



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 – May 18, 2009

**Contact: Jennifer Stephenson
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Elementary Students Participate In Fire Prevention Program

Grangeville, Idaho: The Clearwater Ranger District of the Nez Perce National Forest conducted its annual Fire Prevention Education Program for local elementary students the week of May 4th-8th. The elementary schools included were Grangeville, Sts. Peter and Paul, Summit Academy, Prairie, and Nez Perce.

This year's program focused on the difference between good and bad fires. Students were presented with a poster that had pictures of different types of fire. As a class they had to agree whether or not a certain picture was of a good fire or a bad fire and explain why. Students discussed what to do in the situation; how to properly put out a campfire, how to get out of a house safely when it's on fire, and what to do if your clothes catch on fire.

A book called "The Fire That Saved the Forest" by Mike Donahue was read to the students to help them understand the importance of wildland fires in our ecosystem and why some fires can be healthy for our forests. The students played a game of Fire Tag, running around while learning about the dynamics of fire and how firefighters work together to put out fires.

Following each program, the students enthusiastically greeted Smokey Bear with hugs, handshakes and high fives. All the students received informational packets and school supplies that promote Smokey's message.

Thank you to all that participated and of course Smokey Bear for appearing at so many programs throughout the week. For more information please contact Liza Hammond, Fire Prevention and Education Technician at the Clearwater Ranger District (208)983-4020.

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Prairie Elementary, Second Grade Students (above)

From left to right are all second grade students:from Prairie Elementary ready to play fire tag! - Garrett Crenshaw, Madison Hinkelman, Hope McIntire, Conrad Duman



Grangeville Elementary, Second Grade Students