



Nez Perce News

2008 Forest Accomplishments

Issue 4, November, 2008



Happy Holidays



The Supervisor's Office, Clearwater Ranger District Office, and Interagency Dispatch Center employees have settled into the new Headquarters building on Airport Road.

The Nez Perce Forest was involved in many issues and topics this year, the highlights were:

- Idaho Roadless Rule
- 2008 Planning Rule
- Washington Office/Regional Office/Area Transformation
- Regional Three-Year Budget Process
- Nez Perce National Forest Organization and Position Management
- Designated Routes and Areas for Motorized Vehicle Use Planning
- Bighorn Sheep Litigation



Personnel Changes: In March, Forest Supervisor Jane Cottrell accepted a 5-month detail to the Deputy Regional Forester position in Atlanta, Georgia. Ralph Rau, Deputy Forest Supervisor, joined the forest on March 3. Allen Rowley served as Acting Forest Supervisor from March through May. Scott Russell was selected as the Ecosystem Staff Officer in March. Jane was selected as Deputy Regional Forester for Region 1 and moved to Missoula in August. When Jane left, the Region recommended that I try the "Clear/Nez experiment" and I agreed to serve as both the Acting Forest Supervisor for the Nez Perce Forest and continue as the Clearwater Forest Supervisor.



Many Nez Perce folks retired this year - Gary Loomis, Kenda Tribble, Jeff Gerfen, Bill Wilkinson, Bo Lane, Geof Hochmuht, Ihor Mereszczak, Marci Gerhardt, Wayne Paradis, and Mike Myers. Hope each of you are enjoying your retirements!

Special Events: An Open House was held March 18 with many friends of the forest joining us for a tour and refreshments. Regional Forester Tom Tidwell visited forest employees May 7-9. The Nez Perce Forest celebrated their Centennial on July 1, 2008. On August 2, Heritage and Recreation staff hosted an Open House at the newly restored Adams Ranger House.



Thank you to all the employees and the people in the community for assisting the forest to have a safe, successful year. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

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Tom Reilly
Acting Forest Supervisor



Nez Perce Forest Facts



Seven Devils from Florence - photo by Jim Paradiso

Total Acres: 2.2 Million acres (Half Wilderness)

Ranger Districts: Clearwater, Red River, Moose Creek, and Salmon River

Number of Employees - 315 Permanent, Part-Time and Temporary Employees at "peak" season (July, 2008)

Range of Elevations within Forest: The highest is He Devil at 9,393 ft. The lowest is Jones Creek at 1083 ft. Both are on the Salmon River District.

Wilderness Areas: Gospel Hump - 200,464 acres, Frank Church-River of

No Return - 105,736 acres, Selway Bitterroot - 560,088 acres, and the Hells Canyon Wilderness - 59,900 acres in Nez Perce Forest (administered by the Wallowa-Whitman Forest)

Wild & Scenic Rivers: Rapid River, Salmon River, Selway River and Middle Fork of the Clearwater River (150 miles)

National Trails: East Boyd-Glover-Roundtop and Meadow Creek on the Moose Creek Ranger District. Anderson Butte Trail #505/835 on the Red River Ranger District:

Scenic Byways: Northwest Passage Scenic Byway

Inventoried Roadless Areas: 17 roadless areas totalling 492,908 acres

Unique Places or Uses: Florence, Gospel-Hump area, Elk City Wagon Road, Seven Devils/Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Salmon River, Selway River, Moose Creek Wilderness Area and the Magruder Corridor.

Administrative/Information Services

Public service and forest information for visitors and employees is the principle objective of our frontliner positions. Between October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, thousands of customers were served at each of the units. Part of the customer service information provided year-round at each of our offices are permits for firewood, mushrooms and Christmas trees, forest maps and brochures, and fire information.

Supervisor's Office/Clearwater Ranger District (Grangeville): In October 2007, we moved to our new location. Although we were unable to keep records of our visitors during that time, we were open to the public and sold firewood permits and maps. From November, 2007 through September, 2008 we had 5566 people visit the front desk. These numbers include visitors for internal meetings, recreationists, permittees and the curious traveler as well as the everyday activities such as postal and package deliveries.

Red River Ranger District (Elk City): We received a total of 1474 visitors. The largest number of front desk customers visited during the months of July through September. Additionally, during those three months, 1250 people called for information, with the main requests listed in the following order as: Administrative, Magruder Road Access, Trail Access, Recreation, Fire, Burn Permits, Timber, Fish and Minerals.

Salmon River Ranger District (Slate Creek): We received a total of 2047 visitors. In addition, 1115 people called for information from July through September. Many permits and outfitter/guides visit the Slate Creek Ranger Station office throughout the year.

Moose Creek Ranger District (Kooskia): We received a total of 2863 visitors. In addition, 1559 of this total visited July through September. Many of the requests received at the Fenn Ranger Station were for recreation information.

Budget & Finance

Contributed by Linda Hinds

The Budget and residual Finance section has three full-time positions. One of the positions does the residual finance work along with General Service Administration/Working Capital Fund Fleet duties for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, Range database, provides assistance to the timber resource clerk and works with non-recreation special uses. With this staff we were able to accomplish all the tasks related to Budget and residual financial work within the required timeframes. Below is a recap of our accomplishments:

- Coordinated with Acquisition Management to submit quarterly accrual and unliquidated obligation reports within prescribed timeframes.
- Responded to 8 audit samples.
- Completed the forest collection officer's audits for FY08.
- Performed midyear and third quarter reviews and documented such.
- Worked with Albuquerque Service Center and Administrative Center of Excellence to resolve issues on pay, travel, Transfer Of Station, Real Property, adjustments, obligations and claims (Unit Claims Liaison for Clearwater/Nez Perce National Forests).

The forest received a final allocation of \$14,390,700. This amount does not include any additions such as carryover, BAER, post-BAER funds received during the course of the year or reductions for Office of Worker's Compensation Program/UCI.

National fire transfers were requested and the Nez Perce was able to contribute \$400,000 of appropriated construction funds, \$377,000 National Forest System funds, \$9,500 State and Private, and \$171,900 in Fuels/Fire for a total of \$958,400.

Conservation Education

Contributed by Suzanne Cable

Moose Creek Ranger District:

For six weeks in June and July of 2008, Sara Schmidt (Missoula, MT) and Ben Collette (Jacksonville, NC) were immersed in Wilderness. The Moose Creek Ranger District started a new Wilderness Internship Program in 2008 to compliment the Chief's emphasis on "Kids in the Woods" and to give select college students a chance to experience living and working in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Thanks to the willingness of Moose Creek Wilderness Rangers Amanda Parker and Raina Phillips to share their backcountry knowledge and mentor Sara and Ben, the program was a success. Plans are to continue and possibly expand the internship program next summer.



Conservation Education continued...
Supervisor's Office:

Each year, the Forest participates in Water Awareness Week, a program proposed and supported by Idaho Governor Butch Otter. Various agencies participate in the program by giving presentations at local schools and providing tours of water treatment facilities, dams, etc. In April, Forest coordinator Patty Clark sent out the Water Awareness packets to 29 schools from Riggins to Moscow, 49 classrooms and 1065 students. These packets are targeted to 6th grade students. Of the 49 classrooms, 4 of them were 5th & 6th Grade combinations.

In September, Forest Hydrologist Nick Gerhardt presented packages to 4 classes of 5th graders from Grangeville Elementary School. There were an average of 20 students in each class. They were involved in the annual Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute Watershed Festival.

PLEASE NOTE: Additional Conservation Education accomplishments pertaining to Fire Prevention are located on pages 6 and 7.

