Field Review - August 28th

Fair Days 2003

The Public Affairs/Office Services group put together a display for county fairs this year. The display was used at the Idaho County Fair, Cottonwood, Latah County Fair, Moscow and the Nez Perce County Fair in Lewiston. The theme for the Nez Perce County Fair was "Barn To Be Wild". Erica Wilsey, Kelly Hogg, Halyna Mereszczak and Violet Rose made a display featuring red barns with interesting items inside. Animal pelts, pine cones and other items you might find in your National Forest were in the barns. The idea was for the public to read the question by each barn, put their hand in the barn and guess what's inside.

At the staffed fairs children and adults received pencils, balloons, litterbags, even temporary Smokey Bear tattoos.

A great time was had by all and thanks to all individuals from the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests that made this a special event by helping with the fairs.



*Erica Wilsey and Kelly
Hogg
Nez Perce County Fair*

From Abandoned Truck To Legendary Government Vehicle

Left at the bottom of Rattlesnake Canyon in the Galiuro Mountains of southern Arizona, a 1925 Dodge Brothers truck owned by the Forest Service sat rusting away for more than three decades.

In the mid-1960s, the truck came out of a long hibernation when two Forest Service employees - Cecil Sims and Charles Ames - dismantled it and had it flown out of the canyon to be rebuilt in Albuquerque.

The "Old Dodge" is once again undergoing changes. The truck's caretaker, Forest Service employee Tom Hooker, wants to have the vehicle repainted in addition to the yearly maintenance required to keep the truck in good condition. It has been several decades since the 1925 Dodge Brothers truck has had a new paint job, and Hooker said he needs all the help he can get for the project. Any loaned equipment or donated money would be more than appreciated, according to Hooker, who has been the vehicle's caretaker since the early 1970s.

According to Hooker, the maintenance of this vehicle is important in helping Smokey Bear bring his message of fire prevention to the West. Since the truck was pulled from Rattlesnake Canyon and put back together, it has carried Smokey Bear and at least four Forest Service Chiefs on parade routes throughout many Western states.

"The Dodge Brothers truck is the oldest Forest Service vehicle in the country," said Hooker, who also serves as the forest fleet manager for the Kaibab National Forest. "This vehicle has driven Smokey Bear around more times than any other government automobile, and it has been to places like New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, and all over Arizona."

The historical vehicle was abandoned at the bottom of Rattlesnake Canyon by forest ranger J.W. Girdner, in a successful bid to obtain a shiny, new Forest Service truck. Since the rebirth of the Dodge Brothers truck, a few mechanics and Forest Service employees, including Hooker, Fred "Perico" Avila, and Robert "Doc" Docherty, have made it their priority to keep the legendary vehicle in top condition.

"When I first acquired the vehicle, I worked on the woodwork and the spokes, which were wooden," Hooker said. "I had help from two other employees - Perico and Doc. Together we stripped down the vehicle, sandblasted it, refinished it, did the pinstriping and put the logo on the door." He added with a laugh, "I think the vehicle is more putty than metal."

Since then, the truck has been taken to a mechanic shop in Flagstaff - R&R Automotive. There, the vehicle is worked on and looked over each year by a family of mechanics, including Ron Stump, a third generation mechanic who learned most of his knowledge about the 1925 truck from his father.

The once-a-year check allows Forest Service management to breathe a little easier when parade coordinators and other event planners call on the "Old Dodge" to be part of festivities. "The truck has become really famous," Hooker said. "It is often one of the main attractions at special events."

However, Hooker warns that the truck's age and condition should be taken into consideration before sending it out to just any event. The vehicle must be properly inspected prior to being dispatched to parades, fairs or other activities.

It hasn't always been just fine tuning needed by the 1925 truck. Almost everything on the vehicle has been worked on since it was brought back to life in the mid-1960s. Everything from the water pump to the carburetor and the oil pump to the rear axle hubs has been replaced over the years.

