



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



United States
Department of Agriculture

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 16, 2008

**Contact: Laura Smith, PAO
(208) 983-5143**

Nez Perce National Forest Celebrates 100 Years of Service

Grangeville, ID – A century ago, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a proclamation creating the Nez Perce National Forest. July 1, 2008, will mark the anniversary of the executive order that established the national forest.

The National Forest system was established in the Pacific Northwest from existing federal Forest Reserve lands. This event followed on the heels of the act which made the U.S. Forest Service a new federal agency in 1905. A series of Proclamations and Executive Orders created the first national forests in 1907 and 1908.

“The Forest Service and the Nez Perce National Forest have a bright future,” said Ralph Rau, Deputy Forest Supervisor, “The National Forest System is a repository of goods and services, recreation opportunities, solitude, clean water, wildlife and an inseparable part of our country’s heritage for all Americans. There will of course be challenges. Our forest and its mother agency have been shaped by challenge and change, as our celebration of this centennial demonstrates.”

A variety of commemorative activities are planned for July 1, 2008 to celebrate the centennial. “We’ll kick off the centennial celebration at 1:00 at the new headquarters office located at 104 Airport Road in Grangeville, across from the Grangeville Air Center,” shared Laura Smith, Forest Public Affairs Specialist. The centennial agenda includes guest speakers, refreshments, videos, displays, historical handouts, demonstrations, interactive children’s games, and tours.

“The Nez Perce National Forest has a rich and fascinating history,” said Cindy Schacher, Archaeological Technician, “This history began over 100 years ago with the enthusiastic and tough young men who became rangers, packers, and smokechasers. Early forest rangers were required to pass a field and written examination. The first forest ranger exam in the area was held in 1907 at Kooskia. Those who passed the exam were given jobs in the order of their scores and appointed at \$75 per month. They were required to furnish their own equipment, horses, and pack animals”.

For more information about the upcoming centennial event, and to learn more about your national forest, check out the Forest web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce> or call Laura Smith at (208) 983-5143.

###