



Nez Perce News

2006 Forest Accomplishments

Volume 1, Issue 14, December, 2006

Happy Holidays



It is hard to believe that another fiscal year has passed. As we approach the holiday season, it is time to look back and reflect on the last year. I have many things for which I owe thanks to the forest and the community.

As you will see by this Accomplishment Report, we on the forest are very proud of the work we do. The hard work and dedication of the employees of the Nez Perce Forest is evident in the work accomplished, the partnerships they have built, and inno-

vative ways they have found to begin to restore the health of the forest. In addition to doing their "day job," I saw most of them work long, exhausting hours during the worst fire season nationally since 1960. A Big Thank You to all of those employees.

Several projects happened this last year, thanks to the support and dedication of the community. These days it sometimes takes more than ecological need to do a project that may restore fish passing, reduce insect infestations, or reduce fire hazards. It takes the joint determination of agency personnel, community partners, interested groups, elected officials, tribal resources and cooperating agencies to achieve the successful resolution of projects, especially ones as large as the American and Crooked Stewardship projects. In the last couple of years, I have seen an increase in cooperation to reach common goals. My fondest wish for the new year is that this spirit of cooperation continues. I also offer my thanks for the cooperation that the forest received this year.

As we face the New Year, the Nez Perce Forest will be looking to those partnerships to assist us in working through very challenging issues such as a new Forest Plan, and Travel Management Planning. More changes are expected over the next two years. We will have a change in state and county government this fall, with a change nationally in 2008. These changes will present new challenges in forging new partnerships. I hope all of you, employees and community, will be there to join us.

Jane Cottrell
Forest Supervisor

Nez Perce N.F.
1005 Highway 13
Grangeville, ID
83530
Tel: 208-983-1950
Fax: 208-983-4099

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from your Nez Perce Forest Public Affairs staff. This is the second annual edition, highlighting our forest accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2006 (October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006). If you have questions or comments about this edition, please contact Laura Smith, Public Affairs Specialist at (208) 983-5143.

Nez Perce Forest Facts



View of Little Green Mountain - Red River District

Total Acres: 2.2 Million acres (Half Wilderness)

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

Number of Employees - 214 Permanent and Part-Time Employees
126 Temporary Employees at "peak" season (July, 2006)

2006 Allocation and Limitation Received: The forest received \$18,427,300. This amount included appropriated funds allotted to the forest for an operating budget (operation/maintenance and target accomplishment work); Title II funds for Resource Advisory Committee approved projects for Idaho, Clearwater and Latah Counties (North Central Idaho); limitation allotments for work authorized by Permanent and Trust funds appropriation; and capital improvement project funding.

Grants & Agreements:

- Total amount of executions.....\$1,665,161
(\$687,093 - FS Share/\$978,068 - Cooperator Share)
- Executed agreements.....54
- Executed project supplement.....18

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.

Changes

Indirect Cost Cap/Center of Excellence/Human Capital Management

In 2005 the Office of Management Bureau (OMB) directed the Forest Service to reduce indirect costs to no more than 10% of the overall budget. The region, in turn, distributed the number of indirect funded full time employees (FTEs) to each forest in order to meet the 10% cap by the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2007. The Nez Perce Forest has realigned to meet this regional indirect costs within the required time.

Forest leadership determined that each outlying forest office will continue to provide customer service with 1 FTE funded indirectly and 2 part-time FTEs funded directly by the benefiting project. In addition, effective October 1, the Clearwater Ranger District and the Supervisor's Office business management offices consolidated to provide a more efficient service since both offices were located in the town of Grangeville. The consolidation will help meet the 10% target.

The region created an Administrative Center of Excellence, located in Missoula, Montana to assist forests with services that have been reduced, such as credit card purchasing and assistance with audits or services that are no longer provided locally, such as travel voucher processing and quarters management.

Later in FY 07, the personnel office located in Orofino and serving the Clearwater, Nez Perce and Idaho Panhandle forests will migrate to the Albuquerque Service Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and renamed Human Capital Management. This center will provide personnel services to current employees and retirees.

All of these changes will affect the way we do business and reduce the overall forest budget forecast for out years.

October 2007 Relocation Set for Supervisor/Clearwater District Offices

The Nez Perce National Forest Supervisor's Office and Clearwater Ranger District Office is set for a short move across town following the October, 2006 lease award for a new facility adjacent to the Idaho County Airport. The big move to the new office is anticipated to take place in October 2007.

Harold Mildenberger of Hamilton, Montana, was awarded a 15-year fixed lease with a five-year option at property on Airport road south of the United States Forest Service (USFS) Grangeville Air Center. The award is for a \$741,531 annual rental rate (\$21 per square feet) for office, warehouse and warehouse yard space. Mildenberger will be responsible for constructing the new USFS facility.

The move will affect approximately 145 employees, both full time and seasonal, in the supervisor's office, Clearwater Ranger District and the Interagency Dispatch Center. Also included in the lease are some Bureau of Land Management and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries employees.

Solicitation packages were sent out in August, 2006 to 65 potential offerors for 24,525 rentable square feet of office space, 8,690 square feet of usable square feet of warehouse space and secured yard, and 255 parking spaces. A month later, five offers were received proposing six different locations for evaluation.

Proposals were judged on five factors: potential for efficient layout, energy efficiency, physical characteristics, location and past performance.

Currently the Forest Service is leasing two facilities on the east end of Grangeville on State Highway 13 from Blewett, Blewett and Profitt of Grangeville for approximately \$405,000 annually, according to Sandi Sandry, USFS leasing contract specialist.

Conservation Education

Salmon River Ranger District:

The Salmon River District fire prevention technicians staff provided general message of preventing unwanted fires on National Forests at the Riggins Rodeo/White Bird Days. They provided the same message at the Lewiston Roundup as a joint effort with the Lochsa Ranger District. They gave grade school children in the Lewiston/Clarkston Valley information on unwanted fire.

General fire education messages were shared at the Head start school program. Fire Education and Introduction to the Fire Triangle presentations were made at the White Bird School/After School Kids. Use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) Program was taught to Sts. Peter and Paul School students. Fire Trunks Workshop - Introduction to the Fire Science lab's Fireworks Trunk curriculum was taught to Joint School District 241. Co-sponsored/co-taught by fire prevention technicians from the Nez Perce and the Clearwater National Forests.



