



Nez Perce News

2009 Forest Accomplishments

photo location and credit: Indian Lake, Eric Melson



Happy Holidays



It looks like we had another great year. I'm pleased I can now be part of the exciting work going on here.

The forest was involved in many issues and topics this year. The highlights were:

- Designated Routes and Areas for Motorized Vehicle Use (DRAMVU) Travel Planning
- Shared Leadership with the Clearwater National Forest
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
- State Off-Highway Vehicle Rule (Senate Bill 1098)
- R.S. 2477 (Right-of-Way)
- Bighorn Sheep Litigation (Allison-Berg Allotment)
- Lochsa Land Exchange
- Meadow Creek Emergency Closure



The Nez Perce National Forest participated in the Secure Rural Schools / North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) and the Clearwater Basin Collaborative.

Personnel Changes: Ralph Rau continues to serve as Deputy Forest Supervisor for both the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests. With Tom Reilly's retirement in July, Ralph agreed to serve as Acting Forest Supervisor for both forests. I accepted the Forest Supervisor position for both forests in October.

Many Nez Perce folks retired this year: Nick Gerhardt, Laurie Doman, Diane Haener, Larry Jurkovich, Mike Cook and Linda Hagedorn. I hope each of you enjoys your retirement!

Thank you to all the employees and the people in the community for assisting the forest to have a safe, successful year. We wish you a wonderful holiday season.



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Nez Perce Forest Facts



Chair Point Lookout - Forest Service Photo

Total Acres: 2.2 Million acres (Half Wilderness)

Ranger Districts: Clearwater, Red River, Moose Creek, and Salmon River

Number of Employees - 315 Permanent, Part-Time and Temporary Employees at "peak" season (July, 2009)

Range of Elevations within Forest:
The highest is He Devil at 9,393 ft.
The lowest is Jones Creek at 1083 ft.
Both are on the Salmon River District.

Wilderness Areas: Gospel Hump - 200,464 acres, Frank Church-River of No Return - 105,736 acres, Selway Bitterroot - 560,088 acres, and the Hells Canyon Wilderness - 59,900 acres in Nez Perce Forest (administered by the Wallowa-Whitman Forest)

Wild & Scenic Rivers: Rapid River, Salmon River, Selway River and Middle Fork of the Clearwater River (150 miles)

National Trails: East Boyd-Glover-Roundtop and Meadow Creek on the Moose Creek Ranger District. Anderson Butte Trail #505/835 on the Red River Ranger District:

Scenic Byways: Northwest Passage Scenic Byway

Inventoried Roadless Areas: 17 roadless areas totalling 492,908 acres

Unique Places or Uses: Florence, Gospel-Hump area, Elk City Wagon Road, Seven Devils/Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Salmon River, Selway River, Moose Creek Wilderness Area and the Magruder Corridor.

Administrative/Information Services

Administrative Services continued to provide information and assistance to the public and employees, from four unique offices, welcoming more than 10,000 visitors. The districts fielded an average of 3500 hundred calls each for the year.

The Red River Ranger District administered a successful mobility impaired hunter access program providing 159 hunting days to individuals on three roads on the District; the only such program on the Forest. Vickie Guthrie, Red River Information Receptionist, continues to provide timely information about fire activity and fire prevention directly to over 250 local residents, property owners and interested persons via regular emails to a mailing list established over several years.

Employees at the Slate Creek Ranger District made aesthetic changes this year, painting the lobby area, planting trees and improving rockery in the front lawn and providing new picnic tables for the public. Employees also participated in a "Beautification Clean Up Day" around the compound and museum. They challenge other districts to do the same. Teresa Anderson, Slate Creek Administrative Assistant, accompanied Linda Hagedorn along the Wild and Scenic Salmon River patrol and clean-up. They made a record breaking 105 stops cleaning up campsites.

The Moose Creek Visitor Center located at the Fenn Ranger Station was open 16 Saturdays this year receiving 389 visitors from 24 states, Canada and two from Israel. The Fenn Pond, located across the road, was stocked by the Idaho Fish and Game 16 times, relocating 4000 fish, providing visitors with hours of fishing fun. Visitors included floaters, bike riders, fishermen, hikers, OHV users, hunters and a few lost souls who used "map quest" to get to Elk City by way of O'Hara Road in mid-spring.

The Supervisors Office/Clearwater Ranger District administrative staff worked with project managers to facilitate information dissemination for NEPA projects such as Salmon River Recreation Sites, Pre-commercial burning and thinning, Allison Berg and the Forest Small NEPA program. They assisted with the roll out of "Our First Century" centennial DVD and celebration. Sixty three guests attended the first showing. The group participated in the design and layout of the recreation display shown at the Lewiston Outdoor Recreation Show and at the Nez Perce County Fair.

Budget & Finance

Contributed by Linda Hinds

The Budget and Residual Finance section has three full-time positions. One position does the residual finance work along with General Service Administration/Working Capital Fund Fleet duties for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests (NF), Range database, provides assistance to the timber resource clerk and works with non-recreation special uses. With this staff we were able to accomplish all the tasks related to budget and residual financial work within the required timeframes.

- Monthly updates to Program Managers, Staff, Rangers on fund status
- Monitored, tracked travel costs, keep Forest Leadership Team (FLT) aware of travel cap restrictions
- Coordinated Length of Service Awards for participating units
- Coordinated with Acquisition Management to submit quarterly accrual and unliquidated obligation reports within prescribed timeframes
- Responded to 6 audit samples
- Completed the forest collection officer's audits for FY09
- Performed midyear and third quarter reviews and documented such
- Worked with Albuquerque Service Center and Administrative Center of Excellence to resolve issues on pay, travel, Transfer of Station, Real Property, adjustments, obligations and claims (Unit Claims Liaison for Clearwater/Nez Perce National Forests)

The forest received a final allocation of \$15,416,500, including reduction of Office of Workers Compensation Program/Unemployment Insurance Compensation, but not additions such as carryover, Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER), post-BAER funds received during the course of the year. The forest received \$335,800 in FY08 Carryover. Of the \$958,400 returned to the Regional Office for fire transfer in FY08, \$478,373 was returned to the forest in FY09. The Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Secure Rural Schools Act Title II allocations were received for the Clearwater/Nez Perce NF's (including projects in Idaho County for the Payette NF and Wallowa-Whitman NF) in the amount of \$1,987,258 (Project totals not managed by Nez Perce NF was \$997,949 and not included in final funding amount shown below). The expenditures for all forests' projects were monitored from this office and reports provided to the RAC committee through the Designated Forest Official, Laura Smith.

The Nez Perce National Forest also competed for and received \$2,085,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding. The projects included trails and road maintenance work. Projects selected will be implemented in FY2010.

Fire rehab and restoration funds in the amount of \$1,193,400 were received for treatment of Invasive plants (weeds), roads and boundary line work, and trails restoration.

The total funding received for management by the forest was \$21,377,464. The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests are sharing program management in several functional areas and working together to develop a similar process for the Program of Work.

Facilities Operation & Maintenance

Contributed by Joe Bonn

Targets:

- 274 facilities maintained to standard
- 6 buildings decommissioned
- Various facility construction/upgrade projects

Accomplishments:

- Implemented projects and program, bringing facilities to or maintaining facilities at current standards
- Buildings decommissioned - the forest did not complete this effort. These buildings will be rolled into the 2010 program. Overall the forest is on track to achieve 20% reduction in square footage over the 5 year period
- Maintained water systems at Slate Creek, Fenn and Red River Ranger Stations
- Maintained wastewater systems at Slate Creek, Fenn and Red River Ranger Stations
- Maintained water systems at campgrounds across the forest

Projects:

Installed water well at Red River Campground
Installed communications upgrades at Grangeville Air Center
Re-roofed residence at Slate Creek Ranger Station compound

Fire & Fuels Management

Contributed by Jim Gray



Salmon River Ranger District

The 2009 fire season on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests was well below average for number of starts with 104 suppression fires burning 550 acres on the two forests. There were an additional 53 fires managed for resource benefit for 2,300 acres. There was only one team assignment this season which was handled very well by the Zone Type 3 IMT, thanks to all who participated in that effort. Another highlight of the season was the accomplishment of 21,864 acres of Hazardous Fuels treatments. Another aspect of that accomplishment was the fact that 41% of that target was met with mechanical treatments, 1,800 acres of timber sale activity, and the remaining 11,000+ acres were contracted. The ability to contract was due to all Districts' hard work in learning new skills and being willing to take on difficult projects that required close coordination and cooperation with other programs. We are building a skill base that will allow us to manage fuels using all the

available tools, this should serve the zone well into the future. Another factor was that we were able to accomplish that work because of additional funding in HF, which happened only because we picked good projects, and by integrating with other programs to meet multiple targets and leverage our funds.