But while the vehicle is running well, its visual appeal has started to decline from years of wear and tear. According to Hooker, he would like to get the repainting done as soon as possible, but it is going to take time and money - two things not readily available to him at the moment.

To learn more about the Dodge Brothers truck or to help in the planned repainting effort, please call Hooker at (928) 635-8293.

-USFS-



New Employees On The Forest

Please welcome David Wilcox to the Nez Perce National Forest. David recently worked for private industry at an engineering firm specializing in design of electrical distribution and transmission structures and cell phone towers. He has 12 years experience including military service during Vietnam.

He is a Licensed Professional Civil Engineer from Washington State. His work has taken many interesting directions over the years, from a Surveyor's Aid on the Tonto National Forest and an Engineer in Training on the Stanislaus National Forest, to testing nuclear power plants aboard naval ships, to writing software at Microsoft, to helping his wife run a tea room.



*D a v i d
W i l c o x*

Dave is married to Verna who is a published writer of mystery series. They have five daughters, covering the business, engineering, marketing, architecture, and chef fields.

Dave is looking forward to many new experiences here on the Nez Perce and will take up cross-country skiing and fishing (his wife Verna promises to teach him the latter).

Dave will be working as the Forest Facilities and Bridge Engineer. Expect to see Dave at your District soon.



*R a n d a l l
W a l k e r*

The Nez Perce National Forest would like to welcome Randall Walker from the Umatilla National Forest as the new Forest Silviculturist. Randall's reporting date was October 5, 2003.

Randall has been with the Forest Service since 1975 and joins us with a Silviculture background. He has a BS degree in Forest Management from Oklahoma State University. From 1975 to 1987 he worked on the Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District as a Silviculture Presale Technician. In 1988 he transferred to the North Fork John Day Ranger District working on Silviculture prescriptions. Moving on to the Wenatchee National Forest working as a zone Silviculturist, Zone Presale Forester in 1989 through 1995 before returning back to Pomeroy as the District Silviculturist Planner.

Randall has a wife Kathy and two daughters, Madison-4 years and Kellason who is 8 months. He enjoys reading, gardening, fishing, coin collecting, rock hounding, metal detecting and computer building. Currently Randall and his family are residing in Clarkston, Washington.

Welcome to the Nez Perce National Forest!

Aaaaah....Retirement!!



Dick Artley

Look who just retired!! Dick Artley retired September 2, 2003 after 30 years with the Forest Service. Artley's career began in 1973 on the Idaho Panhandle, Priest Lake District before transferring to the Colville National Forest, Supervisor's Office. He worked in timber management and became a Forest Planner in the early 1990's. Dick took time off to go back to school at Oregon State University from 1978-1980 to receive his Masters in Forest Engineering. In 1980 Dick and his wife Jennifer moved to Grangeville.

Dick and Jennifer have two cats, Sabrina and Babooshka along with one dog, Sashi. They both enjoy gardening at their Grangeville home.

Dick also enjoys golfing and welcomes anyone who would like to golf every Thursday, tee-off time is 3:30 in the afternoon. Come enjoy the fun!!!

We sure wish Dick and Jennifer the best retirement ever-- Congratulations!

Welcome Work Release Students

Laura Workman, Amber Blewett, Stephanie Healey, Crystal Morgan and James Goody are the Nez Perce National Forest's 2003/2004 Grangeville High School work release students. Employed under the Career Experience Program, each student receives a credit for working the program just like they would a regular high school class. The Career Experience Program has been in place on the Nez Perce Forest for over 14 years.

Each and every day these students brighten up the office with their flashy smiles, great attitudes, and their willingness to get right to work.