Warren Miller and Ian Barlow instruct Sts. Peter & Paul School kids in traditional tool use - Photo by Cindy Schacher

Moose Creek Ranger District:

- Wilderness Display (Americorp Volunteer)
- Assisted w/ Wilderness Skills trail in Grangeville
- Assisted in staffing Wilderness Display at Cottonwood and Lewiston fairs
- Presented 1 formal Leave No Trace program for Scout troop visiting the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness
- Presented 1 formal program on international resource related volunteer opportunities at Wilderness Ranger Rendezvous
- Participated in Border Days Parade in Grangeville w/Packstring
- Moose Cr. staffed w/volunteer hosts to greet visitors from May through Oct!
- Shearer staffed for 3 weeks w/volunteers to greet visitors and count landings.
- Visitor contacts in the field
- 7 National Visitor Use Management "Wilderness" surveys by Wilderness staff

Heritage:

- Tolo Lake Mammoth - Presentation to first graders at Highland Elementary School in Clarkston, WA
- Idaho Archaeology Week-Traditional Tools - Display on traditional tools, their use, and historic buildings constructed using these methods on the NPNF. Historic building restoration specialists demonstrated traditional tool use to the public and students from St. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Grangeville.



Always lots of family fun at Wilkins Pond - Photo by Scott Vuono

Clearwater Ranger District:

- Clearwater Ranger District staff ran and organized the annual fishing derby at Wilkins pond. Staff participated in 7th grade field days at Fish Creek Meadows Campground.

Fire & Fuels Management

Weather conditions during the winter of 2005-2006 could be considered average in terms of precipitation and snow pack. The most significant workload on the Clear/Nez Fire Zone (which consists of the Clearwater and Nez Perce forests) during the winter/spring season was implementing the new Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center. This center pulled all Initial Attack dispatching responsibilities into one central location and was done in partnership with the Idaho Department of Lands, Clearwater/Potlatch Timber Protective Association, Bureau of Land Management, and the Nez Perce Tribe.

Spring burning was successful on the Nez Perce Forest, with one spring burn on the Salmon River district being especially significant; The 2,500 acre Robbins Creek burn was important for multiple reasons, it accomplished a key hazardous fuels reduction target, it provided improved wildlife habitat and several months later was a key factor in checking up the spread of the Black Butte wildfire which allowed that fire to be brought into containment.

The fire season began in early July and escalated significantly the first week of August when the Zone had between 80 and 100 starts from a storm on August 7th. This workload taxed all resources and was a stern test for the new dispatch center. During the peak of the season the zone hosted one Type 1 Incident Management Team (IMT), and three Type 2 IMT's. The fires included the Lightning, Baston/Cook Complex, Heavens Gate Complex, and Meadow fire. Teams located on the Baston/Cook Complex also managed the Trout fire on the Payette NF for a period of time to assist that forest. The Heavens Gate Complex was co-managed with the Wallowa-Whitman NF. Concurrent with these events was the management of another large and successful fire use program across the zone which included multiple fires in the Clearwater Wildland Fire Use (WFU) area on both the North Fork and Lochsa districts outside of wilderness, as well as a significant number of fires in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness on the Moose Creek, Red River and Powell ranger districts. The Regional Agreement for Fire Support between Region 1 and Region 3 provided necessary resources and along with the Tri-Region agreement enabled us to meet our necessary staffing levels.



Chopper dumping water on Heaven's Gate Fire on September 4 - photo by Steve Armstrong

The Clear/Nez Zone also managed a large summer prescribed burn program on the Clearwater Forest, along with the management of suppression fires and the large fire use events that were still in progress. The larger natural fuel treatment burns included the Upper North Fork, Middle Black, Toboggan Ridge, and the Flame unit on the Weitas Block. The severity of the fire season, as well as smoke management issues did not allow the ignition of the units until late August, however the zone was successful in burning close to 10,000 acres during the late summer season.

Fire staff on the Clear/Nez Zone safely managed approximately 385 fires (88,000 acres) during the 2006 season, while implementing a completely new dispatch organization. This indicates a high level of organizational commitment, and leadership at all levels of the organization.

FIRE CONTINUED ON PAGE 6....

Red River Ranger District

Fire Planning: Completed

- Draft Categorical Exclusion (CE) for Whitewater prescribed burn project
- Participating agreement with private landowners for Whitewater project

Prepared

- Brush disposal appraisal and plan for Dixie Summit timber sale
- Brush disposal appraisal and plan for American River Stewardship project
- Contract specifications for American River Stewardship project
- Burn plans for Mackay Day and Starbucky timber sale prescribed burns
- Burn plans for prescribed burning for Elkhorn/Jersey and Blanco burn projects



The Meadow Fire burning over the ridge from Red River Corrals

Fire implementation:

Managed

- 72 Suppression fires for 7732 acres
- 8 Wild land Fire Use (WFU) Fires

Fire Target :

Acres Accomplishment

- 276 BD/KV acres
- 1072 HF acres in the WUI
- 4600 WFU acres (includes carry-over to FY06 portion of the Burnt WFU)

Moose Creek Ranger District

- 99% completion of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for O'Hara Fuels Project (5,000 acres).
- Successfully Initial Attacked 19 District suppression fires.
- Completed Stage I and Stage II Wildland Fire Incident Plans on 26 fires managed for Resource Benefit, totaling 5,624 acres, including monitoring, mapping, and associated dissemination of information to agency contacts and the public.
- Supported National fire management effort by providing overhead and firefighters to numerous incidents, locally and out of region, including Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, and Oregon.
- Organized and outfitted the Selway Fire Use Module, using overhead and personnel from the district and across the zone, and completed assignments in New Mexico, Oregon, and on the Clear-Nez Zone.
- Supported Centralized Dispatch and Zone fire suppression effort by initial attacking three fires for neighboring Lochsa Ranger District.

Clearwater Ranger District

- Safely suppressed 32 wildland fires
- Provided suppression support to 8 other local units (Idaho Department of Lands -7 fires, Clear/Nez Fire Zone -25 fires)
- Supported National fire suppression effort
- Prescribed Burning: BD/KV-168 acres, WFHF-1200 acres

Clearwater District continued on Page 7...