Clearwater Ranger District:

Contributed by Barry Ruklic

Fuels Management

- 250 acres slashing, Blackwall
- 1300 acres Natural Fuels prescribed burn, Little Medicine
- 290 acres Natural Fuels prescribed burn, Meadow Face
- 5 acres chipping, Blackwall
- 20 acres handpiling, Blackwall
- Field work and Interdisciplinary team meetings for 9429 project
- Supported pre-commercial thinning, Blacktail Fuels Project: 500 acres

Suppression/Fire Management

- Suppressed 14 wildland fires on the Clearwater Ranger District
- Provided Initial and extended attack and support resources, including at least 9 IA on the zone for CRD personnel.
 - Nez Fires: 2-Slate Cr, 3-Red/Elk, 2 Fenn RD
 - Idaho Department of Lands fires: 1
 - Nez Perce Tribe fires: 1
 - Prescription fire support: Moose Creek, Slate Creek, North Fork, Red River, Bureau of Land Management
- Supported Regional and National suppression efforts
 - 12 off-forest dispatches

Helicopter Program Statistics

- Delivered 54,501 gallons of water by bucket
- Moved 27,459 lbs of internal cargo
- Moved 47,047 lbs of external cargo
- Transported 383 passengers
- 139.3 total flight hours
- Module members initial attacked 11 fires, supported 15 fires on zone
- Provided aerial support for 2 Investigation teams (California and Oregon)

Red River Ranger District:

Contributed by Josh Bransford

- 27 wildfires, 3 managed for resource benefit
- Burned approximately 200 acres of activity fuels
- Cleared over 100 miles of forest roads
- Developed 3 new projects
- Administered a 50 acre mechanical fuels treatment contract
- Responded to 2 back-country aircraft accidents
- Assisted Idaho County Sheriff's Office with successful back-country search and rescue operation
- Issued 160 burn permits for the State of Idaho Department of Lands
- Issued 2 citations for escaped fires for the Sate of Idaho

Fuels Management

- Completed Selway Falls Prescribed Burn, 1892 total acreage managed
- Blackline was conducted in April
- Constructed handline in unit 2 in summer
- Applied fire both flanks September, using helicopter 67H to drop spheres on unit 1
- Managed burn September through October, successfully containing within the maximum manageable area
- Cost for managing was approximately \$40 / acre
- Prescribed fire support to the Gila National Forest and Region 8

Fire Management

- Suppressed 9 fires for 12 acres
- Managed 10 fires for resource benefit for 1449 acres
- Limited structure protection for Warm Springs fire
- Severity Detail to the Gila and Kaibab National Forests
- Provided personnel for zone initial attack
- Selway Fire Module assisted with Holly Hollow fire for 14 days

Salmon River Ranger District:

Contributed by Kevin Chaffee

Fuels Management

- 140 acres brush disposal/Knutson-Vandenberg prescribed burning Buckshot and Ready Timber Sales
- 1775 acres hazardous fuel reduction Kessler Creek, Adams Camp, Hartman & Blue Mountain
- 58 acres pre-commercial thinning and hand piling Adams Camp & Bufford Ridge
- 23 acres whip felling & slashing Buckshot Timber Sale
- 18 miles of fire line construction & clearing Blue Mountain, Ready, Buckshot & Kessler project areas
- Prescribed fire support: Palouse, North Fork, Red River and Clearwater Ranger Districts
- Prescribed fire support Region 3 forests: Lincoln, Apaches Sitgraves & Gila
- Prescribed fire support Region 8 forests in North Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Louisiana
- Assisted BLM with personnel & equipment for prescribed fire on Brushy Ridge & Wet Gulch

Fire Management

- Suppressed 7 wildland fires for 540 acres
- Managed 2 wildland fire events: Gospel Peak & Hanover
- Provided initial and extended attack for 10 fires on the Zone & with cooperators
- Supported 31 off-forest assignments
- Supported North Idaho Incident management teams with 2 team members
- Supported Northern Rockies Type 1 Incident Management Team with 2 team members
- Participated in Regional Wildland Fire Use sub-committee.

Fire Prevention/Fire Education/Fire Mitigation Accomplishments

Contributed by Susan Jenkins and Liza Hammond

School and After School Programs

- Clearwater RD staff and other state, federal, and Tribal organizations worked together to host the 7th Grade Field Days. Students learned about environmental issues, as well as jobs related to different disciplines with different agencies.
- The Clearwater RD oversaw the Smokey Bear Grocery Bag Campaign. School children drew fire prevention messages on paper bags supplied by Askers and Cash-n-Carry Foods. The bags, with the hand drawn prevention messages, were returned to the stores for public distribution.
- Presented "Good Fire, Bad Fire" to 170 students in Elk City and in schools on the Prairie. "Good Fire, Bad Fire" was designed to teach second graders about all aspects of fire, including safety, prevention, and prescribed burning.
- Presented "The Fire that Saved the Forest" to Riggins 5th and 6th grade students. Program introduced students to the fire cycle and the importance of fire in the ecosystem.
- Salmon River RD, with assistance from Red River fire personnel, participated in the Flat Stanley Project with students from the Fort Zumwalt School District in St. Peters, Missouri. Students mailed Flat Stanley to the district, with a letter requesting to learn more about the Forest Service, as well as about fire and fire jobs. Stanley spent several days getting his picture taken on the job at prescribed burns, working with the crew, and helping with fire education programs. A story and PowerPoint chronicling Stanley's adventures was sent back to the students.

Summer Programs for Youth

- Working in partnership, the Bureau of Land Management, teacher Jill Wilson, Framing Our Community, and Region 4 of the Forest Service, hosted "Fire Squirts" a fire education camp introducing youth to fire ecology, fire suppression, and fire prevention through interactive labs, field trips, artwork, and role playing in Riggins.

Other Teaching Programs

- Thirty participants from volunteer fire departments and local agencies received RedZone training, using software to collect information on structures in the wildland urban interface. The Salmon River RD partnered with the Idaho County Disaster Services Coordinator and the Clearwater Rural Community & Development to put on the training.

Community Events

- Red River RD participated in Dixie Days in July, with Smokey in attendance. Over 100 people attended, and were given Smokey goodies, celebrating the event.
- Smokey Bear and Clearwater RD participated in Border Days "8 Seconds to Glory" parade all three days of rodeo, taking first place for best non-commercial float. Good job, Smokey and Crew!
- Salmon River RD participated in Riggins Rodeo and White Bird Days events. With Smokey's assistance, a stick horse race was held with more than 35 kids participating, despite a heavy downpour.



Mitigation Work

- Clearwater and Red River Ranger Districts conducted free home assessments for structures located in wildland urban interface. Information collected from homeowners was used in prevention and fuels reduction planning by the Idaho County Disaster Services office.

Fish Habitat Restoration

Contributed by Andy Bryden

Red River Narrows:

While many accomplishments could be presented here, the Red River Narrows Restoration Project is a demonstration of cooperative efforts culminating in a successful project. Funding was provided by the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee.

