

NezPerce News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees



Volume 1, Issue 4, January 2004

Message from Bruce



Greetings and Happy New Year to all our readers, employees, and retirees! Welcome to the first issue of this newsletter in 2004.

The past year, 2003, was an intense one for the Forest as we strove to complete the NEPA planning and analysis phases for numerous projects and actions. We concentrated work on several large, critical projects in the upper South Fork Clearwater River drainages, and were "momentarily" interrupted in order to successfully manage just about the most intense wildfire season ever experienced. These project plans are nearly complete; however, we continue to be challenged by a weak wood products market and low-value material that needs to be removed to reduce fuel loads, while protecting and enhancing the Forest's resources for posterity. These factors combine to make attractive timber sale offerings difficult, requiring us to pursue innovative, creative methods to get the much-needed work done on the ground, such as stewardship and service contracting. Before the snow melts, these projects will be "on the street" and offered for bid.

As this year unfolds, there are tremendous challenges facing the Forest, but there is a promise of hope and optimism: we have new tools that will help effectively and efficiently manage the Forest's resources such as the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, Categorical Exclusions, and streamlined ESA consultation procedures. We will focus on producing "on the ground" results, by maximizing our use of these tools, especially for treating fuel loads to significantly reduce the potential for intense, large-scale wildfire causing unacceptable property and resource damage. Congress has acted and adequate funding to implement needed actions is anticipated. Our communities expect the Forest Service to achieve the goals that have been set before us.

This is an unprecedented moment in time for the Forest Service: The way has been cleared to show what can be done if we utilize our full capabilities to achieve results more rapidly than in the past. We are embarking on the Forest Service's New Century of Service as we reclaim our 100-year old leadership (1905-2005) in natural resource management. The Nez Perce National Forest has the expertise, ability, and talent needed to reach these goals. I am looking forward to working with you as we strive to achieve these objectives. I know our clients, partners, communities, and the public want to achieve success.

This can truly be the greatest era in the history of the Forest Service. We can create a legacy of healthy forests for current and future generations and achieve a dependable level of sustainability for communities while ensuring the quality of the resources entrusted to our care. What a great moment in history to be part of!



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Happy New Year!

New year ceremonies are designed to get rid of the past and to welcome the future. Let this coming year be better than all the others. Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do but couldn't find the time.

Call up a forgotten friend. Drop an old grudge, and replace it with some pleasant memories. Share a funny story with someone whose spirits are dragging. A good laugh can be very good medicine.

Vow not to make a promise you don't think you can keep. Pay a debt. Give a soft answer. Free yourself of envy and malice. Encourage some youth to do his or her best. Share your experience, and offer support. Young people need role models.

Make a genuine effort to stay in closer touch with family and good friends. Resolve to stop magnifying small problems and shooting from the hip. Words that you have to eat can be hard to digest.

Find the time to be kind and thoughtful. All of us have the same allotment: 24 hours a day. Give a compliment. It might give someone a badly needed lift.

Think things through. Forgive an injustice. Listen more. Be kind.

Apologize when you realize you are wrong. An apology never diminishes a person. Don't blow your own horn. If you've done something praiseworthy, someone will notice eventually.

Try to understand a point of view that is different from your own. Few things are 100 percent one way or another. Examine the demands you make on others.

Lighten up. When you feel like blowing your top, ask yourself, "Will it matter in a week from today?" Laugh the loudest when the joke is on you.

The sure way to have a friend is to be one. We are all connected by our humanity, and we need each other. Don't discourage a beginner from trying something risky. Nothing ventured means nothing gained. Be optimistic. The can-do spirit is the fuel that makes things go.

Read something uplifting. Walk tall, and smile more. You'll look 10 years younger.

"Laughter is an instant vacation."

-Milton Berle

New Phone System Up & Running



The new Mitel Phone System was installed by Enhanced Services in December. We hope you have experienced very few glitches with the recent changes in the phone system. One of the objectives that Telecommunications and Office Services were hoping to achieve with the system is to reduce the number of phone calls that the front desk personnel receives and processes.

Did you know that during a busy season front desk personnel can receive over 100+ phone calls a day through the 983-1950 number? That's a lot of phone calls, add that to the time it takes to write and e-mail accurate messages and get them to you in a timely manner, well you know the rest of the story!