Facilities Operation & Maintenance

Targets:

Contributed by Joe Bonn

- 274 facilities maintained to standard
- 6 buildings decommissioned

Accomplishments:

- Facilities maintained to standard- Should be achieved (dependent upon database report of 5 year rolling average).
- Buildings decommissioned- The Forest did not complete this effort. These buildings will be rolled into the 2009 program. Overall the Forest is on track to achieve 20% reduction in square footage over the 5 year period.
- District with help from the regional office heritage crew replaced roof and foundation at Moose Creek ranger station.
- Maintained water systems at Slate Creek, Fenn, and Red River stations.
- Maintained wastewater systems at Slate Creek, Fenn, and Red River stations.
- Administered completion of Grangeville air center upgrades.
- Hosted environmental compliance audit.

Fire & Fuels Management

Contributed by Jim Gray

Fire: The 2008 fire season was well below average in both number of starts and acres. One noteworthy incident, the Porcupine Fire on the Red River Ranger District, was a very good illustration of where the 2007 Northern Rockies Appropriate Management Response philosophy is paying dividends in reducing exposure to firefighters and reducing costs.

The numbers for 2008 are listed below.

	NPF	
	2008	10 year avg
Wildfire Acres	3,602	9,888
Wildfire Starts	58	164
WFU Acres	3,928	7,182
WFU Starts	19	20
Total Acres	7,530	17,070
Total Starts	77	187
Human Starts	9	12

Fuels: The Clear/Nez Fire Zone produced approximately 16,500 acres of fuels treatments in 2008. We had a slow start in the prescribed burning program with no spring burn window on the Nez Perce Forest, due to almost constant moisture and green up. The summer was cooler and wetter than normal, with much less lightning. The Clearwater Forest was able to burn in mid August and several burn windows were available on both Forest's through most of September, which is very unusual. At least one significant burn window was missed due to smoke conditions. The excellent burn windows in the fall allowed the Zone to produce about 10,000 acres of prescribed fire for targets in both 2008 and 2009. Another significant accomplishment was taking advantage of some late 3rd quarter supplemental fuels funding to accomplish a little more than 2,000 acres of pre-commercial thinning in the wildland urban interface on both forests. This was accomplished by a collaborative effort between Silviculture, Fuels and the Procurement shops.

Smoke Management: Smoke management coordination continues to be a significant part of managing fire, particularly prescribed fire and wildland fire use. The coordination between local partners, Montana/Idaho Airshed Group, Nez Perce Tribe, Montana DEQ, Missoula County, and Idaho DEQ (both Agricultural and Wildland smoke coordinators) and anyone who plans to burn on the Zone requires extensive communication throughout the year, and constant communication during the burning season, to facilitate burning when smoke conditions have the potential to affect the public.

2008 Kudos: With the limited fire activity on the Zone we were able to supply firefighting resources to other parts of the country and exceeded our target of \$750,000 in fire personnel time on suppression & wildland fire use incidents across the country. We worked hard to accomplish a large scale fall prescribed fire program in a safe and cost efficient manner. We took advantage of additional funding available to accomplish a significant amount of pre-commercial thinning in the wildland urban interface by working in an integrated fashion with folks on both Forests.

Clearwater Ranger District (Contributed by Barry Ruklic):

Fuels Management

- Accomplished 140 acres of BD/KV burning
- Accomplished 1440 acres of Hazardous Fuels burning Silver Surveyor (1200) and plantation (240)
- Performed pre- and post burn monitoring of past and future landscape prescribed fire projects
- Accomplished 32 acres of thinning
- Field work for three future landscape burns
- Accomplished 40 acres slashing

Suppression/Fire Management

- Suppressed 19 wildland fires on the Clearwater RD (41 acres)
- Provided Initial, Extended Attack and support resources to the Clear/Nez Zone and cooperators.
 - o Nez Fires: 2-Slate Cr, 2-Red/Elk,
 - o CWF Fires: 2-Powell, 2-Moose Cr, 2- Canyon
 - o Idaho Dept. of Lands Fires: 2-Craig Mtn.
 - o Nez Perce Tribe Fires: 1
 - o Prescribed fire support to North Fork, Lochsa, Fenn, Slate Creek, Red River RD's and Bureau of Land Management
- Supported Regional and National suppression efforts
 - o 12 Off-Forest dispatches

Helicopter Program Statistics

- o 44,246 gallons of water delivered by bucket
- o 27,486 lbs of supplies and equipment delivered internally
- o 47,218 lbs of cargo delivered by external load
- o Transported 270 passengers
- o 144.8 total flight hours
- o 115.9 fire suppression flight hours
- o 28.9 project flight hours

Red River Ranger District (Contributed by Adam Goicoa):

- 23 Wildland Fires, 1 of which was an approved Wildland Fire Use event.
- 23 Suppression Fires burned 2300 acres. (Porcupine Fire was 2250 acres)
- 1 Wildland Fire Use event burned 550 acres. (Bargamin fire was 672 acres)
- 1 Human Caused Fire for a tenth of an acre.
- 0 acres of natural fuels prescribed fire (HF)
- 0 acres were in the WUI
- 670 acres of activity fuels were treated (BD/KV)

Moose Creek Ranger District (Contributed by Stu Hoyt):

- 22 Wildland Fires
- 9 Suppression Fires burned 2521.85 acres
- 7 Lightning Caused Fire burned 1.75 acres
- 2 Human Caused Fire burned 2520.1 acres (Rattlesnake Fire was 2520 acres)
- 13 Wildland Fire Use events burned 3378 acres
- 1925 acres of natural fuels prescribed fire (HF)
- 0 acres were in the WUI
- 0 acres of activity fuels were treated (BD/KV)

Salmon River Ranger District (Contributed by Kevin Chaffee):

- Suppressed 13 wildland fires on the Salmon River RD (220.7 acres)
- Managed 1 Wildland Fire Use event in the Gospel Hump Wilderness Area - North Butte (10 acre)
- Provided initial attack and extended attack fire suppression resources and equipment on the Clear/Nez Fire Zone and cooperators
 - Clear/Nez assists: 7 wildland fires
 - State / IDL assists: 8 wildland fires
 - Region 4-McCall/New Meadows RD assists: 8 wildland fires
- Supported the Regional and National fire management efforts
 - 16 off-forest assignments
- Provided fire equipment and personnel to Region 3 on the Gila, Lincoln and Apache Sitgraves National Forests for approximately 2 ½ months in April, May and June (10 initial attack wildland fires).
- Supported North Idaho Incident management teams with team members. Kevin Chaffee and Steve Munson - Type 2 Operations Section Chief
- Supported the local Type 3 IMT - Josh Warden, operations @ Porcupine Fire, Red River R.D.
- Participated in the Regional WFU sub-committee - Steve Munson

Fire Prevention/Fire Education/Fire Mitigation Accomplishments (Contributed by Susan Jenkins and Liza Hammond)

School and After School Programs

The Salmon River and Clearwater Ranger Districts combined a lot of their fire prevention education work this year, coming up with a number of programs that targeted schools and community. The list below is some of the highlights of the Nez Perce Forest's prevention program.

- "Good Fire, Bad Fire" Puppet Show Program- sixteen schools across the Camas Prairie and in the Salmon River Canyon. "Good Fire, Bad Fire" was designed and presented to teach second graders about all aspects of fire, including campfire safety and prescribed burning.
- Clearwater RD staff and other state and federal agencies worked together to assist in putting on 7th Grade Field Days. Students learned about various environmental issues, as well as jobs related to different disciplines with different agencies.
- Defensible Space/Home Assessment program with the University of Idaho's Student Association of Fire Ecology Club. Students in the club learned how to conduct home assessments as well as apply fire ecology and fuels reduction knowledge in wildland urban interface assessment work.

- **Smokey Bear Grocery Bag Campaign.** This program, sponsored by the Clearwater RD, had local school children drawing fire prevention messages on brown paper bags supplied by Askers and Cash-n-Carry. The bags, with the hand drawn prevention messages, were then given back to the stores for distribution.