Along with the Nez Perce Tribe, the Nez Perce National Forest was able to improve fish habitat and fluvial geomorphic function along 2 miles of the Red River during the summer of 2009. Improvements to spawning and rearing habitat for Trout, Chinook salmon, and Steelhead include the placement of over 800 sections of logs and 350 boulders into debris jams and other in-channel structures. These and other activities such as floodplain development improve the fluvial geomorphic function of the system by reducing water depths of floods, increasing low flow depths, and increasing in-channel and floodplain flow complexity.

Dredge mining tailings and piles from the turn of the century were adjusted to develop approximately 10 acres of previously unavailable floodplain for the river. New meanders were constructed within the new floodplain providing nearly 2,000 feet of new river channel. Two miles of a user created jeep road adjacent to the river was decommissioned.

A large pullout for parking was constructed along the Red River Road to provide recreational opportunities and continued access to the river while decreasing impacts to the riparian corridor.



Before channel construction

After channel construction



Grants & Agreements

Contributed by Lois Geary

Partnership agreements executed for Fiscal Year 2009 included 46 new agreements and 31 modifications to existing agreements, in addition to approximately 25 agreements from previous years that required some form of administration during the year.

Our 2009 list of new cooperator agreements fell into categories of County Government, Indian Tribe, Other Federal, State Government and individuals and nonprofit agencies. That list included Allison Ranch, Back Country Horsemen of North Central Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration in conjunction with the Nez Perce Tribe, Bureau of Land Management, Campbell's Ferry Ranch, Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council, Deer Creek Highway District, Federal Highway Administration, Idaho County in conjunction with the Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho Department of Correction, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, James Ranch, Montana Conservation Corps, National Arbor Day Foundation, National Park Service, Nez Perce Tribe, Northwest Youth Corps, River Management Society, Shepp Ranch, Twin Rivers Back Country Horsemen, White Bird Highway District, Whitewater Ranch and Yellow Pine Bar. Other cooperators of note who continued to accomplish projects through agreements from previous years included Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Framing our Community, Idaho County Weed Management, Idaho Transportation Department, Bureau of Land Management and Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute.

Cooperator's funding contributions toward Forest Service projects included \$1.1 million in cash, \$416,850 of non-cash and \$72,800 of in-kind support which amounted to just over 52% of all agreement funding. Forest Service funding totaled \$1,470,000 for 48% of total agreement funding. Fiscal Year 2009 new agreements and modifications totaled just under \$3.1 million on the Nez Perce which represents an increase over Fiscal Year 2008 agreements of just under \$1.5 and of which the projects approved by the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Council (RAC) totaled \$132,000.

Heritage

Volunteers for Heritage:

Contributed by Cindy Schacher



Survey Crew, Dead Point

In July of this year four volunteers assisted the Heritage Program through a Passport In Time (PIT) project. The PIT Program gives volunteers an opportunity to work with professional Forest Service archaeologists and historians on national forests throughout the United States. This year volunteers assisted with the cultural resource survey of high elevation mountain peaks and ridges both within and adjacent to the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. Volunteers contributed a total of 160 hours while assisting Nez Perce NF archaeologists in the documentation of American Indian and historic sites.

In 2009 work continued on the restoration of the ranger's house at Adams Ranger Station. One volunteer contributed 8 hours towards this effort.

Human Resource Team

Contributed by Sue Phillips

- Full team - no vacancies!!
- Working with and sharing meetings with the Clearwater NF Human Resource Action Committee (HRAC)
- Nez Perce Showcase - see attached report
- Employee Day - Worked with 2009 hosts, Clearwater NF HRAC, and contributed funds from budget
- Relay for Life - Sponsored the first Forest team - see attached report - NEW action item
- Presentations at District Orientations on HRT programs to incoming temporary employees
- Developed and got FLT approval for 2009 Program of Work and budget
- Added new selections to the FWP/HRT Library such as Haydn Hasty's, *Mind, Intention and Outcome*, DVD's from the Humor Project
- Team members participated on selection panels as requested
- One team member and three forest employees attended the University of Idaho Natural Resources Career Fair in January
- Installed bicycle racks at the new Forest Headquarters - NEW action item
- Mentoring Project - although the numbers were down XX participants were matched and spent a day with a Mentor
- Reorganizing the HRT space in the SO break-room and improving access to the FWP/HRT Library
- Updating and upgrading the Working Parents Room - added a more efficient desk, flat screen monitor, wall hung baby changer, comfortable chair and cleaned and added some wall paper borders to make it a more pleasant environment

"Relay For Life" Forest Service Team - New Action Item



Team Captains: Amber Burleigh and Jim Paradiso

Nez Perce National Forest Human Resource Team members Amber Burleigh and Jim Paradiso coordinated a first time Nez Perce Forest employee Relay For Life team to benefit the American Cancer Society. Their team, Forest Folks For A Cure, had a total of 17 members, including BLM volunteers. Prior to the relay, booths were staffed at the local Farmers Market and Border Days Rodeo event to raise funds for the Society. Salmon River Experience generously donated a rafting trip for two down the Salmon River as a raffle item. With the raffle, Luminaria fund-raising and general donations, \$1,018.17 was raised by the team. Though many Nez Perce employees are active members of other

teams, they thought it beneficial to create an all Forest Service team, to give employees an opportunity to get to know one another outside of work and so the public could see Forest Service participation in the community. It was a successful event and a good time was had by all!

Federal Women's Program

- Again, multiple ghost races were held across the Nez Perce Forest with participants supporting Boise's Susan G. Koman, Race for the Cure. Fifty folks, Forest employees, along with community members, walked at Grangeville, Elk City, and Slate Creek as members of the "Hikin' for Healthy Hooters" team raising over \$1800 to donate to the cause. Local cancer survivors were honored and Team Captain, Becky Hays made presentations of honor plaques to participating groups.
- Disseminated information to employees, i.e. Hope Health Newsletters, etc.
- Breast Cancer Awareness talk was hosted October 9 with breast cancer survivor, Becky Hays speaking on her experiences and Becky Ward speaking on Plastics and Breast Cancer, Is there a Connection.

Take Your Child to Work Day - May 21

This event hosted seven FS employees' children for the day! We had presentations on wildlife species, examined insects in the creek, visited the Smokejumper Base and geo-cached for tree species that they then had to identify. All participants had a GREAT day!



Front Row: Anna Botello, Tessa Godfrey, Carson Killmar. Back Row: Camilee Botello, Cameron Killmar, HRT Co-Chair Meg Moynihan, Mattie McDonald, Dylan Canaday, FWP Manager Rachel Young.

African American

- Distribute vacancy announcements to District employees and to fellow African American program managers across the region.
- Distribute posters and weekly black history information across the Forest for Black History Month, February 2009.

Person's With Disabilities Program

- Additional roads added to Mobility Impaired Hunter Access Program on Red River Ranger District

Title VI Program

- Compliance inspections done for fifteen Outfitter and Guides.
- Prepared the annual upward Information & Requirements Reporting report for the Nez Perce NF in January 2009. This includes the Pre-and-Post Award Reviews, Technical Assistance and Data Collection

Hispanic Employees Program

- Disseminated information during Asian Pacific Heritage Month highlighting celebrations/events May 2009

American Indian Program (AIP)

- Distributed Native American events to Forest, Tribal Liaison, and other R1 AIP Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM's)
- Distributed Native American historical events to R1 AIP SEPM's
- Posted on the NPNF internal Forest web site: American Indian events in History.
- Participated in the Tribal Youth Camp. A large part of our budget is dedicated to this camp each year.

Fifteen (15) youth from the Kalispell, Coeur d'Alene, and Nez Perce Tribes participated in the week long Inter-Tribal Natural Resources Youth camp hosted by the Kalispell Tribe of Indians and the Colville National Forest June 15-20. The youth camp was sponsored by the Payette, Nez Perce, Clearwater and the Idaho Panhandle National Forests in Idaho as well as the Colville National Forest in eastern Washington.

Work projects included fisheries habitat; timber cruising to determine tree species, tree heights; map and compass work; recreation improvements including installation of signs in campgrounds; and range improvements such as installing fencing to keep cows away from riparian areas. The week long camp began with a challenge course to establish open communication and team work among the youth campers. The youth determined the camp rules and followed them throughout the week.

