



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



United States
Department of Agriculture

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

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**Contact: Jennifer Stephenson
(208) 983-4049**

Nick Gerhardt Retires From the Forest Service

Grangeville, Idaho: Have you heard the saying “Do what you love and you’ll never work a day in your life”? Nick Gerhardt has spent the past 31 years working as a hydrologist for the United States Forest Service. He has decided to retire from the Forest Service effective April 1, but he is not retiring from the work that he loves, hydrology.

Nick received his BS degree from Oregon State University in 1976 and his MS degree from the same university in 1978. He worked as a seasonal firefighter for the Umatilla National Forest from 1975 – 1977. His career as a Hydrologist started in 1979 seasonally on the Kootenai National Forest and continued with a permanent appointment on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District in northern Idaho in 1979. In 1985 he transferred to the Nez Perce National Forest where he worked until his retirement.

When asked to describe his fondest memories on the Nez Perce National Forest he answered “The natural resources of the Nez Perce National Forest are truly outstanding.” Nick enjoyed many opportunities to work in all corners of the forest, with great people, from within and outside the Forest Service. He could have done without some of the silliness that goes with working for a large organization but this was far outweighed by the rewards of the job, working with fine people in a beautiful area, and making a decent living.

Nick and his wife, Marci (also a recent Forest Service retiree) reside on the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River. Their family includes their son, Scott, his wife Corry, and granddaughter, Marisa, with another grandchild on the way.

Nick and Marci plan to work on their place and travel, taking in summer float trips and winter skiing trips. And now back to the statement at the beginning of this article, “do what you love”. Nick plans to volunteer for projects, especially in areas of watershed restoration and documentation of hydrologic history. He may consider part-time work in his future. In spare time you will find him reading and pursuing dormant hobbies that he looks forward to catching up on.

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