



**Nez Perce National Forest
Prescribed Burning – Spring 2004**

By Laura Smith, Public Affairs Specialist
April 1, 2004

The Nez Perce Forest's Red River Ranger District fire staff accomplished the 4,630-acre Elkhorn-Jersey prescribed burn in two days. The burn was conducted in the Salmon River Canyon between Painter Bar and Mackay Bar in the mountainous area east of Grangeville, Idaho. Weather and environmental conditions were very favorable on March 29 and 30 to treat natural fuels to meet resource objectives. The burn was accomplished by dispensing ignited fuel-filled plastic spheres from a helicopter. Pretreatment consisted of hand-lighting small fires along the western perimeter before the aerial ignition began.



Photo by Tim Button, FMO

The fire staff on the Clearwater Ranger District also took advantage of the excellent burning conditions on March 29 and 30 to accomplish approximately 1,000 acres of fuels treatment along the South Fork of the Clearwater River in the Castle Creek drainage. The purpose of this burning was to reduce hazardous fuel accumulations, maintain open stands, and restore fire to its natural role as a disturbance pattern to the ecosystem.