Minerals

Contributed by Marty Jones

During fiscal year 2009, the Salmon River Ranger District was assigned 15 targets, and the Red River District was assigned 16 targets.

Salmon River Ranger District:

The Salmon River District accomplished a total of 21 targets. This includes:

- 4 Notice of Intents processed for mineral prospecting and
- 17 bonded Plans of Operation administered to standard

The Salmon River Ranger District has a backlog of 4 Plans of Operation. These Plans of Operation and 3 additional Plans of Operation received in FY 2009 are awaiting Federal and State permits, completion of NEPA, or bonds.

Red River Ranger District:

The Red River Ranger District accomplished a total of 22 targets.

These accomplishments include:

- 6 Notices of Intent processed for mineral prospecting
- 15 bonded operations administered to standard
- 0 mineral material permits issued.

The Red River District has a backlog of 4 Plans of Operation. These Plans of operation and 6 additional Plans of Operation received in FY 2009 are awaiting Federal and State permits, completion of NEPA, or bonds.

Planning

Contributed by Jennie Fischer

New tools are in place on the forest webpage for the public to search National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) project information by: project status, management unit or project purpose. at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/projects/>

Public notice of ongoing and upcoming NEPA projects on the Nez Perce National Forest continues to be available quarterly on the Forest Schedule of Proposed actions: [USDA Forest Service - SOPA - Nez Perce National Forest](http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php?110117) <http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php?110117>, and through the forest NEPA mailing lists and in legal notices in the Lewiston Tribune.

Environmental Impact Statements: Rick Brazell, Forest Supervisor of the Nez Perce and Clearwater NF's signed the decision (November 2009) for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (SBW) Invasive Plant EIS. The Lolo, and Bitterroot National Forests are also represented in the decision. The selected Alternative 5 will manage noxious weeds and other potentially harmful invasive non-native plant species within and key areas adjacent to the SBW Wilderness, encompassing 1,348,000 acres. The purpose of this project is to prevent the establishment of new invaders in the project area and reduce impacts of established invasive plants on native plant community stability, sustainability and diversity within the SBW.

The forest presented the Designated Routes and Areas for Motorized Vehicle Use (DRAMVU) Draft EIS to the public in December 2008. Public meetings were held and numerous comments were received on this document during the comment period. This input will be used in making a decision in 2010. The decision will be followed by the publication of the Nez Perce Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

Environmental Assessments: Darcy Pederson, Acting District Ranger for the Salmon River Ranger District signed the Salmon River Recreation Site Renovation Decision Notice/FONSI for the Environmental Assessment. This project has no appeals. The project will improve facilities at each site to accommodate use, provide for improved public safety and reduce impacts to natural resources. The first phase of this project, Carey Creek Boat ramp and Day Use Facility, will be implemented in the fall of 2010. Additional project phases will be implemented as funding becomes available.

Categorical Exclusions: Thirty-three decisions were issued under the authority of Forest Service as Categorical Exclusion as defined in the Federal Register (36 CFR 220.6). The forest initiated a new internal process to review projects and complete the required environmental analysis to make decisions on small projects. A team of forest specialists comprise the Small NEPA interdisciplinary team to complete this work. These decisions were documented in a letter to the file or a signed decision memo (DM). Some were appealable and some were not (NA). No extraordinary circumstances were identified that would require additional analysis before the decisions were made. This process improved the time to complete analysis for decisions while allowing public comments on our activities and providing input to deciding officials.

Passport In Time Project

Contributed by Steve Armstrong

A Passport in Time (PIT) project was held on the Salmon River Ranger District last summer. Four eager to learn volunteers, from Montana, Oregon, and Texas, assisted Forest Service Archaeologists in the survey of several high elevation peaks and ridgelines in and around the Gospel Hump Wilderness.

PIT is a volunteer archaeology and historic preservation program of the USDA Forest Service. Volunteers work with Forest Service archaeologists and historians throughout the U.S. on diverse activities such as archaeological survey and excavation, rock art restoration, archival research, historic structure restoration, oral history gathering, and analysis and curation of artifacts. Without assistance from PIT program volunteers, many of these projects would not be possible.



Each day was spent hiking through the forest looking for signs of past human use. By the end of the week, three new archaeological sites (2 prehistoric and 1 historic) were located and documented and four previously recorded sites were revisited. New information about these previously known sites was collected and added to our database. The two prehistoric sites represent American Indian use of the area and the new historic site is the location of mining exploration, something that has not previously been documented in the high elevations of the Gospel Hump Wilderness. All in all it was a very good week for interacting with the public promoting cultural resource awareness while performing archaeological work in portions of the forest that had not been field reviewed by an archaeologist prior to this project.

North Central Idaho RAC

Contributed by Laura Smith

The North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) held four meetings in 2009. The first meeting held in Grangeville was an organizational meeting for RAC members, as there were a few new members and SRS criteria. At the second meeting held in Lewiston in April, presentations were given to RAC members on sixty-one 2009 project proposals. At the third meeting in Riggins, RAC members split up into their respective category groups for discussion and selected their top 23 project proposals. The RAC met again on June 25 in Orofino and finalized the 2009 project selection by approving an additional 7 projects.

RAC members and forest employees took a field trip to the RAC funded Red River Narrows restoration project on September 10, 2009. Project monitoring was added to RAC member's duties in the recent Secure Rural School Act.

Recent legislation authorized payments under the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Community Self-Determination Act through 2011. The North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee was originally chartered in 2001 by the US Department of Agriculture under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The local committee is comprised of fifteen voting members and three replacement members representing a diverse representation of the county, including outdoor recreation, commercial timber industry, environmental organizations, school officials and local elected officials.

The committee will allocate funding over the next four years for a variety of projects. A total of \$1.9 million was approved for 2009 RAC projects. Funds may be used for projects on federal and non-federal lands that benefit National Forest System lands. Approximately 50% of the funding will be granted to road, trail and watershed projects.

Property

Contributed by Wendy Welch



Farm tractor air lifted out of the wilderness

The property staff of the Idaho Montana Acquisition Team (IMAT) in Region One recently surplused personal property items located in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness on the Nez Perce National Forest. While the procedures for disposing of the items were typical, the circumstances for removal of purchased items were anything but typical.

The Nez Perce National Forest, Moose Creek Ranger District acquired a private in-holding known as the Seminole Ranch in 2007. The ranch, originally homesteaded in 1908, is surrounded by the Selway

Bitterroot Wilderness (SBW). Along with the land, several buildings, and a large variety of personal property, the Forest Service is now tasked with restoring the area to wilderness by removing the nonconforming structures and personal property.

Those items determined to have a value were offered as excess and finally public bid opportunities. We clearly stated in the description of each item listed on GSA Auctions that the Wilderness Act of 1964 prohibits mechanical and motorized equipment within a designated wilderness, including the SBW and Seminole Ranch without prior written approval. We received hundreds of inquiries, but the challenges of removal of the items put the sought after collectibles out of reach of many bidders.

In the end, all but two purchasers defaulted on the sale. Hailing from Indiana and South Dakota, these purchasers were able to combine resources and receive authorization to use a helicopter to sling out their farm tractors, pool table and a water wheel generator. On September 24, 2009, using the services of a rented helicopter, the pool table was put into a net, with the water wheel generator dangling by a cable below and the first load was flown away. The next load would be a farm tractor, then another and finally a net loaded with miscellaneous tractor parts. The success of this sale is measured by the absence of 12,000 pounds of personal property bringing the Seminole Ranch closer to wilderness restoration.

While many personal property items remain at the Seminole Ranch, Property Management Officer, Bertalee Mottern and I look forward to alternative options for disposal.

Summary of other accomplishments:

Contributed by Bertalee Mottern

- Second year of the five year cycle for Property Inventory was completed
- Disposed of over \$52,000 of excess property, mostly through sales to the public. This includes \$11,000 worth of computers donated to a local school.
- Worked with General Services Administration to ensure our 4 older mules went to good homes to retire.

