



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail *Progress Report* Summer 2015



Administrator's Corner

Greetings,

Trail Fit? Are you up for the challenge? A trail hike or run can provide unique health results that cannot be achieved indoors on a treadmill while staring at a wall or television screen. Many people know instinctively that a walk on a trail in the woods will also clear the mind.

There is a new generation that is already part of the fitness movement and eager for outdoor adventure of hiking, cycling, and horseback riding—yes horseback riding is exercise not only for the horse, but also the rider. We are encouraging people to get out on the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and Auto Tour Route to enjoy the many health benefits it has to offer.



U.S. Forest Service Photo

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland

Remember to hydrate during these hot summer months.

The NPNHT and Auto Tour Route is ripe for exploration! There are many captivating places and enthralling landscapes. Taking either journey - the whole route or sections, one will find unique and authentic places like nowhere else. Wherever one goes along the Trail or Auto Tour Route, they will encounter moments that will be forever etched in their memory. It is a journey of discovery. The Trail not only provides alternative routes to destinations throughout the trail corridor, they are destinations in themselves, each with a unique personality. This is one way that we can connect people to place across time. We hope you explore the trail system as it provides opportunities for bicycling, walking, hiking, running, skiing, horseback riding, kayaking, canoeing, and other activities.

We hope that all will enjoy all our fantastic Trail has to offer. While enjoying your experience, please be safe and courteous to all trail users.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,
Administrator, NPNHT

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."
—John Muir



NPNHT Visitor Passport Stamp Now Available at a Dozen Locations

In 2011, staff from the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) and other visitor locations along the NPNHT noticed a growing trend. More and more visitors are seeking “Passport Stamp” cancellations for National Parks, National Forests, National Monuments, and National Historic Trails they have visited.

In 2012 the first of several NPNHT Passport Stamps were placed at visitor centers along the Trail. The stamp displays the NPNHT logo, and has the location of the facility where the stamp was obtained and rotating date wheel, so visitors will know the date when they visited that site.

This spring three new locations were added to the list of facilities hosting stamps. Those sites include, Buffalo Bill Cody Dam Visitor Center, Mesa Falls, Visitor Center, and Pompeys Pillar National Monument. This brings the total number of locations where visitors can obtain an NPNHT Passport Stamp to an even dozen. A full list of stamp locations is displayed below.

If your visitor facility is located along the NPNHT, and you have more than 5,000 visitors a year, the NPNHT staff can have a NPNHT Passport Stamp produced for your location. If your location currently has a stamp and you need any assistance, just let us know.

If you are interested in obtaining a stamp, please contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT at mpeterson@fs.fed.us or (406) 329-3540.



Pompeys Pillar visitor stamps their passport book.

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT

- ✦ Joseph, OR: U.S. Forest Service Office
- ✦ Spalding, ID: NPS, Nez Perce National Historical Park Visitor Center
- ✦ Orofino, ID: U.S. Forest Service Office
- ✦ Lolo Pass, ID: U.S. Forest Service Visitor Center
- ✦ Hamilton, MT: Ravalli County Museum
- ✦ Wisdom, MT: NPS, Big Hole National Battlefield Visitor Center
- ✦ Island Park, ID: U.S. Forest Service, Mesa Falls, Visitor Center
- ✦ West Yellowstone, MT: Interagency Visitor Information Center
- ✦ Cody, WY: Bureau of Reclamation, Buffalo Bill Cody Dam Visitor Center
- ✦ Billings, MT: BLM, Pompeys Pillar National Monument
- ✦ Chinook, MT: Blaine County Museum
- ✦ Fort Benton, MT: BLM, Upper Missouri River Breaks Interpretive Center



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail “Landscape of History” Video a Favorite on USDA YouTube

This beautifully produced video takes you on the 1,170-mile journey of the Nez Perce in 1877. It highlights the need to preserve and interpret this landscape of history.

Length: 20 minutes

Since the video was uploaded to the USDA YouTube site in 2012 it has been viewed more than 13,000 times.

This make it one of the **TOP 15 videos** viewed on the USDA YouTube channel.

View Landscape of History by [following this link](#).



Confluence Listening Circle Dedicated at Chief Timothy Park

Photo courtesy of Joyce McFarland



On Friday May 29, 2015, more than 200 friends of [Confluence](#) gathered at 10 a.m. PDT at Chief Timothy Park, west of Clarkston, WA, to dedicate the Confluence Listening Circle designed by celebrated artist Maya Lin.

The Circle is a stone rimmed earthwork of basalt, a “listening circle” sculpted out of a natural amphitheater built into the landscape at the top of an island at the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake Rivers in Washington State. This was inspired by a spring Nez Perce blessing ceremony at this site in 2005.

It was moving to see the same elders who led that ceremony return to celebrate the completion of the project ten years later. The dedication included Nez Perce elders, leaders, drummers and horse riders from the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club, state and local leaders, Lewis and Clark Trekkies

L-R Angel and Gloria Sobota at the dedication.

and Confluence supporters. The group gathered to share in this experience of celebrating a major milestone in this series of six confluence sites that have installed art along the Columbia River system-connecting people to place through art and education.