We would like to share some pointers that you can do to help us achieve our goal:

- Share your direct line number with people that most frequently call you.
- Update your voice mail message at least once a week, especially if you have plans to be out of the office for a certain period of time.

Violet Rose has reference cards available if you misplaced yours. Thanks to Jim Whitney and Ken Castro for making this important system update possible.

Martin Luther King Timeline - Jan. 19, 2004

- Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated; Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., introduces legislation for federal holiday to commemorate King.
- 1973 Illinois is first state to adopt MLK Day as a state holiday.
- 1983 Congress passes, President Reagan, signs, legislation creating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- 1986 Federal MLK holiday goes into effect.
- 1989 State MLK holiday adopted in 44 states.
- 1999 New Hampshire becomes last state to adopt a state MLK holiday.



PHOTO SOURCE: LOG

A number of states resisted celebrating the holiday. Some opponents said King did not deserve his own holiday—contending that the entire civil rights movement rather than one individual, however instrumental, should be honored. Several southern states include celebrations for various Confederate generals on that day, while Utah calls it Human Rights Day. Legislation is now pending to change the name to Martin Luther King Day. Arizona voters approved the holiday in 1992 after a threatened tourist boycott. In 1999, New Hampshire changed the name of Civil Rights Day to Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

Winter Wonderland!

Grangeville High School Grad takes a walk on the cold side: *The South Pole*

1997 Grangeville High School graduate Jody Jahn is on the adventure of a lifetime. The daughter of Phil and Mary Jahn of Grangeville is currently working at Antarctica, the South Pole.

All United States Antarctic employees deploying to McMurdo Station and the South Pole fly by Air National Guard cargo planes from Christchurch, located on New Zealand's south island. McMurdo is the first stop before the South Pole, McMurdo has a summer population of about 1,100.

Jahn lives in a heavily insulated canvas tent with a forced-air heater which stays at about 65-80 degrees. Each curtained-off room has its own electricity. She has a wireless LAN cord for her laptop, and has wireless Internet access from anywhere on the station compound. She keeps in touch with family and friends via satellite Internet and phone.

Jahn received a BS in Public Communication/Public Relations from University of Idaho in August of 2001. She also attended for on year each:

Valparaiso University located in the greater Chicago area and University of Hawaii at Manoa in Honolulu.

Jody works for Raytheon Polar Services Company, which coordinates all the logistics for the National Science Foundation's United States Antarctic Program (USAP). The USAP runs three, year round bases on the continent: McMurdo Station is on Ross Island, Palmer Station is on the Antarctic Peninsula, and the South Pole is at exactly 90 degrees South Latitude. She is located at the South Pole which is located in the middle of the Polar Plateau on a glacier that is nearly two miles thick, the South Pole is completely devoid of life and topography. The only life here consists of the people who flew in on the Air Force C-130 Hercules.

The work week consists of 10-hour days, six days per week. Their big project until 2006 is to complete the building of the new South Pole Station. When it is finished there will be living quarters, a "growth chamber" (greenhouse), a galley, and ample offices for researchers and program administrators. There will even be a full-sized basketball court. People's daily concerns vary from how well the welding is progressing on the floor of the recently-erected wing of the station to how many neutrinos the Antarctic Muon and Neutrino Detector Array (AMANDA) has reported and what this all means in relation to the creation of the universe.

Most of Jody's projects are in side the new station and are carpentry-related. Although she is not a carpenter by trade, Jahn has been fortunate to acquire a lot of helpful information.

On New Year's Day they moved the ceremonial South Pole marker and the flags that surround it. The flags represent the countries that signed the Antarctic Treaty designating the Antarctic continent only be used for peaceful purposes and scientific research. The pole marker moves approximately 30 feet every year due to the shifting of this giant glacier we're on top of.

For more information about the United States Antarctic Program, log on to <http://www.polar.org>. There is an extensive on-line photo gallery, a line to the Antarctic Sun newspaper, and employment information for the only place on earth that gets as cold as -100 degrees Fahrenheit.



