

# Nez Perce News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees



Volume 1, Issue 5, June 2004

## *Summer Safety Message from Bruce*

Our field-going season has arrived, and with it many more of us will be traveling and working in the woods, rivers and wilderness of our great Forest. That will increase our exposure to many hazards and potential dangers. In order to reduce the risk of mishap, accident and injury, we need to keep in mind some basic health and safety principles. The #1 principle to keep in mind is that accidents don't just happen, and most, if not all, are preventable.

Driving is by far the riskiest and most potentially injurious single work activity we do. Always wear your seatbelts, drive defensively, make sure your vehicle is in proper operational condition and, most important of all, stay focused, alert and anticipate situations out ahead of your travel path *before* they occur. Remember we are not the only drivers out there on the Forest, and many other drivers are unfamiliar with backcountry driving on remote roads. Often, they are just around that next curve.

When working, statistics show that personal injuries are mostly from slips, trips, and catching something in one's eye, such as small branches when walking. Use personal protective gear when necessary, including eye and ear protection and, again, stay alert, look out ahead of your travel and take time to think about what might be there to cause safety problems. Most job activities we do are covered by Job Hazard Analyses and discussed in the Health & Safety Code Handbooks. Tailgate safety sessions which review these materials and discuss hazards of the specific job at hand should be held and supervisors should be attentive to refocusing on safety whenever the situation dictates.

As full-blown fire season unfolds, more specific safety principles and reliance on our fire training will be needed. Our leaders and supervisors in fire have had extensive training to assess risky or dangerous situations and respond accordingly. We have numerous guiding documents and procedural checklists to follow to keep us from harm's way and greatly reduce the chance of a mishap occurring. Follow our overhead's direction, LCES principles, the 10 Standard Fire Fighting Orders and The 18 Situations That Shout Watch Out. Familiarize yourself with all of these and if unsure, ask...we'll be glad to explain or answer any question.

In addition to everything I've stated, I know that my safety is dependent on one single variable: myself. Each of us must stay alert and attentive when on the job: knowing where you are and what you're doing, and thinking ahead...always thinking about the possible hazards in the task at hand. Getting sufficient rest, eating well and being physically and mentally ready for the workday are essential.

We'll do our parts to keep risk exposure minimized, if you'll do yours to stay "heads up." That way we'll always return home from any job or assignment we do, no less for wear and tear! And we all want to return home safely. Have a wonderful, productive field season and summer and stay safe....we need you.



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

# Employee Day and Cinco de Mayo Celebration

By Sue Phillips, Nez Perce NF HRT co-chair



What do you get when you put a motorized wheelchair, a piñata, a pile of quilts, messages written in Japanese, a climber from a remote area in northern California, and about eighty-five people together? A circus, a flea market, a museum...no a bi-forest employee celebration. Employees from the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests gathered again for the annual shared celebration known as “Employee Day” and of Cinco de Mayo on



*Tom Daly*

Wednesday, May 5 at Grangeville, Idaho hosted by the two forests’ civil rights groups.

Featured speaker, Tom Daly, from Hayfork, CA. visited the Moose Creek District last winter, and came as a highly recommended speaker. Tom was asked to return to the area and speak again on Conflict Resolution. He kept the crowd laughing as he passed on information about self-awareness, tools to add to our toolbox for resolving conflict, and pictorial antidotes about life. Special Emphasis Program Managers helped entertain, challenge, and enlighten employees with interactive displays and hands-on-skills tests, including a motorized wheel chair obstacle course, learning how to paint a message in Japanese, and a display of quilts from one district’s quilters.



*Melissa Sander & Laura Harrison  
Red River Ranger District*

To commemorate and educate attendees about Cinco de Mayo, the icebreaker was a rundown on history of the celebration, including its significance to the United States; the room was festively decorated featuring four piñatas (but none broken); and a delicious Mexican lunch was served.