Provided support to other functional areas:

- o Rebuilt 9 switchbacks on McAllister trail
- o Vexar removal-40 acres
- o Helped build 1.2 miles of fence
- o Helicopter support: snow surveys, slung trees to 2 different timber sales
- Prevention: 7 school programs, Border Days parade, various other programs
- Training: coordinated annual Clear/Nez Guard School, helped teach 4 local training sessions

GAC Helicopter Module Accomplishments

The Grangeville Helicopter Module, assigned to the Clearwater Ranger District, was involved in the suppression and or support of 52 fires nationwide with the helicopter flying a total of 242.3 hours. A total of 65,207 gallon of water was dropped by the pilot, 10,525 pounds of supplies and equipment was moved internally, with an additional 54,682 pounds delivered on the helicopters external longline. The module and pilot provided reconnaissance, personnel shuttles or initial attack mission transport for 594 passengers. Module personnel participated in 17 work projects, 12 prescribed fire projects and provided instruction of helicopter operations and safety for local and Regional training sessions.

Salmon River Ranger District

Prescribed Burning

Robbins Creek Prescribed Burn - Hazardous Fuels Reduction (WFHF) April 28-29, 2006
2500 Acres - (500 acres of the total were WUI acres)

Brush Disposal -

John Boy Timber Sale (Underburning - 91 acres/Landings - 159 acres)

Morrison Mistletoe Timber Sale - (Landings - 165 acres)

Floor Bugs Timber Sale - (Landings - 42 acres)

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) - Defensible Space/Shaded Fuel Break

Adams Camp - 50 acres of handpile burning and Boufford Ridge - 40 acres of handpiling

Wildland Fire Use Management (WFU)

Acres -0 (Stage I Go/No-Go Decisions - 8)

All 8 fires were determined Suppression Fires

Appropriate Suppression Response

42 Wildland Fires totalling 42,351 acres

Cooperating Agency Suppression Fires

6 Wildland Fires totalling 427 acres

Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center

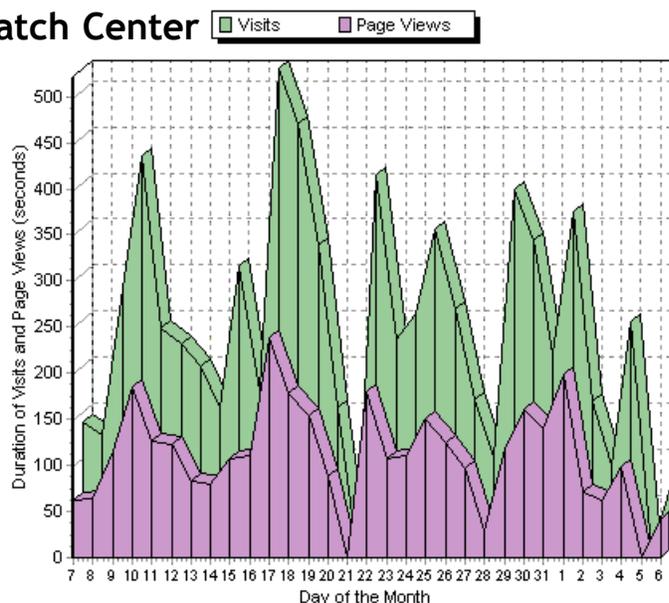
The Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center Website was an invaluable tool during the 2006 fire season. Through constant, open communication between the intelligence dispatcher, fire staff and public affairs, the website provided up-to-date fire information for both the public and fire staff. The following information is the summary from the site meter from the end of July to the end of October.

VISITS

Total 13,877
Average Per Day 28
Average Visit Length 3:59

PAGE VIEWS

Total 33,116
Average Per Day 52
Average Per Visit 1.9



A page view is anytime you click on the web page, while a page visit is when you spend time at that page and go to other subpages from that main web page.

Fish Habitat Restoration

Red River Ranger District

The Red River Ranger District completed approximately forty-eight fish habitat structures in American/Crooked Stewardship projects including 2-3 miles of stream restoration for bull trout and west slope cutthroat.

District staff completed 2.25 miles of cutthroat and bull trout restoration on Rainbow Creek in cooperation with Idaho Fish & Game, 1 mile of stream survey and deployed approximately 24 thermographs for temperature data on 7 streams.

Moose Creek Ranger District

The Moose Creek Ranger District assisted IDF&G in transplanting Tiger Muskies in Running Creek Lake to eventually establish native fishery of cutthroat trout.

District fisheries staff conducted fisheries sampling and inventory of Ditch Creek Fishery (partnership with Selway Lodge landowner and National Forest Foundation). Ongoing fisheries sampling/inventory of Selway River and tributaries was completed in partnership and cost share with the University of Montana Fisheries Department.

A fisheries survey was completed from Boulder Creek to Wounded Doe.

Salmon River Ranger District

Aquatic restoration work identified in the Clean Slate ecosystem management project Environmental Impact Statement was completed. Restoration work included approx. 30 miles of road decommissioning and was funded in part with money from the Idaho State Office of Species Conservation which was granted with the help of the Nez Perce Tribe. The North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee also funded a large amount of this work. Completion of the restoration work allowed the Forest to proceed with advertisement and sale of the Buckshot Timber Sale in FY 2006

Clearwater Ranger District.

The Clearwater Ranger District exceeded their watershed target. They planted and seeded approximately 29 acres of decommissioned roads in the Yew Rock sale, Meadow Creek slide, and China Ten Fire water draft sites and fireline.

The District also met their fisheries target. They planted and seeded 3 culverts in the Meadow Creek area as well as monitored the progress of the implementation throughout the summer. They also aided in the fish population survey on Running Lake. Mitigation and monitoring for Crooked River Instream and Meadow Face were completed.

Two miles of fish habitat was restored and enhanced on Crooked River by improving and replacing instream structures. The fisheries team monitored the projects' progress by sampling turbidity, mercury concentrations, percent fines, fish densities and habitat conditions.



Running Lake Fish Survey

Continuing Cooperative Restoration Program Between The Nez Perce Tribe & Nez Perce Forest

The Nez Perce Tribe and Nez Perce National Forest continue to work together on a large program of aquatic restoration on the National Forest. Coordinated activities are ongoing in the following drainages: Slate Creek, White Bird Creek, Mill Creek, Meadow Creek (Clearwater Ranger District), Newsome Creek and Red River.