The site, which is located just west of Clarkston, WA, can be found by following the NPNHT Auto Tour Route.

Of all the confluence sites, this park near the gateway to Hell’s Canyon looks the most like what Lewis and Clark observed on their journey.

“The hills of the river are high and approach it nearly on both sides. No timber in the plains...” Meriwether Lewis, May 4, 1806

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT

About Tread Lightly!

Tread Lightly! is celebrating its 25th anniversary as a national nonprofit organization in October 2015. Founded in 1990 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, Tread Lightly! promotes responsible outdoor recreation through ethics education and stewardship programs.



Tread Lightly! has more than 70 official partners from various industries and is likely the nation’s only non-profit holding MOUs with every federal and state agency in the U.S. Tread Lightly!’s diverse member base enjoys a wide range of outdoor activities including hunting, angling, camping, boating, biking, four-wheeling, and much more.

Become a Tread Lightly! partner or member. We are a proud member and partner of Tread Lightly! Help us in supporting access, education and stewardship by visiting their website at: www.treadlightly.org.



Public Encouraged to Submit Challenge Cost Share Applications for Nez Perce National Historic Trail Projects

The public is encouraged to propose projects designed to improve and enhance the visitor's experience along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT). The submitted projects will be considered for the 2016 project year funding. Project funding is made available through funds designated to administer the NPNHT. Completed applications must be post marked by October 1, 2015.

The purpose of the Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) is to increase participation by qualified partners in the preservation and improvement of federally managed natural, cultural, and recreational resources; in all authorized programs and activities; on the NPNHT and the Auto Tour Route.

The Forest Service and partners should work together on CCSP projects with mutually beneficial and shared outcomes.

The CCSP is a matching fund program. An equal amount of eligible and matching share (50% preferred) of cash, goods, or services from non-federal sources is necessary. Currently, the maximum CCSP award is \$30,000. Projects selected should generally be able to be completed within one year.

A list of 2015 NPNHT Challenge Cost share recipients can be found in the Trail's [Spring 2015 Progress Report](#).

Project application forms and instructions for completing the application are available at the Nez Perce National Historic Trail website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/partners> or from the Administrator of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, located at the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest office in Orofino, ID.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their forms electronically. E-mail applications to Sandra Broncheau-McFarland at npnht@fs.fed.us. Proposals may also be mailed to: NPNHT Administrator, 12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544.

For additional information applicants may contact Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator NPNHT at (208) 476-8334.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT and Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT

Hiking 101: Hiking Etiquette

It is important to remember to be respectful to the land and towards other hikers. Following a few unwritten rules can help make your hike and the hike for others more pleasant. Among some commonly observed practices are:



- * Hike quietly. Speak in low voices and turn your cell phone down, if not off. Enjoy the sounds of nature and let others do the same.
- * Don't toss your trash - not even biodegradable items such as banana peels. It is not good for animals to eat non-native foods and who wants to look at your old banana peel while it ever-so-slowly decomposes? If you packed it in, pack it back out.
- * Hikers going downhill yield to those hiking uphill.
- * When bringing a pet on a hike, be sure to keep it on a leash and under control. Don't forget to pack out pet waste as well.
- * Don't feed the wildlife. While many animals stay hidden, others are not so shy. Giving these creatures food only disrupts their natural foraging habits.
- * When relieving yourself outdoors, be sure to do so 200 feet away from the trail and any water sources. Follow [Leave No Trace](#) principles.
- * Walk through the mud or puddle and not around it, unless you can do so without going off the trail. Widening a trail by going around puddles, etc. is bad for trail sustainability. Just because it looks easy to cut the corner off of a switchback doesn't mean it is a good idea. Help preserve the trail by staying on the trail.

Information Provided by the American Hiking Society



Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Tear Sheet Map Well Received

The NEW Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) visitor tear sheet has been very well received. Trail staff produced a small quantity this past winter as a test. Most of that first run has been distributed to visitor facilities along the NPNHT.

The NPNHT is printing additional copies which will be available in August. If any locations need more or other locations want a supply please let us know and we'll send them to your location.

For several years the NPNHT had distributed a map printed using a sepia tone/parchment style.

After speaking with a number of visitor locations along the NPNHT this past year we have reformatted this product. We have kept the map on one side but on the back included information about the NPNHT, including contact information and how to access the NPNHT Auto Tour brochures.

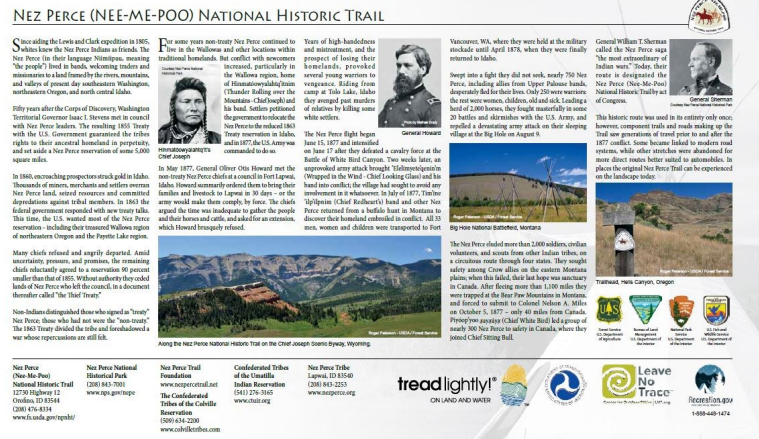
The map is now available as an 8.5 x 14 "tear sheet" style visitor handout. This product consists of pads, with 50 sheets per pad.

