



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



United States  
Department of Agriculture

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 25, 2008**

**Contact: Jennifer Stephenson  
(208) 983-4049**

**Labor Day Weekend Activities On Public Lands**

**Grangeville, Idaho:** Fire activity has been light in the Grangeville, Riggins, Elk City and Selway areas which make it the perfect year to enjoy your National Forests for the last holiday weekend of the summer. Consider taking a drive in one of the varied areas of the Nez Perce National Forest.

There are some adventurous drives located on the Red River / Elk City Districts. Forest Road 222 to Mackay Bar is open. Trailers are not recommended on this gravel road; it is very steep with tight switch-backs. Another option is the 62-mile Gold Rush Loop from Crooked River to Dixie. A brochure describing this loop is available at the Nez Perce Headquarters and the Elk City Ranger Station. The Limber Luke Forest Road 443 to Iron Mountain and Elk City is a good gravel road. Access to the Magruder Road on the Idaho side between 14 Mile and just east of Granite Springs is closed due to fire activity. Terry Nevius said "Forest Management staff is considering opening Magruder Road prior to the weekend." The Magruder Road is open on the Montana side from the West Fork Ranger Station.

The Elk City Wagon Road is an excellent way to see the northern portion of the forest traveling from Highway 14 to Newsome, Clearwater and Harpster. A brochure is available for this tour at forest offices or at the website listed below. Further south, Forest Road 444 takes you deep into the Gospel Hump Wilderness. There is only a short window of opportunity between snowfalls to visit this beautiful portion of the forest. Most of the area trails have been cleared for the season; however, some trails on the north side of the wilderness may still have downed trees blocking the route. This includes Moores Creek, Gospel Creek and Square Mountain Trail.

The Coolwater and Fog Mountain Roads on the Selway District are open for use. Indian Hill road is closed at this time, but work is expected to be completed prior to the holiday weekend. If you plan to travel the Indian Hill road, please call the Fenn Ranger Station at (208) 926-4258, Monday – Friday, 7:30 – 4:00 for an update. The Falls Point Road is open to motorcycles and all terrain vehicles.

All campgrounds on the Selway River will be open and ready for visitors. Fees are charged at some of these campgrounds. Fee campgrounds, Fish Creek, Castle Creek and South Fork on the Clearwater Ranger District, have hosts to provide service to campers. Spring Bar campground on the Salmon River District also has a host. Free camping is available on the Red River District at Newsome and Crooked River.

Forest officers are still finding smoldering campfires this year. Some have been close calls, having jumped their fire ring and burned near by logs. Please use extreme caution when leaving campfires. Make sure they are dead out by drowning with lots of water.

For more information, contact the Nez Perce National Forest Headquarters at (208) 983-1950 or our web page at [www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce) . For fire information and area closures go to [www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc/newsrelease.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/gvc/newsrelease.htm)

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