Summer Programs for Youth

- Working in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, teacher Jill Wilson, and Framing Our Community, two free Fire Squirts camps were put on in Elk City and White Bird. Thirty-four students participated, learning about fire ecology, fire suppression, and fire prevention along the way.



Other Teaching Programs

- University of Idaho History Series "History of Fire" Program. Provided an overview of fire management on the Nez Perce Forest from 1905 to the present to history teachers from across several counties.
- RedZone training program for volunteer fire departments and local agencies using this software to collect information on homes in the Wildland Urban Interface. The Salmon River Ranger District partnered with the Idaho County Disaster Services coordinator and the Clearwater RC&D to obtain software and training for local fire departments helping to collect fire mitigation information in the wildland urban interface.

Community Events

- Riggins Rodeo-Cooperative float with Salmon River RD and the Bureau of Land Management.
- Border Days-Smokey Bear presented a fire safety message to the public and helped celebrate the Nez Perce Forest's Centennial! The float, a replica of a lookout, received first prize out of all of the entries.
- Hot Summer Nights-Salmon River Rural Volunteer Fire Department partnered with the Salmon River Ranger District to hand out FireWise materials and Smokey Bear prizes to local children.
- White Bird Rodeo-Cooperative float with Salmon River RD and the Bureau of Land Management. Smokey provided a fire safety message and was the sponsor of the annual White Bird Rodeo Stick Horse Race.

Mitigation Work

- During the second year of the Fire Mitigation Education program, Salmon River RD partnered with the Salmon River Volunteer Fire Department and Idaho County to conduct face-to-face education with homeowners on defensible space and fuels reduction in the Salmon River Canyon. Nearly 100 homeowners in the Salmon River Canyon were contacted, and several free home assessments were conducted. Information provided by homeowners will be used in fire prevention planning by district and county.
- The Clearwater RD partnered with the Idaho County Fire Mitigation Coordinator to present FireWise material and information regarding fuels reduction grants to residents living off of the Cove Road.
- Salmon River Ranger District assisted with the production of "Are We Safe From Fire", in conjunction with multiple agencies throughout Idaho. The video, presents information on how homeowners can better prepare their homes in the wildland urban interface.
- Contractor/Realtor Program- Education packets and Firewise information was provided to several real estate and other businesses in the Salmon River Canyon on FireWise techniques, including construction, retrofitting, and landscaping.
- Construction Poster Series- FireWise posters that promoted safe construction and landscaping techniques were designed and printed for local construction, landscaping, and hardware businesses.

Fish Habitat Restoration

Clearwater Ranger District:

Contributed by Wayne Paradis

- Assisted with the Crooked River Instream Improvement work, restoring over 4 miles of Crooked River in the past 3 seasons
- Supported Blacktail Fuels Reduction, Meadow Face and Selway Crossings planning efforts
- Supported Regional fisheries program in PIBO Monitoring/Training
- Presented Crooked River Instream poster at the Idaho Chapter of American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting
- Supported Buckhorn salvage sale.
- Conducted bull trout redd surveys on Morse Creek
- Assisted with Little Slate EIS field work
- Gathered data on the 9429 Fuels project
- Repaired riparian fencing in the Clean Slate Project area
- Repaired riparian fencing on Fish Creek
- Supported Eastside Grazing monitoring effort
- Supported brook trout eradication on Rainbow Creek
- Participated in 7th grade field days
- Held and arranged 20th annual free fishing day derby at Wilkins pond
- Supported the Nez Perce Tribe in replacing the Covert Creek Culvert



Crooked River Instream Improvement

Continuing Cooperative Restoration Program Between The Nez Perce Tribe & Nez Perce Forest

Contributed by Scott Russell

In FY2008 the Nez Perce Forest continued with their cooperative partnership aquatic restoration program with the Nez Perce Tribe, contributing to the recovery of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin. Funded primarily through the tributary habitat restoration program of the Bonneville Power Administration, the program focuses millions of dollars on aquatic habitat restoration, local contracts, and ability to accomplish integrated resource management. The program includes work in in-stream and riparian improvement, aquatic organism passage, and road improvement and decommissioning, along with other activities.

Watershed/Engineering activities:

Contributed by Joe Born

Aquatic Organism Pipes (AOP)- Replaced three existing culvert crossings with passage structures (Relief Creek, Merton Creek, and Mule Creek). Merton and Mule were accomplished in cooperation/coordination with the aquatics program and in cooperation with the Nez Perce Tribe. Relief Creek was implemented using RAC funds (one of the required activities of the American Crooked river EIS). We also awarded the Cache Creek culvert on the Selway road (winter construction) using CMLG funds.

Decommissioning- Awarded Meadow Face phase II and Newsome decommissioning- this is in coordination with Nez Perce Tribe.

Engineering and aquatics administered the 5 mile to Orogrande (RAC) and Crooked river stewardship, and Gold Lake Tunnel instream construction projects.

Worked with the Nez Perce Tribe to set up outyear performance including Whitman Creek decommissioning, False Creek decommissioning, Red River culvert (AOP) designs.

Grants & Agreements

Contributed by Lois Geary and Kathy Anderson

Following is a breakdown of the funding amounts in the agreements portion of our accomplishments (see bullets below): \$1,165,718 of the funding came to the Forest Service from our cooperators in the amount of \$966,846 in cash (83%) with the remainder being of in-kind or non-cash contributions. In total, our cooperators funded 72% of the work accomplished by agreements with the Forest Service funding the remaining \$445,451 (28%).

Our major cooperators were the Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management and the Bonneville Power Administration. Other cooperators of note are the two local Back Country Horsemen Chapters, the Montana Conservation Corps, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development, Idaho County and Framing Our Community.

Total New Agreements: 39

Total Modifications/Carryover: 26

Total Value: \$1,611,169.28

Special Committees: State of Idaho, Department of Parks & Recreation, Snow Grooming Template Revision

Deobligations/Close-outs: 42

Heritage

Contributed by Steve Lucas

- Continued restoration efforts at the historic Adams Ranger Station in cooperation with the North central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee
- Continued site monitoring/assessment activity at a Nez Perce village site in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness
- Completed FY08 work concerning Heritage Program accomplishments associated with the Frank Church Wilderness Programmatic Agreement
- Entered all 900 previous cultural resource surveys into INFRA (electronic database program)
- Burned Area Emergency Recovery (BAER) work and specialist support work for the 2008 fire season
- Completed 35 cultural resource related projects and successfully gained concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office as needed
- Managed 35 sites to standard
- Monitored 63 sites
- Surveyed 150 acres
- Recorded 8 new cultural resource sites

Volunteers for Heritage:

Contributed by Cindy Schacher

Local resident Roger Inghram volunteered many hours of his time in conjunction with the Forest Centennial Celebration. Roger used his personal video equipment to record ten video history interviews. Interviews were conducted with Ace Barton, Penny Keck, Tom Kovalicky, Dave Poncin, Don McPherson, Bob Rehfeld, Jim Renshaw, Art Seamans, Jim Weibush and Roger was kind enough to let us interview him also. The interviews are invaluable documentation of our Forest and segments of its one-hundred year history.

- Geof Hochmuht—40 hrs on Centennial Lookout/80 hrs on Adams Ranger House
- Randy Smith—8 hrs Adams
- Daryl Smith—8 hrs Adams
- Roger Inghram—80 hrs Centennial Video

Human Resource Team

Contributed by Sue Phillips



Take Your Child to Work Day 2008

Teamwork and Honors

- The team received the 2008 Regional Forester's Honor Award for Multicultural Organization
- Presented Human Resource Awards at Employee Day to eight Nez Perce Forest recipients: Jennie Fischer, Mike Shoup, Steve Armstrong, Chris Phillips, Patty Clark, Ralph Gormley, Ralph Russell, and Sue Phillips
- Developed new mentoring program on the Forest, "Creating Connections - Mentor for a Day." Launched during Forest's orientation programs in June, offering employees a day working in a different occupation/functional area with a mentor.