Purchasing & Contracts

Contributed by Karen Ruklic

During FY 2009, the Idaho Montana Acquisition Zone obligated approximately \$3,781,763.15 for projects on the Nez Perce National Forest. The following breakdown shows the dollar values awarded by the type of contract and by the socio-economic type for the contractors that received the awards. HubZone small businesses are businesses that have been certified by the Small Business Administration (SBA). They are headquartered in economically depressed areas and employ workers that reside in these areas. 8(a) small businesses are certified by the SBA. They are owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who are of good character and demonstrate potential for success.

27 service contracts were awarded with a total dollar value of \$1,356,618.11. Of this total, \$474,792.61 was awarded to 8(a) small businesses; \$638,117 was awarded to small businesses; \$14,111.50 was awarded to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned small businesses and \$229,597.00 was awarded to HubZone small businesses.

One supply contract was awarded for \$70,000 to a small business.

Fifteen construction contracts were awarded with a total dollar value of \$1,742,966.05. Of this total, \$53,931.25 was awarded to small businesses and \$1,689,034.80 was awarded to HubZone small businesses.

Twelve architect and engineer design contracts were awarded with a total dollar value of \$231,984. These contracts were awarded against a contract awarded by the Region 1 office in Missoula, Montana. The contractors are a large business.

In addition, 60 purchase orders were awarded with a total dollar value of \$380,194.99. No data was available regarding business type.

Road Operation & Maintenance

Contributed by Joe Bonn

Passenger Car miles maintained - 781 miles using a combination of Construction and Maintenance Road Development (CMRD), Legacy funds, Cooperation and timber purchaser performance

High clearance miles maintained - 164 miles - CMRD, Legacy and Timber funds

Passenger car miles improved - 7 miles using a combination of CMRD and timber purchaser performance

High clearance miles improved - 20 miles using a combination of CMRD, Resource Advisory Committee, Cooperation and Legacy funds

Road miles decommissioned - 31.2 using CMRD, stewardship, and cooperation funds

Road Bridges replaced - 1 using CMRD

Road Bridged maintained - 1 rebuilt western abutment with Legacy funds

Silviculture

Contributed by Randall Walker

West Zone - Salmon River District East Zone - Red River & Moose Creek Districts

- Reforestation: 534 acres planted in Black Butte Fire Area: A Partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation funded the trees that were planted.
- Regeneration Exams: 247 acres (3rd, 5th year)
- First Year Survival Exams: 534 acres
- Preplant surveys: 600 acres in the Poe Cabin Fire Area
- Stakerow surveys: 150 stakes installed, 400 stakes read
- Pre-commercial thinning: 498 acres in conjunction with fire/fuels

East Zone - Red River & Moose Creek Districts

- Reforestation: 200 acres planted in Rattlesnake Fire Area
- Reforestation: 137 acres planted in Crooked River Stewardship Units
- Regeneration Exams: 445 acres (3rd, 5th year)
- First Year Survival Exams: 337 acres
- Preplant surveys: 458 acres
- Stakerow surveys: 300 stakes installed, 495 stakes read
- Thinning exams: 500 acres
- Postfire evaluation of Rattlesnake and Meadow fire areas
- 615 ac Certification of Natural Regeneration in the Meadow Fire Areas
- 6 Bushels of western larch seed collected

Black Butte Fire Restoration Planting



Ponderosa pine seedlings being wrapped in preparation for planting.

In 2007 the Black Butte Wildfire burned approximately 50,000 acres along the north side of the Salmon River. A portion of the acres had burned previously in the Scott fire and had been salvage harvested and replanted with ponderosa pine. The Black Butte Fire burned existing plantations and surrounding areas and the stocking had been reduced to near 0 surviving trees.

In 2009, 534 acres were again planted with ponderosa pine. Many obstacles were overcome to reforest the area to provide wildlife habitat and help restore the watershed. Many miles of road had to be plowed early in the spring to provide access to the area which is about a two hour drive east of Riggins, Idaho. A partnership agreement with the National Arbor Day

Foundation helped fund the 2 year old seedlings grown at the Coeur d'Alene which were planted. Shade cards were installed near the trees planted on the southerly aspects to help moderate the summer heat.

Silviculture, fire and other personnel from the West and East Zone and the Supervisor's Office helped produce a successful outcome for the project. The care and dedication of the employees helped yield a 90% survival rate.

Timber Sale Program

Contributed by Scott Godfrey

FY09 Program Accomplishments:

- Volume Offered: Target = 30,800 Hundred Cubic Feet (CCF)
Accomplishment = 30,609 CCF
- Volume Harvested: 18,697.83 CCF; Value \$131,224.37
- Personal Use Firewood: 4,791 cords; Value \$23,955.00
- Native American Firewood: 74 cords; Value \$370.00
- Free Use Post & Poles (Salmon River District): 2,658 pieces; Value \$637.92
- Free Use Post & Poles (Red River District): 6,970 pieces; Value \$1,672.80
- Christmas Trees: 202 trees; Value \$1,010.00
- Free Use Mushrooms: 5,181 gallons; Value \$5,162.00

Timber Sales/Volume Sold in FY09:

- Fitness Timber Sale, 5,153 CCF; Red River Ranger District
- Sixty Six Timber Sale, 9,655 CCF; Red River Ranger District
- Little Antler Salvage Sale, 373 CCF; Salmon River Ranger District
- Black Beauty Timber Sale, 7,441 CCF; Clearwater Ranger District
- Existing Contract Additional Volume, 1,756 CCF; Forestwide
- Personal Use Firewood Permit Sales, 5,985 CCF; Forestwide

Timber Sales under Contract:

- Buckshot Timber Sale, Inactive this year; Salmon River RD
- Delmage Timber Sale, Inactive this year; Salmon River RD
- Ready Timber Sale, Active logging this year; Salmon River RD
- Little Antler Salvage Sale, Inactive this year (just sold); Salmon River RD
- Cold Toes, Logging and contractual work is nearly complete; Clearwater RD
- Black Wall 2 Timber Sale, Active logging this year; Clearwater RD
- Black Beauty Timber Sale, Inactive this year (just sold); Clearwater RD
- American River Stewardship, Logging is complete, remaining service work; Red River RD
- Starbucky Timber Sale, Logging and contractual work nearly complete; Red River RD
- Looney Timber Sale, Contract completed; Red River RD
- Wigam Timber Sale, Logging and contractual work nearly complete; Red River RD
- Fitness Timber Sale, Inactive this year; Red River RD
- Sixty Six Timber Sale, Inactive this year (just sold); Red River RD



Processor Head working on the Ready Timber Sale

Trails & Recreation

2009 WEST ZONE

Contributed by John Fantini

LOCAL TRAIL CLUBS - 285.8 MILES OF ANNUAL, CYCLICAL MAINTENANCE

North Central Idaho Back Country Horsemen: Snoose Creek, Blue Ridge Trails, 10 miles, 136 hours through master agreement and annual project supplemental
Twin Rivers Back Country Horsemen: Doc Denny, Driveway, Marble Point Trails, 16.7 miles
State Trail Rangers - Pathfinders ATV Club: 78.2 miles of trail opening
State Trail Rangers - High Mountain Trail Machine Motorcycle Club: 74.9 miles of trail opening
Snowdrifters Snowmobile Club: 106 miles of snowmobile trail grooming

DEVELOPED RECREATION

OPERATIONS

- National Recreation Reservation System; maintained calendar, posted reservations at 3 group sites and 1 cabin
- Operated and Maintained to Standard:
 - o 35 Developed Recreation Sites (campgrounds, picnic areas, major trailheads)
 - o Numerous additional minor trailheads and dispersed campsites were also maintained
 - o 3 campground drinking water systems were open to the public from May through September with no test positive for coliform
 - o 38 toilet vaults were pumped
- NEPA Planning:
 - o Participated on Christie-Sherwin, Center Ridge, Salmon River Recreation Sites Renovation, Hump Trail, Little Slate, 9429, DRAMVU planning