The day was capped with awards to recognize retiring team members of the Human Resource Team (HRT) and the winners of the Nez Perce Human Resource Awards. Gayle Howard, Lily Gormley, and Patty Clark received Human Resource Awards for their efforts to help Melissa Sander, Nez Perce NF employee, injured in a non-work related accident, return to work. Melissa was introduced to the crowd and given a “welcome back” standing ovation from the crowd for her unflinching spirit and hard work to recover.



*Bruce Bernhardt  
Nez Perce Forest Supervisor*

## *Community Connections*

Forest Service employees and retirees have a long history of being highly involved in the communities in which they live and work. In many of these communities, both small and large, Forest Service employees and retirees are the backbone of the volunteer labor force, serving as scout leaders, church leaders, volunteer firefighters, board members, PTA leaders, committee members, activity and event organizers, and in other community service roles. Particularly in smaller communities, Forest Service employees and retirees are often a disproportionately high percentage of the volunteer community.

Communities greatly value these "outside of work" contributions. When employees transfer or retire, it's not unusual for the communities praise of the employee's volunteer service to exceed their praise of the employee's official contributions.

The Forest Service is identifying exemplary examples of employees' and retirees' commitment to community service. This is one of several projects commemorating the Forest Service's 100-year anniversary in 2005 called a New Century of Service.

So, if you have a noteworthy story you feel is worth telling about your volunteer activities, or the activities of another Forest Service retiree, the Forest Service would like to hear it. Please share it with Don Howlett, New Century of Service Community Service coordinator, on the Hiawatha National Forest, 2727 North Lincoln Rd., Escanaba, Michigan, 49829, or at [dhowlett@fs.fed.us](mailto:dhowlett@fs.fed.us).

---

## *Zumalt is Idaho Firefighter of the Year*



*Jerry Zumalt (middle)*

Winston Wiggins, Idaho Department of Lands (IDOL), presented the Idaho Firefighter of the Year Award to Jerry Zumalt on June 22, at the Red Lion Inn in Lewiston. Jerry is the Aviation Officer for the Clear/Nez Fire Zone.

The award is for Jerry's work with the IDOL single engine airtanker program, based at the Grangeville Air Center.

The Fire Zone is very proud of Jerry, as he also received national recognition in February by being honored as a recipient of the Aerospace Laurels Award.

## *Deputy Forest Supervisor*

### Steve Williams

Steve Williams is the new Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Nez Perce Forest. He returned to the Nez Perce Forest March 8th on a 120-day detail and will continue working here.

Steve is no stranger to the Nez Perce Forest. He served as District Ranger at the Red River Ranger Station from 1988-1991.

He has experience in all aspects of timber management on the Kootenai and Beaverhead Forests in Montana. He also served as District Ranger on the Wallace District, Idaho Panhandle NF.

Steve served as the North Dakota coordinator for the Custer Forest in Bismarck, and later became a staff officer for the newly created Dakota-Prairie Grasslands unit in ND and SD.

Steve holds a BS in Forestry from Rutgers University in New Jersey, and an MS in Forest Ecology from Utah State University.

He is single and has a 24-year-old daughter who just graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in conservation biology.

Steve is an avid user of the public lands. "I enjoy all activities in the outdoors including boating, rafting, bird hunting, fly fishing, hiking and outdoor photography."

His plans for the future are to build teamwork and relationships within the Forest Service and with communities that will help implement projects and conserve all of the resources of the National Forests.



## *Detailers*

### Bob Gilman

Bob Gilman, currently District Ranger at the Pintler Ranger District in Phillipsburg, Montana, accepted a 120-day detail as the Clear-Nez Fire Staff Officer, beginning May 31.

Bob brings extensive experience and knowledge in both fire and management to the leadership of our Fire Zone through this coming fire season. Among Bob's credentials is Deputy Incident Commander on Steve Frye's Type I Team, and Deputy Area Commander.

Bob is detailing into Ken Castro's position. Ken is currently working for the Park Service in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



## Trisha Cox

## *New Employees*

Trisha Cox is the new dispatcher for the Clear/Nez Fire Zone, stationed in Grangeville. She started her new job in April.