- Updated "About the Area" guides for employees and distributed at unit orientations. Unique information included for each district. Topics included: Top 10 Places to See, Local Events, Local Services, Historic Areas of Interest, Restaurants, Emergency Contacts and Suggested Reading List.
- Participated in University of Idaho Natural Resource/Agriculture Career Fair in January 2008. Visited with 50+ students disseminating information about STEP and SCEP positions.
- Employee Day Celebration - April 2008. Co-sponsor with the Clearwater National Forest, featuring nationally renowned speaker, Haydn Hasty, PhD. Haydn led approximately 85 employees through the "Gregorc Style Delineator." Haydn then used the employees' answers (new knowledge or their personality/skills) to help them to work more productively and get along better in all aspects of their lives.
- Hosted the third annual Nez Perce Showcase with fourteen employees displaying examples from their hobbies, talents, and works; such as photography, quilting, fly tying, leather work, and painting.
- Presented HRT topics at Forest Leadership Team meetings - topics included 2007 Exit Interview Process and 2007 team accomplishments, and the proposed 2008 Program of Work for approval.
- Prepared and distributed exit interviews. Interviews were available on Forest website and hardcopy. The team conducted reviews of temporary/seasonal employee exit interviews. Feedback will be provided to the Forest Supervisor and the Forest Leadership Team.
- Used established Orientation Checklist for presentation at unit orientations to provide consistency across the Forest and raise the awareness of employees to the team and it's work.
- Updated the Forest HRT web site and added new information.
- Participation on numerous selection panels for the forest.
- Promoted Special and Monthly Observances.
- SEPM training provided to one new team member through Rushford Training.

Asian Pacific

- Disseminated information during Asian Pacific Heritage Month highlighting celebrations/events May 2008.

American Indian Program (AIP)

- Distributed Native American events to Forest, Tribal Liaison, and other R1 AIP SEPM's
- Distributed Native American historical events to R1 AIP SEPM's
- Posted on the NPNF internal Forest web site: This Month in Native American History, Native American History Quiz, and American Indian events in History.
- Co-sponsored the Tribal Youth Camp with three other forests; a youth camp for five tribes in northern Idaho and Washington. Theme of the camp is instruction, direction, and work in various natural resource arenas with students attending getting involved hands on. A large part of our budget is dedicated to helping finance this camp each year.

African American

- Attended the University of Idaho Natural Resource Career Fair.
- Distributed vacancy announcements to District employees and to fellow African American program managers across the region.
- Distributed posters and weekly black history information across the Forest for Black History Month, February 2008.

Person's With Disabilities Program

- Provided information regarding access for disabled hunters at the SO. Red River Ranger District administered their Mobility-Impaired Hunter Access program providing over 90 hunter field days.
- Attended Title VI training offered at March 2008 RTA.

Title VI Program

- Prepared the annual upward IRR reporting for the Nez Perce NF in January 2008. This includes the Pre-and-Post Award Reviews, Technical Assistance and Data Collection Report, and Disability Awareness Training and Technical Assistance Report.
- Attended the University of Idaho Natural Resource Career Fair.

Hispanic Employees Program

- Disseminated information about Hispanic Culture through posters highlighting celebrations - Sept/Oct 2007

Federal Women's Program

- Distributed 2008 Women's Monthly Planner and Hope Health newsletters.
- Coordinated Take your Child to Work Day events in May 2008. Seven children participated. Archeology-Native American tools presented by AIP Manager Steve Armstrong - Atlatl talk and tool throwing; Hydrology - Water and Bugs; participated in Race for the Cure walk; toured the Grangeville Air Center smokejumper base.
- Women's History Month - March 2008
- Disseminated information - highlights of National Women's History Month honorees.
- Brown bag lunch featured the Guatemalan Culture by Sue Phillips
- Organized Forest "Susan G. Koman-Race for the Cure" walks for breast cancer awareness at two Ranger Districts (Clearwater and Red River). More than seventy participants, with three being cancer survivors, walked raising over \$1900.
- Coordinated a Breast Cancer Awareness brown bag lunch with guest speakers, Becky Hays, speaking on being a breast cancer survivor; and Becky Ward, speaking on non-carcinogenic products to purchase and use.
- Maintained the FWP/HRT Library
- Coordinated the Working Parents Room, providing office space for working parents, and monitored and tracked Child at Work Agreements - Two Child at Work/Working Parent Room requests in Calendar Year 2008.



Rachel and Ruby Young are a good representation of the HRT and use of the working parents room - established in 1990. Photo by Jenny Stephenson

Minerals

Contributed by Vern Bretz

During fiscal year 2008, the Salmon River Ranger District was assigned 15 targets, and the Red River Ranger District was assigned 48 targets.

Salmon River Ranger District:

Of the 15 assigned targets, the Salmon River Ranger District accomplished a total of 16 targets. Target accomplishment breakdown includes:

- 5 notice of intents were processed for mineral prospecting and
- 11 bonded operations were administered to standard

The Salmon River Ranger District received 5 proposed plans of operations for exploration that are awaiting Federal and State permits, completion of NEPA and bonds.

A cooperative agreement between the Forest Service and Gem State Grotto was signed and the cave management plan for the Papoose Cave was updated this fiscal year. The lower cave entrance was also refitted and secured with a bat friendly gate.

Red River Ranger District:

The Red River Ranger District accomplished 22 targets.

Target accomplishment breakdown includes:

- 8 notices of intents were processed
- 1 bonded plan of operation, Little Moose Exploration, was approved
- 1 mineral material permit was issued for landscape rocks (dredge tailings). The District traditionally has issued 8 to 12 mineral material permits per year. The lack of interest for building and landscape rock may be tied to the real property and home building industry down turn
- 13 bonded operations were administered to standard

The Red River Ranger District has a backlog of 10 plans of operations. These plans and 4 additional proposed plans of operations received in FY08 are awaiting Federal and State permits, completion of NEPA and bonds.

Thirteen abandoned mine sites scheduled for closure in FY08 were rescheduled for FY09.

North Central Idaho RAC

The following projects were recommended by the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) and approved for implementation by the Forest Supervisor in 2008:

Idaho County Weeds - The work for this year's RAC weed project is nearly complete. Over 1700 acres of key transportation corridors, were treated for invading weeds. Approximately 200 acres of Private/USFS Interface areas were treated and nearly 5000 acres were inventoried for new invasions of weeds.

South Fork Clearwater Monitoring - The Nez Perce Forest partnered with Framing our Community, Nez Perce Tribe, and the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute and have completed the third year of sampling. Two more years are still funded.

Cove Road - A 6" gravel lift was put on 6.3 miles of road, 5 miles of county road and 1.3 miles of FS road. It took roughly 2,400 to 2,500 tons per mile of loose aggregate. The gravel cost \$108,000, labor \$8,800, equipment \$27,000 and stabilization oil \$5,948 for a total cost of \$150,130.

Coolwater Road Reconstruction - under contract for performance in the summer of 2009.

Nez Precommercial Thinning - This is a forest-wide fuels and vegetation management project with an expected implementation date of June, 2009.

Partnerships

Contributed by Christine Bradbury

Relationship with the Nez Perce Tribe

In ongoing efforts to strengthen and improve relationships and communication with the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), the Nez Perce National Forest (NPNF) established quarterly staff-to-staff meetings that roughly coincide with the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) releases. The meetings provide a forum to identify and resolve issues early, track project planning progress, and introduce and discuss new ideas for future projects.

The NPNF and NPT continue to hold quarterly Restoration Coordination meetings to ensure the ongoing success with planning and implementing large scale watershed restoration projects forest-wide.

