

# DECISION NOTICE

## Appendix B. Decision Notice, July 1985

The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Study was conducted pursuant to the National Trails System Act, Public Law 90-543, as amended. An environmental assessment and study plan that recommend federal legislation to designate the 1,170-mile Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) Trail as a national historic trail and a component of the National Trails System were distributed to 431 individuals, groups, federal and state agencies, and elected officials.

Based on the analysis and evaluation described in the original environmental assessment and subsequent public review and response, it is my decision to adopt the joint Forest Service/National Park Service preferred Alternative C-1. This alternative best protects a historically significant event, provides additional opportunities for low impact recreation, and responds to public demands. Alternative C-1 designates the entire 1,170-mile route as a national historic trail. It includes marking, for identification and interpretation, along highways and other connecting roads. It also includes development of certain important segments identified in the study as "high potential route segments."

While Alternative A, the no-Federal-action alternative, is considered to be the environmentally preferable, it is not responsive to the basic criteria set forth in the National Trails System Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-543), as amended by Public Law 95-625, November 10, 1978, Section 5(b), (11) (A), (B), and (C). Alternative A is also not responsive to additional issues developed through public participation. During the 45-day review period, public response indicated that Alternative D -- the most extensive development alternative considered -- was felt to require more funding, construction and use of private land than is currently necessary to meet the objectives.

I have determined, through the environmental analysis, that the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This determination was made considering the following factors: (a) Marking along highways and trail construction and reconstruction along selected route segments will have only a slight effect on the ecosystem, (b) condemnation procedures to acquire private land easements will not be used by administering agencies, (c) the adverse effects on certain threatened and endangered species in Yellowstone National Park and the Shoshone National Forest are considered to be minimal, and (d) the physical and biological effects are limited to the area of planned development and use.

Implementation of this project proposal is contingent upon Congressional approval.

**/s/ Peter C. Myers**  
JULY 1, 1985

**Peter C. Myers**  
**Asst. Secretary of Agriculture**