If you would like copies, please contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT, at (406) 329-3540 or rmpeterson@fs.fed.us.

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT



Front



Back

UPCOMING Events:



- August 8, 2015 — Big Hole Battle Memorial, Wisdom, MT
- August 13-16, 2015 — Omak Stampede and Pow Wow, Omak, WA
- August 14-16, 2015 — Chief Looking Glass Days, Kamiah, ID
- September 26, 2015 — National Public Lands Day (fees waived at National Public Lands Agencies)
- October 3, 2015 — Bear Paw Memorial, Chinook, MT
- October 16-18, 2015 — Hiitem Waq'iswit Pow Wow, Lapwai, ID
- November 2015 — Native American Heritage Month
- November 6-7, 2015 — Veterans Day Pow Wow, Nespelem, WA
- November 11, 2015 — Veterans Day Weekend (fees waived at National Public Lands Agencies)
- November 13, 2015 — Young Nations Pow Wow, Lapwai, ID



Educator's Summit Participants Visit Nez Perce Crossing Site at Dug Bar



Photo courtesy of Joyce McFarland

NERS Teachers at Dug Bar in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

On July 16, 2015, the Nez Perce Education Department coordinated a Snake River boat tour for their 3rd annual Native Education Research Summit (NERS). This event is an initiative of the Nez Perce State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) project. The goal of STEP is to improve academic achievement of tribal students by meeting their unique educational and cultural needs. Increasing teacher and school administrator's knowledge and skills related to use of culturally-responsive curriculum, instruction, environment, family engagement, and leadership is targeted.

Forty-eight (48) people traveled from Hells Gate State Park, ID, to Dug Bar, OR, on the first day of the summit. Participants were from Kamiah and Lapwai school districts, Idaho State Department of Education, Nez Perce Education Department, and STEP grantees from Cheyenne-Arapaho, in Oklahoma, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservations [CTUIR] from Oregon, and Navajo tribes from New Mexico.

At the 2014 Summit, the NERS participants traveled to White Bird Battlefield on June 17 to hear the tribal perspective on the events in 1877. Otis Halfmoon, National Park Service Tribal Liaison, and Wilfred Scott, Nez Perce Veterans, were featured presenters. The teachers requested more field trips and presentations delivered by tribal members, so the 2015 NERS included the trip to Dug Bar. Although many local school staff live and work on or near the reservation, they may not fully know the significance of cultural and historical sites in the Nez Perce homeland.

At Dug Bar on June 16, Pete and Bessie Wilson sang honor songs for the Wallowa band people that crossed the river in 1877. Joyce McFarland, Education Manager, gave a brief history of the events at Dug Bar in 1877. This was just a prelude to the featured speaker on the Nez Perce War of 1877, Otis Halfmoon. He gave a riveting talk about Dug Bar (1877) and the Nez Perce trail at the concluding Summit lunch on June 18.

Joyce McFarland Director, Students for Success, Nez Perce Tribe

Be Safe in Your Travels

The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this Summer to be a safe one.

Please take a few minutes to review the Trail's Safety and Ethics Website before you begin your journey:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/ethics>

Also check weather reports and call ahead for road conditions at 511.

There are links to a number of [webcams](#) from the NPNHT website.

The NPNHT Auto Tour Route includes a variety of road surfaces (paved, gravel, and dirt). Please be sure to consult a map before embarking on your NPNHT trip.

Many locations along all Auto Tour routes may not have cell phone coverage.

Remember to: Pay attention to wildlife awareness signs along roadways and always drive the posted speed limit.



A New Era of Partnership for the Nez Perce and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails

The U.S. Forest Service Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic (NPNHT) Trail approved a Challenge Grant Cost Share agreement with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation to promote a better public understanding of the shared portions of both National Historic trails, the Nez Perce people, and their history.

“Given that the trails share routes or cross in several locations and the fact that Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark stories are connected in many ways this partnership is a great opportunity to share our stories,” said Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT.

Beginning this summer, the four-year public information and routing program will distribute a new brochure, route maps and digital internet content promoting the historic sites, museums and parks for both trails to visitors in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

“With federal cuts and limited budgets, it makes good financial sense to partner on projects and promote each other” said Lindy Hatcher, Executive Director of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. “Visitors on the Lewis and Clark Trail today can be visitors on the Nez Perce Trail tomorrow and vice versa” Hatcher said.

Beginning this summer a new “Exploring the Lewis and Clark Trail” brochure which includes Nez Perce Trail museums, parks and attractions is being distributed to visitors at high-traffic highway Welcome Centers, museums, state and national parks and communities in the four-state region. Nez Perce National Historic Trail historic sites and museums are also featured in the Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington section of the www.lewisandclarkcountry.org website.