Special Use Permits

- Administered 13 Outfitter and Guide permits
- Snowdrifters Bingo Fun Run on groomed snow machine trails along 221 Road
- Idaho Pathfinders ATV club fun ride near Four Corners
- Administered 5 reservations for Fish Creek Pavilion
- Renewed 10 year permit for Grangeville Elementary and Middle School 6th Grade Campout at Fish Creek Group Site

Forest Protection Officer Work

- 70-75 firewood permits checked
- 26 Investigation Hours spent on cut green trees, mudbogging in riparian areas, litter/dumping
- 28 Incident Reports documented
- 4 Violation Notices issued
- 28 Camping Reminder Notices issued

Other Trail projects:

- State of Idaho Trail Cat operator constructed 126 drain dips on Fish Creek Loop Trail # 480 and North Fork of Slate Creek Trail # 320
- Earthquake Trail # 481 - reconstructed failed landscape block retaining wall on switchback - 60 sq ft
- Moore's - Black Butte Trail # 312 at Sheep Mountain/ Plummer Point- refilled 200' of existing turnpike
- Asbestos Connector # 386 - hardened ephemeral and seasonal drains with open landscaping blocks and filled with local basalt ballast rock - 650 sq ft
- Moore's Black Butte Trail # 313 Bridge repair - installed 9 missing running planks and one rail on Wind River bridge and packed out old running planks
- Replaced 16' long X 10' wide bridge at Tollgate Creek on Milner Trail # 641
- Reconstructed ~ 1/3 of Big Blowout Creek Bridge on Salmon River Trail # 96 - 2' x 26'

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

Salmon River Recreation Sites

- Trimmed numerous fruit, broadleaf, and coniferous trees along pathways and within Spring Bar Campground
- Worked with contract equipment operator to replace 6 concrete panels at end of Vinegar Creek Boat Ramp
- Painted 5 bulletin boards and replaced information signs on 14 bulletin boards (includes bulletin boards on Gospel Hump Road)
- Replaced 6 picnic table planks and 6 bench seats at campgrounds and picnic areas and painted 8 picnic tables
- Replaced broken door closure at Allison Creek Picnic Area

South Fork Clearwater River Rec Sites

- Clearwater RD Fire Crew replaced 3 fire rings at Nelson Creek Campground
- Clearwater RD Fire Crew moved concrete picnic table from Cougar Creek Trailhead to Nelson Creek Campground to replace table vandalized in 2008
- Repaired log rail fence at South Fork Campground
- Removed 1 hazard tree at South Fork Campground and 3 hazard trees at Castle Creek Campground
- Nez Perce NF Road Crew removed old fee tube at South Fork Campground
- Replaced vandalized door closure at Blackerby Toilet

Fish Creek Meadows Recreation Site

- Extensive repair of fence surrounding meadow and campground
- Removed saplings and side trimmed limbs from trees along cross country ski route within campground
- Removed debris at Fish Creek Group Site left from 2 demolished outhouses
- Provided Nordic Trail Grooming and Winter Snowpark Maintenance
- Replaced 3 sign posts and travel management posters for Fish Creek Loop trail access from campground

Adams Historic Ranger's cabin

- Salmon River RD Fire Crew constructed 50' long X 3' tall rock crib retaining wall along 2 sides of cabin

Other Zone Work

- Identified, felled, and limbed 12 hazard trees at Moore's Station Campground
- Filled 25 gallon propane tank and returned to Moore's Station
- Annual fence repair at Slate Creek Ranger Station pasture and Administrative Site
- Acquired and began renovation of garage space at Clearwater RD wareyard to be used for storage of motorized equipment and other west zone recreation and trail tools, supplies, and materials
- Updated Job Hazard Analysis'
- Provided Leave No Trace Principles education at 7th Grade Field Days hosted at South Fork Campground
- Constructed 7 new fee envelope boxes and installed at all fee sites

Salmon Wild and Scenic River

- Completed the environmental assessment for the Salmon River Recreation Sites project
- Conducted 10 river patrols on the Main Salmon River
- Provided logistical support to the trail crew for maintenance of the Salmon River Trail, Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Weed Crews and the Idaho County Assessors office.
- Hosted the Northwest Chapter of the River Management Society float
- Prepared annual report documenting patrol crew activities and encounters.
- Maintenance of the SCAT machine for river human waste disposal
- Participated in a Cooperative Agreement with the Northwest Chapter of the River Management Society to provide River Intern opportunity.

Trails & Recreation (continued)

Red River Ranger District

Contributed by Randy Borniger

We have 50 sites that are either fully developed or have some amenity to attract the public that open us to liability. All these sites were kept open to the minimum standard or what is known as "drop dead" standard. Note these sites include 57 outhouses. Hazard trees continue to be a problem every year and this year we made a big push to get rid of all dead and dying trees in all developed site and popular dispersed sites.

All sites were open to the public except for 6 Mile and Sourdough Saddle due to the bridge closure at 10 Mile.

Thanks to the use of a tractor provided by a volunteer we were able to clean up stump fields from past dead trees, place rocks as barriers to direct traffic, clean up manure around stock feeders and replaced gravel to provide drainage. The spring was repaired at Granite Springs. We did construction and water test (all passed). Boil water notice will be removed next year.

Three Sweet Smelling Toilets (SST's) were installed in the Red River Campground this summer. The hazardous spill site at the Red River Hot Springs was cleaned up this summer

Two metal hitch racks replaced old wooden ones
Recreation Site Inventories were completed
Cleaned up dispersed camp sites at Orogrande airstrip

Volunteer Rec Tech, worked in Developed and Dispersed sites
Participated in the Kids Fishing Derby at Karolyn's Pond

Backcountry Ranger **Volunteer** worked the Hump corridor one half of his time and the other half in Crooked River.

We have seven land based **Outfitter Guides**, with a total of 34 camps (at least one camp from each operation was checked). At least 14 camps were checked. Had some Fire Use Fires that burned near several outfitter base camps, worked close with fire to let the outfitters know what was going on. All outfitter permits were administered to standard.

Moose Creek District

Contributed by Suzanne Cable

Trails Maintained to Level I Standard: 222 Miles

- Force Account: 174 miles
- State Trail Rangers: 41 miles
- Selway Bitterroot Foundation (volunteer): 7 miles

Trails Maintained to Level II and III Standard: 55 Miles

- North Moose/Rhoda Creek Trail #620 (force account) - 12 Miles
- Phase II East Moose Trail #421 (force account) - 4 Miles
- Spruce/Paradise Trail #559 and #522 (MCC) - 12 Miles
- Big Rock Trail #693 (force account) - 3 Miles
- North Moose Trail #618 (MCC) - 13 Miles
- Selway Trail #4 b/w Hell Cr. and Dog Cr. (force account) - 3 Miles
- Meadow Creek Trail #726 (MCC) - 8 Miles

Contract Trail Miles Accomplished: 212 Miles

- Buck Lake - Disgrace Butte: Trails #609, 628, 632
- Copper Butte - Archer: Trails #533, 529, 562, 602, 438, 436, 562
- East Moose - Lost Horse: Trails #421, 463, 430, 618
- Indian Lake - Battle Cr: Trails # 631, 432, 462
- Bear Creek - Selway: Trails #512, 515, 520, 516
- Paradise Creek - Trails #559, 522

Trails & Recreation *(continued)*

In addition to miles of trails maintained, the Trails program also accomplished a site visit to the Spruce/Paradise Creeks project site with a representative from the Friends of the Clearwater. This visit contributed to improving the relationship between FOC and the Moose Creek District.



West Zone Trail Employee

Volunteers - Thank You

West Zone DEVELOPED RECREATION - 4080 HOURS

Fish Creek Campground : 1120 Volunteer hours
South Fork & Castle Creek Campground: 640 Volunteer hours
Spring Bar Campground: 2320 Volunteer hours
Salmon River W&S River: 320 hours volunteered
Fish Creek Nordic Ski Area: 40 hours volunteered

Red River Ranger District Recreation had a total of 1400 volunteer hours this year including a volunteer recreation technician working in dispersed and developed sites and participating in the Kids Fishing Derby at Carolyn's Pond and a backcountry ranger volunteer who worked the Hump Corridor half of his time and Crooked River the other half.