Jody Jahn, shown here at the ceremonial pole with the new station in the background. *Idaho County Free Press Photo*

South Pole Facts

- Average temperature in the winter is -76 degrees Fahrenheit
- The environment is desert-like, averaging less than four millimeters of precipitation per month, about the same as the Sahara.
- The average thickness of the ice sheet that covers 98 percent of Antarctica is 7,200 feet which amounts to 90 percent of the ice and 70 percent of all fresh water in the world.
- South Pole's altitude is 9,300 feet. On the Antarctica Plateau it's 13,830 feet.
- Antarctica is the fifth largest of the earth's seven continents. It is 5.5 million square miles.
- **Wildlife:** No land-based vertebrate animals inhabit Antarctica. Invertebrates, especially mites and ticks, which can tolerate the lower temperatures, exist in the Antarctic Peninsula but are still considered rare. The surrounding ocean, however, abounds in living creatures. Large numbers of whales feed on the rich marine life, especially krill. Six species of seals (including the crabeater, elephant, and leopard) and about 12 species of birds live and breed in the Antarctic. The most prominent inhabitant of the Antarctic is the penguin. A flightless bird, it lives on the pack ice and in the oceans around Antarctica and breeds on the land or ice surfaces along the coast. Most typical are the Adelie and Emperor penguins.
- **Vegetation:** The few plants that survive in Antarctica are restricted to the small ice-free areas. The continent has no trees, and vegetation is limited to about 350 species, mostly lichens, mosses, and algae. Lush beds of such vegetation exist in parts of the Antarctic Peninsula, and lichens have been discovered growing on isolated mountains within 475 km (295 mi) of the South Pole. Three species of flowering plants are also found on the Antarctic Peninsula.

2004
Nez Perce National Forest
Human Resource/Civil Rights Team

HRT assists management in creating a diverse and positive workplace environment for all Nez Perce employees. Get acquainted with your Human Resource Team.

Posters have been distributed and posted at all Nez Perce Forest units.

2004 Human Resource Members:

Laura Smith - Co-Chair; **Steve Armstrong** - American Indian Program Manager, **Lynn Cook** - African/American and Asian Pacific Islander Program Manager and Salmon River District Representative, **Sue Phillips** - Co-Chair/Federal Womens Program Manager.

Jerry Zumalt - Grangeville Air Center Rep., **Jenny Stephenson** - Towards A Multi-Cultural Organization Coordinator, Paul Christensen - Persons with Disabilities Program Manager, **Erica Wilsey** - Title VI Coordinator.

Joe Hudson - Leadership Team Rep., **Gayle Howard** - Supervisor's Office Rep., **Gary Loomis** - Hispanic Program Manager, **Kenda Tribble** - North Idaho Personnel Zone Rep.

Your Human Resource Team sponsors many important activities throughout each year. There's some new faces on the team this year. A hearty thank you to all the team members who have stepped down, but who contributed so much to HRT - Jim Brogan, Jo Ellis and Lisa Canaday.

Following is a taste of some of the events and projects that HRT sponsors annually:

- Hispanic Awareness Month
- Take Your Child to Work Day Program
- Women's History Month - Brown Bag Lunches
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month Presentation
- Maintain the FWP/HRT Library
- Networking Outreach and Job Announcements
- Regional Recruitment Team
- Maintain the Working Parents Room
- Distribute Hope Health newsletters & calendars
- Organize a Forest iKoman-Race for the Cure walk on the Forest
- Completed the sidewalk at Slate Creek to museum
- Consulted and counseled on accessibility issues with the new Fenn Ranger Station Visitor Center
- Co-sponsor Tribal Youth Camp
- Developed an HRT display to showcase HRT and what we do for the Forest
- Grangeville Air Center continues to recruit and hire a diverse workforce
- Work with Clearwater National Forest on joint forest Employee Day
- Participate on several selection panels to fill positions on the Forest
- Regional Civil Rights Review
- Developed New Employee Guide for Forest employees

The Nez Perce Newsletter was suggested by the Human Resource Team during the Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) and developed to disseminate forest information.

New Regional Forester Gail Kimbell

U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth has appointed Gail Kimbell to replace Northern Region Forest Brad Powell. Powell will be moving to the Washington Office as an associate chief.

Gail Kimbell, 52, has been in her current position as Associate Deputy Chief since April of 2002 and was formerly Forest Supervisor on the Stikine Area of the Tongass, Big Horn and Pike and San Isabel National Forests. During the last year and a half, Gail has been instrumental in the development of key components of the Healthy Forest Initiative and other national policies.