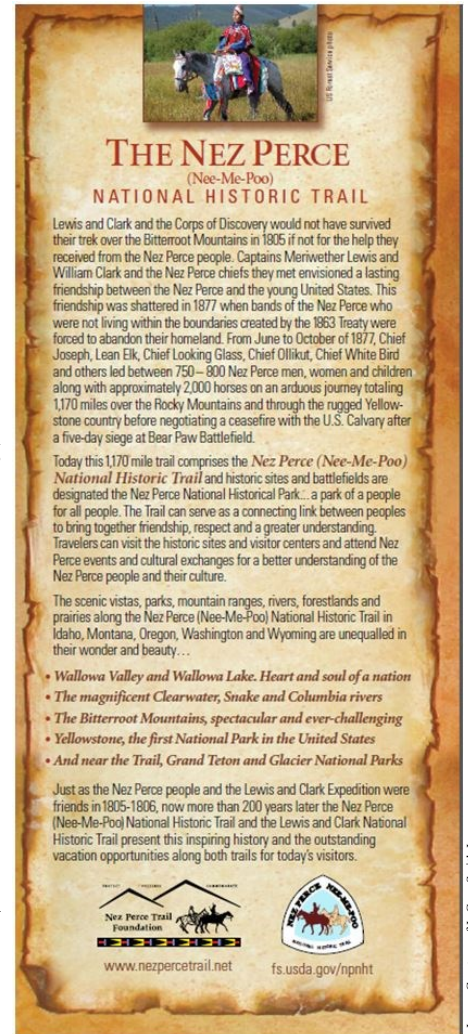


Image Courtesy of J. Greg Smith Inc.

If your facility does not have copies of this new brochure please contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT, at (406) 329-3540 or rmpterson@fs.fed.us.



Image Courtesy of J. Greg Smith Inc.

Future plans call for auto vacation route maps to be developed to help guide more visitors to Nez Perce Visitor Centers, museums and historic sites.

This program is anticipated to renew the tradition of friendship between peoples first established by the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805. As Mark Weekley, National Park Service Superintendent for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail said, “we believe it will be mutually beneficial for both trails to partner together in this public information, interpretation and way-finding program.”

Jeff Smith Vice President, Media Services, J. Greg Smith Inc.



Making the National Trails System through Partnerships

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) connects member nonprofit trail organizations and federal agency partners to further the protection, completion, and stewardship of the 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails within the National Trails System ([NTS](#)). The network of scenic and historic, and recreation trails were created by the National Trails System Act of 1968 as amended.

The U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service jointly undertook the study in cooperation with tribes and affected Federal, State, and local governments, and individuals to determine if the trail was qualified for inclusion in to the NTS as a National Historic Trail. The study determined the 1,170 mile route be designated by Congress as the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) in 1986.

The NTS offers the American public a tremendous variety of recreation, preservation, fitness, and heritage opportunities that serve to promote the enjoyment, appreciation, and preservation of outdoor areas and historic resources, and encourage public access and involvement. National Trails are designated by Congress for the crucial role each trail plays for re-tracing American history in celebrating and commemorating the diverse natural beauty of the United States. The NTS links historic sites, wildlife refuges, national parks, national forests, wilderness areas, and other public and tribal lands with communities, and it provides a unique corridor for environmental and historical preservation of the NPNHT. Building, maintaining, and interpreting the NPNHT thus requires complex collaboration between Tribes, federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and private landowners.

The NPNHT is one of the 19 current National Historic Trails, “follows as closely as possible and practicable the original trails or routes of travel of national historical significance.” Along with the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, Bureau of Land management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Bureau of Reclamation play key roles in administering and managing the NPNHT and Auto Tour Route working in concert with the Federal Highway Administration for the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

We encourage everyone to get involved and learn how you can volunteer and join our partner the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. Contact them on the web at: www.nezperce-trail.net

The NPNHT staff continues to receive written comments from the public on our [Comprehensive Plan \(CP\) revision](#). The staff encourages all people to comment over the next couple years. Comments can be sent via e-mail at npnht-CMP-rev@fs.fed.us or by postal service to Julie Molzahn, NPNHT CP Team, U.S. Forest Service Northern Region, PO Box 429, Plains, MT 59859.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT



The new U.S. Congress has a Trails Caucus! The mission of the Caucus is to provide a forum for members of Congress to work together for creation and conservation of our natural landscape and recreation activities through the preservation of trails. The co-chairs (for whom we are very grateful and who deserve our applause) that includes our NPNHT are Representative Blumenauer (D-OR) and others; Fortenberry (R-NE), Nolan (D-MN), and Graves (R-GA).



2015 International Trails Symposium “Solutions for Success”



U.S. Forest Service Photo

American Trails once again wowed the trails community with the Symposium held May 17-20, 2015, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, OR. This year’s theme, “Solutions for Success,” explored the numerous pathways to success for all types of trails, from cities to backcountry: solutions for health, solutions for the future, solutions for design, solutions for sustainability and much more.