Moose Creek Ranger District: The Volunteer Host program expanded this summer with continuous coverage of the Moose Creek Ranger Station from May through October and expanded presence at Shearer Guard Station.

Volunteers utilized by the Wilderness, Rivers, and Trails programs included the service of 50 volunteers for a total of 5,791 hours, including:

- 8 volunteer boatmen on the Selway River
- 20 station hosts (Moose Creek and Shearer)
- 1 trailhead host (Elk Summit)
- 2 Backcountry Horseman volunteers that installed feed bunks at Big Fog Saddle
- 4 volunteers that helped clear the Meadow Creek trail and worked on the cabin
- 5 Wilderness Interns plus 4 crew leaders from the Selway-Bitterroot Foundation
- 3 volunteers helping with removal of trash from Seminole Ranch
- 2 volunteers patrolling the Selway Crags and conduction campsite inventories

This volunteer contribution summary does not include hours worked by MCC crews. The total number of hours and persons involved in the Moose Creek River, Wilderness, and Trails programs is approximately double that of 2008.

Volunteers - Thank You

Not all of our volunteers and retirees are two-legged. Farewell to Izzy and Flo, faithful servants at Moose Creek since 1994. Anyone who was supported by the Moose Creek pack stock in the last 15 years, including staying at Moose Creek Station, these two likely helped carry in the food, gear and propane. They most likely carried a few bridge stringers, pulled wagons and mowers too. They will have a happy retirement home with one of their long time packer buddies, Doug Hunt. They are Doug's new owners! Doug says "I can't think of one time that they didn't make a trip up the river with me. Those two mules have literally thousands of miles on them and have carried tons of weight." Izzy and Flo are full sisters and have never been apart from each other. Together, they go to their new



Flo and Izzy with Doug Hunt

Weeds & Range

Contributed By Lynn Burton

Targets:

- 21 cattle allotments provided 21,000 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) grazing, equivalent to roughly 1.2 million pounds beef production or \$1.3 million to the local economy.
- 8,041 acres of cooperative weed treatment involving public lands within three weed management areas: Frank Church-River of No Return-Wilderness, Lower Salmon River and Upper Clearwater.

Special RAC Projects:

- Completed the 4th year of Bentz Ridge Goat Grazing and Trial Seeding showing selective grazing and reduction of yellowstar thistle by 25% remaining population from year to year.
- Noxious Weed Inventory - completed 60,000 plus acres of back country noxious weed inventory within the Rapid River, Allison Berg, and Pittsburg to Kirkwood areas.
- Biological Control Program released an additional 78 site releases of agents on spotted knapweed, rush skeletonweed, and Canadian thistle.
- Wilderness Airstrip Weed Treatment - completed noxious weed treatment on and adjacent to 8 back country airstrips within the Frank Church-River of No Return-Wilderness area.
- Completed replacement/installation of six miles of Cow Creek Allotment boundary fence adjacent to closed Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.



Other:

- Backcountry Horsemen volunteered 130 hours treating approximately 50 acres.
- Nez Perce Tribe treated 125 acres with biocontrol releases.

Working Parents' Room

Contributed By Sue Phillips

With a long history of 'service' to employees of the Nez Perce Forest, the Working Parents' Room is one of HRT's proudest accomplishments and probably most used and appreciated. In 1990, the idea was born from a group of Nez Perce employees calling themselves "Working Parents." The group worked with Forest leadership to find space, develop guidelines and offer a room where employees could bring their children to work. Whether it was a day at a time need or a longer commitment to bring a baby to work after maternity leave was exhausted to extend the time the child and parent had together, this space has more than fulfilled the goals originally set. Administration of the room was handed off to the Forest's Human Resource Team, specifically the Federal Women's Program Manager, and became part of the team's Program of Work and Goals & Objectives.

In the old building, it resided in at least three different locations. With plans for a new building Mike Shoup, Facilities Engineer and member of HRT, made sure there was space allocated for the room in the new facility. Over the last few months, Federal Women's Program Manager, Rachel Young, along with the rest of the team, has been working on the room to make it a more appealing space for those using the room. A corner desk was procured, a wall-hanging baby changer was installed, and a comfortable chair was donated. Wall paper borders were hung making the room more 'kid' friendly. Addition of a book shelf for storage of toys and space for long term employees' work resources was also added. Overall the effect is a room that is warm and inviting, better provides for the needs of employees using the space, and adds to the quality of work life for Forest employees.

Working Stock - Farewell



Izzy and Flo in 1994, Moose Creek Ranger District

Wilderness Management

Contributed by Suzanne Cable

Moose Creek Ranger District:

- Participation in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness management groups - Wilderness Rangers, Implementation Team, Policy Council, Trails Committee (Cable, Phillips, Bengtson, Botello)
- Presence at Moose Creek Ranger Station (mid-April thru mid-November) and Shearer Guard Station (June and October) for visitor contact, information, education, law enforcement, and airstrip landings monitoring (Wilderness Rangers, Cable, volunteer hosts)
- Backcountry patrol for resource protection, visitor contact (information & education), campsite inventories, outfitter & guide camp inspections, trash pack-out, weed management, and law enforcement. Lost Horse Wilderness Ranger Phillips and Moose Creek Wilderness Ranger Bengtson patrolled extensively throughout the SBW including the following routes/drainages:
 - ✓ Selway River corridor on foot, with stock, and floating
 - ✓ Moose Creek drainage including east and north forks
 - ✓ Bear Creek, Paradise Creek, Spruce Creek, Gardiner Lookout, Fry Pan Creek
 - ✓ Rhoda Creek, Wounded Doe, Shasta Lake, Two Lakes, Isaac Lake
 - ✓ Otter Creek/Butte, Highline Lakes, Mink Creek, Martin Creek, Moose Ridge, Wiley's Peak area
 - ✓ Cox Creek, Wahoo Creek, Big Creek, Indian Lake, Horsefly Meadows, Freeman Creek, upper Dog Creek

Additional areas were patrolled by SBF interns and volunteers including:

- ✓ Cove Lakes areas, upper Three Links drainage including Selway Crags lakes
- ✓ Bilk Mountain, upper Goat Creek drainage
- Completion of approximately 100 annual campsite inventories (exceeding 20% of total), including campsite naturalization and clean-up (Bengtson, Phillips, SBF Interns and volunteers)
- Conducted educational presentations to internal and external audiences on Wilderness, Weeds, Wildlife, and Leave No Trace, including District Orientation (Phillips, Bengtson, Cable)
- Maintenance of facilities at Moose Creek Ranger Station and Shearer Guard Station including:
 - ✓ Fence material purchased, flown in, and installed for new jack leg fence around perimeter of Moose Creek Ranger Station and partial completion of pasture fence (Everyone)
 - ✓ Two new fridges for Moose Creek cookhouse purchased, flown in, and installed. Old fridges removed. One additional fridge repaired on-site. New bear resistant outdoor fridge box constructed and in use. (Cable, Volunteer Hosts, Murphy, Angeny)
 - ✓ Chest freezers at Selway Falls and Moose Creek repaired and in use. All other propane appliances maintained and some new regulators installed. (Angeny, Murphy)
 - ✓ Purchase and installation of PEX plumbing for RA house (Murphy, Angeny)
 - ✓ Six new mattresses with covers for the Moose Creek bunkhouses purchased, flown in, and installed. Four other mattresses, box springs, and bed frames were salvaged from Seminole Ranch and are in use. (Cable, Bengtson, R1 Pack Train, volunteers, and others)
 - ✓ Water supply leak to bathhouse repaired (Murphy)
 - ✓ Purchase and transportation of two bales of Oakum for historically appropriate re-chinking and mouse proofing of buildings at Moose Creek and at Shearer (Cable, Volunteer Hosts)
 - ✓ Monthly water testing performed (Bengtson)
 - ✓ Explosives cache inspected (Thompson)