After graduation, Amber Blewett who works for Debbie Gerfen in Purchasing would like to enroll in the Nursing Program at LCSC. Crystal Morgan, works for Jennifer Stephenson, Clearwater Ranger District and would like a future as a

Dental Assistant or Hygienist. James Goody is helping Jerry Zumalt at the smokejumper base and would like to work for the Forest Service as a smokejumper. Laura Workman is helping out Linda Hinds in Budget and Finance, Raenette Didier, Resources, and Patty Clark in Fisheries. Laura would like to further her education in elementary education. Stephanie Healey who is working for Violet Rose as a receptionist in the front office would also like to be a Dental Hygienist. Each student will be tackling a multitude of jobs at the Forest Service.

We feel fortunate to have these Seniors and give them the opportunity and the experience to learn about the Forest Service and help us out in our day-to-day tasks.

Other businesses throughout the town of Grangeville employ Seniors under the Career Experience Program.



Laura Workman, Amber Blewett, Stephanie Healey, Crystal Morgan and James Goody

Pederson Reveives Regional Safety Honor

*By Laura Smith, Public Affairs
Nez Perce National Forest*



Darcy Pederson, District Ranger, Clearwater RD, Nez Perce NF, is the recipient of the 2003 Regional Foresterís Honors Award for her excellence in safety and occupational health. She received her award at the Regional Leadership Team Meeting in Seeley Lake, Montana in June.

Darcy serves as the North Idaho Ranger representative on the Regional Safety and Health Leadership Team. Training provided to this group focused on recognizing and preparing for extreme health and safety situations, not just the day-to-day accident prevention, but also the town threatened by fire or the emergency evacuation event.

Under Darcyís leadership, the Clearwater District was awarded the Regional Foresters Safety Award in 1999 for outstanding participation in the June

Safety Challenge.

When the district is challenged to develop a system, such as Accident Reporting, Darcy is quick to assign the task and expects results in a timely manner. Safety processes are evident and easy to follow on the district.

For Safety Year 2002, the Clearwater Ranger District had no motor vehicle accidents (MVA) and eight personal injuries with only one of them being chargeable, the rest being slips/trips, tick bites etc.

The process for updating and reviewing Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) has improved greatly under Darcyís direction. Darcy personally reviews each JHA prior to the field season. Problems are identified on the ground and action is taken to correct the situation with little time in between.

Darcy is a leader in the agency regarding driver licensing. Under her direction, the district has a well-developed mandatory licensing program for all types of vehicles. The program is enforced and is an example to the Forest and Region.

She maintains a strict check out-check in policy. The process is simple, yet effective. It requires employees to give thought to their safety in the event of something unforeseen happening. Her critique was influential in the development of the current plan used by the forest.

Darcy develops a safety theme for the district each year. That theme is embossed on items such as hats, t-shirts and pens and given to employees at the beginning of the field season.

The employees of the district nominated Darcy for this award. Darcy has emphasized safety and promoted occupational health since she arrived at the Clearwater District over 8 years ago. She leads by example and supports these programs in an exemplary manner. Her safety message is consistent and steady. To her employees she says, ìI urge you to take an active role in making our district safety program a success. I want you to come home safe at the end of the day, every day.î

Nez Perce Forest Employees Recognized

Sandi Holbrook and Megan Moynihan, Zone Silviculturists, were recently awarded with a plaque and certificate from the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). These awards were for their work and cooperation in providing trees to Idaho residents through the Idaho Department of Lands Stewardship program.

Sandi and Megan have worked with Ed Hinds from IDL over the past few years making excess trees available to the State of Idaho. The State recognizes Sandi and Megan, along with the Forest Service, for the positive proactive approach to utilizing thousands of trees, thus helping the State to reforest Idaho.

The award was presented at the monthly forest leadership team meeting held at the Salmon River Ranger District.

Health & Safety Driver Fatigue

It's one of the most unnerving experiences in driving: You've been on the road a while. The highway seems endless -- long and smooth. The car interior is warm. You're tired. The radio isn't holding your attention, and neither is the driving. You stare straight ahead, at miles and miles of road, as you start to feel your shoulders sag, and your eyes slowly...start to...close.