American Trails showcased their theme through an expanded partnership with the Professional Trail Builders Association by offering a series of cutting-edge educational sessions, as well as hands on workshops.

An underlying theme of the entire symposium was the social and health benefits which trails provide to many communities, including the economic health which trails bring to communities through tourism. A shining example of the health benefits of the National Trails System and other regional trails was showcased in programs which are assisting our veterans returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of the programs helping these veterans include, [Warrior Hike](#), [Ride2Recovery](#), and Horse Therapy programs including the one featured in www.ridingmywayback.com.

They were also a partner of the World Trails Network which is important to link organizations in support of trails around the world sharing information on sustainable development of trails and tourism and improving world economies.

Pam Gluck, Executive Director, American Trails, calls this effort, “Trails without Borders,” she commented, “we believe that our current efforts to find common ground among advocates across the country and around the globe are essential.”

This year was the most diverse yet as 16 Emerging Leaders (ages 19-25) from all over the world including Russia, Nicaragua, Ghana and Canada participated in the 2nd year of the program which provides training and mentoring to inspire young people to choose a career path in trails.

The Symposium had 40 presenters, and 17 countries for the international attendance and plus the District of Columbia. Our very own Jonathan Stephens, U.S. Forest Service Program Manager-Trails and Congressionally Designated Areas sat on a panel titled, “Designing the Future of the National Trails System: How Can We Meet the Challenges for the System in the Next 50 Years?” Janet Zeller, Forest Service National Accessibility Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service presented an Introduction for Sustainable Trails for All; Trail Accessibility Guidelines. James, “Scott” Groenier, Project Leader-National Technology and Development Program, U.S. Forest Service presented on How to Use Forest Service Trail Plans and Specifications: Speeding Up the Process.

The NPNHT Administration (Roger Peterson and Sandra Broncheau-McFarland) staffed the U.S. Forest Service booth at the Symposium and passed out literature about the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail. We also participated in the U.S. Forest Service meeting held on Wednesday, May 20 providing a forum to network and share ideas and helpful tips with our colleagues. *(Photo above)*

We also took advantage of our time in the Portland/Vancouver area to meet with several existing partners and new partners. On Thursday we met with partners from the [Nez Perce Trail Foundation](#), [Fort Vancouver National Historic Site](#), [Clark County Historical Society](#) and The [Confluence](#). Friday included meetings with the [Oregon Historical Society](#), and the [Multnomah County Library](#).



U.S. Forest Service Photo

L-R, Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator NPNHT, Greg Shine, Chief Ranger & Historian at Fort Vancouver, and Roger Peterson Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT.

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT and Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT



News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation



Thanks to YOU,



I cannot express enough gratitude to those who “dug deep” to help the Nez Perce Trail Foundation reach it’s fundraising goal to provide the Memorial Tote Bags for the “Women Warriors of the Wallowa Band.” I have come to know more of you better by your generosity and your devotion to our efforts and endeavors. Some of you gave a lot, some of you a little, but the important thing is that you rose to the occasion when I needed you. I offer you my sincerest appreciation and personal promise to continue the “journey” of protecting, preserving, and commemorating the Nez Perce Trail.

A special Memorial Ceremony was conducted on Saturday morning, July 18, 2015 at Tamkaliks to honor the “Women Warriors of the Wallowa Band.” Each descendant was presented with a beautifully designed red Tote Bag, filled with symbolic items and gifts.



qe'ciye'w'yew

Karen Heagen, Executive Secretary NPTF





News From the National Park Service: Nez Perce National Historical Park

On May 15, 2015, the Nez Perce National Historical Park celebrated its 50th Anniversary by sharing cake and lemonade with Park dignitaries, past employees and tribal members on the back patio of the Visitor Center. A highlight of this event was the presentation of the new Pendleton blanket

commissioned for the anniversary to Vivian Burns, wife of first Park Superintendent Robert Burns.

The party continued the next day with the return of “Culture Day” in the picnic area of the Park. Starting with speakers in the morning, horse parade after lunch, followed by a small Pow Wow. The day was rounded out with a stick game (traditional gambling) demonstration. Everyone had plenty to eat and see with all the various vendors on site. Culture Day was a popular event in the 80’s and proved to be a big hit this year as well.

The anniversary celebration has been ongoing since the first of the year, with the “50 Years as a National Park” speaker series happening the third Saturday of every month at the Spaulding Visitor Center. These presentations will continue through the



Image Courtesy of the National Park Service

Horse Parade during 50th event on May 15, 2015.

remainder of the year.

Nuunimníx, Our Very Own

As part of the year-long celebration, marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Nez Perce National Historical Park the Park reached out to Nez Perce artists to celebrate Nez Percés and Nez Perce descendants who make traditional items for family, friends and loved ones. The word Nuunimníx, translated from Nimiiputimt, means our very own. The Nuunimníx exhibition debuted at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph, OR, during May, 2015. On Thursday, August 27, Nuunimníx will open at the Lewis-Clark State College Center for Arts and History in Lewiston, ID, and will run until December 21, 2015. Featuring more than forty artists, the exhibition celebrates Nez Perce culture, the things Nez Percés make as a part of their cultural identity and the teachers of the skills and traditions that sustain Nez Perce culture. Much more than art pieces, the exhibition’s dresses, woven bags, shawls, baskets, headdresses, dance staffs, gun cases are simply part of what you do if you are Nez Perce. Community partners in the show include the Nez Perce Tribe, the Clearwater River Casino, the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture, and Lewis-Clark State College. A hardcover catalog of the items in the show and the stories of each creator and the story underlying the items selected for the exhibition will also be available in September, 2015. In 2016 the show will move to the Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane, WA, as part of the Park’s 2016 National Park Service centennial celebration.