Construction activities implemented in 2006 included providing stream simulation structures for aquatic passage at three sites (accessing 10 miles of habitat) and decommissioning 27 miles of road:

- Little White Bird creek culvert
- Camp Creek culvert
- Storm Creek culvert
- Clean Slate Rehabilitation (road decommissioning)

Coordination, planning and design work is continuing on a suite of additional projects:

- Orchard Creek Decommissioning & Instream Improvement
- Covert Creek Crossing Improvement
- Upper Main Red River Restoration (under contract)
- Hepner Creek Culvert (under contract)
- Newsome Restoration EIS (Record of Decision pending)
- Newsome Creek Channel Restoration
- Newsome Road Decommissioning and Improvement
- Selway Crossings Design (under contract)
- Gold Lake Tunnel Rehabilitation (under design contract)
- 2006 aquatic crossing sites design (under contract- includes crossings in Red River, Newsome, and Mill creek)
- Slate Creek Crossing Surveys (new FY07 project)
- Continued riparian restoration and fence maintenance in Meadow and Mill Creek watersheds

The Forest and Tribe continue to explore and expand the cooperative approaches used to accomplish restoration projects in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the program, including:

- Sharing responsibility for field design of projects.
- Utilizing Tribal employees as inspectors on FS contracts.
- Exploring new approaches to financial transactions within the overall structure of the agreement process.



Little White Bird Creek culvert before and after photos

Heritage

Passport In Time Project: Adams Ranger Station historic building restoration in cooperation with the motorcycle and snowmobile clubs and Forest Service volunteers.

Archaeology Week Display: Displayed and demonstrated historic building and traditional tools. Spoke to 1st grade class concerning mammoths.

Passport In Time Project: Archaeological excavation conducted by the Nez Perce Tribe and Forest Service volunteers at Mackay Bar.



Mackay Bar Pit Project - Main Salmon River

Cost Share Agreement: An agreement between the Nez Perce Tribe and the Nez Perce National Forest to conduct a National Register Nomination for Pilot Knob.

Completed:

- All stipulated FY06 work concerning Heritage accomplishments for the Frank Church Wilderness Programmatic Agreement
- An historic photograph collection and interpretation for the Selway Wilderness (350 photos)

Continued:

- Salmon River Prehistory Project in partnership with Oregon State University (landform history study program)
- Site monitoring activities at a Nez Perce village site in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

Managed:

- 29 sites to standard
- Total acres surveyed: 1837
- Previously recorded sites dealt with during consultation: 38
- New historic sites recorded: 26
- New prehistoric sites recorded: 11
- Projects completed: 42

North Central Idaho RAC



Picture on left is land adjacent to Storey residence in Newsome Town Site before treatment and picture on right is the same picture after fuels reduction work was completed.

Newsome/Orogrande Defensible Space Project

The Red River Ranger District requested \$45,640.00 from the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee to develop defensible space around the structures located in the Newsome Creek drainage and Orogrande area along Crooked River. Four goals of the project were to: 1) Reduce the potential and intensity of wildfire, 2) Provide for firefighter safety in and around at risk private structures, 3) Provide training and employment opportunities to learn forest and fuel reduction skills in an educational, participatory environment, 4) Market merchantable materials. Twelve sites were located on Newsome Creek side of Highway 14 and eight sites were in the Orogrande area along Crooked River.



Crooked River Instream

Another project funded by the North Central Idaho RAC was Crooked River In Stream Survey and Design for \$32,400.00. This money was used to award a contract for the design of in stream improvements on 0.8 miles of Crooked River from Five Mile Pond to Orogrande. The contract was awarded late in September of 2005. During the summer of 2006, the contractor visited the site and completed the draft conceptual designs. The Forest is hoping to start the construction portion of this project by the summer of 2007.

Elk City Wagon Road

RAC funds provided \$45,000 for minor reconstruction and maintenance on the Elk City Wagon Road #284. The project work covered 6 miles from the Junction with Newsome Road #1858 to the Junction with Road #464. Work included road widening; drainage structures; stump removal; and loading, hauling and spreading of rock at designated areas.



Elk City Wagon Road Stump Removal

Purchasing/Contracts

Procurement Preference Program: Following are the procurement preference program accomplishments. Total dollars spent on the forest as of September 26, 2006 was \$2,734,563.

Small Business: 90%

Small Disadvantaged: 4%

Women-Owned: 7%

*8(a) - Certified through Small Business Administration: 3%

HubZone (Rural Area): 57%

Veteran's Preference: 3%

*An 8a subcontractor is a Small Business Administration (SBA) subcontractor that is eligible for participation under a program established by Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act. A Small Disadvantaged Business is a sole proprietor/firm that is certified by the Small Business Administration.

continued on page 12...

Performance Based Service Contracts (PBSC): The Forest accomplished approximately 74% of their performance based which exceeds the goal of 40% for FY2006. Total service contracts awarded as of September 26, 2006 is \$1,139,202 with \$334,633 awarded as PBSC.

Real Property Management: The Forest is at 99% completion for sites and features for the real property inventory.

Recreation

Clearwater Ranger District

- Coordinated and implemented the second round of the National Visitor Use Monitoring
- Implemented reservation system for the South Fork and Fish Creek Group Use sites
- Operated and maintained to standard the following number of developed sites; 7 campgrounds, 4 picnic sites and 3 trailheads
Numerous additional minor trailheads and dispersed campsites were checked and maintained by zone personnel
- Operated and maintained three water systems for public use at campgrounds.
- Planted 360 campground replace trees at eight developed sites on the west zone and coordinated tree orders and delivery for other Forest units
- Implemented backcountry patrol program including stock and Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) mounted patrols. Stock patrol areas included the Clear Creek, Silver Creek, Johns Creek and Rapid River areas. Off Highway Vehicle patrol areas included the McComas-Big Burn Point area
- Provided Nordic trail grooming and winter snowpark maintenance at the Fish Creek complex in cooperation with the State of Idaho.
- Provided winter Forest Service presence with weekend snowmobile patrols from mid-December through early-March (aerial monitoring of Wilderness trespass canceled due to poor weather)
- Prepared proposal for Forest Americorp Volunteer - May 1 - August 15 - Wilderness Display, community outreach