Abruptly, you open your eyes, and jerk up in your seat. You've started to drift out of your lane, or maybe even off the road. You steer your car back into the lane, take a few deep breaths, and realize, fearfully, what just happened. You were ASLEEP.

Fatigue behind the wheel is a very real danger, even if you've never experienced it firsthand. The National Safety Council offers these tips for staying awake while you're driving:

- If possible don't drive alone. Passengers can take turns.
- Avoid long drives at night. The glare of lights increases danger of highway hypnosis.
- Take frequent breaks. At least every two hours, stop at a gas station, restaurant or rest stop. Walk around.
- Adjust your car's environment so that it helps keep you awake and alert. Keep the temperatures cool, open windows or run your air conditioner.

Safe Driving demands your full attention. If you feel your eyelids getting heavy, then your next actions may not simply determine whether you'll stay awake. They might determine whether you'll stay alive.

Drive Safely!!!

*Provided by the National Safety Council Organization
<http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/drowsdr.htm>*

School's Back In Session



School District #241 is back in session for the school year. Drivers please be aware when traveling down busy streets such as South Idaho Street and South E Street. Please observe the speed limit zone and watch out for children.

If "you" are driving by the schools, slow down, and save a child's life.

Personnel Actions

Awards & Promotions

KUEHN-TABOR, MARGERY, forestry tech, Moose Creek RD, TLP

CARPENTER, WILLIAM, supervisory forestry tech, SO, TLP

JENKINS, BRIAN, forester, SO, TLP

SANDERS, KRISTEN, supervisory forestry tech, Clearwater RD, TLP

BITTENBENDER, BRETT, lead forestry tech, Grangeville Air Center, TLP

ROGERS, FRANKLIN, forestry tech, Grangeville Air Center, TLP

DEFORD, LORI, Law Enforcement, Clearwater R.D.

SNODGRASS, JON, Clearwater R.D.

CHURCH, KEVIN, range tech., Clearwater R.D.

CRABTREE, DIANA, range tech, Clearwater R.D.

ONTHANK, CYNTHIA, office asst. Clearwater R.D.

CROUSSER, DAVID, forestry tech., Clearwater R.D.

BARGER, KEVIN, forestry tech., Clearwater R.D.

HIEBERT, NICOLAS, biological tech, Clearwater R.D.

OTT, TODD, biological tech, Clearwater R.D.

Group Awards

LANE, ANDREW
HERTEL, CHRIS
MCCLANAHAN, EDWARD
AHSHAPANEK, BRIAN
WARD, MICHAEL
SCHULTZ, TOM
SCHULTZ, DAVID
NITZ, DEBRA
JENKINS, BRIAN
COX, RAY
HAYS, GARY
COTTON, TOBY
COUNTRYMAN, CHARLES
DUMAN, VIKKI
WINKLER, GREGG

New Employees

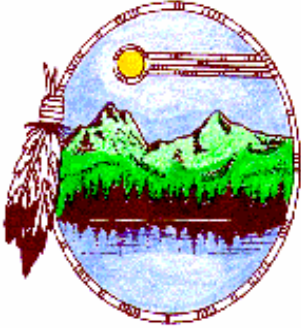
ATKINSON, JAMES, forestry tech, career conditional, Moose Creek RD

CHUTE, TERRY, deputy forest supervisor, SO, detail

Retirements/Resignations

MYERS, MATT, forestry tech, career-conditional, Salmon River RD

GERFEN, JEFF, Civil Engineer, promotion



Nez Perce National Forest Vision

- *We on the Nez Perce National Forest serve with integrity.**
- *We build and foster healthy interpersonal relationships.**
- *Our creative stewardship integrates science and social values ensuring ecological sustainability.**

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST
Route 2, Box 475
Grangeville, ID 83530**

Penalty for Private Use, \$300