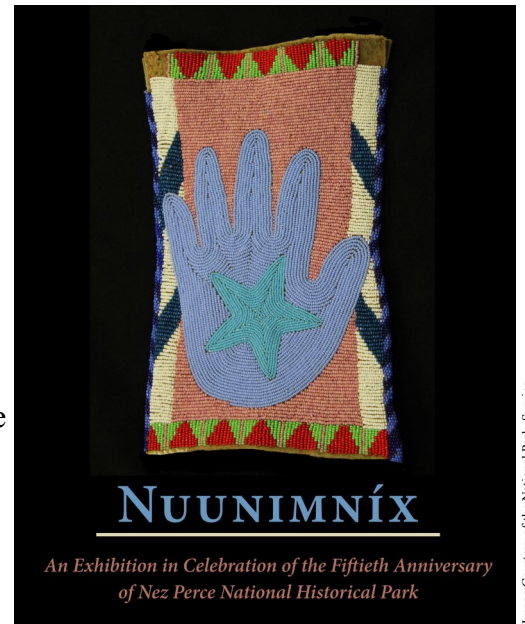


Image Courtesy of the National Park Service

There is plenty left this year to join us to celebrate the Nez Perce National Historical Park’s 50th Anniversary.

Vivian Wilson Park Ranger, and Beth Erdey, Park Archivist Nez Perce National Historical Park

The Staff of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) would like to acknowledge Marc Blackburn for his service. Marc has been a key partner to the NPNHT during his 13 years working at Nez Perce National Historical Park. He has provided input on a number of NPNHT interpretive signs and brochures, provided information for the NPNHT’s quarterly Progress Reports, chaired the NPNHT’s Interagency Challenge Cost Share review panel and shared information about the Niimiipuu people and the NPNHT with of thousands of people. Marc left Nez Perce Park this spring for a new position at Mount Rainier National Park. Best wishes Marc!





News From the National Park Service: Big Hole National Battlefield

Summer is in full swing at the Battlefield and we have a lot to offer those visiting the Park. On the weekends from June 27 – August 16, we have our annual Summer Speaker Series. This entails a new speaker every weekend with presentations at noon and 3 p.m. at the Visitor Center on both Saturday and Sunday. There are some exceptions to this time schedule so we do encourage you to either visit our [website](#) or contact the Park directly at (406) 689-3155 to confirm. This year’s lineup includes Priscilla Arthur, Pete Wilson, Bob Brown, Leroy Seth, Silas Whitman, Naomi Wood, Donald Safford, Mike Penney, Nez Nation Drum, the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club, and Suze Havener. We will also have daily programs which include tipi set up and take down, ranger led deck talks and a ranger led tour of the Battlefield. These programs are free to the public, so feel free to stop by and enjoy the Park and what it has to offer.

Reflecting back, we also had a very busy spring. This year was our 6th year of Coyote Camp and we were able to host almost 800 students during the week of May 18 – 22. We had nine different stations which included both historical and cultural presentations. We had more volunteers than ever before and received a lot of positive feedback. We look forward to offering it again in May 2016.

As stated in the previous report, Steve Black our former Superintendent accepted a position in Alabama and is currently the Superintendent at Little River Canyon National Preserve and Russell Cave National Monument. Steve accomplished a lot in the six years he was here at the Park and his legacy will continue far into the future. Since his departure, the Superintendent position has been reclassified as a Supervisory Ranger/Montana Unit Manager. The position will include the



Students participating in the annual Coyote Camp. They are scraping a buffalo hide.

same responsibilities, just a new title. We hope to have the position filled soon and we expect to introduce that person in the next report.

This year also marks our 138th commemoration of the Battle. The annual memorial of the Battle will be August 8, 2015. The Lapwai Idaho Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), tribal elders and tribal families traditionally come to the battlefield to honor all who have fought and died in the Battle through sacred pipe and an empty saddle ceremony. The Commemorative activities will begin at approximately 10 a.m. near the Nez Perce Camp. Bring a folding chair or blanket for seating. Also, it is recommended for all to bring along water and sunscreen. A ¾ mile walk from the lower parking lot will get you into the Nez Perce Camp area of the battlefield. A shuttle van will be available to assist those with small children and/or walking limitations. Once the ceremonies are completed in the Nez Perce Camp there will be a presentation provided by the Appaloosa Horse Club, followed by a presentation by Mike Penney and Nez Perce Nation Drum. The public is welcome to join us during this special day.



Nez Perce Big Hole Memorial.