The NPNF was one of five National Forests represented at the Nez Perce Tribe's Spring and Fall General Council sessions. At these three-day meetings, Nez Perce Tribal members gather to hear important information, debate and vote on issues, and elect leaders.

The NPNF was also one of six National Forests to participate in an annual meeting with the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (NPTEC) to review the previous year's efforts, develop strategies for improvement and discuss emerging issues.

Planning

Contributed by Jennie Fischer

Cold Toes Timber Sale (to remove Mistletoe infected lodgepole pine) - Decision Memo signed October, 2007

Meadow Face Stewardship Project - Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement was signed November, 2007

Blacktail Environmental Assessment (Hazardous Fuels) - Decision Memo signed February, 2008

Buckhorn Salvage Categorical Exclusion (CE) - Poe Cabin Fire Salvage - Decision Memo signed June, 2008

Antler Salvage Environmental Assessment - Black Butte Fire Salvage - Decision Memo signed June, 2008

Selway-Crossings CE - replace existing culverts where Boyd Creek, Twenty-three Mile Creek, Cache Creek and Glover Creek enter the Selway River. Decision Memo signed June, 2008

Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Invasive Plants - The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published in the Federal Register on 04/01/2008. Proposal is to treat invasive plants and noxious weeds with herbicides and biocontrols within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Nez Perce National Forest Travel Management (Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use) - Proposal is to develop a travel management plan and map to comply with the National Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Rule. The Forest is preparing the DEIS to be released for public comments. In Fiscal Year 2009, the Forest will release the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record Of Decision, continue internal and external briefings; respond to public comments, continue regulatory agency consultation, and complete/print the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

Property

Contributed by BertaLee Mottem

- Completed the Bi-Annual Personal Property Inventory
- First Year of the Five Year cycle for Real Property Inventory was completed
- Disposed of excess furniture from Supervisor's Office and Clearwater Ranger District in a timely manner so it was not necessary to incur additional expenses for storage . A lot of this furniture was donated to the local schools.
- Disposed of several real property outbuildings which helped reduce the Forest's real property costs

Purchasing & Contracts

Contributed by Karen Ruklic

The fiscal year began with a flurry of activity in connection to our office relocation. The contract for the move was successfully administrated by our shop with the help of a large cadre of employees. The old lease was closed out and the excess property was disposed of. This was a huge undertaking that required an incredible amount of time and hard work.

During FY 2008, we obligated approximately \$2,519,631.12. The following is a breakdown of the types of contracts awarded by socio-economic business type. HubZone small businesses are businesses that have been certified by the Small Business Administration (SBA). They are headquartered in economically depressed areas and employ workers that reside in these areas. 8(a) small businesses are certified by the SBA. They are owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who are of good character and demonstrate potential for success.

16 Construction Contract awards: \$1,099,960.99
6.4% awarded to Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses
91.1% awarded to HubZone Small Businesses
2.5% awarded to Emerging Small Businesses

32 Service Contracts awarded: \$675,079.70
6.8% awarded to Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses
42% awarded to 8a Small Businesses
51% awarded to Small Businesses

2 Supply Contracts awarded: \$77,084.00
91% awarded to Small Businesses
9% awarded to Large Business

8 Contracts were renewed: \$172,711.43
80.5% Small Businesses
19.5% HubZone Small Businesses

4 Task Orders were issued from existing contracts: \$223,408.08
48.7% HubZone Small Businesses
51.37% Small Businesses

39 Purchase Orders were awarded: \$156,249.71 (service and supply procurements)
No data available regarding business type.

Approximately 34 Contract Modifications were processed: \$115,137.21

Recreation

Contributed by Jena Daly

WEST ZONE (Clearwater/Salmon River Ranger Districts)



*Solar panels for water pump at Salmon River site.
Photo by Jena Daly*

DEVELOPED RECREATION

Salmon River

- Installed new solar-powered water pump, solar panels, and control boxes
- Presentation to “Partners Afloat” regarding Salmon River Recreation Sites proposed

Boat ramp improvements

- Installed new signage around Spring Bar Boat Launch garbage containers
- Replaced portions of rotting fence at Allison Creek Picnic Area
- Dug up and repaired irrigation pipes
- Pruned, limbed, trimmed Spring Bar Campground Orchard Trees
- Addressed Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp Sand deposition from high water
- Included multiple truck loads of sand removal, ramp panel readjustment and removal of demolished/irreparable ramp panels

South Fork Clearwater River

- Repainted/refurbished Blackerby toilet
- Replaced stolen fire ring at Nelson Creek
- Repaired vandalism at multiple toilets
- Replaced campsite markers

Fish Creek Meadows Recreation Site

- Intensive fence repair surrounding meadow and campground
- Provided Nordic Trail Grooming and Winter Snowpark Maintenance
- Hosted Free Ski Day for community
- Replaced window at Fish Creek Loop Trails warming cabin
- Participated in weekly mountain bike rides, familiarized local riders with loop rides of various lengths/difficulties, provided mountain bike maintenance to riders, provided trail maps and International Mountain Bike Association

Adams Historic Ranger Station

- Refinished living room, front porch, and bathroom floors
- Installed bathroom and kitchen window trim
- Installed bathroom and kitchen molding and trim
- Installed back porch flooring, windows, door, painted exterior
- Finished siding, roof, and porch of ADA accessible SST
- Installed floor beam support underneath cabin
- Cut, hauled, split, and stacked firewood



New Vault Toilet at Adams Ranger House - Photo by David Hepler

Other Zone Work

- Removed trailhead registration boxes from along Gospel Road; bucked up tree and cut down 2 hazard trees at Moore's Lake trailhead; repaired bulletin board at same location
- Filled 25 gallon propane tank and returned to Moore's Station; reset post for stabilizing/mounting propane tank
- Hepler, Barlow, and Fantini winched 350 lb generator uphill from Papoose Cave to area for accommodating helicopter sling loading
- Trail crew reconstructed fence and rehung gate on Blue Mountain Road (FR 487)
- Fence repair at Slate Creek Compound pasture
- Revised and updated very comprehensive trails job hazard analysis
- Trail tool inventory and repair
- National Recreation Reservation System: excuted reservation system at two group use sites, and 1 cabin throughout the season
- Operated and Maintained to Standard:
 - o 35 Developed Recreation Sites (campgrounds, picnic areas, major trailheads)
 - o Numerous minor trailheads and dispersed campsites were also maintained
 - o 3 campground drinking water systems
 - o Administered 13 Outfitter Guide Permits

Salmon Wild and Scenic River

- Conducted 9 river patrols on the Salmon River
- Organized R1 & R4 Regional Forester's Float
- Participated in Partners Afloat
- Provided logistical support to the trail crew for maintenance of the Salmon River Trail, Frank Church-River of No Return-Wilderness Weed Program (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Sierra Club), Bighorn Sheep monitoring, campsite benchmark monitoring
- Prepared annual report documenting patrol crew activities and encounters

Rivers, Wilderness & Outfitter & Guides

Contributed by Anthony Botello

Moose Creek Ranger District:

2008 River Management Objectives Accomplished:

- Six river patrols for resource protection, including visitor contact, information, education, and law enforcement
- Completion of eleven campsite inventories of river sites
- Supported trails program by transporting 2 logs to Cupboard Creek bridge site
- Supported Forest weeds and fisheries programs with river transportation; FIA river transportation
- Supported Fire Management with transportation of investigators for the Rattlesnake Fire

2008 Outfitter & Guide Administration Objectives Accomplished:

- 12 permits administered to standard, including 42 outfitter camp inspections
- 12 temporary or priority use permits re-issued in winter of '08
- Located 1 outfitter cache (Parker)