She began her career in fire as a seasonal firefiter for the Idaho Department of Lands in 1998. Trisha continued to work seasonally in fire until 2001 when she was hired under the National Fire Plan and received a permanent seasonal appointment as an Engine Foreman on the Lochsa District, stationed in Pierce. She held this position for 2 years and then took a detail to the Lochsa fire dispatch office in Kooskia in 2003.

Trisha received her B.S. degree in elementary education from LCSC in 1998 and is a certified teacher (Kindergarten through 8th grade).

She shares a house in Kamiah. Her parents, grandparents, step-brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles all reside in Kamiah. Trisha has no children, but does have a dog that some consider her child and her name is Daisy. She is a miniature Dachshund and she is 4 years old.

Trisha enjoys rodeo and has had quarter horses all her life. She was on the college rodeo team at LCSC, but currently does not belong to any rodeo association. She also enjoys snow skiing, going to the beach (when there is time), camping (also when there is time), spending time with friends, working out, volleyball and a lot more that she couldn't think of when interviewed.

Trisha's plans are to stay with the Forest Service and remain involved in the fire organization as long as she can. "I enjoy the environment and the people I get to know and work with."



## Jennifer Blake

Jennifer Blake is the new zone recreation technician for the Salmon River and Clearwater Districts.

Jennifer graduated in 1987 with a BS in Environmental Studies and Geology from St. Lawrence University in Missouri.

In 1986, she volunteered for the Payette NF maintaining trails and then came back in 1987-1988 on the Payette Force Account doing trails, recreation and wilderness. In 1989, she worked as a Wilderness Ranger on the Sawtooth NF. Jennifer started her FS career permanently in 1990.

From 1990-1994, she worked again on the Payette as the Chamberlin Area Manager. In 1995, she was moved to a Program Assistant in Wilderness, Trails, Outfitter & Guide Administration and Recreation and worked there until moving to the Nez Perce.

Jennifer had a short 120-day detail into the minerals program on the Payette and education coordinator position on the Sawtooth NF.

She is married to Jeff Halligan. They have 2 dogs, 2 cats, 2 horses and a mule. "I really like to run, bike, ski, garden, horseback ride and be with my animals."



## Justin Pappani



Welcome Justin Pappani to the Nez Perce Forest. Justin works at the Clearwater Ranger District in Fire Management.

He worked seasonally from 1995-2000 in fire suppression on the Sawtooth National Forest. He earned a degree in Wildlife Resources from the University of Idaho in 1998. In 2001 he was hired in a permanent fuels position in Camp Crook, SD on the Custer National Forest. In May 2004 he transferred to the Nez Perce.

Justin lives in Grangeville and is hoping to do a lot of fishing this season.

## Amber Burleigh

Small timber sales are active on the Nez Perce Forest and due to an increase of timber work, Amber Burleigh was hired through the Student Career Employment Program. Amber who is a Forestry Trainee working for Mike McGee. She is currently working towards a B.S degree in Natural Resources through Oregon State University and is expected to graduate in 2007.

Amber graduated from Sisters, Oregon and began working for the Forest Service in 2001 on the Deschutes National Forest until accepting a position on the Nez Perce.

She plans on building and continuing a career with the Forest Service and gaining as much experience and knowledge in many fields that the Forest Service has to offer. Her hobbies include hiking, whitewater rafting, mountain biking, and skiing. Welcome Amber!!!



## *Kudos to Ian*

Contributed by Laura Smith,  
Public Affairs Specialist, Nez Perce NF



The role of logging has changed during the past several years. Skyline and highlead logging systems may have a valid future, not only in the role of timber harvest but in trails, watershed restoration and construction both in and outside of wilderness.