Mandi Wick, Lead Ranger, Big Hole National Battlefield





News From the Forest Service: Lolo National Forest

Operational Changes at Fort Fizzle

The Missoula Ranger District recently made changes at the Fort Fizzle Day Use Site located five miles west of Lolo, MT, along US Highway 12, and along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail.

Changes included the site's season of operation, installation of one gate at the east entrance, and removal of asphalt and re-vegetation to close the west entrance.

In the past, Fort Fizzle was open year round. Beginning this Labor Day, the season of operation for Fort Fizzle will be from Memorial Day to Labor Day. It will be closed during the low-use winter months.

Work completed this spring was done to reduce impacts from vandalism, off-road driving, trash dumping, and speeding vehicles. Public access to the site is now available using the east entrance only.

Fort Fizzle is primarily a historic site but does have restroom facilities and picnic tables. The most common use by the general public is for short "rest stops," picnicking, learning about historic events that occurred on this site, and use of restroom facilities.



West entrance decommissioned at Fort Fizzle.

Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service Photo

The need to modify use at Fort Fizzle is driven by a need for creating a safer, more appropriate use at the site, and also to commit limited personnel and resources in areas needed most -- at the district's high use recreation sites. The Missoula Ranger District must adapt to declining staffing and capacity while trying to maintain existing recreation facilities and infrastructures at the high standard both the public and the district desires. The District is seeking to strike a reasonable balance with limited resources.

The District also plans to replace logs on the replica "entrenchments" located near the west end of the site. The logs have naturally decayed since they were placed at the site many years ago.



Recent road decommissioning work accomplished at Fort Fizzle.

Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service Photo

Lolo National Forest Staff





News From the Forest Service:

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest—Lolo Pass Visitor Center

The Lolo Pass Visitor Center switched to summer hours on June 1. The visitor center is now open 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. PDT, daily.

Lolo Pass Visitor Center and Discover Your Northwest hosted the 8th annual Mountain to Meadow Fun Run in late June, offering a half-marathon, 10K and 5K run. A total of 224 participants (as well as a number of canine companions) made their way by foot from the Visitor Center along one of the three mapped routes. The courses took participants past historically significant sites along the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails. The race was a huge success with the help of many volunteers and staff.

The Travelers Rest Brigade made an appearance at the fun run, dressed in historical costume, providing information to visitors on the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Expedition. They will return to the Visitor Center on August 1, for a show and tell activity.

The staff at Lolo Pass Visitor Center is working to establish interpretive walks and indoor programs at the Visitor Center for the summer season. These include Nez Perce and other history, tree and plant identification, and general ecology. The staff of the Visitor Center was fortunate to have Diane Mallickan visit in July to provide Nez Perce interpretive training. Diane is Nez Perce and Shoshone-Pauite, and worked as a Park Ranger for more than twenty years at the Nez Perce National Historical Park in Spalding, ID.

The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) seeks to educate the public about the Trail and the general history of the Nez Perce. Every year the U.S. Forest Service and the NPNHT work together on a cost share program to facilitate these efforts. The U.S. Forest Service requires a nonprofit organization to partner with in order to achieve the cost share, leading to a partnership between them and Discover Your Northwest, a NGO based out of Seattle, WA. With the



Image Courtesy of Andrew Cemalisky, Montana Conservation Corp

A beautiful summer day at Lolo Pass.

partnership achieved at the Lolo Pass Visitor Center, they were able to seek out someone to take on the position at the Visitor Center to educate the public about Native American history and the NPNHT.

Avery Old Coyote, 27, of St. Ignatius, MT, became an employee at the Pass and is currently working on interpretation programs to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the public of not only Nez Perce, but of the diversity of tribes based throughout the country. Avery is both Salish and Crow, giving him personal experience of the culture and outstanding knowledge on the local area and tribes. *Please read the profile of Avery on page 16.*

Anna Bengtson, Acting Manager, Lolo Pass Visitor Center



Image Courtesy of Andrew Cemalisky, Montana Conservation Corp

8th Annual Mountain-to-Meadow Half Marathon.



New Faces Along the Trail:

Brandon Knapton is new Lochsa/Powell District Ranger



On August 3, Brandon Knapton will arrive on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests from the Bureau of Land Management in Southern Idaho, where over the past seven years he has worked closely with management, staff, and a multitude of programs as a Resource Coordinator on the 4.4 million acre Boise District.

Knapton earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Idaho in 2001 from the College of Natural Resources in Wildlife Resources, with course work emphasis in statistics and rangeland ecology.

Knapton began his pursuit of a natural resources management career by volunteering when he was a sophomore in high school. His pursuit has included positions in Glacier National Park, SW Wyoming, Eastern Oregon, and even here in North Central Idaho for University Researchers and Idaho Fish and Game.

As our new District Ranger on the Lochsa/Powell Ranger District, Brandon brings his abilities in executing a diverse program of work to accomplish broad landscape management goals, and his skills in getting work done through partnerships and collaboration.

Knapton, his wife Melissa, and their two daughters Madelynn and Emma, are excited to join our community and partake in all of the great outdoor opportunities that our area has to offer.

