

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***

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**CLEAR/NEZ FIRE ZONE CONDUCTING PRESCRIBED BURNING**

The Clear/Nez Fire Zone will be 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.

The Clearwater Ranger District fire staff plans to burn 290 acres in the Meadow Face unit, located in Lower Meadow Creek on Wednesday, and potentially will burn 800 acres in the Hungry Mill unit located between Johns Creek and Mill Creek in the next week. For additional information, please call Tim Thiesen or Barry Ruklic at (208) 983-1950.

Fire staff on the North Fork Ranger District plan to burn 1304 acres in the Middle Black project area, located near Pot Mountain on Wednesday. Crews will begin hand ignition today (Tuesday) and Wednesday. On Thursday, aerial ignition will begin on additional units using a helicopter and a “Primo Mark III” plastic sphere dispenser.

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.

The Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands, Nez Perce Tribe, as well as a number of large and small private landowners, are also burning at this time of year. Many, but not all, of these prescribed forestry burns are coordinated through the Montana/Idaho Airshed group. The North Idaho Agriculture Burning Program, Idaho DEQ, as well as the Nez Perce Tribes Smoke Management section, also coordinate with the members of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group to manage the overall impacts of smoke from the many beneficial uses of fire at this time of year.

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://qacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dc/idgvc/smoke\\_mgmt.htm](http://qacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dc/idgvc/smoke_mgmt.htm)

For more information on prescribed burning plans on the Clear/Nez Fire Zone, please contact Bob Lippincott, Deputy Fire Staff Officer, at (832) 487-8187.

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