Winter Recreationist at Fish Creek

Red River Ranger District

- Maintained 50 sites (Dispersed & Developed). All sites are kept open to at least minimal standards including 57 outhouses. Hazard trees continue to present challenges in our management with new bug kill infections occurring throughout the district.
- Installation of a new Sweet Smelling Toilet at French Gulch
- Two Recreation Tech Volunteers provided service for Developed/Dispersed & Backcountry sites for the 06 field season
- Adjusted District Mobility Impaired Hunting Access roads
- YCC program (4 participants for 7 weeks) planted over 500 mixed tree species @ Red River campground
- Worked closely with district fire organization to accomplish hazard tree removal in campgrounds as well as resource advisor capabilities and area closures during extended fire seasons

Road Operation & Maintenance

The road maintenance program had a busy and productive year in FY 2006. Approximately 850 miles of the Forest road network received maintenance from various sources as follows:

- 1) Force account and contract performance = 652 miles
- 2) Purchaser performance = 47 miles
- 3) Other agency performed maintenance = 151 miles

Some significant highlights of the road maintenance program include:

Efforts continued on the Selway Road (#223) as drainage and surfacing were improved on approximately 2 miles.

Contract maintenance of roadway blading, roadway brushing, and drainage maintenance. The backlog of needed brushing on the maintenance level 3 thru 5 roads has basically been eliminated. Program can now focus on maintenance brushing on these main roads in accord with a 5 year rotation.

In addition to substantial performance on roadway blading and drainage maintenance the force account crew was able to address some special needs including access controls on the Slate Lakes Road (#444C), access controls on Tahoe Road (#286), fill shoulder repair on the Grangeville Salmon Road (#221) in Allison Creek, cattleguard installation on Blacktail Road (#451), cattleguard installation on the Cove road (#279) and culvert installation on West Fork Clear Creek Road (#650).

The engineering group had a busy season as well administering approximately \$2.8 million in construction performance. This performance reconstructed approximately 85 miles of roadway and obliterated 55 miles. Projects were supported by a variety of funding sources and partnerships. Some of the projects administered include:

- Stewardship - Crooked River and American River
- RAC- Elk City Wagon Road and Seven Devils Road (Administered by Wallowa-Whitman National Forest)
- Nez Perce Tribe Cooperative- Little White Bird Culvert, Storm Creek Culvert, Clean Slate Rehabilitation, Camp Creek Culvert
- Other projects- Burnt Flats rehabilitation, Fog Mountain Road, 221 Gravel

Design and package preparation was provided to Buckshot Timber Sale. American River Stewardship, Upper Main Red River restoration, Covert Creek Culvert, Clean Slate Road 354 Rehabilitation, Blackerby Timber Sale and Burnt Flats watershed rehabilitation. Task orders were issued for survey and design of Selway culverts, and 2006 aquatic sites.

Deferred maintenance inspections and reporting were conducted on schedule. Bridge inspections were conducted on schedule.

Facilities Operation & Maintenance

Some highlights of the Facilities Operation and Maintenance program included:

- Maintained certified water system operators at Slate Creek, Red River, Elk City, and Fenn Ranger Station.
- Maintained licensed waste water operators at Slate Creek, Red River, and Fenn Ranger Stations. Worked toward obtaining additional backup licensed operator at Slate Creek.
- Performed scheduled and emergency utility system repairs for water and sewer at Slate Creek, Clearwater, and Red River.
- Prepared package (and administration) for Grangeville Air Center design.
- Assisted in preparing package (and evaluation/award) for Supervisor's Office/ Clearwater Ranger District office lease.
- Conducted deferred maintenance surveys and reporting as scheduled.
- Conducted sanitary surveys as scheduled.
- Provided repairs and upgrades to the fire warehouse at Salmon River.
- Ongoing maintenance at Slate Creek, Clearwater, Red River, Elk City, Fenn through the substantial efforts of the unit facilities managers and maintenance personnel.



Grass carp planted at Red River sewer lagoons to control duckweed

Silviculture

The silviculture program is responsible for assessing the condition of the forest vegetation (mainly conifer trees), prescribing treatments for the vegetation to meet resource goals of the forest, and helping implement those treatments. These treatments include mechanical harvest, prescribed burning, thinning of young trees, and reforestation.

- Reforestation (planting) - 539 acres
- Exams-stocking and survival - approximately 23,000 acres
- Cone collection - 69 bushels of western larch
- Diagnosis of forest stands - 6000 acres
- Prescriptions for timber harvest - 1500 acres
- Prescriptions for prescribed fire - 3000 acres

Soil & Water

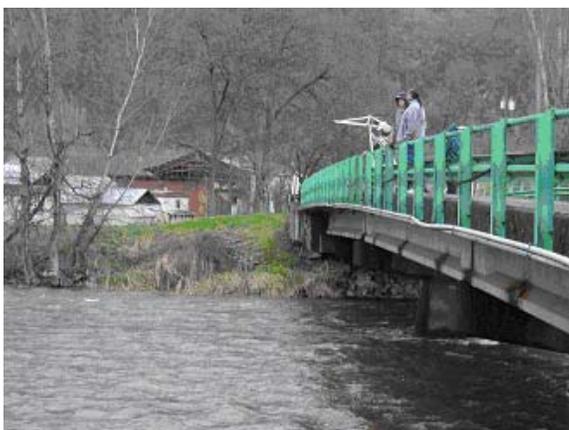
FY06 Soil and Water Accomplishments

- Completed 114 acres of improvements using appropriated soil and water funds
- Completed 396 acres of improvements using other funds, including stewardship
- Assisted in 2.0 miles of stream restoration implementation
- Administered a contract for 1.6 miles of stream restoration design
- Assisted with contract award for 2.5 miles of stream restoration design
- Conducted burned area assessments on five wildfires
- Monitored streamflow and water quality at eight stream gaging sites
- Completed pre-treatment monitoring on eight soil restoration sites.
- Recorded water temperature at 75 sites
- Monitored climatic conditions at 12 stations
- Supported implementation of water quality plan for the South Fork Clearwater

South Fork Clearwater River Mainstem Monitoring

In 2006, the Forest initiated a monitoring program in the mainstem South Fork Clearwater River. The monitoring focused on sediment yield in the springtime and fish habitat and stream substrate conditions in the summer. The program was set up to track trends in sediment conditions relative to Total Maximum Daily Load requirements and cumulative effects from activities in the subbasin.