Andrew Skowlund Named North Fork District Ranger

Andrew Skowlund comes to the North Fork Ranger District of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests from the Klamath National Forest in Northern California. Andrew starts as the new district ranger on August 3.

Skowlund has spent the past two years as the Deputy District Ranger on the Salmon-Scott River Ranger District. Prior to the Klamath, Andrew worked on the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico and the Superior National Forest in Minnesota.

Andrew completed his master's degree in natural resource economics and environmental policy at the University of Washington and completed research on creating incentives for farmers to convert riparian crop-lands into working forests. Before attending graduate school, he worked in several capacities as a regulatory program manager, legislative coordinator, and field forester in the Forest Practices Division of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Prior to moving to Washington, Skowlund served as an agro-forestry volunteer for the Peace Corps in Paraguay. While living in Guaira, Paraguay, he worked with rural farmers and families on reforestation and sustainable agriculture projects. Reflecting on his Peace Corps service Skowlund said, "my time living and working in rural Paraguay was definitely one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my life. Above all else, working in Paraguay taught me that with a little patience, good humor, and hard work anything can be accomplished."

Skowlund received his bachelor of science in natural resources management and forestry from the University of Minnesota. In his time away from work Skowlund and his wife Kristy enjoy drift boat fishing, hiking with their two dogs (Charlie and Cedar), backcountry skiing, and perfecting his southern style barbeque.

"I look forward to joining the team on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, learning more about the forest ecosystems of Northern Idaho, and working through the ecological and social challenges that exist in managing those landscapes," said Skowlund.



Rita Hennessy Selected as National Trails System Program Manager for the National Park Service

Rita Hennessy, longtime trails administrator and National Park Service veteran, is the new program manager for the National Parks Service's National Trails System.

"We are very happy to have Rita on board to lead National Park Service efforts in the National Trails System," said Bob Ratcliffe, chief of the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Division. "Rita knows this work well, having spent the past 18 years on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, where she served in a number of positions, lastly as the assistant superintendent."

The National Park Service has responsibility for the majority of the national historic, scenic, and recreation trails in the U.S. In addition to the trails program, Hennessy will have the Connect Trails to Parks project in her portfolio. Hennessey's signature project at the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, or the AT, as it is called, was the cooperative management system.

Within this system, she engaged with hundreds of partners and thousands of volunteers. Most recently, she led development of the Trail's foundation document and business plan. "I thrive in cooperative management and partnerships which are the body and soul of the AT and all national trails," Hennessey said.

Hennessey holds an undergraduate degree in recreation resource management from the University of Montana and a master's degree in community change and civic leadership from Antioch McGregor.

She has 26 years of experience with the National Park Service. In addition to her service on the Appalachian Trail, she has been stationed at Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks and at Rock Creek Park and the National Mall, both in Washington. She began her assignment at the national trails office in Washington D.C. this spring.

Submitted by Stephan Nofield; Originally published in the NPS Morning Report on March 6, 2015.



Image Courtesy of the National Park Service

Lolo Pass Visitor Center NPNHT Summer Interpreter



U.S. Forest Service Photo

Avery Old Coyote joined the staff at the Lolo Pass Visitor Center on June 29 as part of a challenge cost share agreement between the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Administration and Discover Your Northwest.

Avery was born in Bozeman, MT, and split his time growing up on both the Crow and Flathead Reservations in southeastern Montana and northwestern Montana, respectively. He is enrolled Crow, and his lineage includes Salish and Nez Perce blood. In December he will graduate from the University of Montana with a B.S. in Resource Conservation and minors in Native American Studies and Climate Change Studies. Avery said he is, "thrilled to be an interpreter on the Nez Perce Trail."

Avery Old Coyote (left) greets NPNHT visitors at the Lolo Pass Visitor Center.

Avery stated, "in order to get better acquainted with the Trail, and to provide respectful and accurate interpretation, I recently completed the auto tour along the full length of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. Starting in Joseph, OR, on July 6, the Trail took me through ten National Forests, five states, five Indian Reservations, two National Historic Parks, two National Parks, two state parks and two National Wildlife Refuges. Concluding the route on July 9 in the Bears Paw Mountains," Avery said, "he nearly added another country to the jurisdictional boundaries that I crossed."

This trip was extremely important for him to complete. He shared, "ancestrally speaking, all three of my major tribal affiliations were in some way involved with the War of 1877. Crow, Salish, and Nez Perce allegiances were strong before the war. After, however, these tribes have animosity towards one another because of the perceived slants and cold shoulders thrown to the Nez Perce by the Bitterroot Salish and Crow people. Today, I struggle to reconcile the differences within my own heritage. I see and feel the pain and historical trauma from the Nez Perce flight, particularly amongst interactions between the Crow and Nez Perce. Following the Trail gave me a chance to understand these differences and gain insight on a difficult issue. This newfound insight is invaluable while communicating these histories to visitors at Lolo Pass," said Old Coyote.



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Summer Along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail



Locsha River, central Idaho. Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



Confluence of Clearwater and Snake Rivers, Lewiston, ID. Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



Sunlight Creek bridge, Wyoming Hwy 296. Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo



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