2008 Wilderness Management Objectives Accomplished:

- Participation in Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (SBW) management groups - Wilderness Rangers, Implementation Team, Policy Council, Trails Committee; preparation of 2007 SBW State Of the Wilderness Report; submission of data for Infra-wild reporting

- Backcountry patrol for resource protection, visitor contact (information & education), campsite inventories, outfitter & guide camp inspections, informal trail contract inspection, trash pack-out, weed management, and law enforcement. Parker, Phillips, and Cable patrolled extensively throughout the SBW including 16 routes/drainages (some of which had not been patrolled in several years).
- Conducted 144 campsite inventories (approx. 39% of total), including campsite naturalization and clean-up; also including re-inventory of Wilderness lakes with closure orders.
- Maintained presence at Moose Creek Ranger Station (April thru November) and Shearer Guard Station (September and October) for airstrip landings monitoring, visitor contact, information, education, and law enforcement.
- Maintained facilities at Moose Creek Ranger Station including:
 - o Replacement of roofs on the cookhouse and bathhouse (including exclusion of bats from the cookhouse attic), masonry repair on cookhouse chimney, partial foundation repair on the cookhouse, floor repair in the cookhouse, repair of broken fly rafter on barn, stabilization of Seminole Ranch footbridge - all with help from the Region 1 Historic Preservation Crew, Ninemile Pack String, Forest Service employees from Ninemile Ranger District, Spotted Bear Ranger District, Bureau of Land Management, Back Country Horsemen volunteers, NPNF employees, FS retiree Geof Hochmuht
 - o Plumbed the Ranger House with PEX
 - o Replaced two broken gates due to winter snow damage
 - o Removed precipitation gauge from north pasture at Moose Creek Ranger Station
 - o Numerous other maintenance projects at Moose Creek Ranger Station including painting, plumbing, small repairs, cleaning of buildings, fencing, water line repair, firewood, airstrip and windsock maintenance, etc.



Hauling Firewood at Moose Creek Ranger Station - photo by Suzanne Cable

Road Operation & Maintenance

Targets:

- Passenger cars mile maintained = 400 miles
- High clearance miles maintained = 38 miles
- Passenger car miles improved = 1 mile
- Road miles decommissioned = 6 miles

Contributed by Joe Bonn

Accomplishments:

- Passenger car miles maintained = 742 miles using a combination of CMRD (Capital Investment Program), Legacy Funds, cooperator, and timber purchaser performance
- High clearance miles maintained = 119 miles using a combination of CMRD, CMLG, and timber purchaser performance
- Passenger car miles improved = 7.4 miles using a combination of CMRD, CMLG, emergency supplemental, and cooperator funds. Includes Hungry Ridge Road repair.

Road Operations accomplishments continued...

- High clearance miles improved = 11.3 miles using a combination of CMRD, Resource Advisory Committee, emergency supplemental, and cooperator funding
- Road miles decommissioned = 22.6 miles using a combination of CMRD, stewardship, and cooperator funding
- Road bridges replaced = 1 using CMRD
- Road bridges maintained = 1 (replanked Swiftwater Bridge over Selway River)

Silviculture

Contributed by Randall Walker

West Zone - Salmon River & Clearwater Districts

- Total Acres of Reforestation: 87 ac planted
- Total Acres of pre-commercial thinning: 969 ac
- Total Acres of Vexar Removal: 321 ac (All of the vexar that was installed in previous years has been removed from the forest)
- Regeneration Exams: 869 ac (3rd, 5th year)
- First Year Survival Exams: 87 acres
- Forest had a moderate crop of Ponderosa Pine cones, but due to budget restraints, forest did not collect. Forest identified 4 collection areas
- Currently laying out 700 acres of 2009 spring planting in the Scott Saddle area as a result of the Black Butte Fire
- Vegetation Stand Exams: 300 plots (2000 acres)
- LIDAR Vegetation Stand exams: 81 plots
- Silvicultural Prescriptions for 1994 acres of mechanical treatment. Includes diagnosis, marking guides, and KV plan preparation
- Silvicultural Prescriptions for acres of prescribed burns
- Hazard Tree analysis of Poe Cabin Fire Area roads and recreation sites
- Regeneration analysis of Poe Cabin Fire Area
- Certification of 200 acres of natural regeneration

East Zone - Red River & Moose Creek Districts

- Reforestation: 173 acres planted
- Regeneration Exams: 247 acres (3rd, 5th year)
- First Year Survival Exams: 173 acres
- Preplant surveys: 800 acres
- Stakerow surveys: 150 stakes installed, 400 stakes read
- Rattlesnake fire rehabilitation: 360 acres of planting layout
- Pre-commercial thinning: 365 acres
- Thinning exams: 100 acres
- Silvicultural Prescriptions for 360 acres of mechanical treatment in Fitness, Deadwood riparian restoration, and Wigwam. Includes diagnosis, marking guide, and KV plan preparation
- Silvicultural Prescriptions for 4,000 acres of prescribed burns in Whitewater and O'hara Creek
- Hazard Tree analysis of roads and recreation areas in Rattlesnake Fire Area.
- Sale Preparation and administration - Fitness, French Gulch, and Looney timber sale areas
- Postfire evaluation of Rattlesnake and Meadow fire areas
- Insect and Disease Assessment of Hamby Swiftwater Watersheds

Supervisors Office

- Hosted Regional Forest Health and Protection (Insect and Disease) Workshop
- Re-certified the West Zone Silviculturist
- Reviewed and certified all silvicultural prescriptions for the West Zone

Soil & Water

Contributed by Nick Gerhardt & Pat Green

- Completed 50 acres of improvements using appropriated soil and water funds
- Completed 218 acres of improvements using other Forest Service funds, including Resource Advisory Committee, stewardship contracting, road and trail, and post-fire funds
- Completed 55 acres of improvements using Bonneville Power Administration funds, in cooperation with the Nez Perce Tribe
- Assisted in 5.8 miles of stream restoration design
- Assisted in 5.3 miles of stream restoration implementation and maintenance
- Assisted local area agencies in 2008 spring runoff flood prediction and mitigation
- Conducted burned area assessments and contributed to suppression rehabilitation plans on one 2008 wildfire, totaling 2,231 acres
- Implemented burned area treatments on two 2007 wildfires
- Completed post-treatment monitoring on 11 soil restoration sites
- Provided technical support to integrated invasives inventory and treatment in collaboration with Idaho County
- Participated in environmental awareness programs for local schools



Selway Falls at High Water
May 18, 2008



Crooked River Instream Improvement
August 11, 2008

Timber Sale Program

Contributed by Scott Godfrey

FY08 Program Accomplishments:

- Volume Offered: Target = 15.6 MMBF
Offer = 13.6 MMBF (1 sale no bid, re-offer sold w/less volume)
Accomplishment = 10.7 MMBF
- The decision for Antler Salvage was appealed which delayed offering. This sale will be carry-over volume and offered in FY09. Estimated volume is approximately 4 MMBF.
- Volume Harvested: 15.2 MMBF; Value \$691,179
- Personal Use Firewood: 3,977 cords; Value \$19,865
- Native American Firewood: 24 cords; Value \$120
- Free Use Post & Poles (Salmon River District): 2,243 pieces; Value \$538
- Free Use Post & Poles (Red River District): 5,185 pieces; Value \$1,244
- Christmas Trees: 175 trees; Value \$875
- Free Use Mushrooms: 4,395 pounds; Value \$4,395

Timber Sales Sold in FY08:

- Looney Timber Sale, 570 MBF; Red River Ranger District
- Wigam Timber Sale, 58 MBF; Red River Ranger District
- Cold Toes Timber Sale, 3,584 MBF; Clearwater Ranger District
- Black Wall 2 Timber Sale, 3,348 MBF; Clearwater Ranger District

- Delmage Timber Sale, Inactive this year; Salmon River RD
- Ready Timber Sale, Active logging this year; Salmon River RD
- Cold Toes, Roadwork began & logging is planned to start this fall; Clearwater RD
- Black Wall 2 Timber Sale, Not started; Clearwater RD
- American River Stewardship, Active logging this year; Red River RD
- Crooked River Stewardship, Active logging this year; Red River RD
- Starbucky Timber Sale, Inactive this year, Red River RD
- Looney Timber Sale, Active logging this year; Red River RD
- Wigam Timber Sale, not started; Red River RD



Ready Timber Sale Activities - photo by S. Godfrey

Crooked River Stewardship Project

The Crooked River Stewardship Project was awarded to Bennett Forest Industries / Three Rivers on February 10, 2006. The sale included an estimated volume over 16 million board feet, along with a substantial service work package. All of the timber harvest, the mandatory service work, and authorized optional service work have been completed at this time. Additional optional instream and floodplain revegetation work will be completed by mid-November.

