

Nez Perce National Forest
104 Airport Road
Grangeville, ID 83530
208-983-1950



Clearwater National Forest
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544
208-476-4541

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Laura Smith

Contact: Elayne Murphy

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLEAR/NEZ FIRE ZONE CONDUCTING PRESCRIBED BURNING

The Clear/Nez Fire Zone is conducting prescribed burning this week and throughout the month of September, weather permitting. The "natural fuels" projects are designed to minimize the effects of future wildfire events by reducing fuel loadings and continuity. These prescribed fires also provide many benefits to wildlife by creating a higher quality and greater quantity of grass, forb and brush browse.

No roads or trails are closed in the prescribed burning areas, however road guards and signs are in place. Travelers are asked to use caution while driving through the areas.

Following is an update on the status of prescribed burning in the zone today and tomorrow:

North Fork Ranger District: Middle Black units 5, 6, 7 were completed by hand ignition on Tuesday and Wednesday. Units 28, 46, 47, 50, 52 are planned for today using aerial ignition and hand ignition (smaller one day burn units). For Friday we are planning the larger acre units 8, 9, 10, 11 to be ignited by helitorch operations out of Canyon Work Center and units 53, 60, 63 will be ignited using the sphere dispenser running that operation out of Kelly Work Center. Total approximate acres for Middle Black prescribed burning is approximately 1304. For more information, contact Bob Lippincott at 832-487-8188.

Lochsa Ranger District: Lochsa Face units 12,14,137,138,139,162,163,164,165 are tentatively planned for Friday. These units are located in the Fish Butte area of the district. Fire staff is planning to use aerial ignition using the sphere dispenser to ignite the units. Approximate acres for the project is 542. For more information questions, please contact FMO Scott Schrenk at 208-926-6149.

Clearwater Ranger District: Crews continue to burn today on the Meadow Face burn today, it is located in the South Fork of the Clearwater. Hand ignition was start yesterday (August 26) on the project. Approximate acres are 290. For more information, contact: FMO Barry Ruklic at 983-1950.

Powell District: Prescribed burning is occurring in the Beaver Triangle Timber sale unit located on Beaver Ridge. For more information, contact: FMO Mark Wilson at 208-942-0345.

Weather for today and tomorrow looks favorable for prescribed burning with higher temperatures and lower humidities. After Friday a low pressure system is moving in with showers and thunderstorms predicted for Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Air quality is a major concern during all phases of any prescribed burning project. Coordination

with State, Tribal and Federal air quality agencies as well as obtaining a favorable smoke dispersion forecast occurs prior to ignition, during ignition, and after ignition for all our prescribed burns.

For all smoke comments and complaints, call the following number: **Smoke Hotline: 1-800-345-1007** or visit the Forest Service and Idaho Department of Lands website at:

http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dc/idgvc/smoke_mgmt.htm

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