During the spring of 2003 Hydrometrics Engineering, Regional Dam Engineer Steve Romero, engineer Terri Anderson and Recreation Specialist Betsy Ballard worked with Wilderness Ranger Ian Barlow and retired Forest Service personnel Warren Miller and Bruce Dreher to

develop a plan to lower the spillway at Canyon Creek Dam in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Ian and Warren developed a single span skyline system, ran the calculations and set up a system enabling this group and the Montana Conservation Corp to move approximately 360 cubic yards of soil core and rock buttress from the face of the dam by non-motorized means. Since there were no trees in the immediate area that could be used as spar trees while meeting the structural requirements of the job, they cut down one fifty-foot spar. They swam it across the lake and set it up on the top of the dam, guying it off to anchors on four sides. A second spar was erected outside the riparian area and below the dam. Blocks were hung, anchors set and a skyline system was strung between the spars to anchors on each end. A griphoist was used to raise and lower the main line, and materials were moved via running blocks that traveled along the main line and returned by a haulback or straw line.

During the course of this project, the Montana Conservation Corps worked with Ian, Doug Parker from Hydrometrics, Warren and Bruce for eight days to learn safety procedures, troubleshooting, and use of the system. Rocks up to 6,500 lbs were raised in steel chokers and transported to a deposit site below the dam. Ian believes that the use of skyline systems and logging engineering has a strong future in work on National Forest lands. Work can be done safely and economically with a marked decrease in impacts to the ground. The use of skyline systems may alleviate the complexity of NEPA analysis in some types of project work due to a corresponding lessening of ground disturbance. minimizing ground disturbance may alleviate some of the complexity in analysis.



Ian and crew were recently awarded the Traditional Skills and Minimum Tool Leadership Award for their demonstration of traditional skills and innovative use of minimum tools and techniques to breach the high hazard Canyon Lake Dam to facilitate needed repairs.

## *Hantavirus Health & Safety*



Hantavirus infection is a rare, life-threatening illness caused by inhaling the virus in airborne particles of rodent saliva, urine, or droppings. The Deer Mouse is the primary carrier of Hantavirus, but all rodents should be treated as potential carriers. Deer mice are 4-9 inches long, head to tail and pale gray to reddish brown except for their white belly and feet. Deer mice love old cabins and lookouts as much as people do, so we need to be especially careful in Historic Cabin Rentals.

Early symptoms of hantavirus include fatigue, fever, and muscle aches, especially the large muscle groups--thighs, hips, back and sometimes the shoulders. About half of all HPS patients also experience headaches, dizziness, chills and/or abdominal problems, such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain. The first symptoms generally develop between 1 and 5 weeks after exposure to infected rodents and their droppings. Four to 10 days after the initial phase of illness, additional symptoms appear, including coughing and shortness of breath. Earache, sore throat and rash are very uncommon, and their occurrence may help in differentiating HPS from common ailments such as influenza and other respiratory viruses. Contact your doctor or local health department if you develop these symptoms.

### **PRECAUTIONS FOR RENTAL CABIN USERS:**

1. Avoid coming into contact with rodents. Don't disturb their nests or burrows. **DON'T FEED MICE, CHIPMUNKS OR OTHER RODENTS!**
2. Keep a clean cabin. Wash dishes and cooking utensils. Clean counters and floors immediately after eating.
3. Store food in sealed containers. Keep food and water, including pet and animal food, in containers with tight fitting lids. Store garbage in sealed containers.
4. Wet clean and disinfect. Clean areas contaminated by rodents using wet methods. Avoid creating dusts. Wear rubber gloves and spray areas with a general household disinfectant solution. Mop floors rather than sweeping.
5. Pack it out. Remove all garbage when you leave and dispose of it properly. Do not leave extra food, even unopened, in the cabin.
6. Report Infestations. Report heavy activity to the Ranger Station so steps can be taken to eliminate the problem for future cabin users.

### *Health Tip*

Protect your skin from the sun with a block that screens both UVB and UVA light. Make sure your sunscreen contains both titanium dioxide and zinc oxide. Sunblock manufacturers went ballistic about popular ingredients avobenzone or Parsol 1789 when it was discovered that the chemical deteriorates in sunlight. There is no perfect sunblock, but wearing any lotion with a SPF of 15 to 30 is still effective.







## 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**