



Nez Perce N.F. **NEWS RELEASE**



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Nez Perce National Forest
104 Airport Road
Grangeville, Idaho 83530

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 29, 2009

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Fourth of July National Forest Recreation Opportunities

Grangeville, Idaho: The Nez Perce National Forest is a beautiful place to visit for your 4th of July celebration. The forest has rivers and streams for fishing, trails for hiking, campgrounds for family gatherings, and scenery galore.

If you are planning a camping trip there are several developed campgrounds with amenities or undeveloped sites where you have to bring it all. Hosts are located at South Fork / Castle Creek, Fish Creek and Spring Bar campgrounds. O'Hara campground offers easy access to fishing on the Selway River or hiking in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Red River campground is open, as well as sites in the Crooked River, Newsome and Orogrande areas.

July 18th is the annual Elk City Wagon Road tour; the road has been bladed to prepare it for a safe, enjoyable tour. Highway 14 to Elk City is another option for a scenic drive through the forest.

For those looking for family fishing opportunities, the Fenn Pond located across from the historic Fenn Ranger Station on the Selway River, has been stocked by the Idaho Fish and Game. The Fenn Ranger Station is open Monday through Saturday, 7:30 – 4:00 (PST).

Summer has been late in coming so many high elevation areas are minimally accessible due to snow. Visitors can access Forest Road 444 into the Gospel-Hump Wilderness about 6 miles. Mountain Meadows can be accessed on the Magruder Road (Forest Road 468). Recent reports are that there is still 5 feet of snow before 14 Mile Trailhead. With warm weather the snow melts quickly so the status of roads is changing daily.

The wet spring has caused havoc on some roads in the area. An early June washout on Forest Road 2009, which runs from White Bird Station (Forest Road 221) to Cove Road, has been repaired. The Santiam Road (Forest Road 492) is closed at the 10 Mile Trailhead due to a bridge washout. There is a turnaround at the Trailhead. The area to the west and north of Santiam Road is closed for the month of July because of helicopter logging. Penman Hill (Forest Road 311) is closed near old Orogrande to Badger Summit because of a failed culvert.

Forest Service employees have reported finding smoldering campfires again this year. Even a small breeze can fan the flames of an unattended campfire. Before you leave the area, drown your fire and stir to make sure the embers are COLD. Please keep these fire safety tips in mind: build small and contained campfires; never leave fire unattended; make sure it is DEAD OUT before leaving; state law requires having a bucket and shovel handy when lighting a campfire; all types of equipment and vehicles are required to have spark arresters. This includes; chainsaws, portable generators, cross-country vehicles, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and farm equipment.

Possessing, discharging or using any kind of fireworks on public lands is strictly prohibited. The standard fine for violating the fireworks prohibition is \$100 for possession and \$200 for discharging, but fines of up to \$5000 and/or six months in jail may be levied against offenders. In addition, anyone found responsible for starting a forest fire may be held liable for fire suppression costs, which could total millions of dollars. Please report violations to the nearest Sheriff's office.

For more information about the Nez Perce National Forest please visit our website at www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce or call us at (208) 983-1950. All Nez Perce National Forest offices will be closed on Friday, July 3. Have a safe and enjoyable summer exploring your national forests.