The program was sponsored by the North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) through funds made available via the Craig Wyden Amendment. The monitoring was carried out by staff from Framing Our Community, the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute and the Nez Perce Tribe. Several state and federal agencies participated in development of the monitoring plan.



Springtime sediment monitoring near Stites



Summer habitat monitoring near Castle Creek

The mainstem monitoring program is currently funded by the RAC through 2008. The data will be evaluated to determine if continuation beyond 2008 is warranted. The mainstem monitoring program is designed to complement other monitoring efforts that are occurring elsewhere in the South Fork Clearwater River subbasin.

Timber Sale Program

FY06 Timber Accomplishments

- Volume Offered: Target - 19,700 MBF Accomplishment - 21,340 MBF
- Volume Harvested: 5973.74 MBF Value: \$161,883.70
- Personal Use Firewood: 449 permits 2,777 cords Value: \$13,820
- Native American Firewood: 7 permits 70 cords Value: \$350
- Free Use Firewood (Elk City District): 142 permits 264 cords Value: \$1,320
- Free Use Post and Pole (Salmon River District): 142 permits 2,103 pieces Value: \$504
- Free Use Post and Pole (Elk City District): 150 permits 5,193 pieces Value: \$1,246.32
- Christmas Trees: 376 trees Value: \$1128

Crooked River Stewardship Project

The Crooked River Stewardship project was awarded on February 10 to Bennett Forest Industries/Three Rivers. The contract was executed in March. The sale includes an estimated volume of over 16 million board feet. Logging activities will continue through February, 2007.

Contractors have completed all mandatory stewardship projects and completed all the optional projects except instream improvement, which is half done. The Record of Decision included both required and additional restoration work. The following table shows the status of the required restoration work.

Units of Measures Completed	Remaining Required Restoration Work
1207 Acres Timber Harvest	
46.2 Miles Road Reconditioning	None
Watershed Restoration Activities - Required Concurrent	
9.9 Miles of Decommissioned Roads	None
8.9 Miles of Watershed Road Improvement	0.6
2 Watershed Road Improvement Sites	1
8 Stream Crossing Improvements	2
4.5 Miles Instream Improvements	6.6
0.7 Miles of Recreation and Trail Improvements	None
8.1 Acres of Recreation and Trail Improvements	None
7 Acres of Mine Site Reclamation	None
4.82 miles and 4.82 acres of Soil Restoration	None

Two Relief Creek culverts have been funded by the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) on 9/6/2006. Completion of these projects will complete the required stream crossing improvements. These will be contracted in FY 2007.

The RAC also funded .8 miles of instream improvements (\$200,000) from Five Mile to Orogrande. This work will be contracted for completion in FY2007. Completion of the work in this segment will leave approximately \$75,000 of instream work remaining. In the case of this instream work, the Forest has completed both the required and the additional work identified in the ROD, and has gone above and beyond the required restoration work.

South Fork water monitoring is also funded by the RAC through 2008. This project is intended to demonstrate the improvement of the water quality that is the result of the restoration work in the South Fork.

American River Stewardship:

The American River Stewardship Project was awarded to Three Rivers/Bennett Forest Industries on 9/13/2006. The sale includes a volume of 8.3 million board feet. Logging activities have started and will continue through February, 2007.

Trails & Recreation Construction

TRAILS

Reconstruction Projects:

Contracts:

War Eagle/Drumlummen	10.2 miles	Award FY05/ Completed FY06
NF Slate Creek	7.2 miles	Award & partial completion
Cache Creek Trail	12.0 miles	Contract awarded
Sable-Parallel Trail	9.5 miles	Contract award/partial completion
Asbestos-Mill	3.5 miles	Contract award & Completed
China-Ten BAER Trail	.4 miles	Contract award & Completed
Indian Hill TH trail	.1 mile	Contract award & completed

Force Account:

Bilk Mountain Trail	1.5 miles	Completed 1.1 miles, to be finished Summer 2007
Cache Creek Ford & Connector Trails	.33 mile	with Northwest Youth Corp
Bargamin Trail Brushing	8 miles	with Montana Conservation Corp.

Trail Maintenance:

Large Contracts:

8 Maintenance Contractors	677.1 miles
Force Account	272.9 miles
Volunteers/Partnerships	300.3 miles

Small Contracts:

Swan Creek ATV Trail Brushing	4.75 miles	Award FY06
Big Burn Point ATV Trail Brushing	5.8 miles	Award FY06
Crooked Creek Trail 215 Brushing	11.0 miles	Award FY06
East Boyd Trail 703 Brushing	9.0 miles	Award FY06
Glover Trail 704 Brushing	12.8 miles	Award FY06
Rackliff Trail 702 Brushing	7.0 miles	Award FY06

Deferred Maintenance Condition Surveys:

Trails, Force Account	74.9 miles (10 trails, 100% of required)
Trail Bridges,	23 ea. (100% of required)

Right Photo: Back Country Horsemen and Forest Service Staff performing trail maintenance at Moose Creek



Cooperator Groups:

- Back Country Horsemen
- Twin Rivers & North Central Idaho Chapters
- Pathfinders ATV Club
- Valley Cats Snowmobile & ATV Club
- Dust Devil's ATV Club
- State of Idaho Parks & Recreation
- Trail Rangers Program, in conjunction with Dust Devils
- High Mountain Trail Machine Association, and Pathfinders ATV Club
- Park n Ski Program for Cross-Country Ski Trail Grooming at Fish Creek
- Idaho County and State of Idaho Parks & Recreation for Snowmobile Trail Grooming
- Idaho County Snowmobile Advisory Board for Area 24A & B

Continued on Page 18...