American River Stewardship Project

The American River Stewardship Project was awarded to Three Rivers / Bennett Forest Industries on September 13, 2006. The sale included an estimated volume of 8.3 million board feet, along with a substantial service work package. Approximately 1.0 million board feet remains to be harvested on the sale. Additionally, all of the mandatory service work, along with some authorized optional service work has been completed in Subdivision 1. Restoration work including mandatory and some authorized optional work is ongoing in Subdivision 2. This will likely continue into 2009.

Red Pines Project

Implementation of the Red Pines Project is currently underway with two small timber sales being sold (Looney and Wigam), in addition to a large in-stream project (approximately \$600,000) at Red River Narrows slated to begin implementation in FY09. Forest personnel are also pursuing various potential funding sources to implement some of the road decommissioning and other restoration work authorized with this project. Several small timber sales are planned for FY09 with each sale contributing to the restoration effort by decommissioning roads used by the sale(s) and planned to be eliminated in the Record Of Decision.

Trails & Recreation Construction

Contributed by Laurie Doman

Reconstruction Projects: TARGET 31 Miles - Accomplished 26 Miles

Contracts:

Sheep Hill 575	7.0 miles	Award 2008, complete in 2009
Kirk's Fork Waterbars	2.0 miles	Award 2008, completed 2008
Rapid River Trail 113	3.9 miles	Award 2008, complete 2009
Snowtrail V-Tr. 641	2.8 miles	Award 2008, complete 2008
Newsome/ Boundary/Divide	12.0 miles	NEPA appealed, funding returned To region, project not implemented (not counted toward targets)

Force Account:

Cupboard Cr. Bridge	.1 mile	Completed
East Moose II	3.0 miles	Completed
Snoose Creek 407	1.0 mile	Completed with Montana Conservation Crew

Cooperators:

9301 Road to Trail Conversion	2.2 miles	Partially completed in 2007, finished work 2008
Idaho Parks & Rec. Trail Cat	6.2 miles	Completed Nugget Point Trail

Fire Rehabilitation

Force Account:

Trail 96, Salmon River	20.0 miles	Erosion control work and tread Regrade, crib repairs, brushing
Trail 215, Crooked Creek	10.0 miles	Erosion control and tread work
Trail 204, Lake Creek	3.5 miles	Erosion control and tread work
Trail 201, Sheep Creek	3.0 miles	Erosion control and tread work Remaining work need
Trail 200, Drumlommen	2.0 miles	Erosion control and tread work
Trail 203, War Eagle	7.5 miles	Erosion control and tread work

Contract

Trail 224, Indian Creek	4.0 miles	Erosion control and tread work
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Trail Maintenance: TARGET = 692 Miles

10 Maintenance Contractors	727.5 miles
Force Account	389 miles
Volunteers/Partnerships	247.2 miles
TOTAL	1,363.7 miles

Target accomplishment exceeded due to alternate funding sources (BAER, CMLG, CMII, Blowdown funding and an Idaho Parks & Recreation Grant)

Small Contracts:

Gospel-Hump Excessive Blowdown	9.5 miles
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Deferred Maintenance Condition Surveys:

Trails, Force Account	30.6 miles (100%)
Trail Bridges	28 ea. (100% of required)

Cooperator Groups:

- Back Country Horsemen, Twin Rivers & North Central Idaho Chapters
- Pathfinders ATV Club
- Valley Cats Snowmobile & ATV Club
- Dust Devil's ATV Club
- State of Idaho Parks & Recreation
- Trail Rangers Program, in conjunction with Dust Devil's, High Mountain Trail Machine Association, and Pathfinders ATV Club
- Park n Ski Program for Cross-Country Ski Trail Grooming at Fish Creek
- Idaho County and State of Idaho Parks & Recreation for Snowmobile Trail Grooming
- Idaho County Snowmobile Advisory Board for Area 24A & B.
- Montana Conservation Corp
- Meadow Creek Trail Volunteer Group

Competed successfully for the following grant with Idaho Parks & Recreation:
Red River Motorized Trail Maintenance - \$10,000

Volunteers - Thank You

Clearwater/Salmon River Ranger Districts

Contributed by Jena Daly

Volunteers Developed Recreation - 1,487 Hours

Fish Creek Campground : 512 Volunteer hours

South Fork & Castle Creek Campground: 250 Volunteer hours

Spring Bar Campground: 680 Volunteer hours

Adams Historic Ranger Station: Approximately 45 volunteer hours

Campground Host Volunteers:

●Clara Smith, South Fork & Castle Creek CG's

●Jack & Barb Suesz, Fish Creek CG

●Jim O'Rourke, Spring Bar CG

Trails - 270 Miles Maintained

North Central Idaho Back Country Horsemen: Snoose Creek and Blue Ridge Trails, 10 miles

Twin Rivers BCH: Corral Creek Trailhead work, signs installed, fences repaired

State Trail Rangers - Pathfinders ATV Club: 84.2 miles trail opening and 4 miles road to trail conversion including bridge removal

State Trail Rangers - High Mountain Trail Machine Motorcycle Club: 70 miles of trail opening

Snowdrifters Snowmobile Club: 106 miles of snowmobile trail grooming

Moose Creek RD Wilderness and River Volunteers

Contributed by Suzanne Cable



*New gate going up at Moose Creek -
photo by Suzanne Cable*

Wilderness and River programs volunteers at the Moose Creek Ranger District donated 2,339 hours in FY08. We had a total of 27 individuals work with us on projects including Wilderness patrol, river patrol, campsite inventory, buildings maintenance, historical archiving, station hosts, trailhead hosts, trail work, and removal of trash from Seminole Ranch.

Thanks to our volunteers, we accomplished much more work than would have been possible with only our force account crews. Our volunteers were successful thanks to the effort of our Wilderness and River Rangers and Main Line packer. Guidance and training provided in the field by Barry Miller, Amanda Parker, Pete Armichardy and Raina Phillips made the program work. And

thanks to Linda Hinds for processing all the volunteer payments.

- 6 volunteer boatmen on the Selway River
- 10 station hosts (Moose Creek and Shearer)
- 1 trailhead host
- 4 helping with historical archiving
- 3 helping with the roofing project
- 2 Wilderness Interns
- 1 SCA intern
- 1 helping with Seminole Ranch Decommission
- 2 Assistant Wilderness Rangers

Weeds & Range

Contributed By Lynn Burton and Cait Morris

Invasive Plant Treatment and Monitoring:

The Forest treated 4573 acres of noxious weeds. The third and final year of cooperative goat grazing of yellow star thistle was completed, representing 1284 of the above acres. The University of Idaho will be publishing the results of that work over the next year, showing goat are a very effective tool in reducing population levels of the weed.



Goats doing their weed work

We also undertook a major fence maintenance project, Poe Cabin, that involved the replacement or reconstruction of some 20 miles of livestock fence along the Nez Perce Forest/ Hells Canyon National Recreation Area boundary.

