



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 – January 7, 2008

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Don Sorenson retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 3, 2008 after 31 years.

Don graduated in 1974 from the University of Montana with a BS in Forestry/Range Management. After graduation Don worked as a Range Conservationist with the Montana Department of Energy for one year, a short time with a private contractor, and one year with the Bureau of Land Management in Northeast Montana.

Don's first permanent position with the Forest Service was as a Range Conservationist with the Plumas National Forest in Northern California from 1976 to 1980.

In 1980, Don, Vicki and the boys moved back to Montana, to the Gardiner District of the Gallatin National Forest. Don worked there as a Range Conservationist with duties in range, noxious weeds, wildlife, watershed, and non-recreational special uses. After four years at Gardiner Don and family moved to Sheridan, Montana and spent seven years on the Sheridan District of the Beaverhead National Forest working in range, weeds, and recreation & non-recreation special uses.

In 1991 Don and his family moved for the last time when Don started work as a Rangeland Management Specialist on the Salmon River District of the Nez Perce National Forest. Other than a detail to the Clearwater District during the summer of 2000, the rest of his career was spent on the Salmon River Ranger District. Through his tenure on the Salmon River District Don has managed the Range, Weeds, and Outfitter and Guide Special Uses programs.

In addition, since 1996 during fire seasons, Don has been an active member of a Northern Rockies

Type I Incident Management Team as both a Division Supervisor and Operations Branch Director.

Don shared, "My fondest memories of the Nez are of those Range Permittees and Outfitters that have been true partners in management of the forest resources in achievement of our mutual goals."

Each year at the Idaho Outfitter and Guides Association (IOGA) annual meeting, the members nominate and vote for an agency employee who exemplifies a positive working partnership between land managers and the Outfitter and Guide Industry. Don was named this year's recipient of the "Resource Manager of the Year."

Don was recognized by our external partners as being a helpful and professional resource manager, willing, in the role of agency administrator, to help our outfitters conduct a successful operation in providing opportunities to the public while protecting the resource. This award has been given since the late 1980's and there is a very long list of noteworthy Forest Service recipients. Don is very honored to be added to that group.

Don and wife Vicki will stay in the Grangeville area after retirement. He plans on spending his time in his small wood shop exploring and expanding his artistic and creative talents in woodworking. He also plans on lots of time being active and sharing with his six-year-old grandson and four-year-old grand daughter.

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