- ✓ Installation of new batteries, radio antennae, and solar charging system at M.Creek (Kamrud)
 - ✓ Numerous other maintenance projects at Moose Creek Ranger Station and Shearer Guard Station including painting, small repairs, cleaning of buildings, fencing, firewood, airstrip and windsock maintenance, etc. (Bengtson, Armichardy, Phillips, Cable, Angeny, Volunteer Hosts)
 - o Installation of new batteries, radio antennae, and solar charging system at M.Creek (Kamrud)
 - o Numerous other maintenance projects at Moose Creek Ranger Station and Shearer Guard Station including painting, small repairs, cleaning of buildings, fencing, firewood, airstrip and windsock maintenance, etc. (Bengtson, Armichardy, Phillips, Cable, Angeny, Volunteer Hosts)
 - Removal of approximately 15,000 pounds of personal property from Seminole Ranch, including a successful GSA auction and removal of two tractors, the hydro-generator and pool table by private helicopter (Cable, Wendy Welch, Bertalee Mottern, Bengtson, R1 Pack Train)
 - Derelict footbridge at Seminole Ranch crossing removed (Horner, Thompson, Swanson, Murphy, Hudson)
 - Conducted trail maintenance contract inspection for work performed by three contractors (Phillips and Bengtson)
 - Provided pack support to operate backcountry administrative sites, support fire lookouts, and support the trails program for a total of approximately 35,000 lbs hauled and over 1000 miles travelled:
 - o for operation of Moose Creek Ranger Station, including hauling propane, duffel, garbage, other supplies (Armichardy, Horner),
 - o pack support to Fire Management for installing and removing lookouts at Shissler and Gardiner Lookouts (Armichardy),
 - o pack support to FIA crew up Big Rock trail (Armichardy, Horner),
 - o pack support to Moose Creek maintenance crew and MCC crews (Armichardy, Horner)
 - Met with SO aviation representatives to review safety issues at Shearer Airstrip and subsequent removal of encroaching trees (Hudson, Cable, Anderson, Rulander, McDavid)
 - Met with aviation associations to review hazard trees at Moose Creek camp area (Hudson, Cable, Hagle)
 - Removal of phone line to Shissler lookout from Moose Creek Ranger Station (SBF Interns, Murphy)
 - Annual hazard tree monitoring completed for Moose Creek Ranger Station and camping area. Hazard trees removed at station. (Phillips, Cable, Bengtson, Sue Hagle, Hudson, Angeny, Swanson)
 - Functioned as lead forest for SBW and completed Infra Wild data collection and entry for the Wilderness (Cable)
 - Purchased three head of stock and retired two head (Armichardy, Cable)
 - Conducted water quality monitoring at Shasta Lake (Bengtson, Cable)
 - District Pack String participated in Grangeville July 4th parade (Hudson, Botello, Armichardy, Cable)
 - Supported Backcountry Horseman project to install feedbunks at Big Fog Saddle (Cable, Horner)
- River Management accomplishments for the Moose Creek Ranger District:
- Five river patrols for resource protection, including visitor contact, information, education, and law enforcement (Miller, Mabbot of the West Fork Ranger District, with volunteers)
 - Campsite clean-up and restoration, with rehab work at Pinchot Creek stock impacted site
 - Supported SBF Board of Directors with float trip
 - Transportation of Volunteer Host Jack to Shearer Guard Station
 - Administrative trip to discuss revision of river management plan
- Outfitter & Guide Administration accomplishments for the Moose Creek Ranger District:
- 11 permits administered to standard, including approximately 35 outfitter camp inspections (Phillips, Bengtson)
 - 1 transitional priority use permit and 2 priority use permits issued (Cable, Botello, Hudson)

Wilderness Management *(continued)*

Red River Ranger District Wilderness

Contributed by Randy Borniger

Volunteer checked access into the Gospel Hump Wilderness from the Hump corridor. The GHW Hump portals were checked at least once a week and no breeches were found once we started.

Wilderness Ranger In the Dixie Area in the Frank Church and Gospel Hump Wildernesses re-signed the Wilderness Boundaries that burned in 07 's Rattlesnake Fire and posted the travel restrictions, conducted campsite inventories and outfitter camp inspections

Presented the wilderness trunk et al to Riggins area included in the Fire Squirts program.

Trail crew / Wilderness Ranger /volunteers made 1 on 1 and small group contacts / presentations in the wilderness.

Demonstrated a model low impact camp and provided wilderness education at the Outdoor Show in Lewiston Idaho. The Outdoor Show is sponsored by the Back Country Horseman of Idaho.

A Wilderness Ranger spent most of the Winter doing trail and trail bridge reconstruction using primitive tools in Florida and Michigan. The work crews were primarily volunteers. The volunteer crews rotated in one after the other, there was a new group every week for about 3 months that received wilderness education and primitive tool training. Also did a wilderness presentation at the annual American Horse Council in Tennessee.

Wildlife Habitat

Contributed By Joanne Bonn

Joanne Bonn, wildlife biologist for the Salmon River Ranger District, was honored March 19 at the 74th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference with a *Wings Across the Americas* award. The Forest Service 'Wings' program works for bird, bat and butterfly conservation.



Local Biologist Wins National Award

Since 2005, the Nez Perce National Forest began conducting bat surveys across the forest and at abandoned mine sites as part of the Northern Region's effort to better understand the distribution and habitat needs of bat species across the Northern Rockies.

Since 2005, 9 species of bats, represented by over 170 individuals, have been captured in mist nets or harp traps. These nets are an extremely fine-meshed net that flying bats get tangled in and caught for study. Species captured included, Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), Silver-haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), California Myotis (*Myotis californicus*), Western Long-eared Myotis (*Myotis evotis*), Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), Fringed Myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*), Long-legged Myotis (*Myotis volans*), Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*). Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendi*) is also known to occur on the Forest. In addition, hundreds of bat calls have been collected with acoustical equipment.

The information gathered has also led to habitat improvements at mines. The design of the gates bar people from entering the dangerous mines, but allow the bats to come and go and roost undisturbed.

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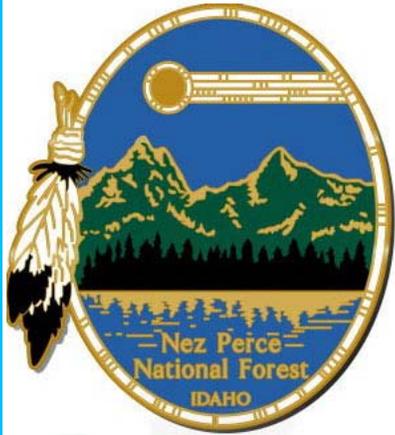
Ranger Districts

Salmon River Ranger District
Slate Creek Ranger Station
DARCY PEDERSON, Acting District Ranger
dpederson@fs.fed.us
304 Slate Creek Road, White Bird, ID 83554
(208) 839-2211 FAX: (208) 839-2730

Clearwater Ranger District
DARCY PEDERSON, District Ranger
dpederson@fs.fed.us
104 Airport Road, Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-1950 FAX: (208) 983-4042

Red River Ranger District
Elk City Ranger Station
TERRY NEVIUS, District Ranger
tnevius@fs.fed.us
300 American River Road, Elk City, ID 83525
(208) 842-2245 FAX: (208) 842-2150

Moose Creek Ranger District
Fenn Ranger Station
JOE HUDSON, District Ranger
jHUDSON@fs.fed.us
831 Selway Road, Kooskia, ID 83539
(208) 926-4258 FAX: (208) 926-8925



Happy Holidays from your Nez Perce Forest Public Affairs staff. This is the fifth annual edition, highlighting our forest accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2009 (October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009). Many thanks to all the employees that provided input to this report.

If you have questions or comments about this edition, please contact Jennifer Stephenson at (208) 983-4049 or email jstephenson@fs.fed.us.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST
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Grangeville, ID 83530

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