Gail received a bachelor's degree in Forest Management from the University of Vermont and a master's in Forest Engineering from Oregon State. She began her career as a forester with the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon and then held

a variety of forester positions with the Forest Service and was a District Ranger in both Oregon and Washington before her Forest Supervisor assignments. She brings a wealth of experience to the job as Regional Forester.



New Employees

Hutchison

Ester Hutchison joined the Nez Perce Forest in November, 2003 as the Forest Planner. Ester has a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from the University of California.

She started working for the Forest Service in 1980 as a seasonal Range and Recreation Technician for the Stanislaus National Forest in Pinecrest, California.

She then worked for various newspapers in California and Oklahoma for a couple of years. In 1986, she was a hospital lab technician for the Army and County in Lawton, Oklahoma.

In 1988, Ester became an Environmental Protection Specialist (EPS) in Resources and Planning for the United States Marine Corps. From 1994 to 2000, she was an EPS for the United States Navy in Fallon, Nevada.

She worked for the Bureau of Land Management as a Planning and Environmental Coordinator in Winnemucca, Nevada from 2000-2003.

Ester shared that she is an Idaho native. "I like outdoor activities, including hunting. I want to learn to fish better. I also enjoy gardening and sewing/craft projects. I like reading and most sports."

Ester's plans for the future are to work, raise her daughter (5-year-old Chelsea) and eventually retire in Idaho.



Sites



Please welcome Ashley Sites to the Moose Creek Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest. Ashley accepted an Assistant Fire Management Officer (AFMO) position on the district. Sites completed his degree in Forestry from Colorado State University. His employment background consists of working on the San Juan National Forest, 1992, Yellowstone National Park, BIA Jicarillo Agency 1996-97 and the Gallatin National Forest from 1998-1999.

Ashley and his wife Lessie are living between Kooskia & Lowell with a wonderful view of the river. They both love to hike and backpack and are in the perfect recreation area. Ashley would like to continue with his fire management career into the future. Welcome to the Nez Perce.

Theisen

Tim Theisen transferred from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Nevada in 2003 to the Moose Creek Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest, accepting an Assistant Fire Management Officer (AFMO) position.

Tim has worked various places. Beginning his career with the Forest Service in 1988 and 1989 at Mt. St. Helens he was on the Midnight Sun hotshots in 1990, Roswell hotshots in 1991, Lagrande hotshots in 1992 before returning to the Mt. St. Helens in 1993. Then transferring to the Lewis & Clark National Forest in 1994 before heading to the BLM in Alaska and BLM in Nevada.

Tim and his wife Shawna and 2 year old son Zachary are living in government housing at the Fenn Ranger District.

They enjoy fishing and camping together and are looking forward to spending time together on the Nez Perce National Forest.



Retirements

Crotinger

John Crotinger retired January 2, 2004 after 18 years of service with the Forest Service. A little bit of history about John - he graduated from Grangeville High School. He then attended Northrup Institute of Technology in Inglewood, California followed by a transfer to the University of Idaho in 1960.

In the Fall of 1961, John went to work for the Idaho Department of Highways for two years. In 1963, he worked for a consulting engineer company and did the contract work on the Lewiston Orchards Sewer Project. He moved to St. Maries and constructed the sewer lagoons and pump stations in St. Maries and Plummer, Idaho.

John returned to Grangeville in the spring of 1964 and worked for a construction company, surveying the White Bird Hill. In 1965, Uncle Sam called John to travel the world and see the sights. He responded by signing up with the U.S. Army. John spent 15 months in Korea and ended up in Vietnam. He was discharged in 1968.

Several of John's jobs following his service time included State of Highway Department of Highways and Wickes Forest Industries. While at Wickes he was a Forest Engineer building Forest Service roads, contracting and estimating projects. He joined the Forest Service officially in 1985 at the Nez Perce National Forest.

During his years with the Forest Service, John worked as a Civil Engineer Technician. His jobs included construction inspection, road design, contract officer representative (COR), engineer representative, fleet manager, road maintenance supervisor, and lease COR for the Forest Service buildings.

