



NEWS

From the Nez Perce National Historic Trail
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Public Meetings Planned to Update and Revise the Comprehensive Plan for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail

MISSOULA, MT – In September and October, the U.S. Forest Service Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) staff will host a number of public meetings across the length of the NPNHT.

These meeting will focus on obtaining specific input and comments on Proposed Objectives, Practices and Program Guidelines that will result in a revision of the Comprehensive Plan (CP) for the NPNHT.

The next session in this series of public meetings is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2014, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. MDT at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lewistown Field Office located at 920 NE Main St., Lewistown, MT.

This meeting will be hosted by staff from the BLM and the NPNHT.

On October 6, 1986, Congress amended the National Trails System Act (NTSA) of 1968 to include the 1,170 mile NPNHT. The NPNHT includes a designated corridor encompassing 4,161 miles of roads, trails and routes. The Regional Forester of the Northern Region is delegated the responsibility from the Chief of the Forest Service for the day to day administration of the NPNHT. The Chief of the Forest Service is the deciding official for the NPNHT CP revision.

The 1990 CP for the NPNHT successfully established the start-up of the Trail which was the major focus for the plan at that time. The revision is needed because many current issues along the Trail did not exist in 1990. These issues include energy, housing, and infrastructure development near and within the NPNHT corridor. The CP revision will provide increased consistency and cooperation with organizations and individuals. A revised CP will enhance compliance with the requirements of the NTSA and provides guidance in achieving nature and purposes of desired future conditions for the NPNHT.

The NPNHT commemorates the 1877 Flight of the non-treaty Nez Perce from their homelands while being pursued by the U.S. Army under the command of General Oliver Otis Howard. The journey of the Nez Perce from their homelands is one of the most fascinating and sorrowful events in U.S. history. The Nez Perce Chiefs saw flight to Canada as their last hope for peace. Their desperate and circuitous route is today called the [Nez Perce \(Nee-Me-Poo\) National Historic Trail](#). It stretches from Wallowa Lake, OR, to the Bear Paw Mountains near Chinook, MT.

The Trail was also a prehistoric travel corridor for a number of tribes traveling from the Pacific Northwest to the buffalo hunting grounds on the Great Plains. NPNHT passes through a great many traditional tribal homelands. There is a great deal of interest in the Trail from both tribal and historical perspectives.

For additional information please visit the NPNHT CP Revision website at: www.fs.usda.gov/npnht/. This website provides more information about the NPNHT, the process for the revision of the CP, a schedule of upcoming public meetings, an additional means to provide written comment if people are unable to attend one of the scheduled meetings.

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