



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 – August 4, 2008

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

Red River Hot Springs Resort Closed Until Further Notice

The Red River Hot Springs Resort is closed until further notice. The forest currently does not have a permittee operating the resort.

Development and public use has occurred at Red River Hot Springs for over 100 years. It is believed that Mr. and Mrs. Irad Meinert built a hotel at the hot springs to accommodate travelers and recreation seekers in 1901. As early as 1908, the Forest Supervisor of the then Selway National Forest recommended 22 acres of land around the Red River Hot Springs be “withdrawn” from land available for mining, homestead and other form of private settlement, and set aside for recreation purposes to serve the public.

In 1913 the Forest Service, in cooperation with Idaho County and area residents, began construction of the road up the Red River valley, and on to the Hot Springs. The road was completed in 1915.

The Free Press for January 23, 1919 notes that, “Completion of [the road to Red River Hot Springs] makes it possible to travel from Grangeville to the resort by automobile in a day and a half.” Mr. Meinert operated the Resort for many years, and died in 1945. The following year, 1946, Mrs. Meinert sold their interest in the Resort to William Jacobs of Lewiston.

For more information, please contact Anthony Botello, Recreation Program Leader (208) 983-4012 or Ralph Rau, Deputy Forest Supervisor at (208) 983-7017.

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