John was exalted ruler at the Grangeville Elks Lodge in 1980-81. He is very active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He has held all the offices at the district level and was the Idaho State Department Chaplain for nine years. For the past eight years, John has been post commander in Grangeville.

John and his wife Sherry are Department of Idaho Voice of Democracy Chairpersons, responsible for judging essays. He was notified that he was selected to be on the National VFW Youth Development and Scholarship Recognition Committee for 2003-2004.

Retirement plans for John include, "Fishing, fishing, woodworking, fishing and lots of work for my wife!"



Health & Safety

Crystal Knives

I like waking up to a bright sunshiny winter morning, seeing the trees decorated in white like a flocked Christmas tree, and icicles hanging from the eaves. At night, the Christmas lights shine through like Northern Lights. Icicles are not just beautiful. They're dangerous.

As I left the shop last night, an icicle fell. It disappeared through the icy crust into a snow drift. I carefully picked my way over, across a crust so thick I stayed on top. I could see lots of icicles, the tips buried deep where they cut through like a knife through butter.

What safety person could hang knives around the eaves of their building and let them drop at will? Do we accept the danger as okay just because icicles have always been there? Even though I've always taken some risks for granted doesn't mean I should keep doing so.

What other unnecessary risks do I live with and accept as okay? Icicles are like hundreds of crystal knives and swords, hanging from the roof in silence, waiting to stab whatever's below. I still think they're gorgeous, but I don't walk beneath icicles any more.

Health Tips

Don't want the flu?? Here's some great tips:

- Keep distance from others when you are sick.
- Avoid running errands if possible - stay home from work or school.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands, especially after being in public areas or around people that are sick.

Illnesses such as flu and pneumonia can sometimes lead to dehydration, so be sure to drink more water when you are sick.

AND DID YOU KNOW:

Drinking more water could help you stay warm. The colder it gets outside, the more energy your body requires to maintain a 98.6 degree temperature. AND the more water your body needs. So be sure to drink extra water in cold weather.

What is Diabetes?

Diabetes mellitus is a disease of the pancreas (an organ behind your stomach). Normally, the pancreas releases a hormone called insulin that helps your body store and use the sugar and fat from the food you eat.

Diabetes occurs:

- When the pancreas does not produce any insulin, or
- The pancreas produces very little insulin, or
- When the body does not respond appropriately to insulin, a condition called "insulin resistance."

Diabetes is a lifelong disease. Approximately 17 million Americans have diabetes, that's 62% of the U.S. population. While a third are aware that they have the disease, one third or 5.4 million are unaware that they have diabetes. An additional 26 million people have pre-diabetes. As yet, there is no cure. People with diabetes need to manage their disease to stay healthy.

-Medical info. from The Cleveland Clinic

Save Trees

Send Electronic Greetings

Americans will send 750 million greeting cards this season.

If just 10% of the cards were sent via the Internet, 30,000 trees would be saved.

Personnel Actions

Awards & Promotions

STEPHENSON, JENNIFER, Clearwater R.D.,
performance award

FLICK, REBECCA, Moose Creek R.D.,
promotion

CARPENTER, WILLIAM, Clearwater R.D.,
performance award

HAMMOND, THAYNE, Red River R.D.,
promotion

WINKLER, BECKY, Clearwater R.D.,
performance award

HINDS, LINDA, SO, promotion

HARPER, DAVID, Clearwater R.D.,
performance award

ISAACSON, TYKO, Clearwater R.D.,
student trainee, promotion

MCGEE, MICHAEL, Clearwater R.D.,
performance award

OSBORN, JOSLYN, Clearwater R.D.,
promotion

PARADIS, WAYNE, Clearwater R.D.,
performance award

WREN, CAROLYN, Clearwater R.D.,
promotion

SEIMS, SHARON, Red River R.D.,
performance award and transfer

CHADWICK, KARA, Clearwater R.D.,
performance award

GUTHRIE, VICKIE, Red River R.D.,
performance award

Non-Monetary Awards

GRAHAM, ED, volunteer, Red River R.D.

KIDDER, LYLE, volunteer, Red River R.D.

KIDDER, LORRAINE, volunteer, Red River R.D.

HARRISON, LAURA, SCSEP, Red River R.D.



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
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FOREST SERVICE
NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST
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