Salmon River Ranger District:

Treatment (pesticide): 350 acres

Monitoring: 812 acres

Clearwater and Red River Ranger District:

Treatment (pesticide): 2377 acres

Treatment (biological control - insects): 110 acres

Treatment (biological control - goats): 1284 acres of yellow starthistle

Monitoring: 2225 acres

Moose Creek Ranger District:

Treatment (pesticide): 272 acres

Treatment (biological control - insects): 180 acres

Wildlife Habitat

Contributed by Joanne Bonn

Salmon River Ranger District:

Target Accomplishment

Supported the Forest and districts in accomplishing the enhancement of terrestrial habitat through activities such as prescribed burning, noxious weed management (bug releases, weed spraying, BAER work), road decommissioning, access management, and planting shrubs and trees in disturbed areas.

Special Projects

- "Wanted Bighorn Sheep" sighting posters - 9 locations along Salmon River from Riggins to Vinegar Creek
- Bighorn Sheep litigation: changed condition analysis for Allison-Berg Allotment, risk contact assessment, surveys
- Lynx hair snare surveys
- Wildlife Field recon for Center Ridge Fuels project
- Flammulated Owl Surveys mainly concentrated on places not surveyed before or areas impacted by recent fires - Alan Dohmen (Clearwater NF) supervisor, Joanne Bonn coordinator with RO, transect layout with Dohmen, on site contact for crew

Regional Forester's Honor Award Recipients

Several Nez Perce National Forest employees were recipients of the 2008 Regional Forester's Honor Awards. The awards were presented in June in Missoula.

Multicultural Organization: The Nez Perce National Forest Human Resource Team

This includes: Sue Phillips, Mike Shoup, Anthony Botello, Dave Mays, Jena Daly, Amber Burleigh, Jennie Fischer. Meg Moynihan, Randy Nelson, Steve Armstrong and Joe Hudson.

Excellence in Providing Business Operations Support: Linda Hinds, Joe Bonn and Scott Russell

Capitol Christmas Tree

Contributed by Laura Smith



Talented Kids Klub kids - photo by Lorie Palmer, Idaho County Free Press

Public Affairs staff coordinated with the Grangeville Kids Klub to make ornaments for the Capitol Christmas Tree in September. Kids Klub members - ages 5 through adult - had a hand in putting together the decorations. Kristi Keeler and Cindy Godfrey, co-lead teachers, assisted the kids.

The ornaments depict the natural life in the Nez Perce Forest. Dried flowers, leaves and plants were pressed and used on homemade paper, cut into circles,

laminated and tied with ribbons. The paper was made from recycled scraps, mixed in a blender with water and laid out to dry in rectangle shapes. The ornaments, 24 in all, were shipped to Washington, D.C.

This year's Capitol Christmas Tree was provided by the Bitterroot National Forest. The Nez Perce Companion Tree will be placed in the Washington Office Yates Building outside the Communications office.

Photo at Right: Siviculturist Sandi Holbrook chose a 15 foot Grand fir from the Clearwater Ranger District as our Companion Tree



Special Events

Contributed by Laura Smith

New Forest Headquarters Open House

Many of our friends joined us for our Open House on March 18, 2008. Refreshments were served and tours of the building were provided. What's new:

- Energy Star 75 rating (building is in the top 25% in its class for energy efficiency)
- Combined Ranger District Office, Supervisors Office and Interagency Dispatch Center
- Shared office space with Bureau of Reclamation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Idaho Department of Lands, Rocky Mountain Research Station (FIA), Bureau of Land Management, and the Nez Perce Tribe.



Nez Perce National Forest Centennial

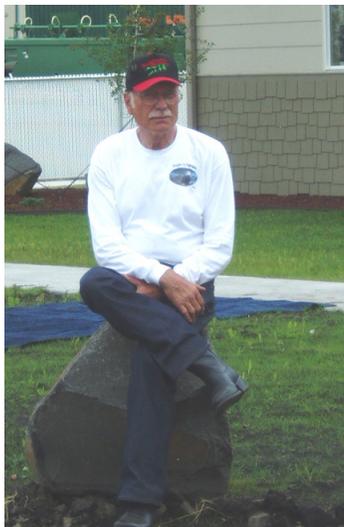
After a year of planning, the Nez Perce National Forest Centennial went off without a hitch on July 1, 2008. A total of 150 visitors helped us celebrate.

The afternoon's agenda included the Moose Creek Packstring "Presentation of Flags," Guest Speakers Dennis Baird and Horace Axtell, Dedication of Centennial Commemorative Tree, Video showing of "A Snapshot in Time: Yesterday and Today on the Nez Perce National Forest," and "Wilderness Lives" (Debbie Lee).

Meanwhile, several Centennial events were happening at the Grangeville Air Center: Traditional Tools Demonstration, Grangeville Air Center Tours, and Smokey Bear and Interactive Games for Kids.



Deputy Forest Supervisor Ralph Rau, Nez Perce Tribe Elder Horace Axtell and Historian Dennis Baird



Forest partner Roger Inghram was recognized for contributing many volunteer hours to help produce the Nez Perce Centennial video.

Visitors viewed the many historic displays and handouts while enjoying refreshments and listening to local champion fiddler, Duane Stephens.



Darcy Pederson, Clearwater and Salmon River District Ranger, joined in the festivities.

Centennial continued...



Volunteer/FS Retiree Geof Hochmuht spent many hours building this L-4 Lookout Replica for the Centennial event



John Crawford (staffed the Indian Hill Lookout for 30+ Years) and Smokey celebrate during the Grangeville Border Days Parade

Photo at Right: Ian Barlow and Susan Jenkins enlist a young helper to demonstrate crosscut saw operation



Restoration of Adams Ranger House



Public Affairs Specialist Laura Smith opened the ceremony with a welcome speech and ribbon cutting.



Ed Hafer (Volunteer), Jena Daly (Recreation Specialist), Robbin Armstrong (Volunteer), Cindy Schacher and Steve Armstrong (Heritage).

On August 2, 2008, Heritage and Recreation staff hosted an Open House at the newly restored Adams Ranger House located near the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. Over the past several field seasons, Nez Perce Forest employees collaborated with the North Idaho Resource Advisory Committee, contractors, and numerous volunteers to complete restoration work on the historic cabin. The cabin is available for rent!

Supervisor's Office

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RALPH RAU, Deputy Forest Supervisor
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KATHY BESS, Executive Assistant
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Ranger Districts

Salmon River Ranger District
Slate Creek Ranger Station
DARCY PEDERSON, Acting District Ranger
dpederson@fs.fed.us
304 Slate Creek Road, White Bird, ID 83554
(208) 839-2211 FAX: (208) 839-2730

Clearwater Ranger District
DARCY PEDERSON, District Ranger
dpederson@fs.fed.us
104 Airport Road, Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-1950 FAX: (208) 983-4042

Red River Ranger District
Elk City Ranger Station
TERRY NEVIUS, District Ranger
tnevius@fs.fed.us
300 American River Road, Elk City, ID 83525
(208) 842-2245 FAX: (208) 842-2150

Moose Creek Ranger District
Fenn Ranger Station
JOE HUDSON, District Ranger
jHUDSON@fs.fed.us
831 Selway Road, Kooskia, ID 83539
(208) 926-4258 FAX: (208) 926-7119



Happy Holidays from your Nez Perce Forest Public Affairs staff. This is the fourth annual edition, highlighting our forest accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2008 (October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008). Many thanks to all the employees that provided input to this report.

If you have questions or comments about this edition, please contact Laura Smith, Public Affairs Specialist at (208) 983-5143 or email lasmith@fs.fed.us.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST
104 Airport Road
Grangeville, ID 83530

Penalty for Private Use, \$300