RECREATION CONSTRUCTION

Fog Mountain Trailhead Improvements
Indian Hill Trailhead Improvements
French Gulch Toilet Replacement
Slim's Camp Toilet Replacement
Dry Saddle Trailhead Toilet Replacement
Orogrande Summit Toilet Replacement
Orogrande Campground Toilet Replacements
Johnson Bar Toilet Replacement

Contract Awarded
Completed FY06
Installed
Purchased FY06/Install in 2007
Contract Award FY06, Install 2007



Tread work on the Bilk Mountain Trail Reconstruction project



Trail crew working on the Bilk Mountain Trail Reconstruction, installing a rock waterbar

Wildlife Habitat

The Northern Region recognized the need for additional documentation of bats on Forest Service lands to address inventory and monitoring requirements, and initiated bat surveys in 2005 across the Region. The Salmon River District was selected for inventory in 2005 and the Clearwater District was inventoried in 2006. Following a modified protocol based on the Oregon Bat Grid system, crews surveyed non-randomly chosen suitable habitats within randomly chosen 10 x 10 km² sample units in each Ranger District; ten sites (often two/sample unit) on each District were sampled. Thus, this approach is primarily targeted at identifying species richness within sampled grid cells.

Eight species of bats, represented by 120 total individuals, were captured in August of 2005. 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*), and Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*).

Eight species of bats, represented by 68 different individuals were captured in August of 2006. Species captured included, Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), Silver-haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), California Myotis (*Myotis californicus*), Western Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), Western Long-eared Myotis (*Myotis evotis*), either Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) or Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*), and Long-legged Myotis (*Myotis volans*), and Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*).

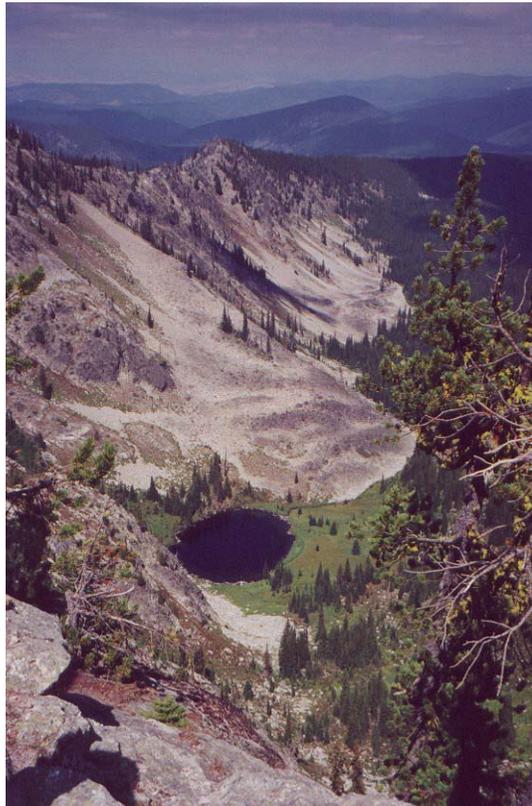


Unknown *Myotis* species - photo by Joanne Bonn

Wilderness

2006 Forest Wilderness Accomplishments

- The Slate Lake Road is finally closed to motor vehicles after 28 years of attempting to close (this accomplishment to the overall integrity of the Forest-wide Wilderness program cannot be understated)
- Completed National Vehicle Use Management on time and within budget (over 220 days to coordinate)
- Began site condition surveys and inventories of recreation site facilities for 2007.
- Red River continued recreation site inventories of the Gospel-Hump Wilderness with volunteers (Mr. and Mrs. Ken Stump)
- Ian Barlow received a national wilderness award for work done on other forests with trails and traditional tools
- Stock safety training for forest personnel at Idaho County fairgrounds
- Forest Recreation/Wilderness Staff hosted the new National Director for Wilderness and Wild & Scenic rivers
- Field preparation (Global Positioning System camps) and NEPA for 10 year Outfitter & Guide permits
- Forest nomination and membership on Regional Fee Board
- Forest participation on State wide Idaho Aviation Network committee.
- Provided oversight for a strong Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act program regionwide. Annual collection about \$67,000 Outfitter & Guide, \$35,000 Developed sites and cabins.
- Forest was awarded a grant (\$22,440 total) award of \$13,352 from State Parks and Recreation for OHV patrols, signing and prevention of Wilderness incursions
- Began work with Regional Office on Class 2 airshed plan for Air Quality monitoring of the Gospel-Hump Wilderness
- Began coordination and scoping on Salmon River Sites project
- Provided a "backcountry ranger" to patrol the general forest area for motor vehicle infractions



Gospel-Hump Lake - Photo by Jennifer Stephenson

Health & Safety

Six employees attended the All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Safety Institute's Instructor 4-day training class and are new ATV instructors on Forest.

Provided Missoula Technology & Development Center's Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Compliance Training Guide to each Ranger District during new employee orientation week.

Provided Wilderness First Aid training at Moose Creek Ranger District during new employee orientation week.

Updated and signed Forest Supervisor's Office Occupant Emergency Plan October 2006.

Forest Supervisor's Office Health & Safety Committee meets monthly.

Forest facilities Engineer and Health & Safety Manager conducted a re-inspection of the 2004 Regional Office's OSHA Supervisor's Office building.

Inventoried and updated the Supervisor's Office break room first aid kit.

Fire Extinguishers inspected in Supervisor's Office.

Provided Fire Extinguisher training for Clearwater Ranger District and Supervisor's Office employees.

Annual facility inspections performed by Forest facilities Engineer and H&S Mgr. at various locations.

"How To Perform Facility Inspection" presentations at Monthly District safety Meetings.

Forest Facilities Engineer and Health & Safety Manager inspected the Day Care Facility Trailer at Red River Ranger District.

Provided S&H Training to Ranger Districts:
Health & Safety training presented to new employees during orientation week in June.
Safety Presentations at Monthly District safety Meetings.
Provided Defensive Driving Course for Red River Ranger District.

New Interagency Dispatch Center was implemented along with a new radio system that monitors and records all the radio traffic on all 16 frequencies that the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center monitors now. As of October 19, 2006, that system has been installed, tested and is operational.

New NPNF Check-out/in procedures was updated, signed and implemented.

9 New chainsaw "C" fallers certified and 3 New chainsaw "C" Faller Certifiers classroom and field certification session.

Visited fire camps for safety and health compliance checks at Riggins and Red River (Lightning Creek and Baston-Cook Complex Fire Camps) during fire season.

Continue to provide Health & Safety training.

Health & Safety Manager completed the week long class "Driver Examiner Training."

Volunteers

Forest Volunteer Program:
129 Volunteers performed 9,405 hours of work

Forest YCC Program:
4 Youth performed 792 hours of work

Forest Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP):
5 Enrollees performed 3,149 hours of work

Moose Creek Ranger District
(22 volunteers contributed 3,640 hours which equates to 455 person days or 1.2 person years)

- Ron & Wendy Beye: Moose Creek Hosts
- 5 hosts at Shearer Administrative Site for 40 days
- Numerous IDOWA volunteers helped rehabilitate the old Bilk Mountain Trail.
- Roger Inghram & others assisted Nine-Mile Ranger Station in packing in supplies to Moose Creek and packing the lookout to Shissler
- Roger & another assisted with Lost Horse Corral resurfacing project
- Roger Inghram, Phil Foster & Dennis Dailey assisted with day trail drainage project near Trout Creek.
- DJ and Pete Armichardy Sr. assisted packer with supply runs and maintenance projects at Moose Creek.
- Brett Haverstick with Americorps developed wilderness display
- Montana Conservation Corps accomplished 24 miles of trail maintenance

Clearwater Ranger District:

The use of volunteers on the West Zone has significantly improved unit efficiency and relationship with user groups. The following groups and individuals have assisted the West Zone in the accomplishment of the annual Program of Work; Backcountry Horsemen - North Central Idaho, Twin River Backcountry Horsemen, High Mountain Trail Machine Association, Idaho Pathfinders ATV Club, Montana Conservation Corps, Americorp Volunteer, Sierra Club, Clara Smith, Alma Christian, Jesse Collins, Donald Steelfox Jr., Brett Haverstick

Adams Ranger's House Restoration - Members of the Snodrifters Snowmobile Club, High Mountain Trail Machine Association, and Forest Service employees volunteered their time. Volunteers assisted with burning slash around the compound and historic building restoration activities.



Volunteer Violet Rose painting windows at the Adams Ranger Station



Volunteer and chef Bob Hafer, High Mountain Trail Machine

Minerals

Salmon River Ranger District

The Salmon River Ranger District was assigned 8 targets.

Mineral Plan Operating Procedures:

- 1 notice of intent was submitted and processed
- 4 operating plans are awaiting completion of NEPA

As often happens in the minerals world, no other plans or notices were submitted in 2006, so the Salmon River Ranger District was unable to make its target.

Red River Ranger District

The Red River Ranger District was assigned 8 targets.

Mineral Plan Operating Procedures: Accomplished 23.

Influx of Gold Prospector Association of America club prospectors this past summer was not expected.

Processed 8 mineral materials permits for landscape rock (dredge tailings) was not expected.

Mineral Plan Operating Administration:

Exceeded the target of 8. With the help of 2 GeoCorps students, the Red River Ranger District was able to catch up on mining claim inspections. All past bonded and new nonbonded operations were administered to standard in FY06. Accomplished 38.

Partnerships

Salmon River Interpretive Sign Project

Through a partnership with the Idaho County Historical Preservation Committee, the Nez Perce Forest applied for funding through the Idaho Department of Transportation Enhancement Program for the Salmon River Sign Project.

The total estimated cost for the planning, administrative costs, actual design time, signs, and installation was \$16,125.00.

Heritage staff assisted in researching the history and with writing the text for the signs. Public Affairs staff did the design and layout of the signs and coordinated with the sign production company.

A dedication was held on September 15 at the Hells Canyon National

Recreation Area office in Riggins. Following the dedication, Engineering staff permanently installed the signs at the sites. The signs were placed along the Salmon River Road #1614 at the following sites: across the river from Riggins Hot Springs, across the river from the Shearer's Ferry/Manning Bridge site and in the vicinity of French Creek.

A trip along the Salmon River Road offers a range of opportunities and experiences such as hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and wildlife viewing as well as a good excuse for a beautiful scenic drive. To enhance a scenic drive, the interpretive signs will tell the area history while improving a community's image or "sense of place" and preserving the history for future generations to come. Historical preservation will be lost if the story isn't told.



Public Affairs Staff and members of the Idaho County Historical Preservation Committee at sign dedication

Supervisor's Office

JANE COTTRELL, Forest Supervisor
jcottrell@fs.fed.us
1005 Highway 13, Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-7000 FAX: (208) 983-4099

STEVE WILLIAMS, Deputy Forest Supervisor
swilliams@fs.fed.us
(208) 983-7017

Forest Staff

MIKE COOK, Administrative Officer/Engineering/Recreation
mjcook@fs.fed.us
(208) 983-7001

MELANY GLOSSA, Ecosystem Management & Planning
mglossa@fs.fed.us
(208) 983-4092

JAMES GRAY, Fire Management Officer
jgray@fs.fed.us
(208) 983-4066

LAURA SMITH, Public Affairs Specialist
lasmith@fs.fed.us
(208) 983-5143

KATHY BESS, Executive Assistant
kbess@fs.fed.us
(208)983-5159

Ranger Districts

Salmon River Ranger District
Slate Creek Ranger Station
JACK CARLSON, District Ranger
jcarlson@fs.fed.us
304 Slate Creek Road, White Bird, ID 83554
(208) 839-2211 FAX: (208) 839-2211

Clearwater Ranger District
DARCY PEDERSON, District Ranger and Forest Timber Staff Officer
dpederson@fs.fed.us
1005 Highway 13, Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-1950 FAX: (208) 983-4056

Red River Ranger District
Elk City Ranger Station
TERRY NEVIUS, District Ranger
tnevius@fs.fed.us
HC01, Box 416, Elk City, ID 83525
(208) 842-2245 FAX: (208) 842-2235

Moose Creek Ranger District
Fenn Ranger Station
JOE HUDSON, District Ranger and Forest Wilderness Staff Officer
jHUDSON@fs.fed.us
HC75, Box 91, Kooskia, ID 83539
(208) 926-4258 FAX: (208) 926-7119

Nez Perce National Forest Vision



- *We on the Nez Perce National Forest serve with integrity.
- *We build and foster healthy interpersonal relationships.
- *Our creative stewardship integrates science and social values ensuring ecological sustainability.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST
1005 Highway 13
Grangeville, ID 83530

Penalty for Private Use, \$300